

A study on use of E-learning resources for learner's betterment and their empowerment situated at Rural Areas in Maharashtra State

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ABSTRACT

E-learning is online learning given on digital devices like computers, laptops, smart phones, tablets etc which is designed to support individuals with synchronous and asynchronous modes of learning and enhancing their empowerment performances. The intention of this paper is to carry out the predictive study on use of E-learning resources for the betterment and their empowerment of learner's in rural areas of Maharashtra state. The most of the learners have the necessary technical abilities, skills and availabilities of the resources to deal with online learning is the one of the most important reasons for preparation of paper. This reason is increasingly being challenged in recent years especially for rural areas. This paper also explores the difficulties experienced by learners while using the E-Learning resources implemented in online learning environments.

Keywords: E-learning, ICT, Learning Management System, Rural Area, Web 4.0.

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I. INTRODUCTION

E-learning system based on formalised teaching but with the help of electronic resources is known as E-learning which helps learners with basic abilities and technical skills for career advancement, enabling through their busy schedule to learn new technologies.

This is mostly associated with different activities and interactions between computers, various devices and networks simultaneously with the learners. The computer does not need to be the central element of the activity or provide learning content. However, the computer and the network must hold a significant involvement in the learning activity.

II. E-LEARNING POTENTIALS

1. It allows learners to use different multimedia like (text, pictures, graphs, and audio files, videos files etc) to present learning content to the students.
2. In connection with standard or special software the learners may actively use such content, modify it and therefore create new content.
3. Internet connection allows easy access to a huge amount of information, both for teachers and learners, and it provides the infrastructure for various forms of communication at a distance via email, online chatting, as well as audio and video conferencing.
4. Now a day's **Web 4.0** technologies have been widely discuss. Web 4.0 refers to autonomous, proactive, content-exploring, self-learning, collaborative, and content-generating agents which support adaptive content presentation that will use the **Web database** via an **intelligent agent**. Thus, the benefits of e-learning are seen in the potential to overcome existing barriers

III. ROLE OF E-LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT IN RURAL AREA IN MAHARASHTRA

Education is a birthright and literacy is a prerequisite of it. Literacy is an essential means for individual "self - Education is a birthright and literacy is a prerequisite of it. Literacy is an essential means for individual "self - fulfilment, effective social and economic participation and the exercise of freedom" [1]. Education for all has

been the primary goal of the government. The cabinet passes a proposal "to make education a fundamental right for kids in the age group of six to fourteen years." [2]. Government can achieve the goal "Education for All" if E-learning tools are effectively implemented in schools and higher education across the rural area in Maharashtra.

Following are some focused point that e-learning resources contributes to education and development of students in rural area.

A. Systems and Learner's Development

Computer plays an important role in curriculum and extra-curricular activities. "Learn while play" is an important methodology of teaching the early age children. ICT based learning has an important contribution to improve cognitive, emotional, linguistic, and literacy skill of a child [3]. It has also been found that children that use e-learning paradigm are innovative, quick learner and showed improvement in mathematical skill [4]. Children are actively participating in computer based activities, doing school work, playing games, talking with friends, active in social networking, and surfing the Internet. Use of E-learning showed a significant improvement in academic performance, student motivation, and class participation [1].

With e-learning tools, resources for children are designed with multimedia that helps children to learn through enjoyable lessons and games. Also the National mission on education through ICT (NMEICT) under Ministry of Human Resource and Development" is providing funds for different project to enhance basic IT infrastructure and develop E-Learning modules for school and higher education as well as designing an assessment tools for evaluation of quality of E-content.

B. Impact of E-learning on Education of students

The popularity of Internet along with the extensive development of standard protocol and services creates a new dimension in the whole education scenario. It makes the online education more attractive. Everyday new approaches are coming and bringing new prospects in education and trying to refining the system towards personalized self-learning. The benefits of E-learning are mainly the cost efficiency, accessibility and flexibility. However, whilst much has been made of the benefits to the organization of e-learning, there has been little, if any, qualitative investigation into the attitudes and views of the users themselves.

- **More prominence-** learners with a higher-level of critical thinking and problem-solving skills. In student centric paradigm, the student can learn at their own pace, repeat the material to strengthen learning, or exploring additional material to improve it.
- **On demand learning-** Learning technologies has unlimited prospective to elevate the traditional educational paradigm. It change the way of learning, it change the instructor centric paradigm to student centric paradigm.
- **Interactive-** An undoubted advantage of E-learning is their role in facilitating students with special needs. It is well known that with the help of digital technologies the learning scope for multimodal increases by using sounds images, videos and written texts in different colours as per the needs.

IV. THE GAP OF E-LEARNING IN BETWEEN RURAL AND URBAN AREA OF MAHARASHTRA

The Digital Divide was identified by Pieper, Morasch and Piela as "the divide between those groups of people who benefit from information and communication technology and those who do not have access to it" and this divide is still evident between the rural and urban areas of Maharashtra.

We have many stumbling blocks to overcome before it can offer e-learning to its entire population. Large portion of the population live in rural villages that do not have access to telephone connectivity and the lack of basic infrastructure, poor communication and technology make it very difficult to implement the e-learning. Insufficient bandwidth of internet connections hampers the performance and ease of learning process. For bridging the digital gap requires substantial investments. The Information Technology and communications ministry is working with different companies "towards bridging the digital divide between the urban and rural Maharashtra by developing infrastructure, improving communication and bringing down the cost of technology "to ensure that the rural areas of the Maharashtra can use the data revolution". The government of India has different educational schemes, especially for rural areas to improve the literacy rate. With the introduction of e-learning at school education, we have seen significant improvements in children academic performance and development. Rural students, teachers and parents mostly all are naïve to computer technologies and e-learning paradigms. To make them understand the importance of e-learning, ministry of school education in India has to come forward to conducting workshops and seminars in rural areas in order to make them understand the importance of e-learning and impact of it on student's development.

V. METHODOLOGY

In this study, researcher has followed qualitative methodological approach by observing the learners, focused group discussions. The focus group for the research consists of students from six different schools from the Maharashtra state situated at various rural areas. All the learners were aged less than 18 and studying from 5th-12th standards. It has been grouped into two parts as Group I from first three schools in which the learners were provided with the e-learning resources, and other Group II from the remaining three Schools were using the traditional teaching methods of same subjects. They were observed for one full academic year and the qualitative part of research, students grades are collected and analyzed.

VI. RESULTS

This study was carried out by the researcher through the qualitative methodology, It has been analyzed and found that the learners from group I got the better understanding, interactivity and more involvement into their study and they were happy due to availability of all educational online resources with themselves for full academic year can interact and use repetitively at anytime, anywhere and anything with rapid boost increase in their performances over another group.

VII. CONCLUSION

In this paper, researcher has analyzed the optimum utilization of e-learning resources on learner's education and development for their betterment along with empowerment with special reference to rural areas of Maharashtra state. It has been found that e-learning tools have positive and progressive impacts on learner's academic performance, social, cognitive, literacy, linguistic and enhancement in technical skills. Also increases the level of confidence and boost energy to learn new educational innovations carried out in educational sectors.

The main factors through this research has been found that learners got self motivation to use e-learning resources due to flexibility, learner centric, easy accessibility, Collaborative, and adaptability of learning as well as the possibility to make an individual study plan. Although there are some negative impacts have also been observed especially in rural areas many of students are unwilling and afraid to use new technologies, have a very high illiteracy rate, and have insufficient resources like bandwidth, network issues and a lack of basic infrastructure which make it difficult to implement e-learning. We think that e-learning resources has a wide and huge prospective in the upcoming future and it will definitely improve the quality of education and the literacy rate of the rural area along with their empowerment.

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