

Various E-Learning Platforms

RINU RAJU

B.ED TRAINEE (COMMERCE)

ST. THOMAS COLLEGE OF TEACHER EDUCATION,

MYLACOMPU, THODUPUZHA

ABSTRACT

According to Smith, Learning is the acquisition of new behaviour or the strengthening or weakening of old behaviour as a result of experience. We learn a lot in our day to day life. Academical learning is of great significance in the present scenario owing to the growing competition in getting employment. Companies are in constant need of proper academically qualified individuals in carrying out their jobs. Learning is possible at anywhere, anytime without a particular format. Learning may be formal or informal and learning is habitual and life long process. If learning is acquired through any type of electronic media or gadgets is called e-learning or online learning. In other words, learning is takes place over the internet. Online learning has flourished over the last few years. A learning platform is an integrated set of interactive online services that provides the teachers, learners, parents and others involved in education with information, tools and resources to support and enhance educational delivery and management. The concept of acquiring education through schools and other institutions has undergone some dramatic changes and online education is being taken up by many students. There are many online platforms available which provides an alternative for the typical institutional based education. This paper mainly focuses on describing the various types of e-learning platforms, its advantages and disadvantages, its effect in the present scenario, and its future implications on the current educational system.

Key words: formal learning, informal learning, e-learning.

INTRODUCTION ABOUT LEARNING AND E-LEARNING

Learning is the process of acquiring new or modifying the existing behaviors, values, attitudes or preferences. The process of learning doesn't have any particular format and is not restricted to a particular age or situation. Learning is possible at anywhere. There is no any restrictions for learning process. The ability of learning is possessed by humans, animals and by some machines too. Actually, learning is a lifelong process which lasts till one's death and is a key product of education. We can adjust a situation with most suitable way because of learning. So learning is promoted to live in the world.

E-learning is the process of learning through internet by means of various electronic devices. It is a recently originated learning process but became ubiquitous in a rapid manner. E learning is possible at 24*7 basis, and the only requirements are internet and internet supporting devices. If a person learns by utilizing internet and other electronic devices, then is called as an e-learner.

OBJECTIVES OF THE PAPER

The objectives of the presentation is to provide an awareness about E-learning, its types, advantages and disadvantages as well as possibilities in the present as well as future scenario.

TYPES OF LEARNING

Learning is broadly classified into two types:

1. Formal learning
 2. Informal learning
1. Formal learning: Knowledge acquired through a well-structured process. There is a specified structure and is intentionally acquired in schools or any other educational institutions.
 2. Informal learning: The learning process which does not involve a well-defined structure, but learning is acquired through day to day life.

WHAT IS E-LEARNING PLATFORMS?

E-learning means the process of acquiring something through the internet and with the help of different electronic devices such as computer, TV, Mobile phones etc. E-learning is also known as virtual learning. E-learning platforms utilize modern digital devices instead of traditional learning platforms. E-learning platforms provide us with information in the form of photos, videos, records as well as live classes. In e-learning platforms we can upload different types of videos, images, files and contents relating with learning process which could be beneficial to the learning people.

VARIOUS E-LEARNING PLATFORMS

The following are the various e-learning platforms

- ❖ **M-learning:** M-learning stands for Mobile learning. It is one of the recent developments in the field of e-learning. In this type of e-learning, mobile phone devices are used for the learning process.
- ❖ **Web based learning:** Web based learning is also known as e-learning and technology based learning. Actually the meaning and concept of them are same. It is a type of learning in which web based technologies or tools are used for the learning process.
- ❖ **Computer based learning:** Computer based learning means the process of learning through the use of computer and computer related devices. Through this platform, people can acquire knowledge through the medium of computers and other related services excluding the use of usual method of book based education.
- ❖ **Virtual learning.** Virtual learning means set of teaching and learning tools and techniques designed to facilitate or promote a student's learning experience by including digital devices and internet in learning process.
- ❖ **Online learning:** online learning means learning through internet. Online learning is just a part of e-learning. Through online learning a vast amount of information and knowledge can be transmitted through constant communication.
- ❖ **Blended learning:** Blended learning is a learning process that combines online educational materials and facilitate discussion online with traditional place based class

room environment. It is also known as mixed learning, hybrid learning, blended e-learning, and melted learning.

ADVANTAGES OF E-LEARNING

The technological learning has some advantages compared to traditional learning. Following are the main advantages of e learning.

- 1. Easy access:** The learner can access information by overcoming all barriers of time, place and distance. Anyone can access information at anytime, at any place without national boundaries. It is available even in areas where there is no schools or colleges.
- 2. Variety of methods in teaching:** E-learning offers variety of teaching methods as per the learner's convenience. We can learn particular portion in different ways as per our needs and choices.
- 3. Interesting and motivating:** E-learning makes the students more interested and motivated towards learning. The e-learning materials contains the information which could seek the attention of the learners.
- 4. Individualized instructions:** E-learning provides individualized instructions suiting to the need, abilities, learning styles and interest of the learners. The instructions are included according to the interest of the individuals.
- 5. Self-evaluation and feedback:** E-learning provides opportunities for assessing and evaluating the learning outcomes of the learners through teachers, peers, self and auto instructional devices and soft wares.
- 6. Availability of different aids:** In e-learning, we can use different aids for learning process at a time that will create a good learning environment for the learners.

DISADVANTAGES OF E-LEARNING

Even though e-learning is a boon it has some disadvantages too. The following are the main disadvantages of e-learning.

- 1. Technical literacy required:** Some or basic technical literacy is required for the learning process. Without the basic technical literacy we cannot learn effectively.
- 2. Cost of equipment:** E-learning process requires more costly equipment than traditional learning materials. The tools and devices which are used in e-learning are highly expensive.
- 3. Health problems:** Sometimes the devices and equipment which are used in e-learning is leads to health problems. The continuous use of such devices will lead to head ache, vision problems etc.
- 4. Decrease in co-curricular activities:** The use of technological devices sometimes make the learners withdraw from co-curricular activities.
- 5. Possibility of distract:** In e-learning some advertisements may appear in the content, so that it deviate the learners from their actual needs.
- 6. Technical defect:** The connection problems of internet or any other software or any hanging up of the devices will resist the learning process. So the continuity of learning is broken and there is no progress in e-learning.

FUTURE POSSIBILITIES

Technology has captured every sector of human life and it has gone much beyond our expectations. In the present scenario, education and technology are no more two phenomena rather they go hand in hand providing endless opportunities to the learners. The recent researches and developments in the field of technology automatically renovates the existing educational system. The people of the 21st century prefer rapid and instant and are not interested to spend more time on anything. So it should be concluded that, after a few years the educational process should be completely internet based as against the present four walled classroom set up.

CONCLUSION

Learning plays an integral part in the life of a human being. Learning is not simply acquiring knowledge through books but also through life experiences. It is womb to tomb process. The process of acquiring knowledge is now not merely restricted to classrooms and textbooks. The concept of education has undergone great changes in the past few years. Innovative means of

learning has been introduced to make learning faster, effective and mostly cost effective. This paper considered the various online platforms for learning. As mentioned above, innovative measures have influenced the youth to think out of the box as far as education is concerned. Various learning platforms have had huge impact in the field of education. So these online resources should be properly utilized for effective learning to take place.

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