E-Learning

A. Pauline Chitra*, M. Antoney Raj

Department of History, St.Xavier's College of Education, Palayamkottai- 627 002, Tamil Nadu, India

Abstract

Abstract E-learning presents an entirely new learning environment for students, thus requiring a different skill set to be successful (Romiszowski, 2004). Critical thinking, research, and evaluation skills are growing in importance as students have increasing volumes of information from a variety of sources to sort through (New Media Consortium, 2007). Also, particularly in courses that are entirely electronic, students are much more independent than in the traditional setting. This requires that they be highly motivated and committed to teach (Huynh et al., 2003), with less social interaction with peers or an instructor. Students in online courses tend to do as well as those in classrooms, but there is higher incidence of withdrawal or incomplete grades (Zhang, Zhou and Briggs, 2006). E- Learning can be viewed as computer assisted learning, and as pedagogy for studentcentered and collaborative learning. Early developments in e-learning focused on computer assisted learning, where part or all of the learning content is delivered digitally. More recently the pedagogical dimension of e-learning has become prominent. E-learning comprises all forms of electronically supported learning and teaching. The information and communication systems, whether networked learning or not, serve as specific media to implement the learning process.

Keywords: E-learning, efficient, computer-based

Introduction

E-learning is commonly referred to the intentional use of networked information and communication technology in teaching and learning. A number of other terms are also used to describe this mode of teaching and learning. They include; Online learning, Virtual learning, Distributed learning, Network and web based learning.

E-Learning - Definition

The term e-learning comprises a lot more than online learning, virtual learning, distributed learning, networked or web-based learning. As the letter "e" in e-learning stands for the word "electronic", it would incorporate all educational activities that are carried out by individuals or groups working online or offline, and synchronously or asynchronously via networked or standalone computers and other electronic devices.

M-Learning - Definition

M-learning is an abbreviation of mobile learning, which means learning using portable devices that allow the student to learn in different environments and whilst on the move instead of being restricted to a classroom setting or tied to a desk. Mobile learning is, of course, by its electronic nature, a subset of e-learning, but it refers far more specifically to these handheld devices and portable technology.

The Difference between E-learning and M-learning

Here is a table that explains how they differ from each other.

Types of E-Learning
Text Driven

In this level, the content is simple and includes text, graphics, audio and test questions. Compliance courses are a good example of text driven e learning

Interactive

An interactive e learning course is very similar to a text driven one, with the exception that there has been more consideration placed on interactive components to enhance the learning. There is also a greater use of visuals in general (graphics, charts, diagrams), all of which are likely to have an interactive aspect.

Simulation

Simulation e learning is highly interactive and relies heavily upon graphics, video, audio and gasification. Importantly, there are often custom simulations to aid in learning acquisition, which could very well include 3D components. New software training is an example of a course that often includes a high degree of interactivity and simulations

Impact of E-learning

a) It has brought about the feeling of self-responsibility amongst students where they have to account to themselves when they decide to study or not.

b) It enables students not only to rely on textbook information but to expand their knowledge by researching using the World Wide Web.

c) Teachers benefit from this by allowing them to acquire various computer skills as well as students and this has enabled them to encourage students to apply their knowledge and skills. It helps in the communication with their students at all times.

d) It increases the students' ability to study on their own and their critical thinking skills.

The importance of E learning

Students need to be engaged with what they are doing to

Table 1: Difference between E-learning and M-learning

Key Features	E-Learning	M-Learning
Delivery of Content	Learning takes place through desktop or laptop computers.	Learning takes place through lightweight, wireless devices that are small enough to fit into one's pocket, purse or hand.
Access	Individuals have to be seated comfortably, at a place, to go through the course.	Individuals can access knowledge or learning inputs on the go and need not be seated in one place.
Screen Size & Navigation	Screens are larger and navigation is smooth through mouse pointer. As a result, visuals, graphics and text can be delivered effectively.	The screens of mobile devices are small, limiting the scope for text and graphics. Buttons have to be larger to enable learners to use them with their fingers easily
Content Type	Content can be broad-based	Content has to be focused on a single concept
Context	Context needs to be established before adding into the main module.	M-learning is spontaneous and contextual.
Time	E-learning modules often span between 20-30 minutes, allowing comprehensive knowledge transfer.	M-learning modules cannot be more than 5-7 minutes as it is difficult for learners to focus on anything longer.

improve learning outcomes E learning enables students to become thinkers/learners/risk takers in a sheltered environment. Students need not rely on the teachers. They can be independent. Learning can happen anywhere, anytime and anyhow. It inspires students to seek more from school.

Once developed, the course can be run as many times, at as many locations and for as many learners and thus it reduces overall cost. It reduces learning time as training is provided in small digestible chunks right at learner's fingertips. It ensures consistent delivery across all locations and times.

Benefits of E Learning For Students

1. Online learning accommodates everyone's needs

The online method of learning is best suited for everyone. This digital revolution has led to remarkable changes in how the content is accessed, consumed, discussed, and shared. Online educational courses can be taken up by office goers and housewives too, at the time that suits them. Depending on their availability and comfort, many people choose to learn at weekends or evenings.

2. Lectures can be taken any number of times

Unlike classroom teaching, with online learning students can access the content an unlimited number of times. This is especially required at the time of revision when preparing for an exam.

3. Offers access to updated content

A prime benefit of learning online is that it makes sure that you are in synchronization with modern learners. This enables the learner to access updated content whenever they want it.

4. Quick delivery of lessons

E-Learning is a way to provide quick delivery of lessons. As compared to traditional classroom teaching method, this mode has relatively quick delivery cycles. There are some of the reasons why the learning time is reduced by eLearning:

- Lessons starts quickly and also wrapped up in a single learning session. This enables training programs to easily roll out within a few weeks, or sometime even days.

- Learners can define their own speed of learning instead of following the speed of the whole group.

- Saves time as a student does not need to travel to the training venue. You can learn at the comfort of your own place.

- Students can choose to study specific and relevant areas of the learning material without focusing on each and every area. For example, they can skip certain areas they do not want to learn.

5. Scalability

E-Learning helps in creating and communicating new training, policies, concepts, and ideas. Whether it is for formal education or entertainment, eLearning is very quick way of learning!

6. Consistency

E-Learning enables educators to get a higher degree of coverage to communicate the message in a consistent way for their target audience. This ensures that all learners receive the same type of training with this learning mode.

7. Reduced Costs

E Learning is cost effective as compared to traditional forms of learning. The reason for this price reduction is because learning through this mode happens quickly and easily. A lot of training time is reduced with respect to trainers, travel, course materials, and accommodation.

8. Effectiveness

E Learning has a positive influence on an organization's profitability. It makes it easy to grasp the content and digest it:

- It results in improved scores on certifications, tests, or other types of evaluation.

- Higher number of students who achieve 'pass' or mastery' level.

- Enhanced ability to learn and implement the new processes or knowledge at the workplace.

- Help in retaining information for a longer time.

9. Less impact on environment

As E-Learning is a paperless way of learning, it protects the environment to a lot of extent. As per a study done on

eLearning courses, it has been found that distance-based learning programs consumed around 90% less power and generated 85% less amount of CO_2 emissions as compared to traditional campus-based educational courses. With eLearning, there is no need to cut trees for obtaining paper. Thus, eLearning is a highly eco-friendly way of learning.

Disadvantages of E-Learning

Lack of self-discipline

If an individual lacks this, they will not be motivated to study bringing about procrastination. This is where traditional classroom learning is handy whereby; you are tracked if you are falling behind in your studies.

Health problems

This normally occurs when an individual is always on their computer or tablet; it brings about straining problems, poor vision and the like. It is, however, advisable to relax for at least 10 minutes an hour, walk around and even do some wrist exercises to prevent pains

Inability to access technology

This is a problem that is faced by individuals who want to take part an online course but cannot since they cannot access a device with internet connection or rather an environment that has hard access to an internet connection.

Conclusion

E-learning provides the students with the ability to fit learning around their lifestyles, effectively allowing even the busiest person to further a career and gain new qualifications. Some of the most important developments in education have happened since the launch of the internet. Nowadays learners are well versed in the use of smart phones, messaging and using the internet so participating in and running an online course has become a simple affair. Now that affordable e-learning solutions exist for both computers and internet, it only takes a good e-learning tool for education to be facile tatted from virtually anywhere.

References

https://www.fractuslearning.com/2012/09/12/e-learning-and-m-learning

https://www.fractuslearning.com/2012/09/12/e-learning-and-m-learning/

https://www.learndash.com/3-types-of-elearning/

https://murcha.wordpress.com/2011/01/05/why-elearning-is-essential-for-students/

https://www.quora.com/in/What-is-the-importance-of-e-learning

https://elearningindustry.com/9-benefits-of-elearning-for-students

https://prodiags.com/prodiags/prodiags-view-point-e-learning-vs-tradi

https://www.theeducator.com/blog/e-learning-impact/