

Online Education and E-Learning Scenario in India

¹Dr. Umesh R. Dangarwala & ²Dr. Krupa J. Rao

¹Associate Professor, Department of Commerce and Business Management, Faculty of Commerce, The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, Vadodara, Gujarat (India)

²Assistant Professor, Department of Commerce and Business Management, Faculty of Commerce, The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, Vadodara, Gujarat (India)

ARTICLE DETAILS

Article History

Published Online: 24 May 2018

Keywords

Online Education, educational development, online learning

*Corresponding Author

Email: urdangarwala[at]gmail.com

ABSTRACT

Online education has emerged as a powerful contender for the next new education technology in the past several years. 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 of Online Education. Technology is touching every aspect of society and changing it suddenly. But there is one very important part of the society that has also been tapped by new innovations and discoveries and that is the concept of online education. It is an effective tool for development of educational sector in India. In modern era everybody is thinking about growth and Educational development. If it is planned properly then proper results will come. In this research paper issue and challenges of online education in India is observed. If it planned properly then proper results will be affecting positively. In this research paper, we observed that online education is an effective tool for development of educational sector in India.

1. Introduction

Online learning is education that takes place over the Internet. It is often referred to as "E-Learning" among other terms. However, online learning is just one type of "distance learning" -the umbrella term for any learning that takes place across distance and not in a traditional classroom. Distance learning has a long history and there are several types available today, including Correspondence Courses, Tele courses, CD-ROM Courses, Online Learning, Mobile Learning, YouTube etc. By far the most popular approach today is online learning. According to the Sloan Consortium, online enrollments continue to grow at rates faster than for the broader student population and institutes of higher education expect the rate of growth to continue increasing.

Technology has taken over almost every field of our lives and the onset of online courses came as a path-breaker. All one needed was a good internet connection and a computer. 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.

2. Research Methodology

This research paper is Exploratory and conceptual in nature. In order to fulfill such objectives, secondary method of data collection is adopted. The secondary data was opted through

books, various websites and journals and published material related digital learning for the study.

3. Research Objectives

- 1) To understand the concept of online education and e-learning.
- 2) To study current state and future of online education in India.
- 3) To examine the type of E-learning.
- 4) To discuss in detail the advantages and disadvantages of E-learning.

4. Education Scenario in India

The traditional learning system had been used in India and was sustainable for long. But the educational needs are changing and a global education standard is imposing itself and forcing the Indian education system to undergo many changes. The concept of e learning is definitely gaining popularity in the country but at a slow pace as compared to other countries. The Indian Constitution resolves to provide quality education to all and in an effort to fulfill the educational needs of the country specifically for the diverse societies and cultures of the country the government has chalked out different educational categories: Elementary education, Secondary education, Higher education, Adult education, and Technical and Vocational education is nothing but the development of the whole individual and nurturing the potentials inherent traits. E-learning is a useful medium through which India can attain the goal of reaching the unreached in rural areas, motivating the learners for higher education as well as woman empowerment through their education. In the current super-fast era and globalized world, education needs to meet the additional demands of present time such as creating globally competent work force. Due to globalization, the whole world has become a global village.

Now, education can be used as a useful tool to raise awareness of environment, peace, culture, social diversity, increased competitiveness and the concept of a global village. In the present world, education is being used as a means of becoming a global citizen. In order to work in this more competitive world, one has to be competent enough to survive. Education gives us that powerful tool by which we can live a life of worthiness. It is only through improving the educational condition of a society that the multi-faceted progress of its people can be guaranteed. E-learning is the best option available to achieve these goals. E-learning is also a powerful medium to improve inclusiveness of education in our country. If an educational institution is committed to give high quality education, it should be built on values and ethics, and be innovative in offering its teaching programmes. E-learning is not a single strand but is multifaceted, covering a wide range of approaches and methods.

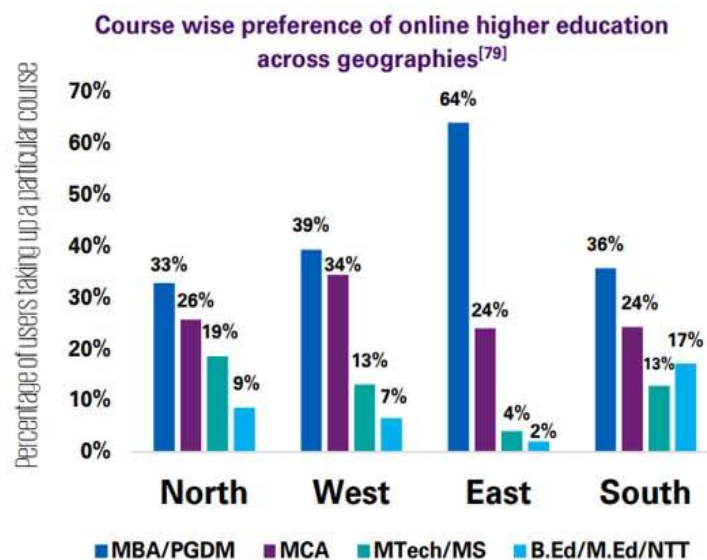
5. Future of Online Education in India

With the development of technology, India has witnessed an enhanced acceptance of online education over a period of few years. Many students and working professionals have joined different e-learning platforms in the past few years in order to enhance their skills. And, looking at trends, the number of

people adopting online education platforms is expected to increase significantly in the near future. As per a recent report released by KPMG India and Google, Online Education in India: 2021, the market for online education in India is expected to witness a magnificent growth of eight times in the next five years, i.e., from USD 247 million in 2016 to USD 1.96 billion in 2021. Such high growth in online education market is projected to be the outcome of increased number of paid online education users from 1.57 million in 2016 to 9.5 million in 2021.

India has one of the largest higher education systems in the world. It mainly consists of three parts – university, college, and course. And, all parts of the higher education system are governed by the University Grants Commission and its professional councils.

According to KPMG report, online higher education in India is at an early stage of development and has witnessed emergence of different private universities offering UG and PG e-learning courses to students. However, as compared to graduation and diploma courses, the demand for online higher education is dominated by post-graduation courses such as MBA and MCA (as evident in the graph below).



Source: KPMG Report: Online Education in India: 2021

6. Online Education is gaining popularity

As per KPMG report, there are many reasons why students and working professionals are moving towards e-learning/online education. Have a look at some such reasons below:

- Internet penetration:** India has an internet penetration of about 31% today, which means 409 million internet users. It is predicted that by 2021, there will be nearly 735 million internet users in India, which will lead to increase in traffic for online education players.
- Smartphone penetration:** Currently, there are 290 million Smartphone users in India and the user base is expected to grow with the addition of another 180 million new users by 2021.
- Flexibility of time:** This is specifically true for working professionals who have time constraints in pursuing an offline course. Pursuing a course in online mode allows a person to multi-task with other work and family commitments.
- Quality education:** There are areas in India where there is lack of quality offline education. For instance, states such Bihar, Kerala as well as Jammu and Kashmir account for about four lakh distance education enrollments, states KPMG report.
- Immediate results:** Online education allows candidates to get immediate results for any test that they appear for. This further helps them in preparing for exams more efficiently.

- **Government initiatives:** Government's recent initiatives such as SWAYAM, e-Basta, and Digital India is expected to strengthen the infrastructure needed by students to pursue education in online mode.
- **Study material:** A variety of online study material in the form of videos and texts are encouraging students to adopt online education platforms.
- **Affordability:** Online courses joined at UG or PG level are much more affordable than traditional programmes as depicted in the image below.

7. Advantages of E-Learning

Online Education has various advantages like Flexibility, No Travel Cost, Mobility, Lower Cost, Technology Advancement, Global Reach etc. Here some more advantages are given below:

1. You are able to link the various resources in several varying formats.
2. It is a very efficient way of delivering courses online.
3. Due to its convenience and flexibility, the resources are available from anywhere and at any time.
4. Everyone, who are part time students or are working full time, can take advantage of web-based learning.
5. Web-based learning promotes active and independent learning.
6. As you have access to the net 24x7, you can train yourself anytime and from anywhere also.
7. It is a very convenient and flexible option; above all, you don't have to depend on anyone for anything.
8. Not only can you train yourself on a day to day basis, but also on weekends or whenever you have the free time to. There is no hard and fast rule.
9. Through discussion boards and chats, you are able to interact with everyone online and also clear your doubts if any.
10. The video instructions that are provided for audio and video learning can be rewound and seen and heard again and again if you do not happen to understand the topic first time around.

8. Disadvantages of E-Learning

Well, there are not many disadvantages of eLearning, the main one being that you get knowledge only on a theoretical basis and when it comes to putting to use whatever you have learnt, it may be a little different. The face-to-face learning experience is missing, which may matter to some of you.

1. Most of the online assessments are limited to questions that are only objective in nature.
2. There is also the problem of the extent of security of online learning programs.
3. The authenticity of a particular student's work is also a problem as online just about anyone can do a project rather than the actual student itself.
4. The assessments that are computer marked generally have a tendency of being only knowledge-based and not necessarily practicality-based.

9. Conclusion

As per the research it is conclude that the rapid increase in internet connectivity is an important factor for the growth of e-learning. A strong internet eco-system, with a multitude of local and global players, will help online learning to make further inroads. In underdeveloped and developing countries like India, e-learning raises the level of education, literacy and economic development. E-Learning and E-commerce can be developed through proper investigate and plan of action. It is proved that the developing wave of adaptive learning will help higher education, women, government.

E-learning and Online Education is increasing the percentage of literate population in the total population. E-learning and Online Education plays a vital role in educational development as a wheel of growth in education sector. It is expected that if India and developing countries proceed as joint venture and work mutually on the issue of e-learning, it will be beneficial for the development of educational sector. Through E-learning and Online Education lot of opportunities can be captured and speedy development will possible.

References

1. Zahoor Ahmad Lone, Impact of Online Education in Indian, International Journal of Engineering Science and Computing, July 2017, Volume 7 Issue No.7
2. Gaikwad Arun, Randhir Vrishali Surndra(2016) E-Learning in India: Wheel of Change International Journal, Volume 6, Number 1, March 2016
3. Jaiswal, V. (2013). Current Status of e-learning in Indian higher education: A case study of U.P. Retrieved from the Social Science Research Network (SSRN) website: <http://ssrn.com/abstract=2231910>
4. www.business-standard.com › Companies › Start-ups › Start-up Corner
5. <https://inc42.com/buzz/indian-online-education-edtech-market/>
6. <https://elearningindustry.com/advantages-and-disadvantages-of-elearning>
7. Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India. (2014). Annual Report, 2013-2014.