

The Significance and Scope of E-learning in Covid-19 Pandemic.

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Abstract: The corona virus disease (COVID-19) pandemic has affected millions of people all around the world, putting their lives in jeopardy. The Indian government, together with others, is taking all necessary steps to ensure that we are fully prepared to meet the challenge and damage wrought by COVID-19. To stop the rapid spread of virus, lockdown is one of the proactive measure. The purpose of this study is to emphasize the importance of e-learning in the COVID-19 scenario. During the current crisis, technology has played a significant role. E-learning tools have made it possible to study at home. The analysis looks at the notion of e-learning, its characteristics, and its role in teaching and learning at the time of COVID-19 crisis. Moreover, the study has demonstrated the importance of e-learning in COVID-19 situations.

Key Words: COVID-19, E-learning, Scope, Teaching.

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I. Introduction: -

Education is the most important factor in the development of a strong nation. It is considered as the foundation of a country on the planet. During a pandemic, governments often shut schools, colleges, universities and other governmental institutions on need base approach for some time to tackle the situation. In the present time the planet is battling a rare and devastating virus known as COVID -19. Coronavirus (COVID-19) is infecting the masses across the world, the new corona virus disease (SARS CoV-2) is regularly identified on almost every day in its different variants. The first case of coronavirus that specialists had never seen before in humans had begun to spread among the population of Wuhan city in the province of Hubei in China in December 2019. Since then it is spreading like anything to all over the world. "COVID-19 is a new disease and we are on a learning curve about it. In general, respiratory virus infection can occur through contact (direct or indirect), droplet spray from mouth and nose (short range transmission), aerosol (long range transmission). Any person infected by the SARS-CoV-2 virus does not show symptoms immediately. It has spread to the majority of countries, including China, India, Italy, Spain, Iran, U.K, USA and others. Due to the sheer threat posed by this virus to human life, the governments of many countries have imposed a lockdown and recommended citizens to stay home. During such a time, teachers in various countries have begun to use e-learning to teach their students. Technology has progressed to the point where we can claim we are living in a digital revolution. Technology has an important role in a variety of fields, particularly business, medicine, and education. E-Learning can be defined as the use of pedagogical tools like computer and internet technologies to deliver a broad array of solution to enable learning and improve performance. Ghirardini, B.(2011) the inception of the term E-learning, was first used at a Computer Based Training (CBT) system in 1999. A CBT course also called as courseware may be conveyed via a software product installed on a computer on educational intranet, or over the internet as Web-based training .Other terminology, such as virtual learning and online learning, has begun to emerge in pursuit of an adequate explanation. Nonetheless, the ideals and values that underpin e-learning have been acknowledged through history. There is compelling evidence that e-learning existed as far back as the 19th century.

E-learning through pedagogical tools is seen as a new teaching method rather than face-to-face classes. E-learning offers the possibility to offer and share materials in all possible formats such as emails, slide shows, videos, PDFs and Word documents. It also conducts webinars (live online classes), communication with teachers via message and chat forum is also an option available to the user. Using e-learning can be seen as bridge, making us feel like in the classroom. Due to the importance of e-learning, various researchers have written in the field of e-learning. Kawatra, P.S. & Singh, N.K.(2006) the concepts of open learning and distance

learning were discussed and authors provided innovative delivery modes adopted by various famous educational institutions.

Anderson, J. (2005). explained how technology has revolutionized our lives. It has also demonstrated the importance of ICT in classroom instruction. The relevance of e-learning and how it merged pedagogy and technology was the subject of this research.

Mohammadi, N., et al(2011) analyzed the function of e-learning and how it may be used in the language learning process, as well as how it compares to traditional language learning. It also discusses the benefits and drawbacks of e-learning in language learning. The researcher was able to incorporate this initial notion into his research on the function of e-learning in the COVID-19 problem and demonstrate its importance in many sectors by referring to the above-mentioned studies. The purpose of this research is to display the involvement of e-learning in the COVID-19 crisis.

II. E-learning

The concept of E-learning is not about people, it's about the inter communication of sensors within devices with each other and a concept of connecting any device with an on/off switch to the Internet and with each other. As mentioned, if it bears on/off switch then it can be put as a part of the Internet of Things (IoT) . The Research and analyst firm Gartner (world's leading research and advisory company) says that the IT services segment – which includes consulting and managed services – is expected to have the second highest spending growth in 2022, reaching \$1.3 trillion, up 7.9% from 2021 by the end of 2022, there will be more than 30 billion connected devices. Gartner Forecasts 5.1% growth in IT spending. The IoT is a massive network of connected "things" (which also includes people). The relationship between is as:- people-people, people-things, and things-things.

Present day the most important usable component of IoT is E-learning. It is a technology instrument that has been utilised in the classroom to educate and learn. In general, computers and the internet are required to facilitate the transmission of knowledge and skills. Computer-based learning, web-based learning, virtual education options, and digital collaboration are all examples of e-learning applications. The internet, audio or video cassette, CD ROM, and satellite TV are all used to provide content. Image, media in the form of text, animation, and streaming video and audio can be included in self-paced or instructor-led e-learning. CBT (Computer-Based Training), WBT (Web-Based Training), and IBT (Internet-Based Training) have mostly been used as substitutes for e learning (Internet-Based Training).

E-learning offers several advantages, including the fact that it is simply web-based instruction, requiring no software or CDs to be installed on your computer. All you need is an internet connection and a web browser. As training specialists present each topic on your computer screen, you may watch, listen, and learn. All the courses are always open, which means they are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week resulting 24*7. Once you've purchased your membership, just login to have immediate access to your courses. Software training specialists with years of classroom training expertise have created the courses. Anyone can learn from the comfort of his or her own home or business. E-manuals are available for free, which implies that the membership includes access to classroom e-manuals (PDF), as well as practice exercises and shortcut keys.

E-learning is the most effective and convenient approach to study independently. In classroom trainings, comprehensive means that all topics are covered and included. Information technology (IT) tools in Knowledge dissemination and empowering Professionals with the desired information. Their use with right perspective have changed the learning scenario Shaik et al. (2004) , Griffin et al. (2008) , Raja and Ahmad (2013) and Songtao Guo et al. (2015), Ghavifekr and Rosdy WAW (2015) Raja and Khan (2017) , Gulbir et al (2020) and Volery et al(2020) have their works on applications of information and communication , Internet of Things and E learning. The few E-learning Apps which are mostly in use are Zoom, Skype, Webex, Google meet, GoTo Meeting, Blackboard Collaborate etc.

III. Role of E-Learning in COVID-19 Crisis

While the entire world is fighting the invisible enemy (COVID-19) which has been killing thousands of individuals round the globe but the teaching and learning process are still managing by using e-learning and its tools. In India, the government went for lockdown in all the cities to scale back the spread of COVID-19. Due to ongoing COVID-19 a significant increase of scholars who are using the platform and apps of ED-TECH and online companies has been witnessed. Different companies like Vedantu, Unacademy, and Byju's have offered free access to major classes to the scholars so as to continue their learning from home. Byju's co-founder and Director, Divya Gokulnath, said, during a statement, "Since our announcement last week, we've witnessed a 60% increase within the number of latest students using the app to find out from home daily." This statement refers to the large role which E-learning is playing nowadays specifically in COVID-19 crises.

Currently students are accessing the lessons increasingly on different apps and that will help the students specially who are living in far flung places. Furthermore, Vedantu has been offering free access to live classes to students and schools in different states in India. Generally, most of universities after the lockdown in India requested the faculty members and the students to use e-learning applications through uploading PDF, online class and ask the students to do their assignments and send them by WeChat app or email.

In Iraq, Google classroom has been used for uploading the study materials. Google classroom helps the scholars to seek out the fabric associated with their subjects easily and study it reception. In Turkey, applications like Teams and Zoom are used widely on other hand ,most of Universities are uploading study material on the webpage of the university.

In our country Zoom, Google classroom and Webex are mostly used Apps for class room learning and uploading the study materials. Higher ranking universities are busy in developing their own apps which suits to their academic and technical needs. The discussion above has shown the good value of e-learning in teaching and learning. E-learning has assisted both students and teachers in COVID-19 crisis. Though there is no comparison to face to face learning and lot of discussion is going on Research Gate and other trusted websites to ponder. Till then, there is conducive atmosphere for complete face to face learning, E-learning has a significant role during Covid-19 crises.

Staying at home is one of the steps to slow the spread of COVID-19. All universities, colleges and schools have been closed in India and other countries. E-learning, internet and computers have been used vitally in teaching and learning process. The use of technology in schools is essential to inspiring and educating this generation of learners. Using the full power of the internet and its endless possibilities, all of our solutions are the trusted choice in education.

Nowadays E-learning is a buzz in every educational environment. It is important to infuse the technology in education because it provides the need of the present learners. Nowadays, the environment of the classroom is completely different from the traditional one. Therefore new technologies have become an essential part of our daily life like internet, mobile phones, you tube, blogs ,tweeter and many more have added not only stimulus but also learner's engagement and real interactivity within the classroom. The e-learning tools have been changing the way of teaching and learning. Information and communications technologies (ICT) include the communication devices and new digital technologies such as email, audio equipment ,cameras, and video conferencing have not been only influencing and supporting what is being learned in schools, colleges and universities but it also has been supporting changes the way students are learning.

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