

A Study on Students and Lecturers perspective towards E-learning

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Abstract: E-learning has become one of the tools for upcoming students to have a broader and modern perspective about education. India has become a motherland for IT sector; in this juncture to cope up with the requirements many employees are doing the courses in correspondence by listening to the lectures through e-learning. Effective e-learning comes from using information communications technology (ICT) to broaden educational opportunity and help students develop the skills they and their countries need to thrive in the 21st century. In e-learning students are more engaged and able to develop 21st century skills. Teachers have a more positive attitude toward their work and are able to provide more personalized learning. Family interaction and parental involvement may increase. The present research paper focuses on students and lecturers perspective regarding e-learning merits and demerits as well as draws on in-depth qualitative comments from student evaluation of an e-learning module.

Keywords: E-learning, students perspective, lecturers perspective, traditional learning, Comparison, ICT.

1. INTRODUCTION

Education is constantly evolving in this world. Over the decades, the face of education is practically involved into the sea change of sorts. "Education is what remains after one has forgotten what one has learned in school". In ancient days, the education was taught to children in classrooms as a traditional model but today the education has been modernised into online learning. Today, India achieved a securable position in education and it has been marked with the innumerable milestones, the most recent among these is E-Learning.

In India, IT-based teaching tool started its functioning in 1980's through invention of computer based training where the information was being stored in CD-ROM's. Indian e-learning market plays a significant role by reaching the far impetus by the emergence of Information and Communication Technology marked in 1990's. Subsequently, the broadband connectivity and internet is increasing its growing and gave raise to other web-based training models, thus it gives another look to interact e-learning.

E-learning has extended its boundary by facilitating the students in schools and colleges; the education is increasing its progress in examinations using internet based coaching. The corporate India is progressively inclined in utilising e-learning by realising the potential and effectiveness of this platform, in addition to this many private players such as core projects, Educomp solution, Everonneducation and NIIT has been established to gauge the high potential.

When e-learning began to start its function on the education landscape it faced certain challenges in front of the competitors to hamper its potential, Indians have been taught traditionally i.e. classrooms were conducted based on academic progress and not covering all the information related to that subject. It also provides some certification courses; while e-learning has few recognised courses. But today e-learning i.e. online education is not provided to all the people as the majority of people residing in rural areas they could not understand the importance of online education and it is the low broad band speed spread in India.

E-learning is supported by the Government of India to overcome the challenges and able to reach all the people. It has launched 2 schemes i.e. National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology [NMEICT] and National Programme on Technology enhanced learning to influence the ICT in the spread of video and web-based course.

To deliver the online education throughout the world India has achieved a good progress through 3G environments and new modes such as tabs, I-phone and mobile phones are used for the development of next revolution. Traditional classrooms will be overcome from these digital devices in future. Mobile phone provides a learning platform to initiate the new things and it also helpful for the school and college students to download academic content via. 3G wireless network through education oriented platform.

Thus, the emergence of e-learning facilitated the wide adoption of changes in educational practices and learner centred education. To achieve the bright future in India, e-learning provides an online education which facilitates all the people as it is indeed, well-balanced to take significant steps.

2. E-LEARNING IN INDIA

Though the e-learning has reached late to India, but it is accepted rapidly by the people. Perhaps, the India is trying hard to implement the e-learning as India watched the success of west in adopting e-learning. Using educational tools and communication media e-learning is one of the thrust areas for imparting education. Information and Communication Technologies [ICT] facilitates and supports e-learning. To make education accessible to every corner of the country over the past few years, the human resource development has been trying to achieve the target. E-learning is not accessible to every corner of the country as still it is in darkness in many parts of the country. The broad objective to promote e-learning is to develop tools and technologies.

India has a chance to become heart of e-learning programs. To build and develop e-learning infrastructure there are many e-learning classes which are coming to India. E-learning gives an impression to co-exist with the already existing system but it does not give impression to replace the conventional classrooms with blackboards. This system would prefer to reach too far off rural areas where in India education is still looming darkness. Providing PC's at low cost with broad band connection this objective can be achieved with less risk. In India the chances of e-learning to strengthen the educational system is very high.

Further, the government has undertaking the programmes to go into research and teaching professions for upgrading the technical quality of the fresh graduates. Research and Development projects is financially supported by the department in the area of e-learning at various academic educational institutes, R&D labs etc. e-learning is fast growing because of its educational advantages it seems to take control of the world.

Many e-learning companies had been stepped forward to provide various services to people. E-learning gives more value to the process, independent of the distance factor, though nothing can actually outrun the popularity of traditional classroom teaching. In India, e-learning is still growing at an experimental stage. The corporate and business sector leading the way in willingly accepting the technology based learning networks by changing the traditional mindsets.

To increase teacher led programmes many institutions have started with content rich e-learning modules. The forecast based on present trend for further development of distance e-learning in India is positive. Providing quality distance learning to more people in rural and urban areas through the utilisation of more effective web resources and practices are currently being progressing with several efforts. The major hindrance to the acceptance of e-learning can be attributed to the Indian mindset that it is more inclined to traditional classroom teaching. With PC penetration and overall online accessibility is increasing in the country as e-learning is currently being limited to IT and educational CD's. E-learning looks its future in promising, provided the organisation of content and delivery is well structured.

3. OBJECTIVES OF E-LEARNING

- To study the impact of traditional learning v/s e-learning.
- To know the impact of e-learning on students
- To know the satisfaction level of students and lecturers through e-learning.
- To educate learners in the tune of market demands.

- To offer online information skills.

4. TYPES OF E-LEARNING

We can present the e-learning in different ways. We can simplify our course creation process by identifying up front the best way to present our material.

- **Traditional e-learning:**

Traditional e-learning helps to provide highly produced web courses.

- **Rapid E-learning:**

Rapid e-learning helps to provide quickly produced web courses. There are two different kinds of rapid e-learning. They are,

- 1. Asynchronous:**

It is an important type of rapid e-learning as it is self placed learning and it is useful as student directed.

- 2. Synchronous:**

It is a gainful objective to students as they can set the time in phone/ internet classroom sessions.

5. PROJECTS THAT IS BEST FOR TRADITIONAL E-LEARNING

Traditional e-learning course is very expensive and consumes more time.

- ❖ To produce a traditional e-learning course it estimates a range from 2 to 4 months using a team of 4 professional course creators and it also include simulations, may take 220 to 2500max. Hours to create.
- ❖ Due to the high production cost, companies tend to find ways to leverage traditional e-learning course.
- ❖ In traditional e-learning course, companies create the projects with large budgets and long lead time, like a major product release projects that need extensive simulations like industrial control systems are good candidates for traditional e-learning.

6. PROJECTS THAT ARE BEST SUIT FOR RAPID E-LEARNING:

There are specific characteristics of e-learning projects that highlight if the rapid e-learning projects are best suited have the following characteristics,

- ❖ Rapid changing content .
- ❖ Limited or short life.
- ❖ Small or low funded projects or products.
- ❖ Just in time information.

7. ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF E-LEARNING

There are many advantages and to online and computer based learning where compared to traditional face to face courses and lectures simultaneously there are few disadvantages as well.

Advantages of E-learning:

- Class work can be scheduled around work and family.
- Reduces travel time and travel costs for off campus students.
- Students may have the option to select learning materials that meets their level of knowledge and interest.
- Students can study anywhere they have access to a computer and internet connection.
- Self-placed learning modules allow students to work at their own place.

- Flexibility to join discussions in the bulletin board threaded discussion areas at any hour, or visit with classmates and instructors remotely in chat rooms.
- Instructors and students both report e-learning foster more interaction among students and instructors than in large lecture courses.
- E-learning can accommodate different learning styles and facilitate learning through a variety of activities.
- Develops knowledge of the internet and computer skills that will help learners throughout their lives and careers.
- Successfully completing online or computer based courses builds self-knowledge and self-confidence and encourages students in take responsibility for their learning.
- Learners can test out of or skins over materials already mastered and concentrate efforts in mastering areas containing new information and skills.

Disadvantages of E-learning:

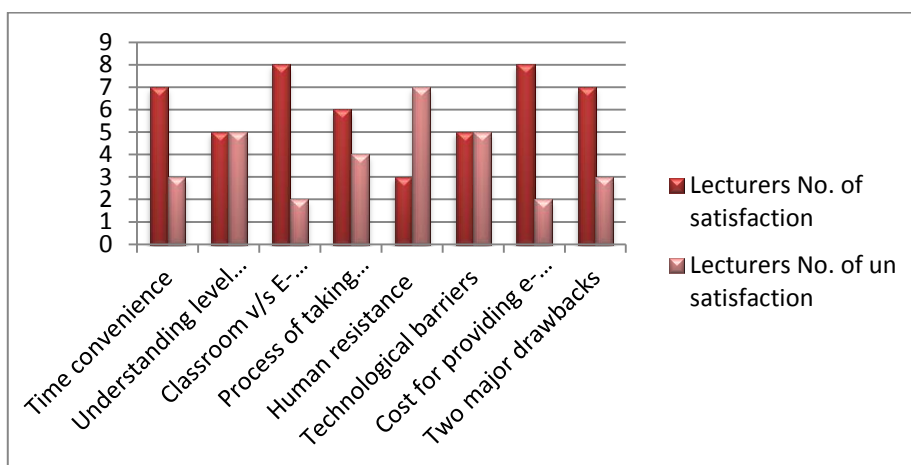
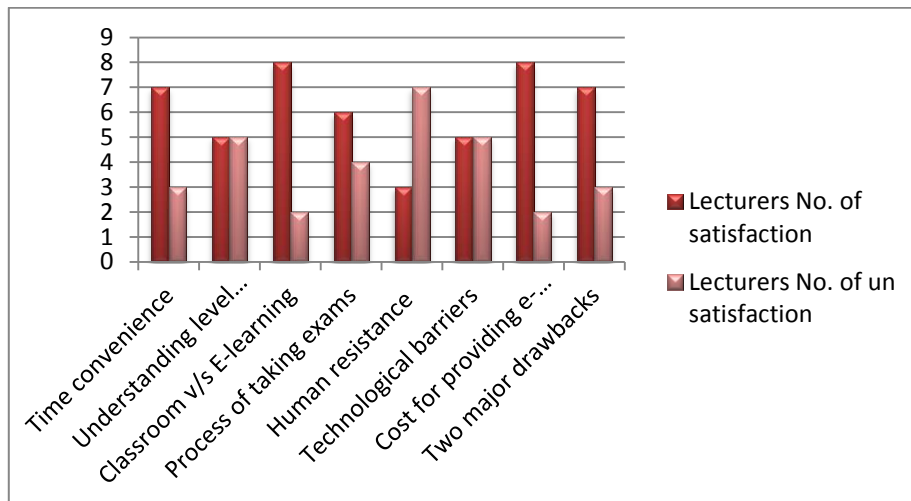
- Learners with low motivation or bad study habits may fall behind.
- Without the routine structures of a traditional class, students may get lost or confused about course activities and deadlines.
- Students may feel isolated from the instructor and classmates.
- Instructor may not always be available when students are studying or need help.
- Slow internet connection or older computers may make accessing course materials frustrating.
- Managing computer files and online learning software can sometimes seem complex for students with beginner level computer skills.
- Lab work is difficult to stimulate in a virtual classroom.

8. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This research paper is based on explorative study which includes primary data and secondary data. We collected the information through primary data with a sample size of 55 students and 10 lecturers interviewed through questionnaire method.

Table showing the analysis of data

Sl. no.		Students		Lecturers	
		No. of satisfaction	No. of un satisfaction	No. of satisfaction	No. of un satisfaction
1.	Time convenience	41	14	7	3
2.	Understanding level through e-learning	46	9	5	5
3.	Classroom v/s E-learning	24	31	8	2
4.	Process of taking exams	38	17	6	4
5.	Human resistance	25	30	3	7
6.	Technological barriers	20	30	5	5
7.	Cost for providing e-service	30	15	8	2
8.	Two major drawbacks	32	23	7	3
9.	Two major advantages	47	8	5	5



• **Time convenience:**

The time is an obstructing factor in all the process.

According to the survey, the number of students who are satisfied in managing of time are 41 and who are not satisfied are 14 out of 55 students. The 7 lecturers are satisfied the e-learning based on time management and 3 students are not satisfied. As it reduces the travel time and travel costs most of them are satisfied.

• **Understanding level through e-learning:**

E-learning provides more significant information which is clearly understandable by the people and clarifies the doubts. The students can understand the classes through online or can record the classes through pen drive and watch it but the major drawback is when the classes cannot be attended properly on time, the doubts cannot be cleared.

As the interaction among the students and lecturers in e-learning are convenience, 46 students are satisfied and 9 students are not satisfied, and understanding level through e-learning have a mixed opinion among the lecturers i.e. 5 members are satisfied and 5 members are not satisfied.

• **Classroom v/s e-learning:**

E-learning refers to on line learning where we can attend the online class and take the online exams, through laptops. As class room teaching refers to learning where the classes are conducted in classroom but in e-learning the classes are scheduled in our houses through the computer and internet connection. In class room teaching the students can interact with the lecturer and clarify the doubt simultaneously. Through e-learning we cannot classify the doubts up to the mark.

Through the routine structures of a traditional class, students may get lost or confused about course activities and classes due to this 24 students are satisfied by e-learning and 31 students are not satisfied and 8 lectures are satisfied and 2 lectures are not satisfied through the education of e-learning.

- **Process of taking exams:**

The process of writing exams is computerised where a student can attend the questions even by sitting at home but should complete within stipulated time.

As per the survey, it clearly shows that 38 students and 6 lecturers are satisfied with the process of obtaining exams as it is convenient to take up the exams at their convenient time and place. But 17 students and 4 lecturers are against to this process of taking exams because a in-between power cut interrupts the exam.

- **Human resistance:**

The enthusiasm for e-learning technology is limited for those who do not have the skills to use the technology. The people feel tiredness by doing all the work, for example if the students are doing their degree in college and do the master degree correspondence through e-learning they feel both the work clumsy as it is more cumbersome than traditional tools or it prefer the human interaction provided in instruction led training.

The trend reflects in the growth of online meeting places offering supplementary materials and communication space for learners as it shows the greater volume for negative i.e. 35 students show negligence towards e-learning due to the more number of work cannot be scheduled in one time and feel tired and 20 students are satisfied the e-learning as a way of extending the instructor led classroom, simultaneously the lecturers also can't attend the online class on proper time as they indulge in their own work due to this 3 lectures are satisfied and 7 lecturers are unsatisfied through e-learning.

- **Technological barriers:**

Use of technology in computers which is of inadequate supply in all the areas, though the use of technology is known to all the people the data connection is not available in all the areas, if at all the data connection is also provided the literacy rate in using technology among all the people also lacks behind.

According to the survey, it shows the negative impact on e-learning as 20 students are satisfied 35 students are not satisfied. The lecturer's show the mixed impacts i.e. 5 are satisfied and 5 are not satisfied as the servers may fail in the computer and data connection is not available.

- **Cost for providing E-service:**

While delivery cost of e-learning are significantly reduced compared to costs associated with classroom learning delivery, especially when large number of learners are involved. The initial development and purchase of e-learning product represent a major barrier to the adoption of e-learning training within organization. In any case organization must weigh the initial costs of developing e-learning against savings accessed from economics of scale at delivery time.

As the cost of adopting e-learning is affordable, 30 are satisfied and 15 are not satisfied and among 10 lecturers, 8 are satisfied and 2 of them are not satisfied.

- **Two major drawbacks:**

E-learning also faces some of the major drawbacks as the problems cannot be solved easily by only through internet and there would not be any eye contact. And the drawback to the lecturer is as they indulge in their own work they can't attend the online class on proper time.

The use of internet based e-learning courses shows a positive impact towards the disadvantages of e-learning as 32 students are satisfied and 23 students are not satisfied. The lecturers also offer online information skills as it is growing day by day and also show some of the demerits due to this 8 lecturers are satisfied and 2 lectures are not satisfied among 10 lecturers

- **Two major advantages:**

The major advantage of e-learning, we can manage the work along with the studies by adopting e-learning. It also increases technological knowledge, time saving process and also increases the efficiency of a person. E-learning promotes different learning styles and facilitates the learning through a variety of activities.

The main merit of the e-learning is the capacity of the internet bandwidth which plays a major role as a communication channel to carry the information between the user and sender as most of them are satisfied i.e. 47 students are satisfied and 8 students are not satisfied and lecturers show a mixed impact among the 10 lecturers.

9. FINDINGS TO E-LEARNING

- As compared to traditional way of learning students and lecturers are slightly dissatisfied with e-learning.
- The people who are back in their studies may feel complex with beginner level and couldn't understand the problem quickly as in the virtual classrooms.
- As professional students indulge in their own work they can't attend the online class on proper time.
- Along with the day to day works, we can accommodate the e-learning studies.
- Even though we have the lecturer's numbers to clarify the doubts we can call weekly once or monthly once whenever they are free and not simultaneously.
- As the people who are attending the regular online classes they may face the problem like eyesight, headache etc.
- The people who study in e-learning can gain the notes through e-mail and record the classes through pen drive.
- Due to inadequate supply of technology, the data connection is not available in all the areas as the servers may busy.

10. SUGGESTIONS TO E-LEARNING

- The people who cannot attend the regular virtual classrooms they can opt for e-learning technology.
- The people who couldn't get the continuous data connection in the respective areas can make use of wifi facilities for taking their classes.
- The utilisation of more effective web resources, e-learning progress towards to more people to adopt e-learning service who are residing in the rural areas.
- E-learning reduces the cost of education as compared to attending the traditional classrooms. So, many people can utilise the e-learning service.

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