

## Features of Electronic Learning, Mobile Learning and Virtual Learning



### Education

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### ABSTRACT

*We live in a world that is constantly changing. The presence of computers has revolutionized the world. Computers have brought in a host of new technologies for education. Learning has changed as well. Starting from the ancient guru-kula system to the formal classroom learning in schools to distance education, the process of learning in education has come a long way. E-education is the process of learning where computers are used at each possible step of the process: enrolment, instruction design, content delivery, evaluation, assessment and support. Technology enhanced learning (TEL) has the goal to provide socio-technical innovations (also improving efficiency and cost effectiveness) for e-learning practices, regarding individuals and organizations, independent of time, place and pace. The field of TEL therefore applies to the support of any learning activity through technology. Notable advancements in e-learning in the last five years have included the "sharable learning content" or "learning objects. This paper highlights the features of e-learning-learning and virtual learning.*

### INTRODUCTION

E-learning is defined as instructional content or learning experiences delivered or enabled electronic technology which encompasses everything from Computer-based Training (CBT), to compact disks (CDs), to Web-based applications. Systems are being developed which manage the actual content associated with e-learning. E-learning is generally absorbed in less time than the same instructional material at their own pace, e-learning minimises the time that knowledgeable learners must spend in such training activity. E-learning is generally absorbed in less time than the same instructional material delivered in the classroom. There are ample evidences that people learn best when they are engaged by content which is appealing to senses, personalised, (adjusted for the learner and offering opportunities to make input) and novel, humorous, or relevant. E-learning is the use of technology to enable people to learn anytime and anywhere. E-Learning can include training, the delivery of just-in-time information and guidance from experts.

### Meaning of E-learning

E-learning uses technologies such as: E-mail, Bulleting Board, Electronic white board, Video conferencing and World Wide Web.

- E-Learning means
- Exciting,
- Energetic,
- Enthusiastic
- Emotional
- Extended
- Excellent
- Educational

### What is E-learning?

E-learning is a catch-all term is a catch that covers a wide range of instructional material that can be divided on a CD-ROM or DVD, over a local area net work (lan), or the Intranet. It includes computer based training (CBT), Web-Based Training (WBT), Electronic Performance Support System (EPSS), Distance or on line learning tutorials. E-Learning (or e-learning) is a catch-all term that covers a wide range of instructional material that

### Features of E-learning

#### Cost Effectiveness:

It doesn't need more investment and it is more beneficial both for personal and group learning.

#### Time saving:

It saves the time of learner many students can learn at a time than in face to face learning. Through e-learning lots of short term courses can offered. the learner has more flexibility to design the course according to their own requirement.

#### Test Engine:

E-learning websites not only offer courses but also offer test engines to test engines to test learners' knowledge with different types of questions and to assess ones own ability.

#### Accessibility:

It is highly accessible in nature as one can access the course content from anywhere at any time and complete the course through on line through CDS and cassettes which are available from websites.

#### Mentor-led Training / learning:

Throughout the course mentor-led training /experience is provided to enhance the students learning/ training with the material, resulting in improved learning and retention.

#### E-Learning -Two Ways

E-learning can be delivered in two ways synchronously and asynchronously. Synchronous e-learning takes place in a "live"- a virtual classroom. It is based on real time web-based video conferencing, audio-conferencing with presentation material and on-line chart. It is also referred as "Distance Learning". Asynchronous learning is self-paced, can be learnt at any time at lower cost of development and it is re usable. It is also called as "Distributed Learning"

#### Typical elements

Typical elements of eLearning material come from good instructional design and are similar to what is used in training and educational classes:

- Introduction
- Presentation of Content
- Items to be practiced with interactive feed back.
- Assessment
- Evaluation Feedback
- Evaluation feedback

#### Authoring approach

- Instructional authoring of eLearning, CBT or WBT material requires a methodical approach.
- The instructional design of the material should be clear and consistent. Up-front planning is the most important element to eLearning.
- The user interface should be intuitive and easy to navigate. Fancy or obscure techniques can discourage a learner from continuing.
- There should be ongoing and purposeful interaction with and by the student.
- Real-world applications, exercises and examples are necessary.

- There must be an effective and systematic assessment of student progress and achievement.
- Multimedia should be used primarily to effectively communicate content and motivate learning, as opposed to showing off the latest technologies.

#### Advantages

- There are many advantages to online and computer-based learning when compared to traditional face-to-face courses and lectures.
- It is interesting in classrooms.
- Besides other works; e-learning can be scheduled.
- Avoids travel time and costs.
- Students can select their learning material according to their level of knowledge and interest.
- Students can learn the self-paced modules sitting anywhere, where there is access to internet.
- It is more flexible as they can discuss with classmates instructors in the bulletin board at any hour in their chat rooms.
- It paves way to more interaction among students and instructors than in a lecture classroom.
- It accommodates different learning styles and facilitates learning through a variety of activities.
- It helps to acquire more knowledge about internet and computer skills.
- It builds of self-confidence and self-knowledge after completing the course.
- Learners can test themselves and even skim the materials if they have already mastered the content and concentrate on new skills and gain new knowledge.

#### Mobile Learning

As educators, we are faced with the task to educate, engage and challenge these students. Digital literacy and their digital expectancy must be incorporated within meaningful learning scenarios.

M-Learning is “personal and portable”, much useful for distance learners. Teacher educators have to focus on the mobile devices themselves and more particularly on the characteristics of the learning experience they facilitate and the learners who interact with them. Mobile technologies present as a means of bridging the gap between formal and informal learning. Learning is no longer limited to time spent in formal educational settings but can now be carried across to informal contexts. Learning need not be limited to formal prescribed contexts, but can more easily take place in learner-focused contexts.

Keegan (2004) defined mobile learning as “the provision of education and training on PDAs/palmtops/handhelds, smart phones and mobiles.

#### Mobile technology uses

- Learning is more user-centred as Mobile technology is bridging tool.
- It works best as part of a blend of approaches.
- It works best if perceived as another tool that can be used to fit a learning.
- It is used to remove some of the formality which non-traditional learners may find unattractive.
- It increases motivation and engagement with learning.
- M-learning is ideal for facilitating collaboration and communication.
- Mobile technology can enhance the growing shift from an instructor centred classroom teaching to constructivist learner centred educational setup.
- It makes the learning process quicker, easier, more attractive and more acceptable to disenfranchised learners.

Mobile devices can be used not only for consuming information but can also be used for creating information as well. The keyboard of devices like the iPhone and iPod Touch allow limited keyboarding but the new iPad with its larger built-in keyboard and optional keyboard attachment should allow students to more easily create text.

“There is a need to re-conceptualise learning for the mobile age, to recognise the essential role of mobility and communication in the process of learning. The teachers educators can use mobile learning to generate knowledge. As we are in the world of digital technology, learning is becoming more personal.

#### Virtual learning

The emerging education Paradigm is Virtual Learning and it has enormous potential to impart education in such a way to improve students’s learning, achievement, educational access and cost-effectiveness. It eliminates the need for teachers and students to share a classroom as it is a learning management system. It is also known as Digital learning or e-learning.

#### Virtual learning comes in several forms:

##### Computer-Based:

The teacher provides instruction by installing software on a local computer or server. The material is prepared to suit the specific needs of each student.

##### Internet-Based:

This is similar to computer-based instruction, but the instruction is delivered through the Web and stored on a remote server.

##### Remote Teacher Online:

Instruction is provided by a teacher, but that teacher is not physically present with the student. Instead, the teacher interacts with the student via the Internet, through such media as online video, online forums, e-mail and instant messaging.

##### Blended Learning:

This combines traditional face-to-face instruction, directed by a teacher, with computer-based, Internet-based or remote teacher online instruction. In effect, instruction comes from two sources: a traditional classroom teacher, and at least one of the forms of virtual learning described above.

##### Facilitated Virtual Learning:

This is computer-based, Internet-based or remote teacher online instruction that is supplemented by a human “facilitator.” This facilitator does not direct the student’s instruction, but rather assists the student’s learning process by providing tutoring or additional supervision. The facilitator may be present with the learner or communicating remotely via the Web or other forms of electronic communication.

Education is the powerful instrument which can eradicate the evils of the society. The teacher educators have to take constant effort to reach out as many students as possible by providing a good quality education as per the need of the era. We have change our pedagogy by bridging the Virtual Divide”.

- Develop a variety of “academically-oriented” technology skills
- Develop a strong foundation for web-based learning
- Provide daily structure for success
- Provide immediate teacher support and feedback
- Provide flexibility, self-pacing, and individualization

#### Conclusion

Electronic e-learning is experiencing unprecedented growth and will continue to do for the foreseeable future in higher education. E-learning is a methodology, one can experience the greatest benefits that e-learning has to offer now and in future. This paper highlights the changing technology, especially the emergence of computing and digital technologies. It is time for us to realise that we cannot simply reproduce previous forms of learning. We cannot simply reproduce previous forms of learning just using the traditional methods of teaching in the classrooms but we have to make our classrooms using software technology looking at the new opportunities for learning afforded by emerging technologies.

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