



E-Learning Trends And Opportunities

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Abstract:

E-learning is defined as medium of instruction through computer technology, which in other words is known as Internet/Intranet etc for the dissemination of teaching and learning. It involves classroom based learning, synchronous distance learning, resource center laboratory training and independent learning. Because of the increasing demand for continuing university education, this E-learning is used worldwide. E-learning is flexible and is a new trend in education delivery approaches which assures quality and increases educational opportunities. There is team in E-learning which includes different human resource. There are E-learning issues, obstacles in the way of E-learning, challenges and legal issues which are presented in this paper apart from the tips for evaluation of online resources.

Keywords: E-learning, ICT, VLE.

I. INTRODUCTION

As per the Open and Distance Learning Quality Council, UK – “*E-learning is the effective learning process created by combining digitally delivered content with (learning) support and services.*” And also, as per the Network for Capacity Building and Knowledge Exchange (NetTel@Africa) “*E-learning is the effective teaching and learning process created by combining e-digital content with local community and tutor support along with global community engagement.*”

There is a great demand for E-learning today. It helps for Continuing education in one's life. E-learning has lot of importance as far as university education is concerned. Through E-learning any kind of learning is possible, since it is flexible. With the help of this E-learning, knowledge can be acquired worldwide. It is a trend today that this kind of E-learning has been used as delivery approach in the field of education. Person sitting anywhere in the world can learn through this mode anytime and hence helps for lifelong learning. While receiving education through this method the quality aspects are also taken care of. It

is possible to access any kind of information which will ultimately facilitate to expand educational opportunities. Today it is possible to create any kind of infrastructure required, provide human resource for E-learning. Lot of youth are coming forward to involve in this E-learning willingly and show enthusiasm to participate in the E-learning process.

Context:

Following are the advantages of E-learning:

- 1] No exorbitant cost is involved in E-learning.
- 2] Very limited staff is required and the time required for them is also very less.
- 3] E-learning is readily available.
- 4] It helps the individual to learn at his/her own pace
- 5] It is possible to get instant feedback.
- 6] It is instant and less costly.

The following human resource is required for the purpose of E-learning:

- 1] Experts in the field of pedagogy like art & science and knowledge of how children learn and what kind of relevant educational activities to be provided to them, so as to transform the conventional learning to online learning.
- 2] Experts to provide technical support in E-learning.
- 3] Needs academicians for developing content and curriculum.
- 4] Lastly experts to evaluate the quality of online courses.

The following measures can be taken up for proper management of E-learning:

- 1] It is through servers any information regarding the courses that are hosted can be accessed. For this purpose proper management of servers is necessary.
- 2] The network and network of networks (Internet) needs to be properly managed.
- 3] As innumerable courses are available in the E-learning, it is necessary that the contents of the course are efficiently managed which includes updating of the courses with all dedication.
- 4] For day today running of the courses, handling student feedbacks, giving assignments to the students, conducting tutorials and holding tests, proper management is necessary.
- 5] There is a need for quality assurance of online courses.
- 6] Proper measures to access online courses and modules all the 24 hours in a day are necessary.

The following Infrastructure and the technological tools are required for E-learning:

- 1] Proper software tools for implementation of online courses and/or modules.
- 2] Hardware and network infrastructure to support access to the online courses.
- 3] Setting up of a video conferencing network on the campus.
- 4] Setting up of a multimedia and video on demand laboratory.

- 5] Setting up of centers with high bandwidth connectivity for decentralized access.

E-learning development process:

The E-learning development process involves the following steps.

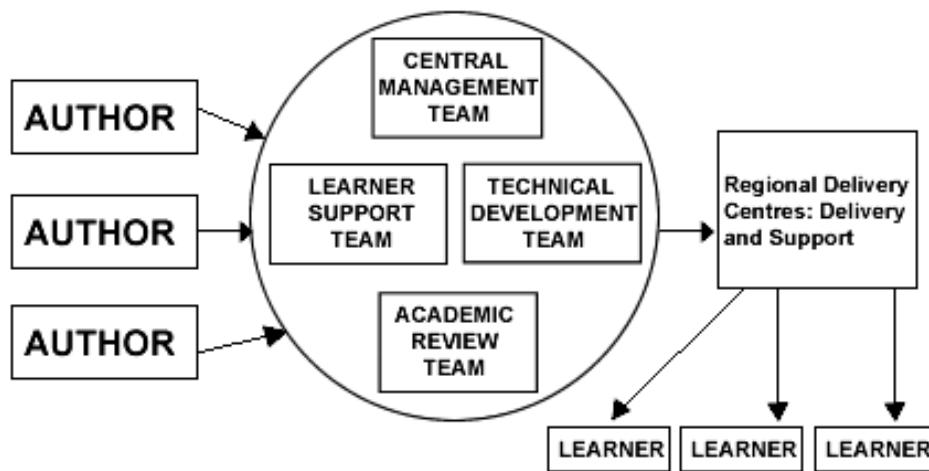
- 1] Paper-based worksheets
- 2] Electronic documents – ‘free-standing’
- 3] More interactive resources – presentations
- 4] Shared folders/Intranet of resources
- 5] Remote access to resources

E-Learning Team:

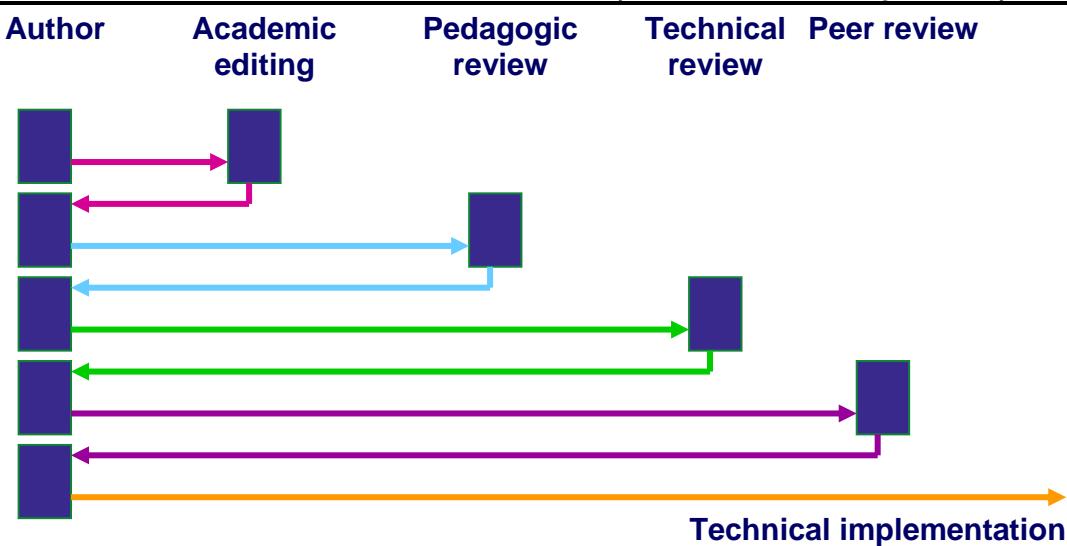
E-Learning Team will include the following.

- 1] Project Managers
- 2] Instructional Designers
- 3] Subject Matter Experts
- 4] Programmers
- 5] Writers
- 6] Graphics Artists, Animators, and Videographers
- 7] Quality Controllers

The course development model:



The following criteria are required for the quality assessment of E-Learning like pedagogic and academic effectiveness.



E-learning Issues:

- 1] Pupils and teachers need to be inducted and trained.
- 2] A good Virtual Learning Environment (¹VLE) is required to support good teaching and learning.
- 3] This E-learning will not affect the career of the teachers.
- 4] The content should be flexible enough and it should be best.
- 5] There is a need for good Information and Communication Technology (ICT) access and technical supports.
- 6] Proper standards are to be maintained for E-learning.

E-learning Challenges:

The following challenges will be confronted during E-learning.

I. Content Development

- 1] Long time is required to develop the course.
- 2] Difficulties with regard to communication.
- 3] Outsourcing of skilled persons is necessary due to lack of persons with multidimensional skills.
- 4] Creating Web Team, Design team, Instructional design and maintaining Learning standards.

II. Infrastructure Snags.

- 1] It involves high cost of purchase of hardware for its implementation and deployment.
- 2] It is difficult to measure activity, the results and also its impact

Online course evaluation:

The online course evaluation can be taken up with regard to the following..

- 1] Learner support & resources with respect to, course information, online support, content support and .channels for feedback on resources & support.

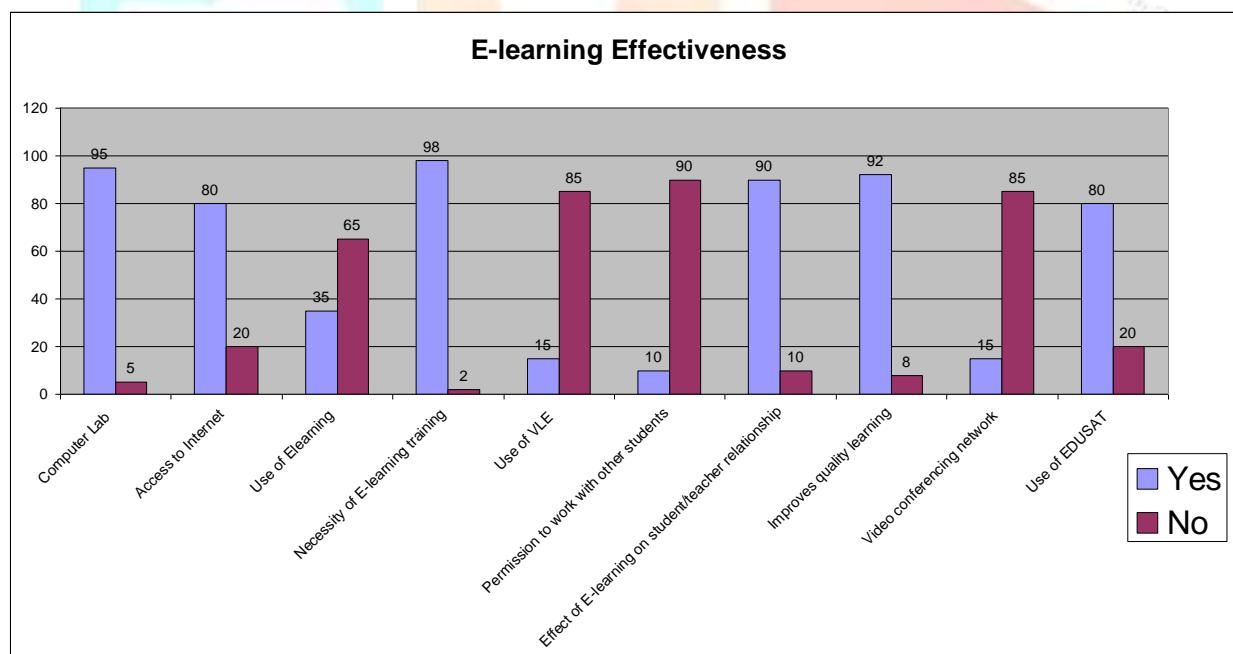
¹ A Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) is a software system designed to facilitate teachers in the management of educational courses for their students, especially by helping teachers and learners with course administration.

- 2] Online information & design with respect to, completeness, clear syllabus, consistent & functional accessibilities, channels for feedback
- 3] Instructional design & delivery with respect to, opportunities for interaction, alignment of course objectives to learning outcomes, clearly defined learning outcomes, variety of learning tasks, critical thinking tasks and channels for feedback on instructional design.
- 4] Student learning with respect to, opportunities for self-assessment, alignment between objectives, activities & assessments, comprehensive assessment strategy, opportunities for students to receive feedback, channels for learners' feedback on assessment strategy.

Legal issues in E-learning:

Copyright of scripts, code, multimedia, consultants, title and protection is done. To protect authentication e-commerce laws can be used. For the protection of data, the concerned Act may be used. The data collection should be fair and lawfully processed. The appropriate technical and organizational measures against unauthorized or unlawful processing may be taken. Authentication with regard to student identity, the verification of exam result/course credits, mandatory courses and integrity of data should also be done.

Results and Discussion:



The questionnaire method has been adopted in this paper. The author has collected information from 100 colleges regarding E-learning facilities the colleges are using. From the above table it is evident that, out of 100 colleges 95 colleges are having computer lab. The remaining 5 colleges do not have computer lab facilities. With regard to access to internet 80 colleges have the facility and 20 colleges do not have. While, 35 colleges use E-learning and 65 colleges don't use E-learning. And 98 colleges say that they need E-learning training and rest 2 colleges say that E-learning training is not necessary. With regard to use of VLE, 15 colleges have VLE facility and 85 colleges don't have VLE facility. Whereas, 10 colleges make provision for college students to interact with other students and other 90 colleges do not provide opportunity to interact. With regard to Student/Teacher relationship 90 colleges say that by using E-learning

Student/Teacher relationship will be broken and 10 colleges say that Student/Teacher relationship will continue to be cordial. In case of providing quality training through E-learning 92 colleges agree that learning quality will improve and 8 colleges do not agree. In the survey, 15 colleges say that they are having video conferencing facility and 85 colleges say that they don't have the facility. And lastly, with regard to EDUSAT facility, 80 colleges are having the facility and 20 colleges don't have the facility.

Conclusion:

The overall result give an impression that the knowledge of E-learning is essential for every college student and it plays a very significant role in the life of any student and teachers for improving their level of learning and education. Through this technique, it will be possible for the person to learn very fast and accurately. As a result of this the world has become very small.

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