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BARRIERS IN E-LEARNING AND E-TEACHING IN RURAL AREA

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ABSTRACT

Education is the fourth basic need of every human being in today's world. Due to urbanization and industrialization, there is a huge demand of learned people. As a result ofthe omnipresent of internet, world is connected with a click. However, explosion of population and poverty are the biggest problemsthe world has been facing. There are limitations to traditional teaching to meet growing demands of learning. E-learning is a solution for these challenges. However, implementing this method requires skilled teaching and technical staff along with the supporting infrastructural facilities. Also,learners require some digital source of learning such as internet and asupporting device such as laptop, tab or computer etc. Government of India formulated MHRD set Swayam platform, NPTEL for online learning.Recently UGC authorized 27 new online degree courses.E-learning has merits and demerits but a solution for providing education at mass level. Anattempt has been made in this paper to find out the various barriers to e-learning, especially in rural areas to find out the solutions.

KEY WORDS : *Education, ICT, E-learning, barriers, MHRD, Swayam etc.*

INTRODUCTION

Education is the fourth basic need of human being in today's world as like food, cloth and shelter. World is expanding with the speed of light to higher levels. World is globalized and connected. Every second there is new addition of knowledge in a variety of fields. That affects the daily life of every living being on this planet. Every other person is close to other through internet. The mode of communication is far simpler, easier and fast than ancient period. It is like miracle to the people of the last century itself. One inventions has changed the life trends in society. Advancement in every field has improved the quality of human life and other living one associated with human beings. It has been at the higher level in terms of hygiene, health and overall aspects.

Without education the life is meaningless and with a lot of sufferings. In order to keep oneself updated with the world, everyone needs education. The education before job is possible but after getting job education is somewhat problematic. Though a person has interest in learning, he needs to focus on job and skip learning. In order to keep oneself updated, there are several ways, for example, most people prefer reading. But it has limitations and problems as for effective learning one needs teacher.

Due to financial constraints, time,interest, family and career challenges etc people skip traditional learning. But the advancement in the technology now can overcome this. E-learning is a great platform to learn with one's choice and time. E-learning is a mode of teaching learning process in which electronic technologies are used for effective learning outcomes. Many a time e-learning signifies a program or course totally carried out online.

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Distance Education, computerized electronic learning, online learning, online education, internet learning are the different terms used to denote electronic learning or e-learning. E-learning is a system of learning in which teaching-learning happened trough internet with the help of an electronic device, like computer, tab, etc. E-learning are the courses that are conducted through internet. Those courses are interactive. E-learning provides the opportunity for remote interaction between learner and an expert teacher.

There are several modes through which people upgrades themselves, such as YouTube. People need knowledge, YouTube is great platform on which people find suitable information to understand more effectively.

E-LEARNING PLATFORMS
➢ MOOCs (Massive Online Open Courses), e.g. Coursera or Futurelearn.
➢ Virtual learning environment (VLE), such as Learn or Blackboard.
➢ Video streaming services, such as YouTube.
➢ Virtual instructor-led training (VILT), e.g. WebEx or webinars.

Recently UGC authorized 27 new online degree courses. This is new beginning in the field of e-teaching and learning. This is a great opportunity to knowledge seekers. Nowadays online courses, credit courses, refresher course are run by government and other institutions. Government of India formulated MHRD set Swayam platform, NPTEL for online learning. Some courses are free while some others are self-financed courses. Courses are categorized as per subject and duration and credits. Some courses are of various durations, like,4-week, 8-week and 12-week or higher depending on syllabus and credits of course. Learners register themselves with the help of their e-mail and mobile number. The learner needs to learn fromvideo as per their own time schedule but within a week, even they can learn from those uploaded videos during and after the course as per their interest and complete assignments and quiz's within deadline for every week. Lecture notes also given in PDF format. Performance during every week is counted at the end of course. In the last, learners have to undergo online examination at online examination center authorized by NPTEL or SWAYAM – National Testing Agency(NTA). There are so many online learning platforms Coursesra, MOOC'S etc. Learner if require the certificate then they have to take examination, with examination fee ranging from Rs. 1000-1500. Digital learning provides platform for learning from best in the world. Without this ii is highly impossible to teach at this mass level.

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Despite of having numerous merits, this mode of teaching has some limitations such as limit to practical teaching, limit to direct communication with learners. The e-learning, being drastically different than the traditional classroom teaching, poses many challenges to the teacher and the students as well.
1) Physical appearance and its positive effect of that on subject understanding of learner is get reduced.
2) Digital divide is an issue that must be dealt with properly. Digital divide means the gap between the students who know how to make use of the internet and the information technologies that can be used to disseminate education and those who do not have the knowledge.
3) Poor quality course development and design due to lack of enough time can be a barrier in some cases of e-learning courses. It may diminish the overall quality of the learning and teaching experience, as a result, the outcome may not be up to the marks.
4) There is less chance to know if the learner understood concept well or not.
5) Also, the monotonous lectures reduce the interest, hence near about 50 to 60 % registered candidate fail to complete course.
6) The person who complete course will not assure the same person who registered, so considering this limitation online examination in the end of course is organized by NTA.

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7) Implementation of thecourse requiresmedia center facilities, teacher with trained of these facilities, ICT room facility and students with INTERNET and a device that support such as computer , tab , laptop or Smartphone.

8) There is a fear in teaching community that e-Learning may reduce teaching jobs in future. This is highly impossible for course which needs practical skills as curriculum such as AICTE courses, Basic sciences, Medical Courses, Pharmacy etc.

9) Lack of proper Technology infrastructure: The hardware and software facilities as well as network capabilities may not be up to the mark.

10) In rural area the unavailability of skilled technical staff is a big issue.Without the required staff it becomes difficult to carry out basic technical activities like, installation, operation, maintenance, network administration and security.

11) Slow speed of Internet and poor connectivity is a major issue while using the mode of e-learning.

12) The threat of virus attacks on e-learning systems during e-learning process is always there which can hamper the whole procedure.

13) Many students face technological difficulty while using e-learning technologies.

14) In rural area a lack of ICT skills becomes a barrier in e-learning process.The lack of training in multimedia related skills is quite obvious.

15) Power cut or load shedding of Electricity is a big issue in rural area.

16) Most of the course content available for e-learning is in English. This lack of course content in regional language is also a barrier.

17) Many a time the software used for e-learning is not user friendly.

18) In rural areas, the quality of computers is also a issue. Computers with poor quality definitely hampered the teaching learning process.

19) Sometimes the students are not that much motivated to learn online.

20) Few students are not ready to take their responsibility for their own e-learning.

21) Lack of knowledge of operating computer is also a barrier.

CONCLUSION

The e-learning is highly beneficial to link the best in the teaching world to everyone in the country.The e-teaching is useful for students as well as teacher. These methods require some infrastructural as well as maintenance funds for effective implementation. Government is positive for online mode of teaching. But faculty has different opinion for this way of learning. Rural areas have lots of problem for effective implementation of this. Rural colleges require funds for facility development. Some of the barriers faced in rural area while implementing e learning can be mentioned as poor framework of syllabi, lack of proper infrastructure, like poor internet connectivity, load shedding issue, lack of motivation to the students, and so on. These barriers can be overcome with proper investment of funds and efforts by the government and other concerned stakeholders.

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