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Current trends of E-learning in India: Wheel of Change

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Abstract: E-learning activities are important for the development of any country. In modern era everybody is thinking about growth and Educational development. If it is planned properly then proper results will come. In this research paper development through E-learning in India is observed. If it planned properly then proper results will be affecting positively. In this research paper, we observed that E-learning is an effective tool for development of educational sector in India. E-learning is learning, utilizing electronic technologies to access educational curriculum outside of a traditional classroom. In most cases, it refers to a course, program or degree delivered completely online. The basic objective of this research paper is to understand concept of e-learning and to examine the type of e-learning. It also summarizes several opinions regarding the comparison between traditional learning and modern learning technique. The modern method in teaching and learning are useful for development of education sector in Indian context. The research paper focused on classroom learning and e-learning in India as a main wheel of development of education.

Keywords: Education, educational development, e-learning, formal e-learning, informal e-learning.

I. INTRODUCTION

In today's new economy characterized by industrial change, globalization, increased intensive competition, knowledge sharing and transfer, and information technology revolution, traditional classroom education or training does not always satisfy all the needs of the new world of lifelong learning. Learning is shifting from instructor-centered to learner-centered, and is undertaken anywhere, from classrooms to homes and offices. E-Learning, referring to learning via the Internet, provides people with a flexible and personalized way to learn. It offers learning-on-demand opportunities and reduces learning cost. This paper describes the demands for e-Learning and related research, and presents a variety of enabling technologies that can facilitate the design and implementation of e-Learning systems. Armed with the advanced information and communication technologies, e-Learning is having a far-reaching impact on learning in the new millennium.

II. E-LEARNING

E-Learning is a revolution that is currently emerging. Rather than replacing traditional classroom teaching, e-Learning serves as a complementary mechanism to lifelong or remote learning. People access multimedia instructional contents on the Internet that are prepared by experts. Today, thousands of courses, including degree and certificate programs, are now being offered by universities worldwide. Among the biggest of those in United States is the University of Phoenix, which boasts an online student body of more than 30,000. Some programs offer comprehensive online courses for degrees, while others only provide a limited number of online courses to meet some of degree requirements. E-Learning in universities is still in the early stage. There are many theoretical and technological issues that need to be explored. On April 4, 2001, MIT announced its commitment to make materials from virtually all of its courses freely available on the Web for non-commercial use. This new initiative, called MIT Open Course Ware. Demonstrates how digital technologies are affecting the organisational learning

process, drawing on material presented to an industry forum. Reviews the rise of the knowledge-based organisation, examines how the Internet has created "e" learning, investigates why organisations are impelled towards e-learning, provides some estimates of the size of the e-learning market and outlines the activities of some e-learning provider organisations. Shows that the corporate e-learning market is undergoing strong growth with a wide range of providers and alliances emerging and some consolidation expected. Organisations now seek metrics for evaluating e-learning and quality benchmarks are recommended.

Formal and Informal e-Learning

Some forms of e-learning – online education and online training recreate the formal learning experience online. Online education provides adults with limited literacy skills with a safe and patient place to develop basic skills such as reading and mathematical skills. The only factor that separates online training from education is that the skills and knowledge taught via training are expected to be used immediately. E-learning allows us to explore the potential of informal learning such as Knowledge Management and Electronic Performance Support. Knowledge Management is basically recorded pieces of corporate information such as policies, procedures and product information documents, reports, presentations and proposals expertise, often recorded in the form of documents like lessons learned, stories and case histories and online interaction with colleagues and can also include online chats, discussions and symposia during which participants can exchange information not yet been recorded. Electronic Performance Support (EPS) refers to a work environment on a computer in which performers /learners receive assistance. EPS is used in providing information, training, coaching and monitoring needed for support to learners.

III. LITERATURE REVIEW

According to f Laurillard's (2006) research "e-learning as the use of any of the new technologies orapplications in the service of learning or learner support", and it has been considered as operational definition of e-learning.

According to Marc Prensky's research different learning outcomes are best learning through particular types of learning activities. He says that we all learn -a) behaviors through limitation, feedback and practice. b) creatively through playing c) facts through association, drill, memory and questions d)language through imitation, practice and impression e) reasoning through puzzles, problems and examples.

These studies focus on the changing era and the implications of E- learning in near future. Also supporting to say that E-earning is the wheel for new innovations.

IV. OBJECTIVES OF RESEARCH

The basic objective of this study is to understand the concept of e-learning and to examine the type of E-learning. It also summarizes several opinions regarding the comparison between traditional learning, classroom learning and e-learning. This paper aims to discuss in detail the advantages and disadvantages of both the ways of learning, and tries to give some solutions by considering the advantages of both the systems of learning considering the constraints of the situation. In order to fulfill such objective secondary method is adopted. The secondary data was collected through books, periodicals, journal and published material related E-learning for the study.

V. LEARNER: AN ACTIVE FACTOR

In the process of imparting knowledge, one of the active factors is learner. The cognitive structure of the learner affects the learning process and its results. Each learner has its own experience and practical knowledge. Thus sometimes, the information obtained is not identical with the real situation. In such cases, consulting can be the only solution. Due to the variance of learners worldwide, the focus of teaching appraisal should be on cognition process of the students instead of the result of learning.

VI. STUDY IS A REAL EXPERIENCE

The real world situation makes the study more effective. The main aim of imparting knowledge is to make the learner understand the things, as well as to make him/her utilize the knowledge in real world situations. This explains that the construction principle is centred on the student. The teacher acts like the organizer or the promoter of the entire process of teaching.

VII. THE BENEFITS OF E-LEARNING

E-learning is yet to become the large scale method of training teachers in the educational field. When compared with the traditional methods of training teachers, e-learning has the merits shown below:

- Low Cost E-learning is far cheaper than traditional methods of teaching because of no use of paper and pencil and with the reduced expense of teacher training. It can be carried out at any place and at any time. It also saves a lot of time and now the various parameters will not be limited to the size of the class and number of students.

- Flexible E-learning can be carried out anywhere without strict time boundations. It leads to a more flexible environment for students.

- Personalization Unlike traditional teaching practices in e-learning the training material is not chosen by teacher or some organization and can help students to obtain their own requirement of knowledge.

VIII. THE MYTHS ABOUT E-LEARNING

Proponents have marketed e-learning by focusing on its adoption as the right thing to do while disregarding, among other things, the concerns of the potential users, the adverse effects on users and the existing research on the use of e-learning or related innovations. In this paper, the e-learning-adoption proponents are referred to as the *technopositivists*. It is argued that most of the *technopositivists* in the higher education context are driven by a personal agenda, with the aim of propagating a *technopositivist ideology* to stakeholders. *The technopositivist ideology* is defined as a 'compulsive enthusiasm' about e-learning in higher education that is being created, propagated and channelled repeatedly by the people who are set to gain without giving the educators the time and opportunity to explore the dangers and rewards of e-learning on teaching and learning. Ten myths on e-learning that the *technopositivists* have used are presented with the aim of initiating effective and constructive dialogue, rather than merely criticising the efforts being made.

IX. DEVELOPMENT OF TECHNICAL SUPPORT SYSTEM

The technical support system for e-learning includes 4 aspects, which are the infrastructure, the platform, the management system and the supporting software and tools. The network infrastructure comprises of database, distributed resources, visualization technique, grid technology and a high speed network. The main components of e-learning platform are application platform and infrastructure of network. The management aspect involves managing the online curriculum, the resources and the process of learning. Some of the supporting tools and software are documents editing tool, media processing tool, the software for courseware manufacture and many more.

X. CONCLUSION

The present century is the century of digitalization and informationization. E-learning supports the widespread use of educational training. E-learning has various advantages over the traditional techniques of learning and is superior. Elearning is the most convenient way to pursue a degree in higher education. A lot of these students are attracted to a flexible, self-paced method of education to attain their degree.

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