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CONTENTS

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　　　NEED/IMPORTANCE OF THE STUDY

　　　STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

　　　OBJECTIVES

　　　HYPOTHESES

　　　RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

　　　RESULTS & DISCUSSION

　　　FINDINGS

　　　RECOMMENDATIONS/SUGGESTIONS

　　　CONCLUSIONS

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　　　ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

　　　REFERENCES

　　　APPENDIX/ANNEXURE

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● 　Always indicate the date that the source was accessed, as online resources are frequently updated or removed.

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vi

EFFICIENCY AND PERFORMANCE OF e-LEARNING PROJECTS IN INDIA

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ABSTRACT

e-learning means providing education and learning with the help of electronic devices like computer and internet. It has changed the whole concept of the learning process that is why; its popularity is growing quite fast. In fact, e-learning is a very interactive and creative way of learning.it is very useful in developing countries like India where education is the most important area of concern for its development. Government has taken many initiatives in e-learning project in last few years to upgrade education system in the country. The International known projects like National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning (NPTEL), National Mission on Education through ICT, National Knowledge Network, Sakshat Portal, e-Gyankosh, Pan Africa e-network project etc. has done credible work for the promotion and Development of e-learning. In this article researcher has tried to find out the efficiency and performance of these e-learning projects in India.

KEYWORDS

e-learning, e-learning projects,NPTEL,Sakshat portal ,India.

INTRODUCTION

e-learning is a teacher-less delivery mode of concept and a modern aspects of Information Communication and Technology (ICT), has the full potential to substitute traditional mode of learning. e-Learning is a cost-effective solution and comprises Voice-conferencing, Video-conferencing, Video-streaming, Virtual classroom, Virtual laboratories. It is the good option to bridge the digital gap.

E-Learning (or electronic learning) constitutes all forms of knowledge transfer including web-based learning, computer-based learning, virtual education opportunities and digital collaboration. It essentially relates to the computer and network-enabled transfer of skills and knowledge. Today e-Learning has integrated into every sphere where knowledge transfer is existent, be it in elementary schools, high schools, colleges, companies and more.

Experts claim that e-Learning medium is 'on a roll' due to the numerous benefits such as speed of delivery, increasing accessibility of learning, generating user specific content, reducing cost of learning and increasing flexibility. As, internet access grows across the globe, new users of e-Learning join the bandwagon with hefty investments into the e-tools of knowledge.

Now days government is also taking initiative in e-learning project to improve education level in the country. There are private companies and universities who are running e-learning projects for the betterment of the students. Universities are introducing distance courses through online classes to spread education to each and every corner of the country. Students are motivated to enroll in such kind of courses due to flexibility of the time and place. Young generation who is tech-savy is taking good advantage of these kind of projects for their knowledge enhancement.

WORLD FAME E-LEARNING PROJECTS

The International known projects like National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning (NPTEL), National Mission on Education through ICT, National Knowledge Network, Sakshat Portal, e-Gyankosh, Pan Africa e-network project etc. has done credible work for the promotion and Development of e-learning. These all are the world famous projects in the   area of e-learning.

E-LEARNING INITIATIVES

Sakshat Portal is the initiative of Ministry of Human Resource and Development(HRD), developed and designed by IGNOU and a repository of e-books, e-journals and digital repository **e-Gyankosh** is the digital repository of e-learning material, developed by IGNOU.

NPTL

NPTEL (National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning) was conceived in 1999 and funded by MHRD (Ministry of Human Resource and Development). Under the project, 7 IITs (Indian Institutes of Technology) and IISc (Indian Institute of Science) Bangalore, worked on the Rs 20.5 crore project from 2003 to 2006, to create 112 video courses and 116 web courses. All these courses are on undergraduate engineering topics, and made to meet most of the requirements of an engineering undergraduate program (at any Indian university). These courses are available to students, working professionals and colleges (both government-aided and private) at virtually no cost or very low cost.

AMRITA VISHWA VIDYAPEETHAM-- This initiative launched in 2004 uses satellite technology to connect 4 campuses of Amrita University located in 4 cities of South India. There is collaboration with US universities also, and the project was expected to expand to 200 universities. It was based on technological support from ISRO.

BITS PILANI-- It has established a virtual university, with DIT sponsorship. BITS has been one of the pioneers in distance education. BITS has been providing courses for working professionals in distance education mode leveraging technology.

JADAVPUR UNIVERSITY-- It started a new inter-disciplinary Masters in Multimedia Development course in 2000-01, as a distance education course using print material, CD ROM, and web-based learning environment. Technology was provided by CDAC Kolkata and CMC.

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1

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ALIGARH MUSLIM UNIVERSITY-- It worked on a project in 2006-07 to take its distance education program online, starting with a few courses which are industry-relevant.

CENTRAL INSTITUTE OF ENGLISH AND FOREIGN LANGUAGE-

Hyderabad It had a project for online learning software set-up and usage in 2006.

EXECUTIVE MBA PROGRAMS -

Another commercially successful initiative is MBA Programs being conducted for Working Professionals using Satellite Video technology, by institutions like IIM-Calcutta, IIM-Calicut, IIT-Delhi, IIFT, IIT Bombay, XLRI etc. This was done by these institutions using services provided by companies like HughesNet (formerly Hughes Direcway), Reliance Infocom and now NIIT Imperia.

Many other universities and colleges had had small projects/ initiatives where they bought software/hardware and other technology products, got content development done for e-Learning launch. It included the likes of Hyderabad University, Kerala University, Terna College Mumbai, MDI Gurgaon, etc.

In India, the University of Madras opened a Virtual University in partnership with University of Mumbai and University of Calcutta. This Virtual University system has led to the commencement of 10 joint degrees, post graduate and Ph.D programmes.

EDUCOMP –

Educomp Online is a comprehensive one-stop portal catering to the educational requirements of K-12 students, teachers and schools. It provides a host of teaching and learning solutions that includes rich media digital learning materials such as video tutorials and assessments to help students comprehend and internalize abstract learning concepts.

Educomp Online is a virtual school for Educomp smartclass schools. A portal for students, teachers, parents and schools, it provides the smartclass schools with a 360 degree learning experience.

Educomp works closely with schools to implement innovative models to create and deliver content to enhance student learning. Educomp's long undiluted focus on K-12, curriculum design and teacher education space in developing applications and products has revolutionized the learning process in India.

MAJOR PLAYERS IN THE INDIAN E-LEARNING MARKET

E-learning has attained a tremendous growth since 2000 and it has always continued to attract companies to enter the market. Some e-learning companies focus on diversified target segments and a few players focus on a specific e-learning sector.

The following is a list of some prominent e-learning companies in India.

- **NIIT TECHNOLOGIES** was set up in 1981 to provide training solutions for IT industry and now it has clients across 40 countries. This company is a pioneer in Indian e-learning industry and provides specialized learning solutions for corporations, government sectors, colleges, schools, and individuals. NIIT acquired ElementK, a leading US-based e-learning company, which provides a tailored catalogue of courses to corporate clients across the globe.

- **IBM INDIA** has a well established Learning Development division and has thousands of e-learning experts located in 55 countries across this globe. In India, they have-learning development centers at Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai, Chennai, Bangalore, Pune, Gurgaon, Noida, and Hyderabad. IBM has also setup a **Knowledge factory** at its Bangalore location to analyze the external and internal training requirements and provide innovative-learning solutions.

- **TATA INTERACTIVE SYSTEMS (TIS)** is part of the Tata Group and was started in the year 1990. This company had a steady growth over years and has around 600 multi-disciplinary specialists today across the globe. With 19 years of experience, this company has established its presence worldwide and has developed e-learning content across 1500 projects to cater corporate, education, and government sectors.

- **SKILLSOFT** is an Ireland based leading provider of e-learning products and has a center established at Bangalore. SkillSoft's *Books24x7* is one of the largest online, on-demand book resources with more than 20,000 titles. It provides on-demand e-learning and performance support solutions to global destinations and local Indian clients in key cities of India, such as Mumbai, Bangalore, Delhi, and Hyderabad.

- **SIFY E-LEARNING** was formed in December 2000 and in India it has office locations at Chennai, Delhi, Mumbai, and Bangalore. With eight years of experience in this domain, Sify e-learning has developed over 5000 hours training so far and it focuses more on the corporate sector.

- **LIONBRIDGE INDIA** has set up development centers at Mumbai and Chennai, and employs highly skilled engineering and content development teams. Apart from e-learning services, this company also provides translation and localization services. This company has opened a translation institute in India, **Aksharmala**, to provide professional translation services for Indic languages.

- **EDUCOMP SOLUTIONS** was incorporated in September 1994. This Delhi-based education company is the largest provider of technology education and learning services for the K-12 market in India. It serves approximately eight million students worldwide and employs around 4000 employees. It also provides online tutoring services since 2005.

- **TUTORVISTA** was founded in 2005 at Bangalore. This company provides 24x7 personalized online tutoring services to students from K12 to graduate level across the globe. It has around 1500+ online tutors from various cities in India.

- **GURUKULONLINE** headquarted in Mumbai is one of the largest providers of online library courses and over the years has developed around 5000 hours of learning content across 16 industry domains.

- **HARBINGER KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS** is a part of Harbinger Group and serves customers across 45 countries, including India. This company has its corporate headquarters at Pune, and also has units established in Mumbai and US locations.

Apart from these major players, there are several smaller companies in this segment, which play a powerful role in developing innovative e-learning solutions to the domestic and international market.

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COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF E-LEARNING PROJECTS

S. NO	Projects	Initiated or Managed by	Project started	Mode of teaching	Courses covered	Beneficiaries
1.	SAKSHT PORTAL	MHRD	2007	Online	e-books, e-journals digital repository	Undergraduate and post graduate students
2.	NPTEL	MHRD	1999	Audio and video classes	Engineering and science	Engineering colleges
3	**e-Gyankosh**	IGNOU		Online study material	Digital repository	All graduate and undergraduate courses
4	Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham-	Amrita university	2004	Satellite technology	Graduate and post graduate courses	Graduate or post graduate stuients
5.	Virtual university	BITS Pillani		Web base technology	Technology courses	Working professionals
6.	Masters in Multimedia Development course	**Jadavpur University**	2000-01	Web base technology	Multimedia courses for distance learning	Multimedia professionals
7.	Online courses	**Aligarh Muslim University**	2006-2007	Online classes	Industry relevant courses	Industry people
8	Online learning software	**Central Institute of English and Foreign Language**, Hyderabad	2006	Online learning software	language courses	Graduate and post graduate students
9	Executive MBA	**IIMs,IITs XLRI**	1998-99	Online classes	Management courses	Industry executives
10.	Educomp	**Educomp solutions**	1994-95	CD-ROM online study material	School courses	School students upto 12th class

OUTCOME OF THE STUDY

According to the above comparative study we find that all the e-learning project or initiative taken till date are giving benefit to mostly graduate or post graduate students. These projects are very successful and give extra knowledge to the students for their higher education and knowledge enhancement. Major advantage is flexibility of all the e-learning projects , students can access these sites 24X7 , anywhere according to their convenience. Government is also taking good initiative in e-learning projects like Sakshat, NPTEL projects are initiated by MHRDc(Ministry of Human Resource and Development). Reputed institutes of country like IIM's and IIT's are also working on E-learning projects to spread knowledge and success of almost all the projects shows the use of e-learning. MBA from IIMs, BITS Pillani virtual university, NPTEL are some of the projects useful for science or management students. These initiatives are more beneficial for distance teaching students who are not able to attend the classes in campus but still getting equally good quality lectures or study materials through e-learning technology.

International e-learning initiative taken at the government level, IGNOU, India's largest Open University, has announced the details of the virtual university for Africa after the Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh promised such an institution in May, 2011, at a summit in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The Pan-African E-learning Network of IGNOU will be devised as a robust e-learning network that will go a long way in alleviating the needs of African nations.

All the above e-learning projects and initiatives are successful and knowledge empowering, hence proves that how beneficial e-learning is in this knowledge era. Developing country like India can spread the education effectively to each and every corner of the country using e-learning technologies and projects.

CONCLUSION

In the above study the outcome is success of all the e-learning projects and initiatives that proves the quality education is given easily using e-learning technologies. Most of the initiatives are taken for graduate or post graduate level only few project like Educomp smart classes is useful for school students. Educomp smart classes give more clarity of subject through videos and animation. Students can easily correlate the topics with videos and take interest in subjects. It is installed in many schools in Delhi and NCR.

The above study shows that mostly e-learning project are giving benefits to only 40% of the country's population who are living in urban areas and are studying at graduate or post graduate level only. We should not forget that our 60% of the country population is still living in villages and are deprived from school education. If we really wants our country to grow we must develop some mechanism of e-learning that work for low income strata schools because knowledge is a power and country can only grow if most of the population is educated.

In the research "**Scope and challenges of e-learning in Rural areas of Haryana** " researcher has also given their recommendations which show that there is a need to work in the direction to primary education level, specially low income strata schools where actual problem lies.

The rural population of India is around 12.2% of the world's population and development of the rural sector and people living in rural areas is essential in the transformation of 'developing India into developed India'. E-learning technologies will definitely help in to attain the MDG (Millennium Development Goals) in rural India.

In the coming days, the e-learning would become easier. As the computers would be priced low and access to internet will be available easily, even in rural areas in India. So, when all the resources would be available the system of e-learning would excel. There will be a further improvement in the online Indian education system. Technology really has touched the lives of human beings by lending a comfort by making everything so easy. E-learning in India has already made its base and is now looking forward to rise outstandingly.

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The above study shows the benefit of e-learning in higher education. All the e-learning initiatives are focusing more and more on graduate or postgraduate students but if we see World Bank statistics found that fewer than 40 percent of adolescents in India attend secondary schools.

The Economist reports that half of 10-year-old rural children could not read at a basic level, over 60% were unable to do division, and half dropped out by the age 14.So if we analyze then we come to know that till date mostly initiatives of e-learning were taken for higher education but e-learning at primary education level is still on its nascent stage. So according to researcher, the work should be done in direction to low strata income group schools where actual problems lie. People studying in these schools are not getting proper education and their ratio is more in the society. So we must try to find e-learning solution which helps in giving quality education to these schools. The problem should be treated at the root level to gain and establish an educated society. Only educated population will build develop strong nation and e-learning will be definitely helpful in achieving quality education in schools. The following research is showing the need of e-learning in schools.

'SCOPE AND CHALLENGES OF E-LEARNING IN RURAL AREAS OF HARYANA'

This study was done in 2006 by Ajai Pal Sharma Assistant Professor, Tecnia Institute of Advance Studies, Delhi. In this study researcher covered Humanities and science & technology programmes of MD University, Kurukshetra University and Guru Jambheshwer University of Haryana. This study concludes that "it was

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difficult for the subjects to decide the clear cut superiority regarding the effectiveness of 'Traditional Classroom' or 'Virtual Classroom'. E-learning will continue to become more thoroughly integrated into the preK-12 market. E-learning will enable schools to offer more classes to their students, make learning more flexible to meet individual's needs and help schools meet the requirements of No Child Left Behind. While the data is still being collected on the success of e-learning, proactive schools will prepare for the future by investing in the technology and teacher training necessary to develop and implement e-learning."

The above study indicate that although e-learning is very popular and effective in higher study but it is more needed at the primary level or school level to increase the education level of the country.

Recommendations in regards to e-learning from The National Education Technology Plan for states and schools districts include:

- Provide every student with access to e-learning
- Enable every teacher to participate in e-learning training
- Encourage the use of e-learning options to meet No Child Left Behind requirements for highly qualified teacher, supplemental services and parental choice.
- Explore creative ways to fund e-learning opportunities.
- Develop quality measures and accreditation standards for e-learning that mirror those required for course credit.

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