

Impact of Online Education in Indian

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ABSTRACT

As has been apparent for the past several years online education has emerged as a powerful contender for the next new education technology. Although the previous technological breakthroughs that have failed to live up to their initial promise, I strongly believe this time really is different. Several online courses have been run in the recent past that has taught many thousands of students in a variety of topics. The human experience of online education is about to change; we should understand the issues behind the phenomena. Technology is touching every aspect of society and changing it dramatically. But there is one very important and indispensable part of the society that has also been tapped by new innovations and discoveries and that is the concept online education. It is an effective tool for development of educational sector in India.

INTRODUCTION

The process of imparting education has gone through a sea change if we look at the picture 10-20 years before now. Technology has taken over almost every field of our lives and the onset of online courses came as a path-breaker. No longer did one need to have access to schools, time or a lot of money! All one needed was a good internet connection and a computer [1]. Online education is learning, utilizing electronic technologies to access educational curriculum outside of a traditional classroom. In most cases, it refers to a course, program or degree delivered completely online. Right to Education is the primary right of every citizen of India, whether a child resides in a high profile society or in a faraway not so developed secluded village, according to the Article 45 of Indian Constitution the basic elementary education must be provided to all the children up to the age of fourteen years. Online learning is a combination of learning services and technology to provide high values. Though India is at a nascent stage when it comes to digital education compared to developed nations, none the less it's growing at a substantially rapid rate of 55 per cent. Edutech is certainly ushering the new age of learning in India. It is estimated that the edutech market will double in size from the present USD 20 billion to USD 40 billion by the end of 2017.

Objective of the Study

- To understand the concept of online education.
- To study current state and future of online education in India.
- Research Methodology

This research paper is conceptual and Exploratory in nature. In order to meet such objective secondary method is adopted. The secondary data was collected through books, periodicals, and journal and published material related digital learning for the study.

The growth of digital learning

Following are the main reasons for the growth of online education in India:

- With nearly a billion people on mobile phones and over 200 million mobiles connected to the internet, there has been a considerable rise in digital learning
- The use of best-in-class content, real-time learning and feedback methods, and personalised instructions has encouraged online learning
- People are stepping towards digital learning as the edutech firms are providing them the comfort of 'live and interactive' anywhere learning in digital format, through its online programmes
- These online courses are affordable and easily accessible
- Digital learning aims to break the numerous barriers that are preventing people from receiving quality education in the physically bound classrooms

How is online learning changing education?

- 'Live and interactive' digital learning empowers the learners to receive par excellence, quality education anytime and anywhere. Whether it is career and technical education or project-based learning, it gives learners a more interactive platform for learning and assessment

- Free online courses open up avenues for both education providers and students. People are more confident to take these courses and when they see results, they do not hesitate to pay for more
- Online education gives students an opportunity to plan their future course of action and fast track their careers
- Through live and interactive digital learning, edutech firms are imparting comprehensive and specialised knowledge which will enable children and adults to learn with a purpose and instil a sense of belief in them
- Such offerings are changing the way India learns by giving students an edge in learning, along with an opportunity to progress in their career

Online education increases the applicability power

The impact of new technologies in educational contexts has been mostly positive as new technologies have given educators the opportunity to enhance their knowledge, skills, and therefore, enhance the standard of education through constructivist learning environment with digital storytelling

- Audio visual aids, interactive, educational simulations help understand concepts and theories enabling better learning
- The students gain knowledge from masters of the subjects from world class institutes which is something they have always desired
- They also benefit by learning from eminent corporate leaders, business academicians as well as the industry connoisseurs. These experts share their valuable insights on the relevant, practical and must know aspects of the corporate world, enabling the students to gain comprehensive and specialised knowledge

Social media as a learning tool

- Social media as a tool can be used to enhance e- learning experience and make it more engaging, relevant and culturally diverse
- Students can critique and share feedback on each other's assignments, work in collaboration to create content that can be easily accessed
- This also gives them an opportunity to ask questions and have multiple responses shared on real-time basis

- Social media helps in making the students aware of the current happenings, concerns, issues, social activities and prospective employment
- Thus the relationship between classroom-based learning and social media is significant in the fast pacing modern day world

Rural India and digital education digital education is breaking the numerous barriers that are preventing students in rural India from receiving quality education in the physically bound classrooms:

- 'Direct to Device' technology will empower these students to get quality education, anytime and anywhere
- It will enable them to save time, by having more freedom to move at their own pace as well as help them save money by avoiding "hidden costs" of education, like transportation fees etc.
- By not having to be at a certain class at a certain time, it will assist working students to not limit their work schedule, helping them to not lose on wages that they can potentially earn
- With the flexibility of online courses, students can conserve more hours and more money, enabling them to learn with a purpose and instil a sense of self-belief in them

Current state of E-learning in India

The education sector in India is no longer bound to just classrooms. Thanks to new start-ups and higher internet and smartphone penetration, the online learning space in India is growing manifold. The e-learning market in India is estimated to be around \$3 billion. The central government's efforts to make digital learning available to students in every corner of the country is also aiding the sector. Currently, online training in India focuses equally on both school and college-based courses as well as mid-level professional courses. For instance, Bengaluru-based Entrance india provides practice papers for all engineering and medical entrance tests in India. The company aims to help students focus on the right subjects and contents rather than swim blindly in an ocean of study materials available across different media. Also, they focus on convenience-based training because online capability enables students to get access to subjects anytime and anywhere. According to studies, India and China will lead the growth in project management roles, generating about 4 million and 8.1 million roles, respectively, by 2020. Hence, the business looks to grow from now on. Another reason why online training will gain momentum is because of the need for re-skilling, For instance, about a decade ago, all that a software professional was required to know were programming languages. Now these professionals need to update themselves on other aspects like big data analytics

and cloud computing. Better salary hikes and promotions are also the reasons why people undertake new courses. A lot of start-ups are already setting their foot in what they think will be the next big thing in India after e-commerce. While some companies like Simplilearn and Intellipaat look to generate content, especially aiming at mid-level professionals, others like Learnsocial plays more of an aggregator role. These companies also offer blended classes, integrating both online and offline experience, along with self- take courses. Bengaluru-based Simplilearn offers more than 200 certification courses in project management, information technology service management, Microsoft certification, quality management and financial management. The company has over 300 courses across 150 countries, with over 600 employees and has trained over 200,000 professionals across the globe. Intellipaat, started in 2011, provides online training to IT professionals including corporate training, and self-paced courses and offers over 80 technological courses across different domains. According to chief executive officer DiwakarChittora, the company is witnessing almost a 1,000% increment in terms of growth. The company caters to corporates like Genpact, Ericsson, Sony, CISCO, TCS, Wipro, and Tata Communications among others. Hyderabad-based Learnsocial is a six-month old company and works on an aggregator model. It aims to cater to both mid-level professionals' and students alike. "We want to become the Amazon of online learning. We want to provide thousands of posts on learnsocial.com, aggregating content from various experts, content houses or universities," says founderRaju Vanapala. Learnsocial has close to 200,000 users and has trained more than 1,100 learners.

The future of digital learning with the Digital India programme's vision to transform India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy, the education sector in India is poised to witness major growth in the years to come. Technology-led reach and easy access will bring about a socio-economic difference in the lives of Indian learners.

CHALLENGES

- Lack of Infrastructure and hardware facilities which hamper reliability of online learning
- Problem in finding willing skilled manpower to training illiterate rural areas of India.
- No or very less computer based courses/skills taught to students in government primary schools to increase their knowledge about ICT importance in rural development

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