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Chapter

EDUCATIONAL TRANSFORMATION: PIONEERING E-LEARNING'S ROLE IN INDIA'S DEVELOPMENT JOURNEY

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ABSTRACT

Knowledge and abilities have a shorter shelf life than ever before in the world that is changing so quickly nowadays. People are under a lot of pressure because of this to keep up with their education and training throughout their employment. A four-year degree is only the start of a lifelong journey of learning in an era marked by globalisation and technological progress. In today's world, the idea of lifelong learning has become absolutely essential. The term "electronic learning," often known as "e-Learning" or "eLearning," refers to a type of education that uses computers as the main teaching tool. Online education, often known as eLearning, has become a strong alternative to conventional educational systems during the past few years. Particularly, many online courses have been offered, reaching millions of people globally and covering a variety of topics. Despite variations in culture, language, and population, the E-Learning system has become increasingly popular, in part because it is more accessible and Indian consumers have more purchasing power. The considerable changes in information technology and on-going technical breakthroughs are to blame for the expansion of the E-Learning system. This essay aims to investigate the effects of Web-Based E-Learning (WBEL), in specific, on the contemporary Indian educational system.

Keywords: *E-learning, Higher education, IT, Internet*

15.1 INTRODUCTION

E-learning is a means for acquiring knowledge by technological means, also referred to as computerised or web-based training. Technologies which involve CD-ROMs, the internet, wireless connections, and smartphones are routinely used. Some individuals define e-learning to also include managing knowledge. The phrase, originally used in 1995 to underline internet delivery, initially emerged as "Internet-based Training" and subsequently "Web-based Training." It later became known as e-learning and garnered large venture capital investments because of its upbeat undertones, following the "e" prefix trend amid the dot-com boom. India is a vast and culturally diverse nation that is also home to a wide variety of colleges and universities. Other educational institutions strive to offer needs like educational materials and supplies for the office, but some concentrate internal activities for every phase of growth of their kids. Numerous schools and institutions offer study abroad and orientation programmes thanks to their international contacts. There are wide disparities in educational quality due to factors including socioeconomic status, privation, standard of life, and the lack of in-depth preparation for educators. India is a significant player in the global education sector and has one of the largest educational systems in the world. Unbelievably, there are 10,30,996 schools in India, with 8,53,184 of them in urban areas and 1,77,812 in rural ones. India had 907 universities as of March 31, 2019, including 399

state universities, 126 deemed-to-be universities, 48 central institutions, and 334 private universities. Even though there are numerous schools, colleges, and universities, there is still room for development in the field of education. The system of higher education in India has enormous potential.

15.2 LITERATURE REVIEW

Given the large amount of information available online, it's essential to make use of this tool for pupils. The World Wide Web (WWW) and information technology (IT) can be used as delivery routes to accomplish this. Platforms for online learning provide versatility in terms of accessibility, place, and scheduling. On-line learning gives people the chance to obtain a top-notch education in a place like India where cultural and economic hurdles sometimes restrict opportunities for learning. India, the second-most populated nation in worldwide, has an elevated need for online classes and e-learning. India is home to a large number of Web-Based E-Learning (WBEL) systems and E-Learning portals to suit this requirement (Aggarwal, 2009).

The conventional facets of learning, such as educators, educational institutions, and educational materials, have been replaced over time by the growing phenomenon of online education. The initial phase of e-learning is used by teachers to deliver primary and higher schooling, and the other level is used by businesses to educate and nurture their workforce. E-learning is being used more frequently by businesses to improve the abilities of their personnel and is not just used in institutions of higher learning (Arun Gaikwad, 2016).

WBEL appears out as an influential catalyst in the context of India, which faces difficulties like a sizable population, income inequities, disparities in social status, and elevated student-to-teacher proportions. Thanks to its availability via common technological gadgets including desktops, laptops, tablets, and smartphones, on the internet E-Learning platforms are anticipated to experience substantial development. To meet the demands of customers and students, WBEL provides live participatory classes, stored video content, and customisable modules. Online discussion and question-and-answer forums encourage participatory learning. Web-Based E-Learning (WBEL), E-Learning, online learning, and web portals are all words that are used frequently in this study report (Bhushan, 2004).

15.3 TYPES OF E-LEARNING MODELS

There are basically 3 types of E-Learning i.e., Synchronous, Asynchronous and Blended Learning.

1. **Synchronous** refers to simultaneous, hence in a synchronous style of online learning, participants and instructors communicate via a web-based portal.
2. **Asynchronous** implies not simultaneously, and the website in an asynchronous e-learning system permits the student to finish the curriculum or learning without speaking to the trainer or teacher.
3. **Blended learning** is a blend of traditional classroom instruction and electronic learning tools. Students can benefit from the educational experience of blended instruction with direct classroom engagement with teachers. With the societal benefits of training in a classroom, blended e-learning combines the advantages of face-to-face interaction with those of other instructional modalities (Jha and Shenoy, 2016).

15.4 ADVANTAGES OF E-LEARNING

The convenience of e-learning is its main benefit. It is accessible to users whenever they choose, on a variety of devices and web browsers. Due to its adaptability, online learning has become quite popular among both professionals and young people, enabling access to current knowledge anywhere in the world, even in distant locations. Working professionals gain from this because it eliminates travel restrictions for certification courses (Joshi and Dewangan, 2021).

15.5 DISADVANTAGES OF E-LEARNING

E-learning has benefits but also has drawbacks, most notably due to the lack of universal internet access. Geographical obstacles prevent access to the internet, particularly in isolated regions of nations like India. The quality of e-learning is impacted by slow connections to the internet and bandwidth limitations for certain connected places (Nelasco, 2007). E-learning platforms frequently lack interactivity, which is disadvantageous for both instructors and students. It might be difficult to get people to switch from traditional to online schooling because of resistance. E-learning suppliers have difficulty connecting with and persuade people to use this style of learning. In addition, some topics need a customised touch and cannot be delivered online. E-Learning programmes also tend to grow obsolete, demanding frequent revisions to maintain their usefulness (Pathak and Vyas, 2019).

15.6 CURRENT STATE OF E-LEARNING IN INDIA

Due to the advent of new start-ups, advances in technology, and increased internet accessibility – all of which have been fuelled by government initiatives – online learning has seen extraordinary growth in India. Online education has become widely available throughout the nation thanks in large part to government initiatives, inexpensive internet connectivity, cheap mobile devices, and cheaply available SIM card networks. India currently offers a huge selection of online courses for anything from basic learning to career advancement. A broad range of online education services, such as instructional videos and educational resources, are provided by multiple education centres and newly formed companies. Some place a higher priority on offering user-friendly training and learning platforms that enable users to engage with subjects whenever and wherever they choose (Sathishkumar and Karthikeyan, 2014).

The growing popularity of e-learning in India is mostly driven by the increasing need for on-going knowledge and skill upgrades. Professionals of all ages understand the importance of updating their knowledge in fields like programming languages, data analytics, and cloud computing, such as software developers with ten years of experience. People are increasingly turning to e-learning tools for skill development due to the possibility of job growth, pay raises, and better working conditions. One famous company, Simplilearn, with headquarters in Bengaluru, provides over 225,000 professionals globally with successful training through its over 200 certification courses in areas like quality management, Financial Management, Project Management, and Information Technology (Tamrakar and Mehta, 2009).

15.7 CHALLENGES FACED BY E-LEARNING IN INDIA

Over the past 50 years, the Indian government has invested a substantial sum of money to create the greatest education system in the world. However, the administration has run into numerous roadblocks while working towards this objective. These difficulties include maintaining high academic standards, a comparatively slow pace of advancement in science and technology, a low degree of awareness among the public, and administrative conservatism. The development of e-learning in India faces substantial challenges, include the need to increase consciousness among rural people, fix inadequate infrastructure, and deal with the issues brought on by poor internet accessibility and availability. Handling the obstacles imposed on by inequalities in literacy, gender, religion, and culture presents extra difficulties for suppliers of e-learning. Due to differing religious and spiritual beliefs, some social groups occasionally perceive particular course content to be inappropriate. Geographical inequalities,

particularly among live classes, create significant challenges due to various zones of time (Tubaishat and Lansari, 2011).

15.8 FUTURE OF E-LEARNING IN INDIA

India is a key player in the field of online learning because to a robust educational system and a pool of outstanding training specialists. The country has long been a pioneer in the IT sector, which is encouraging for the creation of E-Learning platforms. The corporate community is also invested in the growth of the industry in India, and the government of India actively encourages e-learning through legislative initiatives and financial help. This coordinated effort presents India as a desirable site for the E-Learning business, with many international companies choosing India for their E-Learning ambitions (Rosmalen and Westera, 2014).

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15.9 CONCLUSION

The following conclusions about the impact and development of the online education (E-Learning) system in India may be drawn from the study described above:

- The internet-based educational system, or e-learning, is going to be the future of education in the years to come.
- Since it is accessible to all social strata, it is a benefit to society.
- Government agencies should raise consciousness among various societal segments and broaden the application of online education.
- E-learning helps instructors and other professionals improve their knowledge and abilities, in addition to being advantageous for students.
- One needs to concentrate on marketing an e-learning system in a country like India where there is diversity in language, religion, age, and level of education. For E-Learning Providers, more promotion will result in more clients.

- Due to the rapid growth in internet, mobile phone, and other electronic device users, it is possible that traditional educational systems could soon be superseded by e-learning systems. The extension of the e-learning system can assist a nation like India reach a certain economic, educational, and literacy level.
- Online education will give corporations a variety of chances to increase their commercial opportunities in addition to benefiting students, teachers, and other professionals.

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