

INTRODUCTION:

Today, computers/Desktops/Laptops along with Internet has transformed the world completely. Our world today is better known as an Information Society. ***Information society has received a major concern from scholars and specialists in social and economic area in recent decade. Also it became an important issue in political relations, international relations, regional relations and the national life of countries (Saravani et al., 2012; Sanaee, 2011).*** Our society today is in the midst of a change from being an industrial society to a Tech-Savvy Information society. It can also be said that this is a transformation from the Physical world to the Virtual World. However, this whole process is not an easy one and to embrace this efficiently, we need to be aware of the characteristics of this modern-age technology. Some of the common concepts that our society needs to adapt itself to are e-economy, e-books, e-learning, e-banking etc. One important sector which needs to make use of modern technology is the Education Sector. Studying or academic learning of all sorts can be done remotely on our laptops and even phones and during the first outbreak of Covid-19, we saw this change occurring realistically and it was effective to some extent. Still, this area requires a lot of improvement and young people especially the young graduates have a major role in promoting this transition. ***Prerequisite for getting into this zone is rapid and extensive development of e-learning from the lowest to the highest level of education in countries (Esfahani et al., 2010)***

Due to e-learning, physically attending classes is going to become an outdated concept. The major goal of any Education System should be to creatively teach the skills and knowledge and their application, and all these motives can be achieved in an online setting. E-learning provides its users with various applications including web, computer, online classroom, internet, intranet, extranet, mp3, mp4 and satellite distribution and various other similar tools are used in this medium of education. There have been some major technological advancements made in e-learning which has eliminated the need to be physically present or be punctual. This has made juggling through work and studies much easier as students do not get stuck in traffic which saves a lot of time and fuel cost. The conventional learning system is quite expensive due to the utilities costs of the institute, fuel costs of teachers and students, training of administrative staff and many other expenses. ***Despite of having other restrictions, e-learning eliminates many of problems. So it has led many institutions to pay attention to this type of training and teach (Behrouzian and Nejad, 2011; Behrouzian et al., 2011).***

Following are the benefits of e-learning more clearly explained:

- Resources spent on training sessions of employees can be saved through e-learning tools as now there are various software and tools available to provide the same training.
- Almost all e-learning programs are easy to adapt and adjust to.
- The pace at which an individual will acquire knowledge through e-learning tools is much more than conventional teaching. E-learning allows you to pay more attention to your key concepts and avoid repetitive and useless training.
- Another valuable benefit of e-learning is that it doesn't require a specific time and place to happen. Anyone can study and learn at any place as long as they have a stable internet connection and a laptop/desktop.

- Conventional methods follow repetitive syllabuses and there is rarely any innovation in the curriculum. With e-learning, that upgradation is easier to make as a few clicks can enhance your whole syllabus.
- Since you no longer need files or paperwork in e-learning, managing large groups of students is easier when you are teaching through an online tool.

E-learning has a wide domain. ***Depending on its usage and features is divided into several categories: (Farhadi, 2005).***

Web-based training:

This mode of training is done through internet. All documents and other important assessments are sent through emails or uploaded on the website of the institution. Lecture notes, pamphlets, virtual classroom sessions are all uploaded on the website. However, e-learning provides you with flexibility and space to modify your method of teaching according to your website.

Computer-based training:

This method does not require any internet connection apart from some few exceptions. In this form of training, information or material content is uploaded on an interface in the computer and the user can easily access it and perform his tasks. A good example of this method is educational CDs. Now adays this method is hardly used.

Education through mobile devices and digital tools:

This is the most common and famous tool used by youngsters in today's tech savvy world. It involves learning through smart phones or other smart devices such as an iPad or a laptop. Learning through mobile phones is referred to as m-learning sometimes as this method has become so common for every individual. Although education through this method is the most convenient to achieve, a robust telecommunications infrastructure is a must for this method.

Classification of e-learning types:

E-learning can be classified as three categories including personal learning, collective learning, and virtual classroom (Asgharkia, 2010; Behrouzian and Nejad, 2010).

Personal learning: This branch allows a person to choose a study of his own preference. Consequently, with the use of internet that individual perform his research for related information of that field and then a Q/A session can be done with a teacher in an offline setting.

Collective learning: This method has some pre-conditions for people to communicate with their teachers. Various tools for this communication include different platforms, chat services etc. In this category, the time of starting and ending all courses and exams is the same for each member of the group.

Virtual classroom: This method is somewhat similar to an actual classroom and some teachers might make it attendance mandatory. Video conferencing is the main tool used here which is why instead of

blackboards there are projector devices. In some cases, each student joins the session via his own laptop/desktop which has a webcam and a loud speaker. The student joins the class through the link shared by the teacher to all students. This form of learning is one of the most efficient as it does not require mobility of any member and can accommodate a large group of learners at once.

The whole E-Learning system looks very elegant and convenient but it does come with its disadvantages which are basically various risks related to teachers, students and even the system. Following are some of the risks that exist whenever there is sending and receiving of files, texts, or other media among the users of a particular E-Learning system:

Author's risk

With the advance tools that we have at our disposal, we can access many original works of famous authors of current era as well as authors who are no longer with us. These authors are supposed to share their study material or reference books so that learners can learn from their content. But many authors are afraid that their data or material can be passed on easily to people who do not have access to their material or maybe their content is processed and fabricated to spread false lessons. As far as learners are concerned, they are not responsible if the author's data is shared illegally or maligned in any way as they have a restricted access. The author himself is required to protect his material against illegal use or any form of fabrication. Hackers might author's books or other study material so the author is supposed to check the authenticity of his text before uploading it.

Teacher's risk

All forms of academic support required by a student is to be given by the teacher come what may. If the course outcome requires the teacher to follow a certain a content or buy the material from a third person, then he shall do it to fulfill the obligation. There are a lot of risks associated with E-Learning but not all are related to the technical bit or the software bit. A teacher needs to complete all forms of evaluation, assessments, and gradings to achieve the ultimate goal of that E-Learning system. All teachers differ in their style of teaching and conducting tests; however, some common errors or risks can be found during the lectures, or sending course material or conducting quizzes, checking the answers etc. Some discussions during the lecture might not be stored correctly or the teacher forgot to save the lecture. This sort of digital discussion also has a privacy risk for the student. Although, in any educational method, maximizing contact may aid both students and teachers in clarifying their comprehension. Long-term engagement of this nature can only be produced by solid security mechanisms [10]. The examination system runs the potential of limiting the academic independence of certain Teachers by standardizing examination questions and question lists A teacher's role at an educational centre will depend on the employment contract. In order to manage the risks, there has to be a team. Cheating is a risk that is closely tied to exam risk. Teachers should be worried about assessment availability and non-repudiation in addition to cheating.

Manager's risk

In all E-Learning system, the student receives a certificate at the completion of his degree by the relevant board. Like every institute is supposed to follow the rules and regulations of the Education Commission of that country, E-learning platforms also have to abide by a certain set of rules which are provided by the same authorities. However, it is very difficult for the relevant authorities to correctly inspect the system and dig out any irregularities or sloppiness in following the important guidelines. A very well-known fraud committed by students is letting someone else attempt their test or seek illegal help during examinations. A lot of legal issues are also ignored by students such as copyrights on the course material and sending the content to unauthorized people and these matters are also ignored by the teachers as they are more concerned with the academic matter of the subject.

Student's risk

Students are the most avid users of the E-learning system whereby they learn and spread knowledge to others in the system. Different levels of student groups can be found, which include junior level, diploma, degree, postgraduate, and up to doctoral level. It is, however, essential for the users to make sure that they are well equipped with all the material uploaded by the institute, instructor, and other students. This is because there is a likelihood of external entities editing the significant documents and/or questions papers which can result in the loss of the students.

There also lies the risk of storing the login details. It is integral for the students to be alert about the possible misuse of the login information as the hackers may create problems for the legitimate learner in terms of accessing the E-Learning server.

Students should have the right attitude towards learning as instructors are not available 24/7, the willingness to self-explore resources is truly vital for a successful learning journey.

Competent writing and communication are two necessary skills for the students as there's no physical interaction between the users and instructors. These skills will help with smooth learning and feedback.

While the feedback from students will aid in improving the instructor's style of teaching, there's a risk of students forwarding the same feedback to the management.

Last but not the least, the users should be careful of online fraud such as Phishing whereby the users may be tricked into clicking into the duplicate E-Learning website as these duplicate sites look almost similar to the real one. The duplicate website may be able to retrieve the personal data of the user.

References:

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