Current trends of E-learning in India

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Abstract - E-learning is and approach to instruction and learning that utilize information and communication technologies to communicate and collaborate in an educational media. The level and impact of e-learning varies in our life from stage to stage. This paper focuses on the current situation of e-learning in India and its future. Here we also compare the growth rate of e-learning India with respect to other developed countries. Although e-learning has a potential in India, the adoption to this is very slow.

Key Words: Blended e-learning, IBT

1. Introduction:

E-learning is defined as an acquisition of knowledge and skills using electronic technologies such as computer, internet based courseware and local and wide area network. E-learning is a way of providing training and development to the employees through various electronic media such as internet, audio, video. In a society, the student generation have to be aware how to use the future leaders. Annually, the demand for higher education is growing globally and India is no exception to it. In fact, in India, the number of applicants is three to five times as against the number of seats in any institution of higher education. It can be also defined as an “Internet based Training (IBT)”. Therefore, need arises for such a system, which will help to reach to the maximum number of learners and ‘e-learning’ is the solution for it. E-Learning is the experience that is delivered or enabled by electronic technology. The delivery of learning or content can be over the intranet, extranet or over the Internet, via CDROM, interactive TV, or satellite broadcast (WAGNER, 2008). With the passage of time, student’s number is exploding on university campuses.

2. Scope of e-learning

There are basically to parts or phases of e-learning. In one phase e-learning is used for educational purpose and at other level it is been used for training. The educational; use is limited to secondary and higher secondary level. In the second phase it is used to provide training to the employees and to upgrade their skills. E-learning is growing at very low rate in India as compared to international market where it is been used at all levels.

In India if we can be able to make e-learning as a source of learning in rural areas then it is the easiest and fastest tool to educate people. If we consider the population in India it is hard to accommodate all the people in specific university or educational area to get the education

2.1 The Global eLearning Industry Market.

The global eLearning Market is expected to reach $107 billion by 2015 [5]. The global self-paced eLearning market reached $32.1 billion in revenue in 2010 [3], with a five year compound annual growth rate of approximately 9.2%. This means that the self-paced eLearning market should see estimated revenues of $49.9 billion in 2015 [3].

2.2 Top 10 Growth Rates By Country.

Growth rate shows how each country adopts eLearning and is a significant indicator since it can reveal revenue opportunities. The growth rate of self-paced eLearning by country is [3]:

1. India: 55%
2. China: 52%
3. Malaysia: 41%
4. Romania: 38%
5. Poland: 28%
6. Czech Republic: 27%
What are the benefits of e-learning?

A multi-billion dollar industry does not spring to fame without an amazing array of benefits tagging along, which make the millions all the more worthwhile. Let’s have a look at some of them.

It is cost-effective and saves time

E-learning courses do not demand students to be present in the classroom necessarily. Students can proceed with the courses from the comfort of their homes or any place they deem convenient. This cuts down the money on travel and saves a lot of time.

Let’s say an institute condenses 2900 hours of classroom training into:

- 600 hours of web-based training
- 500 hours of classroom training
- 300 hours of distance learning

This cuts the time spent on the training by about 52%. And the cost reduces considerably too. It is a win-win situation.

The self-paced aspect of e-learning shines through all obstacles

The best part about e-learning is that you can study whenever you want. Be it in the bus, the bookstore, the coffee shop, at home, on the run, or absolutely anywhere you want. And you can learn it at your own pace. With e-learning, there is no need to rush through your concepts and your understanding. If you hit a block, you can take a break and come back to it according to your own convenience. That is what self-paced learning is all about. Sounds fantastic, doesn’t it?

E-learning results in a higher knowledge retention

To make education interactive and interesting, e-learning employs numerous methods of:

- Blended learning approach
- Gamification

Challenges in e-learning in India

In case of India majority of population is leaving in rural areas so it is bit difficult to make them aware about the concept of e-learning. The second problem is to make it available to the rural areas. The problem of infrastructure, connectivity and internet availability are also there. The lifestyle of people also affect for all this. We can take these measures to implement the concept of e-learning in rural area where we will be having full utilizations of the system. The social implication of e-learning can be very important issue to be considered for the success of e-learning in India. The social implication consists of religion, gender, literacy, geographical area, literacy, lifestyle etc.

If we consider cultural issues the following factors matters which includes content, style of writing, material used and style of utilization. Some contents may be favorable or unfavorable to the to some group of people, so we need to take care of this.

Future of e-learning in India

E-learning has a major role to play in India to grow up in all aspects in international market. As India is one of the leading IT service provider countries. The presence of world class IT infrastructure and IT professionals enable it
to be one of the leading e-learning service providers in India. The government is taking proactive measures to boost the e-learning environment in India. Already lots of funds are being invested in setting up internet kiosks in rural areas for the purpose of communication which can be used for e-learning purpose.

3. CONCLUSIONS

The principal aim of this paper was to provide a summary of current trends in the development of e-learning in India. Unquestionably, e-learning will continue to grow in our organizations. In anticipation of this growth, the governments, business companies and professional associations can start focusing on applications and the effective and efficient implementation of e-learning. By recognizing that e-learning truly is a methodology, one can experience the greatest benefits that e-learning has to offer now and in the future.

In the end, the fact remains that, with respect to e-learning, poor quality procurement practices (in all sectors but especially in the public sector) are a barrier to growth and adoption. So it is necessary to make a thorough evaluation when it comes to choose an e-learning software for education in order to improve the knowledge of learners, the learning outcomes, the performance outcomes, the business and policy impact and in order to value the money spent.

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