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Present Society in the light of e-learning

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Abstract:

In the post-COVID scenario, human life is fully dependent on electronic devices. We can't imagine ourselves even for a moment without this electronic world. As education is an integral part of our life so the essence of e-learning plays a vital role in the development process of children. Nowadays, instead of looking for books or contacting someone for help, students start their searches online. As a result, e-learning becomes crucial in education. The researchers with their long-standing curiosity intended to focus a brief outline on the importance of e-learning in the field of education as well as in our society.

Keywords: e-learning, COVID-19, Synchronous, Asynchronous.

Introduction:

The world is changing with the unimaginable development of science and technology. What was far away only two decades ago is now in the palm of our hand. The whole world has been facing a terrible epidemic since last 2019. Due to the outbreak of COVID-19, the world has become known by the word 'lockdown' and at the same time, the world has witnessed the closure of all types of educational institutions. According to UNICEF, 26 million students are out of school today, which is alarming. In such a situation, e-learning has shown a new direction in the field of education. Since

the closure of educational institutions during the epidemic, most schools and universities have resorted to e-learning as an alternative way to keep the curriculum going. Through electronic gazette and internet, we can bring students and teachers back under the same roof. In this case, the roof is not made of bricks, sand, and stones, this roof is the internet that has bound us all in such a situation.

The use of e-learning is common since long before this epidemic with the help of modern information and communication technology in the field of distance education, open education system, parallel coaching classes of education and class activities, etc. but the need for e-learning has only been felt during this epidemic. The e-learning that used to be limited to a very small field has now become versatile.

Technological advancement in education has increased due to the unimaginable advancement of technology at present. One of the results of this technology is e-learning. E-learning means learning from the internet, i.e., e-learning is a method of doing classes directly from the internet or acquiring knowledge on any subject outside the conventional education system. If we are learning anything from the internet, then that is e-learning. This type of education is an online-based educational platform where different types of courses are offered, individuals can participate in electronic learning classes through electronic devices and internet connections.

Elliott Masie introduced the term "e-learning" in 1999, later, with the advent of computers all over the world and the availability of smartphones, tablets, etc. over time, the e-learning system spread widely and people made it easily acceptable. At present, e-learning is called by various names all over the world, such as Virtual Knowledge, Online Education, Computer Based Training, Web-Based Learning, etc.

So, the question is classroom teaching is done through the use of a computer, projector, audio-video teaching materials from time to time, besides these we record the classes in school and use these later, then all these are e-learning? The answer can be said, no, e-learning is not complete without the internet. The above mentioned subjects are the teaching of information and communication technology.

Historical context:

India has a long history of online education or e-learning. All India Radio Center and Doordarshan were the first to start broadcasting various educational record programs. It was not limited to higher education but also included school education. Educational organizations such as UGC, NCERT, IGNOU, initially took this service from All India Radio Center and Doordarshan.

The first ISRO teleconferencing started at IGNOU's headquarters (New Delhi) in 1994, where, despite not being physically present, teachers had the opportunity to talk to students. This teleconferencing provided oxygen to a large number of online courses (Management Studies, Computer Science) in India. In 2000, the teleconferencing service was recognized as a government

educational channel under Gyandarshan.

Later (2005), EDUSAT was created in collaboration with ISRO, MHRD, and IGNOU to improve the two-way communication between teachers and students. The plan was developed by the late Hon'ble President Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam.

Nowadays online learning has become much easier. Byju Raveendran and Divya Gokulnath launched Byju's Educational Software application in 2011, and it is the most expensive private internet company in India, headquartered in Bangalore, Karnataka.

Now e-learning is in the palm of your hand. While all schools and colleges are closed due to the Corona epidemic, this e-learning system has shown us the way of light. All the classes of schools and colleges are now being completed through e-learning only. There are many problems to learning through e-learning in different parts of India, especially in rural areas, but at the same time, it must be acknowledged that e-learning can meet the growing demand in the field of education.

E-learning in the context of West Bengal:

During the COVID period, the education system in our state of West Bengal was also affected like the rest of the states of India. The system of e-learning was started by different educational institutions on their initiative, although later guidelines were issued in this regard by the government. But one thing must be known that e-learning is not the first time in our state, in June 2016 (Ananda Bazar Patrika, 10 August 2018) the state budget emphasis has been given on this e-learning system of education. The state has officially introduced e-learning to enable students of one or more schools to take classes in other schools.

The first e-learning system was started in 10 schools in the state with the help of a foreign company called Cisco. The 10 schools in the state which have introduced this system are Hindu School in Kolkata, Bethune Collegiate School, Bankura District School, Purulia District School, Birbhum District School, Jhargram Rani Binodmanjari State Girls School, Nawab Bahadur Institution in Murshidabad, Malda District School, Jalpaiguri District School, Suniti Academy, Coochbehar.

Earlier in 2012, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had said that the education system in West Bengal would be restructured, and to fulfill this objective e-learning system for children was introduced in the primary schools under the control of Kolkata Municipality. In this new teaching-learning system, children are taught by sitting in front of a wide screen through a projector which is run by a computer. This e-learning program was launched in 100 schools in the first phase out of 260 schools run by the municipality. In the first phase, a cost of Rs 60 lakh was allocated for this.

Classification of e-learning:

We can generally divide e-learning into two aspects, viz

1. Based on time table:

- a) **Synchronous:** This type of learning is called real-time learning. In this case, the teachers and students stay in a different place and at the same time the teaching-learning process is completed through their online conversation, e.g., in Google Meet, Zoom, or WhatsApp through video call the teacher and the student has to be present at the same time and the learning process continues.
- b) **Asynchronous:** This type of learning is the opposite of synchronous learning. Here teachers instruct the students at their own time and students take instruction at their convenience. In this case, the presence of teachers and students at the same time is not desirable, e.g. teacher sent study material or learning material in WhatsApp group or email and the students learned these materials on their own time.

2. Based on the medium of communication:

- a) **Fully online learning:** As the name implies, this type of learning is done entirely online or through the Internet, where both the teacher and the student do not have a physical presence.
- b) **Blended Learning:** This type of learning is not just based online. In addition to the online, this type of learning needs the physical presence of teachers as well as students also. Both face-to-face learning and online learning are accomplished, for which many call it hybrid learning also.

❖ Advantages of e-learning:

There are numerous benefits to using e-learning. Although those aspects were already prevalent, they were limited to a very limited range. As a result of the widespread use of e-learning or electronic learning systems at present, the benefits of e-learning are being felt at all levels of society. Some of the benefits are mentioned below.

- In the e-learning method, learning can happen from anywhere using an internet connection. That means distance is not an obstacle in learning.
- In this method a skilled teacher can explain a subject to the students in detail through audio-visual.
- As there is no need to get together, age cannot be an obstacle to education.
- Although the cost of receiving education through the e-learning method is initially high later its cost is comparatively less, though it is possible to expand education by applying this method at all levels of society.
- It is possible to avoid any contagious disease like Covid-19 by using this method as there is no need for social gatherings.

❖ Disadvantages of e-learning:

To make this convenient system, in reality, society has to face many challenges. Here are some of them –

- The e-learning method is completely new to most people in society and as a result, both the teachers and the students are facing a lot of trouble adapting to this method.
- Till now, most of the third-world countries do not have access to an internet connection at all levels, so it is not possible for those people in marginalized areas to take advantage of e-learning.
- Moreover, learning through online platforms is still a luxury for many people, especially in the Third World, as they are not financially well off.
- E-learning requires both students and teachers to be technically proficient in order to learn properly.

Conclusion:

Education is the nation's backbone, and it is no longer restricted to the four walls of the classroom. A student can become adept and venture outside the country's boundaries to receive higher degrees from a variety of educational institutions using e-learning. We are committed to overcoming the constraints of e-learning and going forward, despite the fact that many of them exist. We must build an e-learning environment that allows students from all levels of the country to participate in e-learning. It will, however, be able to keep up with the changing times of a full nation and become a valuable asset. While e-learning has the potential to help our country overcome the constraints of effective reading, we must constantly remember that it is not a substitute for traditional reading. During traditional teaching, a teacher may see and speak with his pupils directly, and students can interact with the instructor in a variety of ways, including asking questions. In spreading the light of education, e-learning is equally as vital as traditional education. However, fundamental adjustments in the educational system are required in order to successfully adopt this e-learning system. According to experts, there is no other option. As a result, pupils will require notebooks, pens, and pencils in the near future. As soon as students take classes and tests, the e-world shakes their hands.

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