Seeing Is Believing: E-Learning To Ensure Normality In Education With Reference To Covid-19 Related Lockdown In India

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Abstract: We can see a sudden increase in technical advancement from past two decades in the area of E-learning and especially post covid-19 lockdown around the globe in majority countries. This facility has provided access to learning around the globe. It also enhances their ability to connect with the outside world and to build their skills in new streams which are yet to come in their geographical location. In the initial days everyone was searching and advising for best possible strategies for work from home but educational institutions had come up with a challenging solution if implemented well will reduce the effect of this virus-related lockdown on studies of the students. The biggest boon to educational institutions is the video conferencing tool made available by various application running around the globe like google hangouts, meet and zoom app etc also they are taking help of online courses made available free of cost to the faculty as well as students lile coursera, swayam etc. This type of platforms student is having freedom to interact one to one with his instructor resolve the queries raised by him for any feedback which he or she is willing to provide to the instructor making this e-learning through m-learning successful. The biggest advantage in this is you can access your lecture at any time when you are free e from your regular work and can make your notes at any time without any disturbance from your classmates for your colleagues. Taking these things in regard, educational institutions are investing more on e-resources and providing best state of the art facilitates to their students.

Keywords: E-Learning, Educational Institutions, Covid-19, Lockdown

1. INTRODUCTION

Majority of the countries of the world is facing are facing a lockdown related to Covid-19 spread in their areas which has badly affected the companies, tourism sector, hospitality sector and educational institutions [1-5]. The traditional classrooms are not happening because all schools, colleges and universities are closed due to this virus broke out to safeguard the health of students and faculty. In the initial days everyone was searching and advising for best possible strategies for work from home but educational institutions had come up with a challenging solution if implemented well will reduce the effect of this virus-related lockdown on studies of the students. The biggest boon to educational institutions is the video conferencing tool made available by various application running around the globe like google hangouts, meet and zoom app etc also they are taking help of online courses made available free of cost to the faculty as well as students lile coursera, swayam etc [6-10]. In

today's progressing world everyone is running for the optimum utilisation of resources and to reduce the cost associated with the work to be performed. We can see a sudden increase in technical advancement from past two decades in the area of E-learning. This facility has provided access to learning around the globe. It also enhances their ability to connect with the outside world and to build their skills in new streams which are yet to come in their geographical location [11-15]. This chapter will discuss the existing technologies and devices available for effective utilisation of mobile learning (m-learning). Generally, the traditional classroom restricts itself only to the knowledge of the faculty/trainer/mentor but this e-learning facility has opened the gates for the students to gain knowledge from around the globe by having means to access as in traditional classroom there is advantage of direct communication between the teacher and the student and also feedback by the student in return at the same time but still this traditional system is having many disadvantages for example if a student is having a communication barrier with the teacher he will not be in a position to understand his/her lectures properly and will suffer in future due to this barrier. E-learning with the help of m-learning will be a blessing to that student as that student will have access to tutors and AV lectures from around the world and wherever student will feel comfortable he/she is free to access the same for free or by paying charges prescribed by the e-learning module agency. Taking you 20 years back the only source of e-learning is through computer based training where you have to buy some course material in the shape of CD's, DVD's and other stuff but now with the advancement in ICT it is possible to access this information from anywhere and that too at nominal rates and with ease of access and moreover without handling the physical materials stated earlier everything is available in digital mode. The only thing you require is to have an electronic or smart gadget and a high-speed internet and that's it you are ready to go for a whole new world of learning and that gives birth to e-learning which further improvised itself with an emerging technology m-learning [16-19].

E-Learning is that umbrella under which you can access to education and its process through various means available like virtual classrooms (v-classrooms), digital learning modules, audio and video platforms for learning, internet-based learning. These all provide you the advance information which a student may not having in the classroom. In this chapter the author will discuss the various gadgets and technologies available for e-learning through m-learning. E-learning is also helpful in distance (d-learning), Distance education is one hundred years old as the main characteristics of distance education is the far distant places and time restriction of the learner.

2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

Lenkaitis, C. A. (2020). stated that both teacher and candidate develop their pedagogical skills and enhance them by connecting with their course content and connecting through video conference bridges the gap between teacher and student and make the theory converted to practice. It is also emphasised that teacher must attend online embedded programmes through recorded lectures to learn new skills.

Byrd, N. (2020). examined that scholar feel benefited with online conference model and it help them understand their profession, help them to organiser conferences, decreasing the costs associated with their profession for all involved with them and also ensures maximum strength of attendees.

Applications Available for E-Learning:

1. Zoom. Zoom is one of the most popular video conferencing solutions for businesses.
2. Google Hangouts. Google's foray into the video conferencing market is part of its Google Hangouts service.

3. Google Meet.
4. GoToMeeting.
5. Skype for Business.
6. Cisco WebEx.

Emergence of E-Learning

There is complete transformation of E-learning from the last decade because of innovation in the mobile technologies and internet upgradation from 2g to 4g and from Kb/s to gb/s regarding internet speed. E-learning is basically a custom software based technology where a individual or group of people joins hand together to create a E-learning module with the help of some software tools available in the online market likewise advance technology upgradation leads to the creation of world wide web where there is abundant information available throughout the world which is an helping hand for creation of E-learning courses/modules with ease and it makes this task so simple that there is very less need to learn any programming language or software by paying any penny most of the things are available for free. Changes in the technology had given some innovative products to people like laptops/portable computers, which made the things very easy for learners to have course material online. In today's world, many people are using smart-tablets and smart-phones for e-classes and web seminars or webinars [4-8].

Concept of M-Learning

M-learning is also part of electronic-learning modules and help in boosting its success. M-Learning should be such that it can be used at anyplace at any time around the world to have access to the e-learning modules. This thing can be used with the help of smart phones and smart devices. These vary in their size, feasibility and price of the product [10-14]. The common thing which unites them is the possibility to establish wireless communication anywhere and their portability. Important type of mobile devices which are being used in the education process are as follows:

Laptops: They are very much handy and are portable from one place to another without any hindrance and they are also available in small sizes and 360-degree screens which converts them to a tablet also only hindrance is that their prices are very high.

Tablets: Tablets are the newest advance technology it is having features of both laptop and mobile phone as it is having big screen but without a keyboard but there are many software installed in them which will recognize your speech and convert them into text and also with gestures also you can type anything on them.

Cell Phones: These are the basic phones whose purpose is sending messages and voice communication but they are having GPRS association which makes them to receive some data but transfer rate is very less in these devices. They can also be used to send multimedia messages. Their price is very less and they are cheap to purchase.

Smart Phones: They are the most advanced version of mobile devices available in the market. With the introduction of smart phones there is boom in the market to purchase them earlier they are available at high prices but today due to availability of various brands in the market they start from 5K and go beyond 100K. In these type of cell phones screen itself is having the keyboard there is no separate need for having a keyboard space. Which makes them very handy and easy to use. They can support 2g/3g/4g and some cell phones are compatible to 5g technology when available will change the world. They are having operating system like computers and are having a high internet speed with fast transfer rate of files. They are best source for exchange of multimedia messages through e-learning modules.

Different types of E-Learning:

Informal distribution: In this type of e-learning the material is given to students with trust that there is no need to track their performance regarding the learning of available course material and its test or completion methods. Students will keep on learning from these e-learning modules and use their potential to take up the test without any intervention from the supervisor to check their progress or performance.

Formal distribution: In this form of learning instructors will keep record and track of student's progress and results. Most of the educational institutions that offer e-learning certification design some specific standard and systems for the students to look out at the performance and score of the students.

Learning Management System: Learning Management System or LMS is a useful platform made by some academic agencies and institutions supporting e-learning through which they made a fully loaded online platform which can be accessed through all m-learning devices and standards for each course if properly maintained. Student performance and result is regularly checked and generally these modules are timebound. Online courses were floated on these platforms and students will access these courses. Generally, these platforms charge nominal fees to complete a course but some are providing the courses free of cost. Advantage of this learning module is instructors are available throughout the world and there is complete access to the students as well sitting anywhere at any time. These e-learning modules are very cheap as compared to the basic education through class room teaching [12-16].

Requirements for E-learning through M-Learning

When you have to make an online course there are number of things you have to take care and they have to properly implemented for the successful implementation of these e-learning modules this will be beneficial to all the parties associated with this e-learning module.

Instructor: Instructor has to play the most crucial role in designing this e-learning module as he is the one who has to upload all lectures and other aids of Audio Visual to this module and it will be wholly dependent on how effective is the course uploaded by the instructor. Instructor role is not only about the designing of the course but he has to check the progress mechanism, the test part and most important is the query and feedback related things because it is a two-way communication between the learner and the instructor.

LMS: A well designed learning management system is required for effective use of the e-learning module as without an effective and attractive platform learning is like a boredom after sometime. This platform should be ease to use and easily navigable for both the partiers that is the learner and the instructor.

Learning Material: The learning material should be such that it should be easily accessible and understandable which will be an added advantage to the learner as well as the instructor. Learning material should be self-explanatory and easy to understand the more the student will understand the more is the success of that e-learning course. Basically, the learning courses are for those people who are either students or the working professionals who either do not afford to go to classrooms or not having time because of their work.

Communication: is having a very vital role in making this learning successful first of all the instructors should use a very simple language that is easily understandable by the student or the working professional. Basically, the aim of these courses is to enhance the learning of the learner so as he or she can understand the course effectively and it will boost up his or her skills. The communication should be two ways the instructor will also take the student queries and feedback alongside his lectures because if the learning is one way it will be nothing but boredom. Another thing which comes in communication is the technical part student or the learner must have the latest devices so as the connectivity issue and the transfer rate issue should be taken care of. In his communication, the instructor will use the audio-video lectures demonstration ways and some examples which will make the course interesting and effective.

Advantages of E-Learning

With the changing technological environment, learning has been made very easy and it is an important part of acquiring skills, demonstrating your talent and also enhance in your performance in the global competitive world. Today the educational institutions not only the higher educational institutions but at the school level also they are promoting e learning courses which will be an added advantage to the student basically the motive is to make them competitive right from the beginning.

1.   **Assessment of Student:** Student assessment is a very challenging task and any type of wrong assessment will affect the performance of the student in future, with the availability of electronic learning through the apps listed above student assessment becomes very easy as the student is allowed to submit the assessment online and the student is having Liberty to work on the assignment at any point of the time as per his comfort level but to submit the assignment before the deadline. The faculty who is assessing these assessments can also check these assignments from his or her home only, which means they are also having the Liberty to check these assignments as per their comfort level and also there is no time constraint to check those assignments like they did while they are working from the educational institution as they can allocate extra timings for this work. When the assessment result is declared online it gives complete transparency to all the students to see where they are lacking and where they are good and teacher has also to ensure this thing that while uploading the assignment all the relevant parameters were checked and due marks given to the student, it reduces any kind of clash or argument between the teacher and the student because the whole process is transparent and it is visible to everyone on just one click.

2.   **Improves Educational Institution Image:** In the current scenario of lockdown, educational institutions are shut down and there is no work going on from the premises of these educational institutions. Hence it is very difficult for those educational institutions to survive which are not upgrading themselves as per the need of the hour and those who are upgrading themselves with the latest apps available in the market to converse with the students free of cost except the cost incurred on internet connectivity they are building a strong image for themselves that in this tough time they are still connected with the students and the faculty. Faculty is also having kind of trust in these educational institutions because they are having this feeling that if these educational institutions are spending a lot of money on this e-learning models and applications, parents will also pay the fees of the students on time and that will be given to the facility as salary so there is no point of job insecurity to these faculty members.

3.   **Highly Effective Learning Environment:** With the help of e-learning, there is creation of an environment between the faculty and the students which is highly effective as the current generation is highly prone to use of smart gadgets and when they have been taught through the smart gadgets and online learning modules they feel happy and having strong belongingness towards their educational institution. In a traditional classroom, the means available are only a notebook and pen but in these e-learning classrooms there is the availability of state-of-the-art graphics, charts, and presentations which make teaching more effective and looks quite lucrative

4.   **Space Restrictions Waived Off:** The space requirement is a major challenge for academic institutions and Universities and to tackle this challenge e-learning through m-learning is an advantage neither the instructor and neither the learner required too much space to learn the things and to deliver the things you just need and high speed internet connection and Smart Gadget through which you can learn or deliver your lecture.

5.   **Realtime Lectures:** Next advantage of e-learning the real time lectures learners who are at far distant places now are not having any restriction that they have to travel a lot to learn something they just sit in their cabin or in there cubicle and just switch on the smart

Gadget and that's it. The biggest advantage in this is you can access your lecture at any time when you are free e from your regular work and can make your notes at any time without any disturbance from your classmates for your colleagues and none of the other party will know that you are doing this course.

6.   **Wide Variety of Choices:** Earlier in the traditional classroom traditional way of teaching the student is having one limitation that whatever course or field he has selected, he has to learn the courses and the subjects related to that field only but with the introduction of e courses you are having a wide variety of choices where you can choose your major field also and you are having the freedom to choose subject from any another field which you are interested in which will make the things easy and it will boost your knowledge regarding other domains and fields of your interest nature. By this way, the learners interest can be taken care of and it will be an added promotion of the e-Learning course.

7.   **Cost Cut:** When you are doing the e-Learning course through mobile learning it will directly cut down the cost to bare minimum the reason behind this in the traditional classroom teaching you have to pay for the infra, accommodation, travelling, food and various other expenses but in these type of courses you are learning everything by staying at your own home only which will be the biggest advantage of e-learning. The fees for this type of e-Learning course is also very less rather we can say it is bare minimum why because the platforms on which these learning courses run they are having very simple principal that focus on the quantity which will lead to cost reduction to the instructor to the platform builder and to the agency who is promoting this course. Show the final advantage of this is given to the learner where he has to pay very less amount for learning this course and he can access for example five courses instead of one course in the same fees paid.

8.   **One to one interaction with instructor:** In a traditional classroom the students are having a fear if we raise a query or speak wrong solution we may be insulted by the instructor or the fellow students because of that they can't speak freely in the class but in this type of platforms student is having freedom to interact one to one with his instructor resolve the queries raised by him for any feedback which he or she is willing to provide to the instructor.

9.   **Consistency of Lectures:** Teacher in a traditional classroom while delivering the lectures main deviate from the lectures everyday due to the interaction happening in the class or any other issue but in these online courses everything is very consistent and planned every smooth way. There is no Window for deviation from the lecture to be delivered every day the instructor has to stick with the lecture only because the content is pre-recorded or approved. Which will make the students tied to the lecture content as they know not even a single minute can be wasted in this type of e-Learning course.

Advantages to Faculty:

1.   Preparation Time: Teachers who are giving these online lectures the believe that the preparation time for these lectures had been reduced because the first search the matter from the textbooks, internet, and other sources but with the availability of information through various e-courses the information is available with ease of access and when they are searching the information online and delivering it online it saves a lot of time of the facility resulting in a decrease of preparation time which they can use in assessing the performance of the student and designing their lectures more effectively after the feedback provided by the students and they are having complete autonomy to design and deliver their lectures in the way they like.

2.   Efficient Use of Time: Faculty who are teaching e-courses to their students are having this notion that there is effective use of resources and time. As they can allocate the time through flexible scheduling and can prepare the lectures after the working hours also and manage the remaining time for maintaining their work life balance and other activities as per their priority.

3.   Stress Free Environment: As is in the traditional classroom, there are chances of discipline or unnecessary argument between the teacher and the student but in e-classes majority of the time discipline is ensured as the audience know this that their response is public and visible and audible to all. Still if any problem persist the teacher can end the conversation from his end and remove the student from the class which will reduce the heated argument between the teacher and the student. This will lead to a stress-free environment, which will increase the productivity of the faculty and the quality of the lecture is enhanced.

4. CONCLUSION

Video conferencing is the need of the hour as the whole country is facing lockdown and educational institutions are closed for minimum two months and this is start of new session for any class of any educational institution so the syllabus of the students to be covered might got affected to solve this issue educational institutions are now taking help of video conferencing applications which is like a boon for the student and their learning capacity. Taking you 20 years back the only source of e-learning is through computer based training where you have to buy some course material in the shape of CD's, DVD's and other stuff but now with the advancement in ICT it is possible to access this information from anywhere and that too at nominal rates and with ease of access and moreover without handling the physical materials stated earlier everything is available in digital mode. The only thing you require is to have an electronic or smart gadget and a high-speed internet and that's it you are ready to go for a whole new world of learning and that gives birth to e-learning which further improvised itself with an emerging technology m-learning. This type of platforms student is having freedom to interact one to one with his instructor resolve the queries raised by him for any feedback which he or she is willing to provide to the instructor making this e-learning through m-learning successful. The biggest advantage in this is you can access your lecture at any time when you are free e from your regular work and can make your notes at any time without any disturbance from your classmates for your colleagues. Taking these things in regard, educational institutions are investing more on e-resources and providing best state of the art facilitates to their students.

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