



Use of E-Learning Resources by Teachers

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Abstract

Higher education institutions must determine the most suitable environments and courses for e-learning delivery. Though Indians have been traditionally inclined towards conventional classroom based academic programs, the Government of India has been actively supporting the e-learning drive to overcome the various challenges and to strengthen accessibility. E-learning is a means of education that incorporates self-motivation, communication, efficiency, and technology. Improving the quality in teacher education e-learning plays an important role in the teaching- learning process. The educational institution's administration should compel teachers to receive proper training on learning software that enables them to educate and assist students effectively and efficiently.

Keywords: E-Learning, Higher Education

Introduction

In this era of information technology, the emergence of globalization of knowledge economy has resulted in digital online learning in higher education system. E-learning could have potentially major effects on the way higher education is designed, implemented and delivered. Higher education institutions must determine the most suitable environments and courses for e-learning delivery. Though Indians have been traditionally inclined towards conventional classroom based academic programs, the Government of India has been actively supporting the e-learning drive to overcome the various challenges and to strengthen accessibility. Technological advancements have made it possible to deliver digitized education through contemporary platforms in 4G environment. Digital devices like tablets, I Pads and mobile phones are foreseen to be the classrooms of the future. The prospect of making education available to anyone, anytime, anywhere is becoming increasingly appealing to students, the corporate world and the populace at large. With online courses, students can take charge of their own learning.

Technology is the only problem-solving instrument in various spheres of our lives. E-learning is the changing trend in education. The modern technologies, particularly the internet, made education no longer limited to the four walls of the class room. E-learning comprises all forms of electronically supported learning and teaching. The information and communication systems, whether networked or not, serve as specific media to implement the learning process. The term will still most likely be utilized to reference out-of classroom and in classroom educational experiences via technology, even as advances continue in regard to devices and curriculum. E-learning may include the use of web-based teaching materials and hypermedia in general, multimedia CD-ROMs, websites, discussion boards, collaborative software, e-mail, blogs, wikis, test chat, computer aided assessment, educational animation, simulations, games, learning management software, electronic voting systems etc. with possibly a combination of different methods being used. E-learning is an approach to facilitate and enhance learning through and based on both computer and communication Technology.

Concept of E-Learning

E-learning is naturally suited to distance learning and flexible learning, but can also be used in conjunction with face-to-face teaching, in which case the term blended learning is commonly used. E-learning is a means of education that incorporates self-motivation, communication, efficiency, and technology. Because there is limited social interaction, students must keep themselves motivated. E-learning is a flexible term used to describing a means of teaching through technology. E-learning refers to the use of internet technologies to deliver a broad array of solutions that enhance knowledge and performance



Advantages of E-learning

- i) Quick production, alteration and up-dating of course materials;
- ii) Interaction with tutors, course writers, and students to enrich learning;
- iii) Location and time independent delivery of course materials;
- iv) Ability to serve a large number of students at a potentially reduced cost;
- v) Interactive and dynamic learning experience through online assessment tools, simulations and animated learning objects;
- vi) Platform independent delivery, accessible through any computer with a simple browser interface;
- vii) Increased learner control through hypertext-based presentation of information; and
- viii) Seamless integration of multimedia, enabling instruction designers to prepare quality materials and learners to get a rich learning environment (McCormack and Jones, 1998; Goldberg et al, 1996; Weller, 2000 and Starr, 1997).

Significance of E-Learning in Teacher Education

E-learning can be used as informative, situating, constructive and communicative tool in the process of education. E-learning also allows the creation of digital resources like digital libraries where the students, teachers and professionals can access research material and course material from any place at any time. E-learning in education develops higher order skills such as collaborating across time and place and solving complex real world problems. For improving the quality in teacher education e-learning plays an important role in the teaching- learning process.

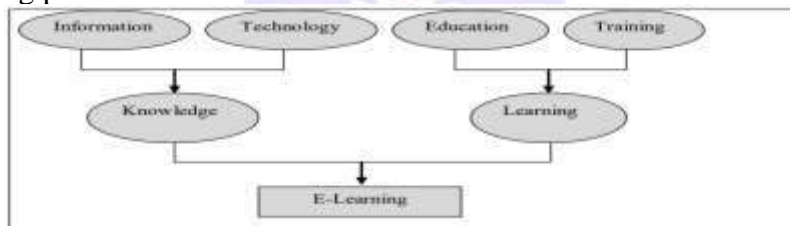


Figure 1: E-learning Model

E-learning offers a wide range of online environments to develop the cognitive and social skills of communicating and collaborating. It promote learner interaction through message boards, where students can post questions and answers; text chat or forums, where learners can communicate outside the main classroom; and threaded discussions, where facilitators and students can discuss a given topic and review each other's responses.

Conclusion

E-learning is increasing the percentage of literate population in the total population of India. E-learning plays a vital role in educational development as a wheel of growth in education sector. It is expected that if India and developing countries proceed as joint venture and work mutually on the issue of e-learning, it will be beneficial for the development of educational sector. E-Learning has created new dimensions in education, both within and beyond the curriculum and is still looking at further opportunities of becoming more practical. The educational institution's administration should compel teachers to receive proper training on learning software that enables them to educate and assist students effectively and efficiently. A quality assurance board can be created to oversee E-learning constantly, and it is advised that schools develop explicit rules.

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