



A THEORETICAL STUDY OF ADOPTION OF E-LEARNING TECHNOLOGIES AND PRACTICES IN HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS IN INDIA.

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Abstract

The functional perspective holds that education aids in children's socialization and helps them get ready for when they eventually become adults and join the greater community. The conflict approach places emphasis on how education perpetuates social inequality. Social interaction in the classroom, on school grounds, and in other school-related settings is the main emphasis of the symbolic interactionist viewpoint. Gender role socialization is facilitated by social interaction, and student performance may be impacted by teachers' expectations. Students pursuing higher education as well as working professionals are increasingly turning to online learning. These types of distance learners greatly benefit from the independence and adaptability that these courses provide. Worldwide closure of educational institutions has been caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Over 1.2 billion youngsters are not in school worldwide. Consequently, there has been a significant shift in education with the emergence of e-learning, which involves remote instruction using digital platforms. Several scholars have shared their work on teaching and learning in various ways in the short time after the COVID-19 epidemic. Numerous colleges, universities, and schools have stopped offering in-person instruction. The purpose of this article is to present a thorough analysis of the current adoption rates of e-learning techniques and technologies, as well as to identify and describe the obstacles that impede the successful integration of e-learning into higher education in Indian institutions.

KEYWORDS: *Online Education, Digital Learning*

1.INTRODUCTION

Higher education is entering a transformative period as a result of the introduction of e-learning, which is broadening the scope of learning and challenging established paradigms. Educational establishments, particularly those in India, have embraced e-learning in recent years as a potent instrument to improve the standard, flexibility, and accessibility of instruction in the higher education system.

Electronic learning, or e-learning, is the process of delivering instructional materials and streamlining learning opportunities via digital technologies. Because this strategy may work outside of traditional classroom settings, it has become increasingly popular in higher education. A dynamic and participatory learning environment has been fostered by the integration of online platforms, virtual classrooms, and digital materials, which have opened up new opportunities for educators and students alike.

Flexibility is a key benefit of e-learning in higher education. Students are no longer limited by time or location because they may access lectures, course materials, and group assignments from almost anywhere. This flexibility makes education more accessible to a wider range of people by supporting continuous learning and meeting the unique requirements of students.

The widespread adoption of e-learning in higher education is a calculated move to maximize the pedagogical potential of technology as well as a reaction to the changing requirements of students. Students' critical thinking and problem-solving abilities are fostered by interactive examinations, multimedia-rich content, and virtual classrooms that offer a comprehensive and captivating learning environment.

Initiatives from the Indian government, such as SWAYAM and the National Digital Library, have been crucial in advancing e-learning in higher education. These websites provide an abundance of courses, enabling students to pursue a variety of degrees and subjects online in addition to the conventional brick-and-mortar approach.

Even though there are many advantages to e-learning in higher education, issues like the digital divide and the need for infrastructure development still exist. In order to guarantee that the benefits of e-learning are inclusive and available to everyone, regardless of geography or socioeconomic background, it is imperative that these obstacles be overcome.

2.OBJECTIVES

- To investigate the current levels of adoption of e-learning technologies and practices in higher education institutions in India.
- To identify and analyze the barriers and challenges hindering the effective implementation of e-learning in higher education.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Online courses are those in which at least 80% of the course material is offered online, according to Elaine Allen and Jeff Seaman (2011). Less than 30% of courses are taught online; these are known as face-to-face instruction. Online learning is

defined in a variety of ways. Online learning, according to Khan (1997), is the process of delivering education to a distant audience by means of the internet.

In the past ten years, internet education has increased dramatically, claims Stack, Steven Dr. (2015). His investigation has not revealed any appreciable variations in the test results between students enrolled in in-person and online courses.

Dr. Fahad N. Al-FAHAD has conducted another research that examines the attitudes and perspectives of 186 university students from various colleges regarding the efficacy of mobile learning in their academic pursuits. According to the results of their study, students believe that mobile devices can help them communicate and learn more effectively.

Herman, T., and Banister, S. conducted a study comparing the expenses and educational results of traditional versus online courses. According to their findings, taking classes online encourages active participation from students, supports high student learning objectives, and lowers costs for the university.

3.ADOPTION OF E-LEARNING TECHNOLOGIES AND PRACTICES

3.1. Acceleration brought on by the COVID-19 Pandemic: Higher education institutions worldwide, including those in India, have adopted e-learning at a rapid pace as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Online learning techniques were quickly adopted by several Indian universities and colleges to maintain academic continuity amid lockdowns and social distancing measures.

3.2. EdTech Boom: The use of e-learning technology has been further accelerated by the emergence of EdTech startups in India. These firms provide cutting-edge ways to improve accessibility and engagement in education, such as virtual classrooms, interactive online courses, and collaboration tools.

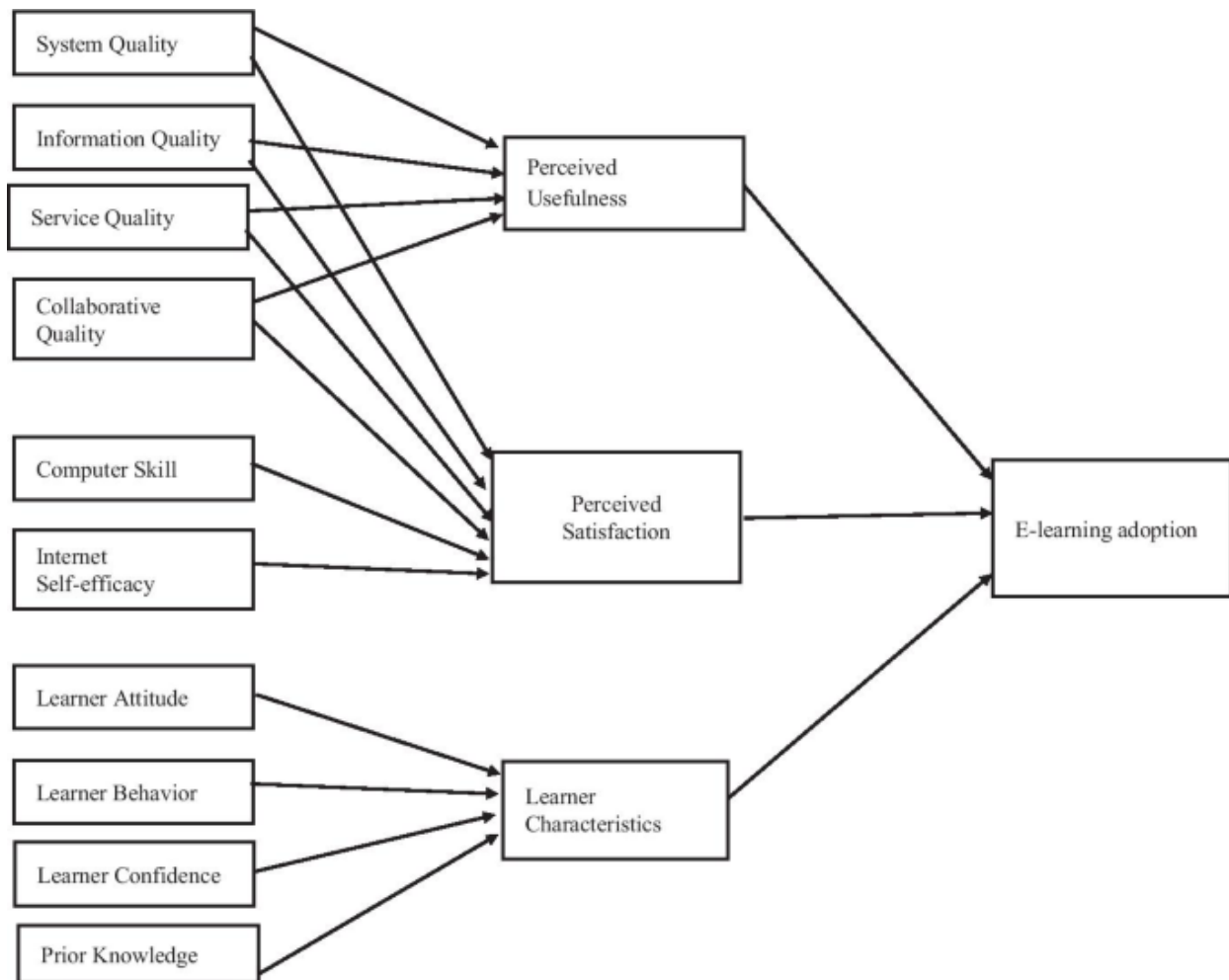
3.3. Infrastructure Development: The adoption of e-learning has been aided by better internet access and technological infrastructure in urban and semi-urban locations. Nonetheless, several isolated and rural locations continue to face difficulties with internet connectivity.

3.4. Faculty Training Programs: To give teachers the tools they need to teach effectively online, many universities have started faculty training programs. Training in the use of digital technologies, online assessment techniques, and building dynamic virtual classrooms are all included in this.

3.5. Blended Learning Models: A few educational institutions have used blended learning models, which incorporate both online and traditional classroom instruction. Personalized learning experiences and flexibility are made possible by this hybrid approach.

3.6. Learner-Centric Approach: Personalized learning pathways, adaptive assessments, and interactive content are made possible by e-learning technologies. One of the main reasons e-learning is becoming more popular in higher education is the movement towards student-centric learning.

3.7. Industry Collaboration: Online certification programs and courses that meet industry requirements have been developed as a result of industry and employer collaboration. This alignment promotes the uptake of pertinent e-learning programs and improves students' employability.



4.GROWTH DRIVERS

4.1.Low-budget Project

For many families, online skill enhancement classes are more cost-effective than offline options, especially since the majority of them are accessible without charge. Online courses are offered on a wide range of disciplines by various respected colleges and institutes, including Harvard University, Berkeley University of California, and Boston University. These classes are typically offered as Massive Online Open Courses (MOOCS), which can be purchased for little or no cost.

4.2.Provides high-quality instruction

According to Netscribes, the number of students enrolled in online courses and distance learning in India is predicted to reach over 10 million by 2021. Online course usage is higher in areas where traditional education options are few. Among those enrolled in distance learning, states like Bihar, Kerala, and Jammu & Kashmir account for 0.4 million.

4.3.Governmental initiatives

Initiatives by the government like Digital India, E-Basta, Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA), SWAYAM, and Skill India will provide room for the infrastructure requisite for online learning. Additionally, the government is developing a National Open University to provide education to a wider audience. Aside from this, it actively advocates for the digitization of education and the accessibility of the internet.

4.4.Increasing usage of the internet

There are currently 409 million internet users in India, but this number is steadily rising, particularly in semi-urban and rural areas, which presents a significant opportunity for the spread of online learning. India is expected to have 735 million internet users by 2021, according to Netscribes. Players in online education will benefit from increased reach and traffic as a result of this internet penetration.



5.CHALLENGES

5.1.Lots of free stuff and a variety of decision-making influencers

Online paid courses have a more difficult time breaking into the market due to YouTube tutorials and other readily available content. Affordably priced or free instructional materials are more popular with enthusiastic learners. In addition, course descriptions, parents, and peers all have an impact on purchasing decisions.

Users can get a basic overview of the course through a variety of media and institutes. They must, however, pay in order to proceed to higher learning levels. Because they don't trust internet sources, some customers prefer to enroll in offline courses rather than risk their money by investing it in them.

5.2.Lack of awareness, slow Internet connectivity, and value of the offerings

The industry's quick expansion is hampered by factors such as language barriers and a lack of awareness about online products and tutorials in one language. Because of the low per capita income of the Indian populace, many users may find the value supplied for many courses to be somewhat pricey. Furthermore, a large portion of the nation is still without internet access or has only 3G coverage. This impedes the expansion of the Indian market for online education.

5.3.Familiarity with non-online learning

Online learning is typically seen as an addition to traditional classroom instruction. The primary inclination towards offline education methods presents a significant obstacle to the market's growth and demand.

6.CONCLUSION

Learning in an online environment differs from learning in a traditional classroom, so before committing to anything, consider your requirements, interests, and goals. It's also important to consider how much time you have available, how comfortable you are using technology, and the tools you have available. As computer usage increases and our familiarity with them grows, online learning will only expand and provide chances for individuals who are interested in learning. Higher education now includes a bigger and bigger portion of online learning as traditional and online institutions alike keep growing their online curricula. Students who are unable to take regular classes because they work full-time, have impairments, or for other reasons, now have easier access to higher education thanks to online learning communities. Online learning communities do have drawbacks, too, because of things like a diminished sense of human interaction and a greater requirement for time management abilities. to lessen all detrimental effects by improving the nation's technical infrastructure and providing instructors and students with the necessary skills.

An increasingly popular and fascinating new approach to learn about nearly anything is online learning. Online learning may be the solution for you if there is a course or skill you have always wanted to acquire but haven't had the time to attend a traditional face-to-face session or there hasn't been an opportunity nearby. Online degrees are available as well as one-hour live workshops in today's educational options. Almost everyone can discover something to suit their needs; the only task is to locate it.

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