

The Booming Trend of Digital Learning in India

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Abstract—Nowadays our life is governed a lot by “trends”. Trends are patterns that bring change in one or more segments of the population. Trends are there for a short period, they come and go. Megatrends are the trends that impact the whole population and stay forever. The biggest example of a megatrend is the print revolution and technology.

Technology has impacted every domain. One such domain is education. The coming up of technology in the education sector gave birth to digital learning. Now the old traditional classroom system has completely been changed to a modern one. Blackboards have been replaced with smartboards. Now teaching is no longer restricted to textbooks rather teachers to make teaching more interesting have started to use presentations. Students no longer have to write notes, they can simply get PDFs of the notes from their teachers on smartphones. Learning is now not restricted to just classrooms. At the time of the pandemic covid-19, digital learning played a vital role. Students were able to take their classes in online mode with the help of various applications like Google Meet, Zoom, etc. The main purpose of this research article is to analyze digital learning as a concept. The article will help in understanding the pros and cons associated with digital learning.

INTRODUCTION

Education is the basic right of every individual. A good education system gives a broader mindset that it helps us to gain a better perspective. It's good to see how knowledge is being delivered in different ways. The education system has completely been revolutionized. It's phenomenal to see how education is being delivered through digital ways. Digital education has given birth to remote learning. During the pandemic, it was technology that made sure that education don't stop. Nobody ever thought that they will be able to take

lectures from their couch. The Internet is a prerequisite for digital learning. Sound internet has to be there for digital learning to take place smoothly. Digital learning has helped many people as well to make their careers in the field of the education system. Youtube is one such platform that has helped many people for the same. There are various youtube channels like Khan Academy, Physics Wallah, BYJUs, and many more. They provide free access to lectures to students and make learning fun and interesting. Gone are the days when students were taught in the same old monotonous ways through textbooks by teachers. Presentations, audio, and video clippings are the new normal through which students are taught. This has even helped in avoiding rote learning as these innovative ways have helped students to understand every concept well. Any kind of knowledge can be gained with the help of the web. It won't be wrong to say that knowledge is just one click away. It is good to see how the pandemic has changed learning to e-learning. The pandemic has helped developing countries like India to come one step closer to digitization. Digitalization has helped individuals to fulfill their thirst of knowledge.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Baregama S. and Dr. Arora R. [2021] in their article titled “Analysis of digital tools and ways of learning” concluded that digital tools are a boon to society and their benefits can be obtained by anyone in society. They are a boon to the teachers and the students as they can save themselves from repetitive classes and this can save a lot of time.

A. Gunasekaran, Ronald D. Mc Niel, and Dennis Shaul [2002] concluded in their research themed “E-learning: Research and Applications” that digital learning is cost-effective and its main advantages are its flexibility, its convenience to users, its wide reach, its easy accessibility, its consistency, and its repeatability.

Dr. Aggarwal R.K. [2021] concluded in his research titled “Digital education in India: scope and challenges” that e-learning is not only an innovative way of learning but also a holistic way of teaching and learning. As per the environment, digitalization of education is undoubtedly the need of the hour and youth should maintain a balance by not being too much dependent on electronic media therefore, they should be prevented from behavioral and physical imbalances.

Jha A.K. and Singh A.P. [2020] concluded in their research titled “Digital Education in India: Challenges and their Solutions” that Indian education is accelerating in the last 10 years and the government has also taken various steps in the last 10 years establishing of NPTEL in different states.

Lynn G.D., Rosati P., Conway E., and Curran D. [2020] concluded in their research titled “Digital Education” that digital learning has become the central pillar of govt. education and training strategies worldwide but its benefits have still not reached to the most vulnerable in the society.

AIM OF THE RESEARCH

- a) To understand the concept of digital learning
- b) To analyze the advantages and disadvantages of digital learning
- c) To know the future of digital learning in India

COMPONENTS OF DIGITAL LEARNING

1. Internet

Primary and the most basic requirement of digital learning is the internet. A good and sound internet connection is necessary for digital learning to take place smoothly without interruptions.

2. Computers, laptops, and smartphones

Computers, laptops, and smartphones are the basic and minimal requirements for digital learning. During the pandemic, we saw companies coming up with laptops that were specially designed for students or had features that could provide smooth digital learning to the students.

3. Cameras

Cameras are important for digital learning. Without cameras, it is impossible for learning to take place. Cameras can help in providing a classroom type of atmosphere. Cameras can be

inbuilt or it can be a webcam. Cameras act as an interface between students and teachers during online classes.

4. Whiteboards and interactive whiteboards tool

The term whiteboard is not new to us anymore. The old traditional blackboards have been replaced with these smartboards. These boards have inbuilt tools like pens and stylus and so they are quickly becoming the symbol of high-tech learning.

5. Audio and video tools

The audio and video tools comprise of headsets, microphones, speakers, and cameras. Often they are present within your laptops and computers that is they are inbuilt, however, one can buy an external one to increase the standard of video calling.

6. LCD projectors

Whiteboards have made it possible to use LCD projectors in the classroom. Lcd projectors have helped in keeping students engaged in interactive class sessions.

SIGNIFICANCE OF DIGITAL LEARNING

1. Facilitates collaboration

Digital learning helps students to collaborate and learn in a shared environment. With the help of audio and video tools, they can easily share their thoughts and can learn how to be more expressive which will help them in their future also.

2. 24/7 access to resources

Online teaching can help in recording lectures so that students can access them whenever required. Repeated listening to lectures can also help them to understand concepts well. Also, material shared in the form of pdfs on digital platforms {google classroom} stays there always which means students can access them anytime they require.

3. Personalised learning

Digital learning allows teachers to give personalized lessons to students. Teachers can provide lectures tailored according to the needs of the students. Students can also learn according to their own pace. Digital learning is not based upon the idea of “one size fits all” rather it understands the needs of every individual and caters to them.

4. Development of new learning strategies

Digital learning has encouraged the development of new learning strategies. Gamification, micro-learning, and other teaching methods are some of the strategies that are increasingly becoming popular in this way of teaching.

5. Students' progress tracking

Digital learning can allow teachers to progress the performance of students. Technology can easily help in maintaining and tracking records of students related to their marks, attendance, etc. This can also help in identifying areas where students are lacking. Therefore personalized lessons based on their lacking can be prepared and can be given to them to improve their performance.

6. Improved communication

Digital learning can help students improve their communication. Students can easily ask questions, give feedback, and can also engage in projects with their peers which was earlier a little difficult. In the traditional classroom system, everybody is physically present and therefore many students hesitate to ask doubts as they fear getting judged by their peers. Digital learning to some extent has helped students in overcoming these hesitations.

7. Increased accountability

Digital learning has made students accountable as well for their performance as students can now easily track what they are studying and how they are studying.

LIMITATIONS OF DIGITAL LEARNING

1. Can lead to social isolation

E-learning can lead to social isolation as students don't get to see their classmates and teachers in physical form that is face to face, therefore, social interaction is very less which can ultimately lead to social isolation.

2. Use of unethical ways

E-learning includes assessment just like traditional classroom systems, however, there are no teachers to check whether everything has been done with honesty or not. They can cheat in their regular assignments by copying everything from the web as information is just one click away for students.

Moreover, during the test as well, it has become very easy for students to cheat and pass.

3. Focus more on theory

One of the major drawbacks of digital learning is that it focuses more on theory rather than practical part. Students are bound to watch videos, listen to podcasts and most of the time have their eyes glued on presentation slides. The practical part is missing that is there is no hand on experience.

4. Lack of accessibility

One of the major prerequisites of digital learning is that it lacks accessibility. Only those people who have internet in their areas have access to digital learning. There are a lot of areas that lack internet accessibility. During the pandemic, the education of children in rural areas was highly disrupted as rural areas lacked internet accessibility.

5. Language barrier

There are a lot of courses available online. But one problem is that most of these courses are in English. In a country like India, most people prefer Hindi rather than English as the illiteracy rate is high. Therefore, the language barrier is one of the major drawbacks of digital learning.

SITES THAT OFFER DIGITAL LEARNING

1. COURSERA

It is a free learning site that offers free courses from all the well-known universities. The site contains pre-recorded lectures that students can watch at their convenience.

2. UDEMY

Udemy is a library of courses that you can use to increase the skills that you can use to increase your knowledge in business, design, marketing, etc.

3. EDX

Edx is considered one of the best online course providers. You can refer to edx for various courses like computer science, data science, engineering, etc.

4. LINKEDIN LEARNING

Linkedin learning is an online course provider where you are taught by experts. You have access to 15000 courses that too in 7 languages for free.

5. KHAN ACADEMY

Khan Academy is a study website that offers in-depth knowledge of various subjects. Khan Academy is very helpful in delivering personalized learning experiences to students.

6. ACADEMIC EARTH

Academic Earth is a top online learning site that provides various certified courses to students. The courses are designed in a way that suits your professional and personal goals.

There are various other sites than those stated above like:-

- Skillshare
- Udacity
- Memrise
- MIT OpenCourseWare
- Open Culture
- Connections academy
- Stanford online
- Open Yale courses

And many more.

FUTURE OF DIGITAL LEARNING IN INDIA

India has come a long way when it comes to digital or online learning. Well, it will not be wrong to say that the pandemic was a game changer because it was during the pandemic that we shifted from traditional learning to digital learning. It has been quite a journey for India to usher into the era of e learning-learning believed that India has not yet experienced the growth curve in digital learning. To make digital learning a success, it is important to merge it with the traditional classroom system. This means customizing e-learning strategies for every learner across the country. Well if we talk about the growth of digital learning in India, it is believed that the current online learner base is expected to grow at 44% CAGR. According to a report, India's digital learning market is the second largest in the world after the US. It is believed that digital learning has a bright future in India. Digital learning is not only needed to serve the large student base across the country but it is needed to cater to the obstacles of traditional classroom teaching. A lot of private schools have started to curate online lesson plans for students. Not only this, many ed tech platforms have

been introduced that offer certified professional courses to brush up the skills of the students. E-learning will bring a dynamic change not only in the landscape of education but in the business environment as well.

CONCLUSION

Nobody can deny the fact that digital learning is the need of the hour. Even the government is trying its level best to implement digital learning by introducing websites like NPTEL that offer free courses. Digital learning is surely beneficial as it comes with a lot of advantages. However, we can't deny the fact that its benefits have still not been reaped by every section of society. The basic pre-requisite of digital learning is the internet. Internet is not available in many rural areas, therefore, people in rural areas don't have access to digital learning. Moreover, most e-learning takes place in English, so it will not be wrong to say that language is a big obstacle for people who don't know English. Therefore, digital learning implementation still requires a lot of effort. There is still a long way to go to make sure that e-learning benefits have been accessed and enjoyed by all.

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