
Scope and Challenges of the Digital Learning in Present Era

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Abstract

In the present era, all the sectors were covered with the digital modes, eventually, after Covid-19. Digital learning means to provide education through any means that is accompanied by technology. The greatest benefit of the digital learning is that any persona at any corner of the world can learn whatever they want because digital learning provides easy access for required complete information. Digital learning and digital education had become more important after the Covid-19 pandemic. The present study aims to explore the scope and challenges in digital learning with the present scenario.

Keywords: Digital Modes, Covid-19, Digital Education, Technology, Required information.

Introduction

Digital learning refers to any type of education that uses and takes advantage of technology. Therefore, digital learning includes anything that involves learners using digital platforms, resources, systems, and apps. This can include taking online classes, researching on Google, watching online videos and using digital tools during face-to-face training sessions. It allows learners to access expertly designed courses and training material anytime and anywhere. Digital learning courses are usually far more interactive and engaging, thanks to mobile learning, active learning.

Importance of Digital Learning- After the pandemic happened, most organizations realized that traditional training methods, such as seminars and face-to-face workshops, aren't the way to go anymore. They used to be great for pre-pandemic workplace setups where your entire workforce is working in the same place at the same time. But with hybrid and work-from-home setups becoming more prevalent today, they can be hard to execute, if it's possible to do them at all. It's not just difficult to get them all in one place at one time. It's also costly and impractical to push for it. Given these changes, many organizations around the world are heavily shifting towards digital learning. You won't have to shell out hundreds and thousands of dollars on venue costs, trainer fees, and other miscellaneous expenses needed for in-person training. You can also cater more to your learners' personal learning styles and preferences with digital learning. It's a cheaper, more relevant to the times, and more efficient alternative to older training methods.

Difference between Online and Digital Learning- Online learning and digital learning are often interchangeable with each other. Especially since most digital learning happens online nowadays. But that's not the only form of digital learning available to your learners. Digital learning is a big umbrella that covers every type of modern learning technique today. Online learning is under the umbrella of digital learning. It only refers to the type of training your learners can get over the internet. It's usually taken on web browsers but can also be taken on other devices such as phones and tablets, as long as there's an internet connection, of course. Digital learning can happen offline through mobile offline learning, simulated training, and AR learning. Your learners don't necessarily need to be on the internet to continue with their corporate training.

Types of Digital Learning- With digital learning being a big umbrella term for training and development umbrella, it's important for you to consider which ones are actually relevant to your organization's needs and which ones aren't. Here are the different types of digital learning for you to check out:

Massive open online courses (MOOCs)- Probably the most popular type of digital learning, MOOCs are courses available online and can be taken and retaken at any time the learner wants. They're primarily seen on course marketplace sites or free websites such as Facebook, Google, and LinkedIn Learning. This type of digital learning typically follows a specific syllabus and mainly has pre-recorded videos and slides as its learning format.

Small private online courses (SPOCs)- Small private online courses differ from MOOCs in that they're designed to train a particular set of participants in a specific field. Some course management systems and LMS offer premium subscriptions so they can access SPOCs or have SPOCs made for them.

Mobile Learning- Mobile learning is exactly as it sounds. Its training programs are designed to be taken on the go for busy bodies and tight schedules. Your learners can watch informative videos or take interactive quizzes during their morning commute or even while on vacation. It gives your learners the flexibility to learn wherever they may be.

Simulated Learning- Simulated learning's ideal for teams that require a ton of hard skills compliance training. It typically uses augmented reality (AR) or virtual reality (VR) devices to simulate real scenarios in which you want to train your employees. This gives them the perfect opportunity to apply their newly-learned skills without risking bad interactions with third parties.

Online Classrooms- Online classrooms are created through learning management systems and allow your learners and trainers to connect online. This could be done through either synchronous interactions or asynchronous messages. This is a great digital learning option to consider when you have a global workforce that works remotely.

Digital Learning Platforms- Thanks to advanced technologies and the rampant use of computers and mobile devices, digital learning platforms empower learners through high-quality online learning. These systems were created to handle the hard lifting of delivering learning and measuring progress, allowing you to focus on fine-tuning your training materials. If you're looking to adapt one into your training program, here are some digital learning platforms

EdApp- EdApp is a mobile learning management system designed for today's digital habits, delivering more engaging and effective micro-learning directly to learners anytime and anywhere.

BlackBoard - BlackBoard's software developers emphasized three key areas that facilitate content management and use. These are course content management, communication, and assessment, all of which are available on BlackBoard. These features make BlackBoard a decent LMS solution, but the fact that it isn't free often redirects potential customers to another more accessible platform.

Dokeos - I An e-learning system that offers a full range of software tools. It was created by adapting Claroline. It supports graphic learning by creating mental maps and helps with administering,

structuring, and testing knowledge. Dokeos is mostly focused on the healthcare and manufacturing sectors. It's available for free for groups of up to five users. After that, Dokeos can be an expensive option.

OpenELMS

A system suitable for school-use and for smaller organizations. It's a learning platform that highlights the social and interactive aspects of learning. OpenELMS offers different interfaces depending on the type of user — learner, instructor, course developer, administrator, and inspector.

Opigno

An education management system built on a content management platform that contributes to increased engagement for online learning. It helps organizations around the world transform into real learning organizations.

Scope of Digital Learning- With overall Internet penetration in India currently around 31%, an ever-increasing number of internet users the digital learning business in India has gained a lot of momentum. Digital learning is the type of learning facilitated by technology and instructional learning based on technology. This type of learning involves various strategies like adaptive learning, badging and gamification, blended learning, classroom technologies, e-textbooks, mobile learning, online learning (or e-learning), open educational resources (OERs) and others. The companies providing digital education have various platforms for offering their services from 'EDUCOMP SmartClass/School' to 'MOOC'.

The basics of digital learning start with the publishing of e-books by various publishing houses for the students. And also the PDF versions are available to download easily all over the internet so that students don't have to spend a lot of money buying the book of which they just have to read a chapter or a topic. NCERT also gives free access to all its books in an app. Then come, the new generation of parents, who have a lot of exposure to the internet and the means to readily access various pre-schooling apps and websites for their kids to have a learning mindset at an early age. A lot of toys that are made in plastic and are quite bulky like identifying shapes (and placing them) and colouring books can now be easily accessed on iPads and tablets. NEST education is one of the latest endeavours in pre-school education; it has come up with its own smart pre-schools where teachers teach with smart tablets. Not only do applications and websites for students exist but also they are making life easier for teachers and educators as well. Websites for documentation, essay topic, smart classrooms, etc. This brings us to the next phase, the schooling phase, here, EDUCOMP an education consultant is credited as the pioneer in bringing the e-learning platform to the traditional brick and mortar schools' classrooms. Over the last two decades, it has been the front bearer of bringing the paper to pixel revolution in India by empowering over 30 million learners and educators across 65,000 schools. This may seem small compared to 13 lakh schools imparting elementary education in India. Analogous to EDUCOMP we also have Class TeacherLearning Systems (by classteacher.com) are providing interactive classroom technology in India, offering digital classrooms solutions to over 1500 schools, 2 million students and 75,000 educators all across India. To overcome this skewed nature of the smart schools to normal school ratio various replacement of conventional tuition classes are also being replaced by websites like meritnatio.com, byjus.com, etc. All these websites are designed to keep Indian students and their requirements of the school as well as college-level competitive exam coaching in mind.

According to elearningindustry.com almost 85% of the Indian population does not speak or write English. The creation of a Hindi (other supported local languages) digital education gateways to tap the suburban or rural market potential can prove to be a key element to penetrate deeper. Also, affordable internet access, data-enabled devices and appropriate internet plans can play a significant role in tapping the market. Less than predicted results are achieved through ventures like e-chaupals because of audience ignorance of the technology. Government of India initiatives like NOFN (National Optical Fiber Network) connecting 5 lac villages via broadband till 2017, 25 cities by Wi-Fi by the end of 2015, was a significant step in this direction.

Benefits of Digital Learning

- **Full-Time Access To Materials** - One of the most important benefits of using digital learning is that materials are always available to students—24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- **Facilitates Collaboration** - Working along with others is an important part of the working life in many businesses in 2022. Education can also benefit from digital learning as a collaboration tool, by bringing people together through video conferencing, enabling students and teachers to use shared documents, or simply by helping to prepare students for the world of work.
- **More Resources** - Resources such as recorded lectures or additional reading can be easily shared, giving students the opportunity to maximize their learning, and to go over subjects that they find more challenging as well as get extra information relating to subjects that they wish to understand better.
- **Better Engagement** - Digital analysis can help educational institutions to get a better understanding of the engagement of their students with specific parts of their courses, or the institution as a whole. This means that educational institutions can quickly pick up on it if a student is becoming disengaged, struggling with the course, or is ill, and have the tools to remedy the situation more efficiently.
- **Personalized Learning** - In addition to the existing learning strategies that are employed by educational institutions, there is increasing evidence that learning strategies such as micro learning and gamification are very effective as teaching methods.
- **Preparation for Work** - In the workplace in 2022 and beyond, we continually have to learn and adapt to new technology. The incorporation of digital learning and teaching, as well as engagement methods, can be a great way to prepare students for working life, both in the technology that they are using and also in the ability to learn how to use new digital tools.
- **Building Peer Communities** - Younger people especially often feel more comfortable sharing with their peers online, rather than face-to-face. Whether it is simply through community chat groups or a more structured learning environment, technology can be an excellent way to build communities among students as well as with their teachers, providing support and benefits to everyone. This can be used to connect students from around the world, without the need for them to be confined to the same room.
- **Boosts Accountability** - One of the greatest benefits of digital learning is that it can help to enhance student accountability. By giving students more control over their own education, what they are studying, and how they are studying it, they will also have more accountability over their progress. Although this should not mean that the educational institution leaves the

responsibility solely with the student, it does mean that the student can have a degree of ownership over their education.

Challenges of Digital Learning

- **Lack of Motivation in Students** - Students complain of lacking motivation due to a lack of interpersonal touch between the students and the teacher in the online classes. The need for physical interaction between the students is also a necessity for maintaining engagement which the online learning methodology has no answers for yet.
- **Infrastructural Problems** - In most developed nations, this infrastructure is available to the public through public libraries if they cannot personally afford it. But for developing countries such as India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and many others, this quality of infrastructure is only available to a select few percent of the population.
- **Digital Literacy and Technical Issues** - To proficiently learn through an online system requires understanding the workings of multiple software, which presents a huge learning curve. A bigger problem is with constant technical issues faced by both teachers and students on these platforms. These problems often require technical support to rectify, causing frequent disruptions in the learning flow.
- **Lack of In-person Interaction** - Humans is social animals. The growth of the internet hinged on the principle that humans will always be curious to interact and know more about one another. That said, on a psychological level, virtual interaction cannot mimic that of a physical one.
- **Lack of EdTech and Online Learning Options for Special Needs of Students** - The segment of students who have been completely ignored in the evolution of online learning is students with special needs. Special needs students need a more personalized and hands-on method of teaching. Though technology has improved drastically, it is still heavily dependent on the need for an expert or a teacher to be there full-time to guide the student through the tasks. These problems have caused special needs students to fall behind others in their academic pursuits.
- **Course Structure and Quality** - The shift to online learning and other modern teaching tools was thought to bring about a modernization even in the course curriculum and structure. Sadly, that hasn't been the case. Institutions have retained their obsolete course curriculum and structure even after shifting online. With companies such as Google and Tesla choosing to forego college as a prerequisite for employment, students are reconsidering college as a whole. Online resources such as YouTube, Google, Skillshare, Udemy, and others offer better content on these subjects for cheaper or even free. These platforms also let them pick and choose their subjects, making the learning structure highly flexible. This should cause Educational Institutions to rethink their approach to teaching as a whole.
- **Abundant Distractions, Lack of Discipline**- With recurrent technical issues, bandwidth problems, and monotonous lectures, online attendance has seen a drastic dip. Most students find learning online boring and often complain of lacking the motivation to make it through a class. Even teachers often complain of a lack of tools to make the classes engaging, leading to a loss of interest from both parties. With the lack of accountability in the online teaching method, education quality often becomes compromised. Coupled with the free use of laptops and mobile phones during classes, distractions have become countless, often coming at the cost of focusing during class.

- **Security** – Online courses and use of digital platforms do not provide any kind of security of the individual. While digital learning and looking for study materials from the internet one may come across to different harmful sites that are not good for him.

Conclusion- It is found that after the Covid-19 pandemic each and every sector collaborated with digital learning platforms. And through the digital learning any person can get educated or learned from the any corner of the world and whatever he/she want to learn. Lot of person get learn with the digital learning even they are illiterates.

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