Benefits and Challenges of Digital Education in Higher Education

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ABSTRACT

Online education has gained immense popularity among teachers and students pursuing higher education. This happens primarily because of the digital revolution taking place all across the globe. Traditional teaching is replaced by online teaching nowadays. This digital technology is somehow very much helpful to teachers and students but it has some disadvantages, too. The present paper is trying to focus on the benefits and disadvantages of digital education.

Audio-visual aids are useful to students to understand difficult concepts. All over the world, schools and colleges are adopting digital teaching and creating an interactive classroom environment. It inculcates an enjoyable, practical, creative education environment for the students but not all the time. The paper is trying to show the challenges of online teaching.

Key words: E-learning, Digital education, Online education, Digital technology… etc.

Introduction :

Nowadays E-learning becomes a part and parcel of life. Online learning that is the acquisition of knowledge that takes place through electronic technologies. Online learning may be a sort of distance learning or distance education, which has long been a part of the American education system, and it's become the most important sector of distance learning in recent years (Bartley & Golek, 2004; Evans & Haase, 2001). After the pandemic situation in India, e-learning and teaching became popular among the students and teachers. The traditional chalk and talk method in class and colleges have been slowly changing with more interactive teaching methods as schools and colleges are increasingly adopting digital solutions. Digital learning in cities and semi-urban cities guarantees more participation of students as the current generation of students are well-acquainted with laptops, Ipads, and smartphones. There are different private sources in the field of digital education like Edu comp, Moodle, virtual classroom,Bayju, Edu-take, Tata Class Edge, Pearson, and Teach Next,Teach-mint that is helpful to teachers in classroom teaching. About online teaching Allen & Seaman, 2003, p-6 said,"A course where most or all of the content is delivered online. Typically have no face-to-face meetings". But in the rural and tribal areas, the picture is different and not up to the mark. Teachers and students are facing some difficulties in the online teaching-learning process.

E-learning makes education flexible because there is no limitation of time and space. So, e-learning makes learning easier to seek out the information or knowledge. The evolution of technology is drastically changing the social norms. Educated and uneducated masses use technology frequently for enjoyment and for their benefits. It's observed that different social media like Facebook, what's app, you tube, and twitter also plays an important role in education. These applications strongly attracted students and connected them with different parts of the world. These applications introduce them to a variety of latest terms of education, one

of them is e-learning. E-learner wants to adopt new technologies to seek out new information and to connect with peoples related to their field of study (Anshari, Alas, & Guan, 2016). Many countries in the world are promoting education through e-learning.

ADVANTAGES OF DIGITAL EDUCATION

1. Advantages to Academic Institution:

Academic institution can easily manage their activities with the help of digital education. Variety of the important benefits are:

• Time and money of the Institution are saved.

• They'll easily commit to conduct online exam and declare the exam results quickly.

• It makes knowledge to transfer easily and equally from teacher to each and every student with   the help of effective and advanced technology-based teaching tools.

• It helps in creating interest among students which is ready to assist them in learning many concepts through interactive- audio-visual teaching contents.

• Advantages over other schools and colleges which cannot provide such integrated feature-based learning and management system.

• Easy communication between teachers and students for student related academic activities.

2. Advantages to Students:

As all the study contents are taught within the classroom through multimedia slides, it creates interest and enthusiasm among the students. Learning is fun for them. They're able to memorize many concepts through interactive audio-visual teaching contents. Other benefits to them are:

• They will easily view their daily time-table, class assignments, notes,any events planned in college etc. from home(online/offline).

• They're able to prepare projects and presentation online.

• They will give online exam and examine their results.

• They will easily collect teaching contents of missed lecture online.

• They will access library online.

3. Benefits to Teachers:

Digital technology in education also creates interest among teachers. It helps them to make teaching interactive among students and they try to present it effectively. Other benefits are:

• It helps the teacher to manage their class time and teaching content effectively.

• It helps the teachers to form their teaching interesting.

• They will easily avail the faculty furthermore as class related information through web.

• They're going to check daily time-table, assignments, teaching history, events and holiday list, self additionally as student attendance etc.

• It'll helps in explaining the difficult content easily and in effectively.

CHALLENGES OF DIGITAL EDUCATION

Some of the foremost important challenges of digital education are:

• Resource and internet connectivity related challenges.

One of the foremost challenges for digital education in India is poor internet connectivity in rural and tribal areas and some part of urban areas. Majority of population across India has still no access to internet and an oversized population in rural areas continues to be illiterate within the sphere of digital technology.More Innovations required to make the digital education more interactive and robust.

• Poverty of the students.

Most of the agricultural and mainly tribal students are from poor families. They're unable to take their own mobiles phones for online learning. So it is the fear that they will leave their education forever because of poverty.

• Shortage of trained teachers.

A major obstacle within the employment of digital education in geographic region is that the shortage of knowledge and skills. There is a shortage of teachers, formally trained on digital technology. Most of the school teachers and college professors aren't interested in using digital tools for conducting classes. They feel that traditional teaching methods of chalk and blackboard is more helpful in schools and colleges.

• Poor maintenance and upgradation of digital equipment.

In rural areas maintenance and upgradation of digital equipment is one all told the key challenge. This is often largely due to budgetary constraints by government. The digital education projects in rural schools don't seem to be self-sustainable. At initial stage various projects are launched by government for the event of digital education, but later, they have not been taken reasonable care for the maintenance of digital equipment which has effects on the digital education development in rural areas.

• Insufficient funds.

Digital education involves effective and efficient usage of appropriate and latest hardware and software technology available within the market. In developing countries like India, digital technology implementation into education systems can be a difficult task because it requires huge funds and infrastructure. Through Digital India programme, the govt. has promised availability of funds for technology implementation but lack or insufficiency of finances finishes up in redundant and poor infrastructure facility and equipment's in rural schools. According to Jinal Jani and Girish Tere (2015), Digital India programme introduced by government of India is extremely important for the event of digital education within the country. Digital India drive could also be a project initiated by Government of India for creation of digital empowered society across the country.

Shikha Dua et al., (2015) as discussed, the varied issues, trends and challenges of digital education in India and suggested the empowering Innovative classroom model for learning the long-term trend of digital education includes digitalised classrooms, video-based learning, and game-based learning so forth. Himakshi Goswami's (2016) study highlighted the varied opportunities and challenges of digital India programme in India. Digital India programme introduced by government of India will help in transforming country into a digitally empowered economy, Jayesh M. Patel (2017).

CONCLUSION:

Education sector in India has seen a series of rapid expansion in last couple of years which helped to transform the country into a knowledge hub. The study clearly points that if we want to focus on E-learning and digital education then the development of proper infrastructure is required need across the country. This

infrastructural development in education with online education will change the society drastically. The study highlighted the different challenges of digital education in India. Government of India needs to take the required measures to overcome these challenges for the development of digital education in India.Government has to focus on rural and tribal areas of the country.

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