

E-Learning: A State-of-the-Art Education System in Modern India

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Abstract - Education system of India is gradually developing. We can see huge difference between ancient and modern education system. In ancient time students used to go to the houses of their teachers and acquired knowledge. After that, educational institutions/centres were established and teachers and students went there for teaching and learning. But in very recent times in the prevailing Covid-19 situation method of e-learning has become a very important and unavoidable part of our education system. Education system has been going mainly through online today at this Covid-19 affected India utilizing many tools and media for online education. We are hopeful that after this pandemic situation the blended system of education using both offline and online modes will help India to acquire a respectable position in the world.

Keywords: Education, E-Learning, E-Book, Mobile Learning

I. INTRODUCTION

India is a very wide diverse country with various cultures, heritage, customs, languages, class of population and education system. India is always very happy and proud of its own rich traditions, cultures etc. The education system of this country has been very strong and interesting since the ancient time. Following the changing situation of contemporary society, the structure of the education system also got changed. In ancient India the disciples used to go to the houses/dwelling places of their teachers or Gurus, stayed there for days as required and gained education from them. The houses of the gurus or the teachers were generally situated in tapavanas at Vedic and Pauranic period. The system of Indian education has gradually been changed due to contemporary requirement. As when the primitive men became civilized, the townships were established by cutting and clearing the forest. As the part of township the schools, the colleges and the universities were established. Then according to the system which might then be newly introduced, the teachers and the students both started to go to their respective educational institutions and the teaching-learning process were gaining momentum. In this way the ancient education-system of India has been changed.

Of late, Indian education system attained new dimension when newer technologies leading to online education have been developed, introduced in the educational fields and have become the part and parcel of this system. This new system of online education has gradually become very much popular and effective in India like other countries. It also created the opportunity for being connected with whole world. Then the education has got more versatilities.

Depending on online mode, education is not now restricted in geographical boundaries. With the help of laptop, smart phone, tablet with an internet connection one can access almost all required educational materials related to any subject. Online-based system of education is particularly suitable for the in-service persons as they have not much time to enroll their names in any course for which they have to go to an institute and sit in a classroom. By availing online mode of education, they are now able to get knowledge, improve their skills and advance their carrier from home or from their working place. Although due to the socio-economic condition of India this technology-dependent education-system has been developing in India at a slower rate compared to that in western countries and in other developed countries where this system was introduced earlier. After introducing and getting habituated with this type of education system, the institutions understand the advantages and the effectiveness of this system. Not only educational institutions but the offices, banking organisations etc. also introduced technologies for online activities in their workplaces using different media for carrying out the online activities.

It is worth mentioning that in Covid-19 affected world, dependence on technologies has been growing up day by day. At present education is almost totally going through online mode. Regular classes, examinations, class-works, home-works, seminars, conferences, workshops & training programs everything (except some hardcore laboratory-based classes and practical works) are all running online.

II. TOOLS AND TECHNIQUES OF E-LEARNING

In modern world online education or e-learning has been proved beyond doubt to be an effective alternative mode of education. E-learning is a learning process which is conducted via electronic media, typically on the internet. E-learning is generally based on the uses of many sophisticated technologies and some of which have been developed specifically for it. Communication technologies are effectively used in e-learning. Email, instant messaging, message forums and social networks are very common features of E-learning process. Gradually different types of tools have been introduced in this process. As different methods are becoming the parts of e-learning, communication between the teachers and the students is also becoming easier and effective. Whiteboard as a video conferencing tool allow someone or his peers to share and

exchange their views with other people by screen-sharing, making presentations. Use of the microphone is very useful in this process. Another feature of E-learning is that it makes good use of database and CMS (Content Management System) technologies. These are very fruitful for storing course content, test results and student records. In general, the data remains stored in the database and the CMS provides a user interface which helps to add, update and delete data. A good LMS (Learning Management System) is very effective in providing reporting tools to generate and store progress reports. At the time of online classes, seminars etc. the software like Flash and PowerPoint help to make presentations short, slick but interesting with high quality and graphically rich content. On the other hand, the word processing packages and HTML editors that are available at present are making text formatting or web page designing easier by removing a lot of the earlier complexities.

III. IMPLEMENTATION OF MOODLE SOFTWARE

Moodle software is now very useful and handy software in the field of E-learning. Moodle stands for Modular Object-Oriented Dynamic Learning Environment. This is a license-free open-source software platform. It is a fact that E-learning provides the opportunity for students to interact electronically with each other and also with their teachers. This interaction can be through e-mail, or by using whatsapp, telegram etc. The term LMS (Learning Management System) is well known to us. It is used to refer the on-line interactions for various purposes that take place between students and teachers. There are many software systems available that provide LMS. Moodle is one such system that provides the LMS. The open-source teaching management, LMS Moodle is very popular at present. It has been adopted by many people and organisations around the world as it offers a tightly integrated set of tools which are designed from a social constructive perspective. Moodle software has been developed under the general public license and many of its components were developed without a specific design.

IV. IPHONE, IPAD, MOBILE LEARNING AND E-BOOKS

IPad has no integrated camera but it supports video call. It has a microphone and speakers which can be used with Skype and Google Voice. Iphone is also very effective in E-learning process. At present mobile learning is a hot new topic among training professional. But, as it is a very new concept, many people still have more questions in their mind than answers about how to use, utilize, and implement m-learning programs. So we have to turn to e-learning consultant, speaker, and author of the popular instructional design website to talk about the benefits and drawbacks of m-learning. The advantages of mobile learning are that smart phones are portable, always available and convenient. So mobile learning can provide just-in-time training and support when it is required. They can also provide content

related to the user's location. Mobile learning is even useful for people sitting at home. A mobile app can provide information quickly and conveniently which people need. Any group of people who are out in the field, who require just-in-time information or need convenient access are suitable for mobile learning. Mobile learning is ideal for people who do not have uninterrupted internet access. In many economically backward countries, people are more likely to have smart phones than to have computers. Micro-lessons in a variety of subjects could help educate and train people in rural and remote areas.

The present generation learners are aware of the system of E-book learning. E-book (eBook) or an electronic book, is a book publication made available in digital form, consisting of text, images, or both, readable on the flat-panel display of computers or other electronic devices. Generally it is defined as "an electronic version of a printed book" but some e-books exist without a printed equivalent. E-books can be read on any computer device like desktop, computers, tablets, and also on smart phones. The e-book users can browse through titles online, and then when they select and order titles, the e-book can be sent to them online or the user can download the e-books. People can also buy e-books. The main reasons for people buying e-books are possibly lower prices, increased comfort as they can buy online from home through mobile devices.

V. TEACHING, LEARNING AND ACADEMIC LIBRARIES IN POST COVID-19 WORLD

The students of all over the country are facing problematic situation in respect of their regular education. They are often facing various technological glitch at the time of online classes. None can give answer about how long Covid-19 will stay in the World as well as in our country India and hence how long they will have to carry on online education. Sometimes news come to media that due to poor net connectivity or due to unavailability of appropriate gadgets for continuing online classes, students getting frustrated are undertaking unwanted, unthinkable measures. Despite such problems which students face at the time of online education, it is true that without these types of online facilities the education system could not be carried out. It may be that in the Covid-19 free world also online education will play a major role in imparting education. Students would use libraries through online also and would be benefitted with this online education system and online libraries also.

VI. CONCLUSION

In the present article, while discussing about E-learning, we see that there are advantages and disadvantages both in the E-learning system. It is a well-known fact that internet service is a must for E-learning. But in the remote areas of India, there is either no internet connectivity or the speed of internet is very slow. As a result, different problematic situations arise at the time of using internet. Some of these

problems are slow downloading and uploading of files, bad quality of audio and video contents, etc. Another difficulty of online system is that all types of courses could not be delivered through Web Portal as some of these courses need face to face discussions, rectification etc. Moreover, some online courses are backdated and need regular update and upgradation according to the changing situation and environment in any platform. On the other hand among the advantages of E-learning, the main advantage of E-learning is that it can be accessed from any device, through any browser, or at any time or place. The users of remotest part of the world can access and learn updated learning materials through E-learning portals. Thus, it can be reasonably concluded that the future generation of India might be

doubly benefitted through a blend of both offline as well as online education system. So we are very hopeful that adopting these two methods of education system simultaneously, India would shine and attain a very respectable position in the world map in the days ahead.

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