



E-LEARNING BENEFITS AND RELATED ISSUES

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Introduction:

This theoretical paper exposes chronological order of E-Learning starting from its point of inception to present development of online learning. E-Learning plays a major role in innovative educational development. Online Learning includes a range of technologies such as the worldwide web, chat, new groups and texts, and audio and video conferencing delivered over computer networks to impart education. It helps the learner to learn at any were in the world, according to their own convenience. Online Education requires plenty of resources and careful planning, Teachers in this case serve as facilitators rather than transmitters of content knowledge, and ICT is regarded as a resource that enhances the learning experience of students. Learners learn through online learning tools which are available to all. E-Learning has brought back the joy of learning through its innovative and interactive content delivery and has proved to be more interesting to students.

Objectives of the Study:

The main of objective of the Research paper is to get familiarity with the online learning and its Benefits:

- To study the meaning and concept of E-Learning.
- To know the challenges in online learning.
- To study the impact of online learning on students
- To know the effectiveness of online learning on students
- To study the different E-Learning portals in India.
- To know the difficulties faced by students during online learning
- To know satisfaction with online learning among school students.
- To study the growth prospects and future of E-Learning in India.

Research Methodology:

This research study is based on secondary data. The said secondary data is gathered from various sources such as reference books on E-Learning, Articles, Web Portals, Online Education, Distance Learning. For this research study, the Secondary data is also gathered from various journals and magazines which are connected to E-Learning. For this research, the secondary data is also collected from various websites, search engines, and online information providers.

Types of E-Learning Models:

There are several types of e-learning, each with its own unique features and benefits. Here are some of the most common types of e-learning models:

- **Asynchronous e-Learning:** Asynchronous e-learning allows learners to access course materials and complete assignments at their own pace and on their own schedule. This type of e-learning often uses pre-recorded lectures, readings, and other materials that learners can access anytime, anywhere.
- **Synchronous e-Learning:** Synchronous e-learning involves real-time interaction between learners and instructors or other learners. This can include live video conferencing, chat rooms, or instant messaging.
- **Blended Learning:** Blended learning combines traditional classroom-based instruction with e-learning. This approach can include online modules, video lectures, and other digital resources that complement face-to-face instruction.
- **Micro Learning:** Micro learning involves delivering content in short, focused bursts that can be consumed quickly and easily. This can include short videos, quizzes, or other interactive activities that help learners acquire new skills or knowledge in small increments.
- **Mobile Learning:** Mobile learning, or m-learning, involves delivering e-learning content and resources to learners' mobile devices, such as smart phones or tablets. This type of e-learning allows learners to access course materials on-the-go and on their own schedule.

- Gamification: Gamification involves using game-like elements, such as points, badges, and leader boards, to make e-learning more engaging and interactive. This approach can help motivate learners and increase their retention of course material.
- Adaptive Learning: Adaptive learning uses technology to personalize the learning experience for each individual learner. This can include adjusting the pace and difficulty of course material based on a learner's performance and feedback.

These are few examples of the types of e-learning available today. Different types of e-learning may be more appropriate for different learners, depending on their learning styles, preferences, and goals.

Several E-Learning Portals:

There are several e-learning platforms in India that offer a wide range of courses and programs to learners. Here are some of the most popular e-learning platforms in India:

- BYJU's: BYJU's is an online learning platform that offers courses for K-12 students in India, as well as test preparation courses for competitive exams such as the JEE, NEET, and CAT.
- SWAYAM: SWAYAM stands for Study Webs of Active-Learning for Young Aspiring Minds. It is an initiative of the Government of India's Ministry of Education that aims to provide free online courses and e-learning resources to learners across India. It provides courses in a wide range of subjects, from engineering and technology to humanities and social sciences, and includes both undergraduate and postgraduate level courses
- Udemy: Udemy is an online learning platform that offers courses on a variety of topics, from business and technology to personal development and creative skills.
- UpGrad: UpGrad is an online education platform that offers postgraduate programs and certifications in fields such as data science, management, and technology.
- Simplilearn: Simplilearn is an e-learning platform that offers courses and certifications in fields such as data science, digital marketing, cyber security, and cloud computing.
- Coursera: Coursera is a popular e-learning platform that offers online courses and certifications from top universities and organizations worldwide.
- edX: edX is a non-profit e-learning platform that offers courses and certifications from leading universities and institutions worldwide.
- Talent Edge: Talent edge is an e-learning platform that offers live, interactive online courses and executive education programs in partnership with leading institutions and industry experts.

Benefits of E-Learning:

E-learning, or electronic learning, offers several advantages over traditional classroom-based instruction. Here are some of the key advantages of e-learning:

- Flexibility: E-learning allows learners to access course materials and complete assignments at their own pace and on their own schedule, providing flexibility that traditional classroom-based instruction cannot match.
- Accessibility: E-learning can be accessed from anywhere with an internet connection, making it a great option for learners who may not have access to traditional classroom-based instruction.
- Personalization: E-learning platforms can use data and analytics to personalize the learning experience for each individual learner, adapting the pace and difficulty of course material to match their skills and abilities.
- Cost-Effective: E-learning can be more cost-effective than traditional classroom-based instruction, as it eliminates the need for physical classrooms, textbooks, and other materials.
- Scalability: E-learning can be scaled up or down quickly and easily, making it a great option for organizations or institutions that need to train large numbers of learners.
- Interactive and Engaging: E-learning can be designed to be highly interactive and engaging, using multimedia elements such as videos, animations, and simulations to make learning more enjoyable and effective.
- Consistency: E-learning can ensure consistency in the delivery of course material, ensuring that all learners receive the same high-quality instruction regardless of their location or other factors.
- Time-Saving: E-learning can save time by eliminating the need for learners to travel to a physical classroom or training facility. This can be especially beneficial for learners who have busy schedules or live far from the nearest training center.
- Immediate Feedback: E-learning platforms can provide immediate feedback to learners, allowing them to assess their understanding of course material and adjust their learning strategies accordingly.
- Enhanced Collaboration: E-learning can facilitate collaboration among learners and instructors, using discussion forums, social media, and other tools to encourage interaction and shared learning experiences.

- Up-to-Date Content: E-learning platforms can be updated quickly and easily to reflect changes in course material or industry standards, ensuring that learners receive the most up-to-date information and training.

Difficulties Faced by Students during Online Learning:

E-Learning has become an increasingly popular way of delivering education and training in recent years, but it is not without limitations. Some of the limitations of e-learning include:

- **Lack of Social Interaction:** E-learning can be a solitary experience, which means that learners may miss out on the benefits of social interaction, such as peer-to-peer learning and collaboration.
- **Limited Feedback:** With e-learning, learners may not receive immediate feedback or have the opportunity to ask questions in real-time, which can make it difficult to fully understand concepts or address misunderstandings.
- **Technical Difficulties:** E-learning requires reliable access to technology and a stable internet connection. Technical difficulties, such as slow internet speeds or computer malfunctions, can hinder the learning experience.
- **Self-Discipline:** E-learning requires a high degree of self-discipline and motivation. Without the structure and accountability of traditional classroom settings, learners may struggle to stay focused and engaged.
- **Limited Practical Application:** Some skills and knowledge are better learned through hands-on experience, which can be difficult to replicate in an e-learning environment.
- **Accessibility:** E-learning may not be accessible to everyone, particularly those who do not have access to technology or have visual or hearing impairments that make it difficult to engage with digital content.
- **Cost:** While e-learning can be more cost-effective than traditional classroom-based learning, it can still be expensive for individuals or organizations to develop and maintain high-quality e-learning resources.

The current state of e-learning in India is rapidly evolving and expanding. With the spread of digital technologies and the internet, there has been a surge in the use of e-learning platforms and online education resources across the country.

- One of the key drivers of this growth has been the Indian government's initiatives to promote e-learning and digital education. The SWAYAM platform, for example, has provided free access to a wide range of online courses and resources to learners across India, with over 2,000 courses currently available.
- In addition to government initiatives, there has been significant growth in private sector investment in e-learning and edtech startups in India, with a number of innovative companies developing new tools and technologies to support online education.
- Despite this growth, however, there are still challenges to the widespread adoption of e-learning in India. Access to reliable internet and digital devices remains a barrier for many learners, particularly in rural areas. Additionally, there is a need for greater standardization and quality control in e-learning content and delivery to ensure that learners receive high-quality education and training.

Overall, the current state of e-learning in India is promising, with significant potential to improve access to education and training for learners across the country. As technology continues to evolve and improve, e-learning is likely to become an increasingly important and effective tool for education and skill development in India.

Conclusion:

After going through the pros & cons of Online Learning, it is difficult to decide whether online learning is a boon or a curse. We are all aware of the benefits of online learning, but it is important to talk about any negative effects it may have on a person or on society as a whole. Currently, we would like to conclude by saying that online learning is a great option in education, especially when there are challenges with traditional learning situations. For example, some people wish to continue their formal education but do not live within drivable distance of a college or university and don't find it feasible to commute daily. To connect with their students in virtual classrooms, E-learning program instructors must receive training in information technologies and the internet. Furthermore, they must be able to successfully administer all applications and keep up with advancements in pioneering nations for distance learning and e-learning. Models of E-learning that exclude any face-to-face contact may have limited prospects, but blended learning offers significant potential both on and off campus and should be pursued if the benefits of online learning are to be fully realized. Therefore, blended learning can be offered at all educational levels in order to reduce the negative effects of online learning.

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