**E-LEARNING**

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**Abstract**

*In many contemporary sectors, E-learning is often regarded as a ‘new’ form of learning that uses the affordances of the Internet to deliver customized, often interactive, learning materials and programs to diverse local and distant communities of practice. This view, however, is historically disconnected from its antecedent instantiations, failing to recognize the extensive links between developing educational theories and practices that had shaped the use of E-learning over the past 40 years. In addition, the historic divide between Education and Training has led to both the concurrent development of different notions, foci, and labels for technology-enhanced learning in different contexts and situations, and different conceptual origins arising in acquisitive and participatory learning metaphors.*

**INTRODUCTION**

E-learning is also called Web-based learning, online learning, distributed learning, computer-assisted instruction, or Internet-based learning. Historically, there have been two common e-learning modes: distance learning and computer-assisted instruction. Distance learning uses information technologies to deliver instruction to learners who are at remote locations from a central site. Computer-assisted instruction (also called computer-based learning and computer-based training) uses computers to aid in the delivery of stand-alone multimedia packages for learning and teaching. These two modes are subsumed under e-learning as the Internet becomes the integrating technology (Rodger, 2008).

The history of E-learning across all sectors is best summed up as: ‘Opportunities multiply as they are seized, as for the past 40 years, educators and trainers at all levels of Education, Business, Training and the Military made use of computers in different ways to support and enhance teaching and learning. (Chiu & Wang, 2008) Consequently, the contemporary use of the term ‘E-learning’ has different meanings in different contexts (Linda, 2014). In the Higher Education, Business, and Training sectors it relates particularly to Internet-based flexible delivery of content and programs that focus on sustaining particular communities of practice. E-learning in business and training can be characterised as being driven by notions of improved productivity and cost reduction, especially in an increasingly globalised business environment, with a focus on content delivery and online course management. These sectors initially employed the limited learning models extant at the time, but have since moved to incorporate a diverse range of learning models and foci (Nicholson, 2004).

According to Anderson (2008), Reporting on a number of international studies that the mere use of technology in the classroom does not guarantee learning improvement. Use of information and communication technology for learning process is called E-learning. E-learning is a term which is used to describe the online education and web based training etc. (Salleh, 2010). E-learning has become rapidly popular learning approach in higher educational institutions due to rapid growth of internet technology. E-learning is a process of using information and communication technology (ICT) to enhance and facilitate teaching and learning. Actual use of e-learning has significant effect in student’s academic performance. E-learning use is associated with increased student’s academic performance. In these days’ technology is a tool used to remove geographical barriers and facilitates everybody to learn anytime and anywhere in the world without the presence of the lecturer. The main of e-learning is to increase accessibility of education and reducing the costs and time as well as improving student’s academic performance. This approach of learning facilitates different students at different continents to attend the same classes almost at the same time. In these days technology is become a medium of teaching and learning without being at university campuses (Rehim, 2012).

# **E-LEARNING DOMAIN**

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

**Web-based training:** This type of training is Internetbased. In most cases the tests and document delivery are down through email and web. Classrooms, lecture notes, pamphlets, discussion rooms, e-mail and ... are among the features of this method and all are stored on the Web. However, due to the extra flexibility of e-learning you can design and implement the training method so that customized to fit with your work, existing conditions and facilities.

**Computer-based training:** In this method there is no need to an internet or network connection, except in special cases. In this manner information stored on an electronic interface (media) and then user can make use of it via a computer or reader device of this interface. A typical example is educational CD's.

**Education through mobile devices and digital tools:** In this method training is offered through mobile devices and digital tools, including tablets and PDAs.

**Education through mobile phones:** This training method is completely new and can be placed almost in the above mentioned group. But due to the increasing number of mobile phone users and focus on this method, which has been known as m-learning, is considered a separate group. This method can be implemented well, but it is necessary to provide a telecommunications infrastructure.

**Classification of e-learning types:** E-learning can be classified as three categories including personal learning, collective learning and virtual classroom (Rehim, 2012).

**Personal learning:** In this category, a person will choose his favorite areas of study. Then in their environment, especially Internet, will looking for related information and research in that field and then asks questions from teachers via offline relationship.

**Collective learning:** In this category, some conditions will be provided for people to communicate with each other and their teachers. Some of these tools are Forums, Chat and etc. In this method the time of beginning and finishing of the courses and exams are same for all members of the groups.

**Virtual classroom:** In this category, conditions are similar to classroom (and even in some cases attendance in the physical classroom is necessary). Here, video conferencing is used. Also often video projector devices are used instead of blackboard. Sometimes, it is considered a computer for each person and will be video link through the screen and camera or webcam, so that everyone is able to communicate via computer with instructor. This method can especially useful for classes which there are not available enough teachers and the teacher's mobility is not possible, especially for universities. A branch of this group is used in medical telemedicine.

**The importance of E-learning**

Use of electronic media, information and communication technology in education is called E-learning.

**Use of Technology**

According to Cheng (2017),the rapid development of computer and internet technologies has made e-learning become an important learning method. There has been a considerable increase in the needs for multimedia instructional material in e-learning recently as such content has been shown to attract a learner attention and interests. The multimedia content alone, however, does not necessarily result in significant positive learning performance and satisfaction. Moreover, it is expensive to design and develop effective multimedia instructional content that leads to desirable learning performance and satisfaction. The objective of our paper is to propose and empirically test a model that examines the impact of the fitness of instructional content and media on learner performance and satisfaction. According to Erik (2008), the individual acceptance and use of new technologies has been studied extensively over the last two decades. Especially the technology acceptance model (TAM) and its successor TMA2 have received a lot of attention. First, the technology studied is an e-learning system, also known as a virtual learning environment (VLE). VLSs are designed for supporting and improving the individual study process. They do so by offering a repository for course documents, discussion forums, chat boxes, mass communication options, etcetera. Within the overwhelming amount of technology acceptance studies the number of those studying the acceptance and use of VLEs is small but growing.

According to Chiu and Wang (2008)there are many approaches to Web-base learning. On one end of the spectrum, individuals access information resources on the Web to learn and solve daily task by themselves however, in our study, we focused on online classes offered at institutions of higher education. Web based learning is based on material delivered through a web browser over the public internet, private intranet or extranet. Its success depends mainly on learners loyalty i.e. continued use.

**Time saving**

According to Erik (2008), In the last few decades with the use of internet, email, multimedia technology and intelligence tutoring system on campus the Computer Assisted Learning (CAL) system become so popular. According to a survey it is recorded that majority of college professors use email to communicate with their students and one-third of college courses utilize CAL technology. Similarly, according to the report of jones in 2002, that majority of the college and university students own computers and wireless devices and use internet to enhance their learning experience and to save time. With the passage of time the use of internet is increasing rapidly that’s why the training and learning institutions have devoted great efforts and large sum of money to develop e-learning progress for use because it saves our time and increase our skills. (Chiu & Wang, 2007). Sound instructional practice includes in distance education courses, but is not limited to supporting and fostering the development of communities of practice, (Anderson, 2008). The students involved in higher education through distance learning need a venue to connect and actively engage with other member of the class, who they often have never met in person, and activities in distance education courses need to allow for students to apply their learning to authentic educational contexts, (Nicholson, 2004).

**Decrease Workload**

According to Salleh (2010), an important goal of instructional Design is to devise materials for, and methods of, instruction that maximize the chance that learning is both straightforward for the learner and effective in its outcome. By “straightforward for the learner”, we mean that as far as possible the complexity of what is to be learner is minimized. By “effective in its outcome” we mean that is learned develops the schemata to structure and encode what is learned so that when faced with future problems they are able to deal with them correctly and with minimal effort.

According to Molasalehi (2014) the following can be seen as other benefits of using e-learning system.

**Improve the quality of teaching and learning with e-learning:** Online learning environment at the university plays an important role in distance education, so that it can improve the quality of education Some ways to improve the quality of education, by means of internet learning environment, can be stated as below:

**Browse the courses:** Students can take offered courses through the Internet and they can read courses at your speed.

**Students will not ever lose your classroom:** In traditional education, some of students may lose your classroom due to disease such as corona virus, job obligations or family obligations. But, by mean of e-learning methods they will not lose your classroom.

**Traffic problems:** In traditional education some of students should travel long distances and spend much time to attend in the classroom. But by use of e-learning these problems can be solved and removed.

**Easy access:** All students can access to necessary information and resources through World Wide Web. For example, access to frequently asked questions, newsgroups, online libraries, catalogs and products information.

**Increase internet literacy:** Internet literacy is a necessity in today's Internet, just as 10 years ago computer literacy was a necessity.

# **Conclusion**

This study helps in understanding that how the time saving, decrease workload and technology effects on e-learning. There are different concepts which without them the information society can’t be realized. One of these concepts is education. Today, with the advent of virtual environments, very physical limitations in human life are eliminated. Traditional universities are forced to adapt to new changes and developments. In this new environment the roles of teachers and professors are changed, they will play a facilitating role. In fact, they are as instructors or instructional designers.

**Recommendations**

So, it is necessary change or design and commissioning appropriate educational management systems. Remote education systems are considered as tools to continuing education. These systems are including training teachers and students in the any age, any location, any social and political situation, with any educational.

The government and private institution should able to educate and initiate the learning at any time and place, with his own facilities. So, e-learning can be considered as an important and key issue to achieve such a goal.

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