



ORIGINAL RESEARCH PAPER

Education

E-LEARNING- THE FUTURE OF NEXT GENERATION EDUCATION

KEY WORDS: Electronic learning; E-learning; Education; Internet

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ABSTRACT

Electronic learning (e-learning) is the alternative future of education due to its effectiveness and ability to be measured. Presently elearning concept has become popular as internet savvy users continue to increase. It works well in both developing and under developed nations. E-learning improves the level of education at a lesser cost, flexible, convenient and has the ability to reach to many people regardless of the distance This paper seeks to highlight the significance of e-learning in modern education.

INTRODUCTION:

Electronic learning (e-learning) is the use of technology networks to administer and deliver knowledge. With the latest advancement in technology, e-learning will be the future of transmitting awareness and skills in the world. The adoption and use of internet, smartphones and tablets has significantly boosted the e-learning process in both general and business training. Both large and small enterprises adopt e-learning to relay skills and knowledge to their employees¹.

Long before internet distant learners were taught through correspondence, which was done through mails. Teaching machine was later invented, and students could receive programs and instructions through the machine. The invention of internet and computers in the 70s revolutionized e-learning as tutors could now relay course work and materials via emails. E-Learning brought education closer to people as technology advanced².

E-learning is the alternative future of education due to its effectiveness and ability to be measured. Presently e-learning concept has become popular as internet savvy users continue to increase. It works well in both developing and under developed nations. E-Learning improves the level of education at a lesser cost, flexible, convenient and has the ability to reach out to many regardless of the distance³. This paper seeks to highlight the significance of eLearning in modern education.

Why e-learning is the future:

Technology advancement is a gradual process, and same applies to e-learning. Information dissemination is a continuous fundamental need in business organizations. This enables employees take up new roles and responsibilities. E-learning offers solution to this as it enables the company to reach out to many people and delivers knowledge faster and at a lower cost⁴. The economic crisis caused by the Covid-19 pandemic in the year 2020, has led many businesses to close down or sort ways of reducing their operational cost, and e-learning is one of them⁵.

E-learning offers personalized learning process which is user friendly and easy to grasp. Employees and learners are able to set their own goals and pace while using e-learning method. They are therefore able to navigate through their own path to attain the set goals⁶. The wide variety activities such as text modules, video clips and image slides among others make the e-learning process interesting and livelier. However, learners are required to exercise high level time management skills by attending to virtual meetings and as a result, employees and learners are able to strike a work-study balance⁷.

E-learning enables learners to access digital online courses from their convenient location and time. It is therefore flexible and convenient as no commuting expenses neither regular

class nor seminar sessions put in place⁸. Learners are able to access learning contents which match their needs and preferences. They can also access information and skills to upgrade the acquired knowledge. This enhances personal and professional development. The internet wide scope creates infinite skills for the employees and learners³.

The main reasons that make e-learning the future includes its lower training costs, businesses and organizations no longer spend money on seminar halls, hotel conference rooms and travel expenses. The cost saving likewise boosts their profitability. E-learning has no physical or geographical barriers; many can be trained at their convenient locations across the globe. It has a centralized learning system where the learners can log in and access the information at their own convenient time and place¹. It is easy to track e-learning progress as it has its own analytical tools to evaluate the learners progress⁹.

Although e-learning is the way to go, it is important to understand that not every child has an access to electricity, internet and computers. Therefore, introducing such a system to them would not only cause some mental challenges but will lower the learning progress, as they familiarize themselves with the new gadgets. Government should therefore assist in such situations by providing the necessary infrastructure to enhance the e-learning process¹⁰.

Pitfalls:

There are few limitations which come with the e-learning; among them is the student limited feedback, which eventually affects the performance. E-learning also leads to social isolation as students are locked up from mingling with their colleagues. Online students may lack good communication skills as tests are virtually done. It is also hard to prevent cheating in online assessments¹¹.

Role of Government in e-learning:

It is mainly the role of the government to provide viable infrastructure under which e-learning can be exercised. For instance, electrification of all schools and internet connectivity needs to be provided for by the government. New and practical educational policies which promote e-learning ought to be provided by the government. This will create best platform for e-learning implementation and funding. If effectively coordinated by the government, e-learning can be cost effective to the indigenous people. However, the learning can never be friendly to the indigenous students who barely know how to operate a computer, but with time they will develop the skills and knowledge and get comfortable with it¹².

CONCLUSION:

E-learning continues to significantly lower the organizational cost and time, as it enables them reach out to the learners at their own convenient place and time. Its flexibility enhances

acceptance as learners are able to set their own pace and schedules to learn and perfect their skills. E-learning wide range coverage offers inevitable skills and experiences to the learners. It is easier to monitor and track e-learning progress as it has inbuilt analytical tools to help evaluate the learners and therefore boost efficiency. The future is dynamic and so does it need a dynamic learning process. With e-learning, the future is bright⁴.

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