Original Research Paper

Education

E LEARNING - FUTURE PERSPECTIVE

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ABSTRACT 21st century has been an era of technological advancement. e learning is the network enabled learning contributing to the enhancement in knowledge, attitude and skill of learners. It is a newer form of social interaction emphasizing the learner centered activity. This form of digitalization enables the learners to integrate new awareness to the existing. The learner can make use of the best possible e learning tool to enrich their existing knowledge to become professionally competent. Education has become commercial in the present epoch. Entrepreneur's prefers funding for such e learning projects as this is the most promising and advancing field. Quality enhancement in e learning preparation need to be considered as there exists a tight competition. New generation learners wish to be self-dependent, self-directed and self-motivated. Considering this perspective educationalist should prepare an e learning tool which is compatible, comprehensive and flexible.

E learning refers to the use of electronic device or computer technologies to provide training and learning experience. Synonyms used for e learning are web based learning, computer based learning and internet based learning. It helps to provide educational training outside the traditional classroom. Humans are in the advent of technological advances when compared with the traditional era. Learning needs are to be in pace with the high tech development. Now the geographical gap no longer exist as the material can be assessed anywhere, anytime at affordable rates. Fast paced world of e learning provides information that are up to date, creative and promote excitement in learners. It changes the nature of social interaction and serves as a different means of communication.

Rapid changes in the health care delivery system compel the health professionals to update their knowledge. Continuing education enables them to update the knowledge, skill and practice thereby helping them to become a competent practitioner. Life long and continuing learning is essential in nursing as the field is subjected to enormous advancement day by day. e learning serves as an excellent means to have professional up gradation which could be easily accessed and retrieved. Information technology by means of e learning opens the door for delivering a quality continuing education which unties a wide range of learning opportunities. In e learning, the approach had turned from teacher centered to student centered.

E-learning is not superior to traditional learning method but can be used as an alternative method in nursing education with a good understanding of learners needs.[1] e learning should be compatible with the learning needs of the student and different approach regarding the preparation, responsibility of the learning material, teaching practical skills and proper communication need to be adopted.[2]

The 'virtual university' has become a reality in advanced countries and it is gradually being adopted in developing countries like India. Increasingly, academic activities are taking place in a new educational space created by the local and global networks. Taking into consideration the requisite of distance learners, the open learning system in future should be reformatted with a lot of flexibility. Keeping this view point authorities and experts should make a way to promote an e learning strategy which will contribute to the future learning.

Different types of e learning are available namely synchronous, asynchronous, self-paced and blended learning.

·Synchronous learning
Real time simultaneous communication occurs between the individuals. Models for that are videoconferencing, virtual classrooms and chat sessions. It makes the students feel like participants and they become more social and interactive.

·Asynchronous learning
Sender and receiver need not be online and can respond to the message according to their own convenience. Models are emails and discussion boards.

·Self-paced
It mainly proceeds based on the learners response. It is asynchronous pattern. Learner has to be self-motivated.

·Blended learning
It is a combination of traditional classroom method and online study to create a different mode of teaching methodology. It will help to make the advantage of both.

e learning has several benefits. It is self-paced, saves training cost, travel cost, printed materials cost, available at any time, any place, time saving, user friendly, highly motivating and promotes better retention. It improves student satisfaction and confidence.[4]

In spite of the benefits, e learning has many drawbacks which includes lack of awareness about the computer, need to have access to the computer and internet and slow internet made the users less motivated. Significant fund is required to establish an e learning content and quality tool preparation involves a hectic task. As it is self-paced, motivation plays an important role. If the e learning is not synchronous many a times content is misunderstood.

Regardless humans are social being and prefer interaction, so change to a completely dependent e learning method is questionable. But the blended learning being a combination method which would be more preferable. Further reviews

need to be performed to identify the best approach of e learning.

Future Perspectives For E Learning.
Value of e learning
Before implementing an e learning technology one should consider the genuine need, relevance and what it can contribute to the preferred field of education. Precisely try to balance the tremendous need with the cost and difficulties in preparing an e learning module. The e learning must be compelling to the target audience, to offer the learner a resource that will be seen as appealing, high-value and productive to their goals and objectives.[7]

Readiness Of The Students
As it is a student centered approach learners readiness plays an important role. Literature had shown that components of readiness includes communicative and collaborative skills, meta-cognitive skills, technology availability and skills, cognitive skills, and self-directed learning. Assessment of the readiness of students to participate in e-learning revealed that it is relatively moderate. Training and preparing the students in various ways are essential to implement an e learning system.[6]New technologies should be adopted and employed to implement e learning as a tool for undergraduate nursing education.[3] Moreover students concerns should be given prime importance as the final beneficiaries are the learners. Student centered and friendly learning approach makes the system of education more credible.

Availability Of Technology, Its Utilization And Quality.
Major constraining factors that cause failure in accessing the e learning are limited internet connectivity and inadequate access to electricity. Recommendation are given in developing nations to partner the learning with telecommunication firms and internet service providers with a view to providing constant and affordable internet services to their learners.[8]Quality enhancement is of utmost important to make sure that learners are not misled by the fake e learning content. e learning standardization is very essential. Standardized and reliable learning platform should be developed by the virtual university.

Subject And Content Expertise
e learning models should be adopted to develop e learning projects. One of the popular model is ADDIE model which includes 5 stages analysis, design, development, implementation and evaluation. Team members should be selected who are well versed with content development and subject matter. Identify the target audience and their needs. Clear cut and specific objectives can direct the learners to the achievement of educational objectives. The language should be direct, informal, easily understood by diverse people and culture- and gender-sensitive. Interface and navigation should be kept as simple as possible. Mandatory component in the model is evaluation which is essential to understand the quality, progress and effectiveness of the course and also for improving the future activities and content.[5]

Funding For The Promotion Of E Learning
Preparation of an e learning projects needs surplus funds which include initial development and purchase of e learning projects, application and skill training. Currently most of the university prefers to fund for newer modes of learning. Advancement in technology makes the entrepreneurs more interested to invest for the e learning projects. Considering this area to be most promising in the coming years special interest need to be taken by governments, council and stake holders to bring ahead with funded projects.

CONCLUSION
Humans are in the advent of technological advancement. Technology has become an inseparable part for individuals. Learning strategies and educational materials should be compatible to the high tech technology. The e-learning is emerging as the upcoming trend in learning. Government and private sectors have taken many initiatives for promoting e-Learning. Continuing education plays a major role in nursing to have a professional up gradation of knowledge and skill. e learning promotion and upgradation should be enforced in every areas of nursing. Nursing educational institution should promote strategies for adapting e learning as a learning tool which subsidize future learning opportunities.

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