



MOBILE LEARNING

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ABSTRACT

Internet is not only a medium of entertainment; it is also used for learning new ideas and information that a student cannot get only from reading books. Internet is very useful for those who want to learn but are unable to attend regular classes due to some reasons. These students go for online courses and gather information and study from them to prepare themselves for competitions. If a student wants to learn something extra, other than the normal curriculum, he can refer the online resources and expertise in the desired area and stay ahead in this competent world. Different educational websites provide required information to the students helping them in their exams, assignments, projects, etc. Internet also helps in creating interest in learning a subject by providing various resources like videos, images and audio files from reliable sources. Mobile phones are now as much like as our desktop systems which act as a source for dictionary, calculator and other numerous calculations for which they have to carry extra gadgets which are made available in a single mobile phone. As the technology is advancing students and faculties have used this technology to their advantage, they use various mobile phone applications to provide assignments and tests that are monitored through mobile phones as done through desktop-systems in schools and colleges. Mobile phones also help in providing communication between teachers and students in case of any problem regarding their classes or their academic clarifications. Mobile phones can be connected to internet at any time and at any place which is advantageous to students to browse anything through it related to their studies. Not only students but teachers also use the mobile internet to manage the grades, attendance, and upload materials. And students use the internet to download e-books, PowerPoint Presentations and other materials and also give quizzes. This chapter focused on the effects of using a mobile phones in teaching learning process.

Keywords: Education, online courses, technology, mobile applications, teaching learning process

INTRODUCTION

Technology is powerful and it can be used in several great ways to make teaching and learning powerful. What can be done and what cannot be done is limited, basically by the creativity of the user. So, the more creative and innovative we get, the more results we'll see with using technology in class. Over the past few decades, influence of technology upon children and education has been immense. Education was once equated with money, but things have changed. Great education for your children is no more a dream. It's affordable. Even average families can afford a mobile phone in which applications can be downloaded. Mobile learning, or "M-Learning", offers modern ways to support learning process through mobile devices, such as handheld and tablet computers, MP3 players, smart phones and mobile phones. This document

introduces the subject of mobile learning for education purposes. It examines what impact mobile devices have had on teaching and learning practices and goes on to look at the opportunities presented by the use of digital media on mobile devices.

While there are a lot of applications available at the app store, choosing the right one for the students can change the way they look at the process of learning. Educational apps are making things easier for students to understand. Books are often found to be tiring and boring for students while replacing them with colourful pages and moving animations can make learning fun to the core. Mobile learning is emerging as one of the solutions to the challenges faced by education. With a variety of tools and resources always available, mobile learning provides increased options for the personalization of learning. Mobile learning in classrooms often has students working interdependently, in groups, or individually to solve problems, to work on projects, to meet individual needs, and to allow for student voice and choice. With access to so much content anytime and anywhere, there are plenty of opportunities for formal and informal learning, both inside and outside the classroom. Study showed that notebooks, mobile Tablets, iPod touch, and iPads are very popular devices for mobile learning because of their cost and availability of apps. They are used for collecting students' responses (clickers), reading electronic books and websites, recording reflections, documenting field trips, collecting and analyzing data, and much more.

I. MOBILE TECHNOLOGIES FOR M-LEARNING:

Mobile technologies are an attractive and easy means to maintain literacy skills and gain constant access to information. They are affordable, can be easily distributed and thus hold great potential for reaching marginalized groups and providing them with access to further learning and development. Mobile technologies facilitate distance learning in situations where access to education is difficult or interrupted because of geographical location or due to post-conflict or post-disaster situations.

Mobile devices and personal technologies that can support mobile learning include:

- E-book
- Out start, Inc.
- Handheld audio and multimedia guides, in museums and galleries
- Handheld game console, modern gaming consoles such as Sony PSP or Nintendo DS
- Personal audio player, e.g. for listening to audio recordings of lectures (podcasting)
- Personal Digital Assistant, in the classroom and outdoors
- Tablet computer
- UMPC, mobile phone, camera phone and Smart Phone

II. USEFULLNESS OF MOBILE IN EDUCATION

A mobile application is a computer program designed to run on mobile devices such as smartphones. A mobile application may also be known as an app, iPhone app or smartphone app. There are more than just 'paid' and 'free' apps in the app stores. The popularity of smart mobile devices is growing fast. These digital devices represent a new generation of technological tools that offer remarkable access to content as well as opportunities for creative use even by young children. Most the best-selling paid apps in the education category are targeted towards children. At the same time, the educational value of those applications is difficult to be determined. Parents and educators, who are turning to those devices for the potential educational benefits they expect for their children and/or their students, have a limited number of tools with which to evaluate these apps. With regard to the literature review, we present the latest findings related to the real educational value of these 'self-proclaimed' educational apps. Use of mobile phones and tabs by students in the schools and colleges has been a boon and a bane. They have helped students in

providing quick data searches, linking with their friends and families and even with their teachers and at the same time, students have misused them for cheating during exam, texting inside the lecture and entertaining themselves at times when they should study. So, mobile phones which today are known to be as smartphones have made students smart in their studies and also extra smart to exploit them for their benefits. Mobile Phones have been extensively used for remaining in contact with others and tabs provide the facility to read e-books, novels and any sort of material at any time and any place. Today, mobile phone is a necessity for everyone. Even a child at the age of 10 wants a mobile or a tab. It's only in our hands to be exploited by them or make proper use of them. Studies have shown that almost all college students carry their phones into their classes and this trend has also started in schools.

III. DIFFERENTIATING E-LEARNING FROM MOBILE LEARNING

Mobile learning can happen anywhere: in a classroom, at the dining room table, on a bus, in front of a science exhibit, and anywhere. Portability is not as important as the ability of the learner to connect, communicate, collaborate, and create using tools that are readily at hand. We have got them working as part of the M-Learning project. We are using the seductive power of these new technologies to re-inspire young learners who are dropping out of traditional learning.

E-Learning has come to define any dissemination of educational knowledge over the Internet. This makes E-Learning a subset of technology-based training. It also incorporates a number of learning activities conducted on the Internet, of which mobile learning is one part. According to many authors Mobile Learning simply as the natural evolution of E-Learning, which completes a missing component such as the wireless feature, or as a new stage of distance and E-Learning .M-Learning is often described as occupying a sub-space within the E-Learning space, which is in turn a sub-part of digital learning. E-Learning can be real-time or self-paced, also known as "synchronous" or "asynchronous" learning. Additionally, E-Learning is considered to be —tethered (connected to something) and presented in a formal and structured manner. In contrast, mobile learning is often self-paced, un-tethered and informal in its presentation.

IV. BENEFITS OF MOBILE LEARNING

Mobile phone are the best way to communicate with others, so the first most advantage of having mobile phone is to be in touch with others all the time and any sort of emergency. As the students who are away from their homes for schooling and colleges, they need to be in contact with their parents, so mobile phone provide the best way for this. Today's mobile phones are as much like as our desktop systems which act as a source for dictionary, calculator and other numerous calculations for which they have to carry extra gadgets which are made available in a single mobile phone. As the technology is advancing students and faculties have used this technology to their advantage, they use various cell phone applications to provide assignments and tests that are monitored through cell phones as done through desktop-systems in schools and colleges.

Mobile phones also help in providing communication between teachers and students in case of any problem regarding their classes or their academic clarifications. Mobile phones can be connected to internet at any time and at any place which is advantageous to students to browse anything through it related to their studies. Not only students but teachers also use the mobile internet to manage the grades, attendance, and upload materials. And students use the internet to download e-books, PowerPoint Presentations and other

materials and also give quizzes. Tabs have also been helpful in many ways to students as they are not able to buy each and every book so they download the e-book and read very effectively through their tabs. They also read newspapers, novels, feeds and increase their vocabulary and reading skills through mobile phones and tabs. Mobile phones are used to co-ordinate group study with friends. Students also entertain themselves during lunch time or break by the mobile phones and tabs by listening songs, playing games, watching videos etc. Mobile phones are used to set reminders for various important events like test and quiz dates, exam schedules, and last dates of assignment submission and store class time-tables, set alarms for these events. Mobile phones have various applications in various fields which one can download and install, there are a number of applications which help students in their academic field. Using mobile phones they know about the various technologies which are being introduced in the market. So, if used correctly, mobile phones and tabs can easily become a tool of education.

So we can say that the benefits of mobile learning are:

- It is important to bring new technology into the classroom.
- Devices used are more lightweight than books and PCs.
- Mobile learning can be a useful add-on tool for students with special needs. However, for SMS and MMS.
- Relatively inexpensive opportunities, as the cost of mobile devices are significantly less than PCs and laptops
- Multimedia content delivery and creation options
- Continuous and situated learning support
- Decrease in training costs
- Potentially a more rewarding learning experience
- Improving levels of literacy, numeracy and participation in education amongst young adults.
- Using the communication features of a mobile phone as part of a larger learning activity
- media or texts into a central portfolio, or exporting audio files from a learning platform to your phone.

V. NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF MOBILE IN LEARNING PROCESS

As with a lot of advantages there are have been many disadvantages related to use of mobile phones by the students. Excessive use of these gadgets has exploited them in various different ways. Students need to be focused in their classes and if they have mobile phones or tabs with them in their classes, they get distracted a lot as they do not concentrate on what teacher is saying but continue to use their phones and tabs to text messages, play games, watch videos etc. Most of the students who carry mobile phones to their class play games, watch videos, and also do chatting with their friends, using social networking sites like updating status on Facebook, posting comments on Twitter. It would not be wrong to say that physically they are present in the class but mentally they are in the world of texting. At the time when they should study, they indulge in these useless activities. The activities of playing games and watching videos also distracts the other students sitting around them as the other students are attracted towards these activities.

Allowing mobile phones in schools and colleges has become a source of malpractice in the exams and quizzes from where they copy answers. They browse web or send text to one another for solution to their tests. In classes instead of listening to the teacher and taking notes, they just record teacher's voice and take photos of other's notes. Students are addicted to their mobile phones as even at night they are found texting to their friends due to which they can't complete their sleep which affects their performance in their class as well as their attendance in classes. This mobile phone texting has also made them much lame and

lazy that they use that texting language while writing exams. False rumours in the schools and colleges spread like a fire through texting, messaging and calling.

VI. FUTURE POSIBILITIES OF MOBILE LEARNING:

The first of solution is the use of mobile learning for academic administration on mobile phones. If it could be established that mobile learning was to become the established method for universities and colleges to communicate urgent information to their student body, a very large revenue stream would be opened up. It can be taken as a given that all students in all universities and colleges possess a mobile phone which they consult constantly. All students enrolled in higher and further education institutions today have frequent needs for information from their institutions about timetable changes, assessment deadlines, feedback from tutors and other urgent administrative details. The use of mobile telephony is a much more efficient and quicker means of communication than postal contact or email. Once this has been achieved the use of mobile learning for academic contact in colleges and universities can be added. A final tier of the strategy for the incorporation of mobile learning in mainstream education and training is represented by the development and offering to students of full modules by mobile learning. With the arrival of 3G technologies viable course modules can be developed. Offering these modules, with assignment submission, tutor contact, examination and assessment provision will provide further evidence of the validity of mobile learning as an attractive provider of revenue streams to mobile operators.

The mobile phone technology is being indiscriminately put to negative activities as they have ruined the lives of many by vulgar recordings being made, black mailing people and getting people involved into things which they do not choose to. They have invaded other's privacy by taking pictures and making videos without their permission. Students also disturb teachers by giving blank calls to them and disturbing them unnecessarily. All these distractions from the studies by the mobile phones and tabs in the poor performance in their academics and they are not able to deliver as to achieve their goals and fulfil their expectations. So, the students should understand that they must use this gift of technology to their proper use so that they do not end up achieving nothing but negatives from this gift.

CONCLUSION:

ICT is a powerful vehicle for enhancing learning, and mobile devices form an essential part of that vehicle. If current ICT strategies for education begin to include mobile devices along with digital learning materials, support for teachers, and guidelines on best practices, mobile learning will soon become an important part of education.

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