E-Learning: Future of Education

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ABSTRACT

This Paper emphasizes the role that e-learning plays in contemporary education and addresses its technological aspects, market, benefits and drawbacks, comparison to instructor-led training, and whether or not it will eventually take the place of traditional classroom instruction. The idea of e-learning is currently gaining a lot of traction due to the rise in internet-savvy users. Increased speed has been a major factor in the growth of e-learning.

E-learning is being used by a lot of universities and other higher education institutions. Large corporations are also making significant investments in interactive classrooms and e-learning. Gyan Darshan is a 24x7 E-learning satellite channel that was launched by the largest open university in the world, Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU). Compared to instructor-led training, which is a one-time class that needs to be scheduled, e-learning offers the benefit of accessing content around-the-clock, 365 days a year. E-learning is more affordable since course materials can be readily created and altered for instruction and training. Students can also avoid carrying bulky school bags and stop felling trees to make paper, pencils, and rubber. Thanks to e-learning.

With its interactive, engaging, and entertaining format, e-learning is the way of the future for education. Paper books will soon give way to touch screen tablets for e-learning.

Keywords: E-Learning, Interactive Learning, ILT, SME, Future of Education, Interactive Classrooms

I. INTRODUCTION

The science of learning without the use of printed, paper-based instructional materials is the best way to characterize e-learning. The delivery of information for training and education through telecommunications technology is known as e-learning. As information and communication technology advances, e-learning is starting to take center stage as the new standard for contemporary education. One of e-learning's many benefits is that, thanks to the asynchronous and synchronous learning network model, it allows for the liberation of interactions between instructors and students from temporal and spatial constraints (Pei-Chen Sun et al., 2008). The deliberate use of networked information and communications technology in teaching and learning is commonly referred to as "e-learning." This method of instruction is also referred to by a number of other terms.

These consist of web-based, distributed, virtual, online, and networked learning. Since the word "e" in "e-learning" stands for the word "electronic," the term "e-learning" refers to much more than just online learning. It would include any educational activity that is completed by individuals or groups, whether they are working online or offline (Som Naidu, 2006).

MARKET OF E-LEARNING

2011 saw the release of the UK Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development's most recent E-learning Trends survey. More than 600 learning practitioners' responses served as the basis for the survey. Over 90% of public organizations said they currently use e-learning, and 53% of organizations said they have increased their use of e-learning in the past year. Although only 75% of private sector organizations responded, many smaller organizations with fewer than 250 employees were included in this figure, and less than half of them used e-learning (Kineo.com, 2012).

The global market for self-paced e-learning goods and services reached $32.1 billion in 2010, according to a recent Ambient Insight report. By 2015, revenues are expected to reach $49.9 billion, with a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 9.2% over the next five years.In "The Worldwide Market for Self-paced eLearning Products and Services: 2010-2015 Forecast and Analysis," a breakdown of spending by seven continents—Africa, the Middle East, Asia, Latin America, Western and Eastern Europe, North America, and Latin America—is presented. McDonald's has benefited immensely from e-learning, as evidenced by the success of their online e-learning initiative for food and restaurant safety. McDonald's has reduced costs by a substantial £4 million since training was implemented.

The program's increased focus on McDonald's restaurants rather than general topics is thought to be the reason for the improvement in hygiene standards across all restaurants. In addition to saving M&S over £500,000 in the first year, an online e-learning program for 8,000 employees improved customer feedback,

facilitated connections with learners, and increased sales (Kineo.com, 2012). E-learning has the potential to be a potent and affordable replacement for in-person instruction.

E-LEARNING VS. INSTRUCTOR-LED TRAINING

Unlike instructor-led training (ILT), which is a one-time class that needs to be scheduled, e-learning allows us access around-the-clock, 365 days a year. Compared to ILT, which has scheduling conflicts and other inconveniences, e-learning is more convenient for learners. While in-person training (ILT) is more expensive due to various associated costs, including course development, hiring a qualified instructor, printing, paper, infrastructure, electricity, training materials, stationary, travel, meal, lodging, parking, and other expenses, e-learning is more affordable because course content can be easily modified after it is developed and used for teaching and training.

One benefit of in-person instruction over online learning is having a teacher in the classroom who can respond to students' questions right away. While online learning allows students to study at their own pace, in-person learning requires students to complete the course within a set amount of time and is not self-paced. While students can skip over unneeded material and learn what is important in e-learning, in integrated learning environments (ILTs), all students receive the same instruction at the same level. After taking into account each of these variables, it can be concluded that, in comparison to traditional ILT, e-learning is a far more effective, affordable, and learner-friendly method of instruction.

CHARACTERISTICS OF E-LEARNING

E-learning is still in its infancy today, and there are still a lot of unclear questions that need to be answered and looked into. The effectiveness of e-learning may be influenced by a wide range of factors, including learner characteristics, technology, learning context, and media features. We are not in a position to say that e-learning can completely replace traditional classroom learning, even though our experiments have shown that e-learning can occasionally be at least as effective as traditional classroom learning. The majority of learning is sociocognitive in nature. Not every student will find that e-learning fits with their preferred method of learning. In front of a computer, some students experience boredom or intimidation. It is imperative to consider additional significant issues related to e-learning. Trust, permission, privacy, and personal accountability are among the issues that need to be addressed.

Intellectual property owners ought to receive fair compensation. Internet security is becoming more and more of a problem, mostly because everyone can access this global network without restriction. A high-bandwidth network is also a prerequisite for effective content access because multimedia materials are frequently used in e-learning systems. E-learning, however, is a viable substitute for conventional classroom instruction and is particularly helpful for distant and lifetime learning and training. E-learning frequently serves as a powerful supplement to traditional classroom instruction. The importance of e-learning as a component of professional and academic education will only increase.

Research into the development of more enticing and productive virtual learning environments ought to go on. Using effective teaching strategies, improving system personalization and interactivity, and raising learner engagement are some ways to accomplish this. (Zhang and others, 2004).

WILL E-LEARNING REPLACE ILT?

E-learning has become a viable option for on-the-job training and lifelong learning in the last few years. E-learning is a technology-based educational approach in which distant learners receive electronically delivered course materials through a computer network. Businesses must use effective and efficient training techniques to make sure that channel partners and employees have the most recent knowledge and cutting-edge abilities. Universities all over the world are currently offering thousands of online courses, including degree and certificate programs, in an attempt to meet this demand. MIT declared in 2001 that it would provide almost all of the course materials freely for non-commercial use on the Internet (Shea, 2002; Zhang et al., 2004).

E-learning is superior to ILT in that it can be created and delivered much more quickly, and it can be used simultaneously by a sizable global user base. The learner has the option to access the course at their convenience and peruse the content that suits their needs by navigating through it.

Information that is irrelevant to the learner may be included in ILT. With e-learning, a student can selectively engage with the content that pertains to his current role, skimming the rest of the course. Both the learner and the business save time and money by doing this. The majority of businesses find that even small investments in e-learning technology yield substantial returns. The majority of e-learning clients have rapidly identified first-tier benefits, such as lower expenses for travel, customer service, overhead in human resources, and regulatory compliance, and eventually second-tier benefits, like improved worker performance that has a direct bearing on profitability (McLeod, 2006).

According to Dobrin (1999), 85% of the faculty members instructing online courses believed that the learning outcomes of the students were on par with or even superior to those in traditional classroom settings. E-learning is superior in almost every aspect, including speed and efficiency.

Online learners benefit from an efficiency advantage in that they can cover the same material in about half the time of a traditional class, according to a Forbes article by Brandon Hall. E-learning also benefits from a velocity advantage since it can reach a lot of students in a short amount of time.

Consider a classroom event that needs to be planned weeks in advance to get an idea of this velocity advantage. E-learning, on the other hand, can provide instant access to knowledge at precisely the right moment.

Employees can access training at any time, location, and convenience, whether at work or at home (Alt-Media, 2012). According to McLeod (2006), the advantages of E-learning typically exceed those of ILT. Providing instruction in an online learning environment has several benefits for the student. E-learning is superior to ILT overall, though some courses may be better suited for a blended learning approach.

II.   CONCLUSION

Because so many universities now offer degree and diploma programs online, e-learning is becoming a very popular concept. Large corporations like Tata and Reliance are establishing their interactive classrooms and investing in e-learning. Experts in the field are also creating new, adaptable tools for creating e-learning modules. One of the main disadvantages of ILT in educational institutions is that students must bear the burden of heavy school bags on their shoulders and deal with back pain.

Additionally, despite being prohibited by the majority of governments in their respective countries, the number of trees is decreasing daily as a result of their being cut down to make paper, pencils, and rubber. This is making room for e-learning. If students are given tablets with the course material loaded on them in place of bulky school bags, e-learning will overcome these disadvantages. This is because it would be a far more appealing, pleasurable, and considerate choice in the current era of modernization. Therefore, the time is not far off when e-learning will overtake traditional classroom instruction as the preferred approach globally.

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