



## VIRTUAL LEARNING AND ITS BEARING ON EDUCATION

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### **Abstract**

*Virtual learning is using online technologies to allow on demand access to high quality learning. It mainly includes- Virtual Virginia like Computers with internet access, web browsers, Netscape navigator or internet explorer version 4.0 or later local web server or ISP with FTP, Student email account, discussion boards, Instant messaging software, Controlled chat environment, Video conferencing software, Mini video webcams etc. Virtual Schools, Teacher's role, Virtual Sites plays an important role in A VLE (Virtual Learning Environment). It is an online platform that facilitates online learning. It includes wider range. It can be in various forms like e-journals, e-books, blogs, websites etc.*

Our education system is dynamic in nature. It has changed from the past to the present in many ways. It includes teaching and learning. Learning depends upon the medium of teaching. The latest innovation is the virtual learning which is carried out through online media.

### **MEANING**

Virtual learning is using online technologies to allow on demand access to high quality learning. It includes wider range. It can be in various forms like e-journals, e-books, blogs, websites etc. It has easy access. In this learning you need to develop on line virtual activities and classrooms via your computer. Web conferencing can open the world to both you and your students. A VLE (Virtual Learning Environment) is an online platform that facilitates online learning. Virtual learning programs offer flexibility to students while providing instructions aligned with the standards of learning.

Virtual is the common wealth's public schools includes programs operated by multidivisional online providers approved by the Board of Education and VDOE's , virtual Virginia , an online school offering advancement placements and foreign language courses .

## **VIRTUAL SCHOOLS**

In approving Governor Bob MacDonnell's "opportunity to learn" education reform agenda , the 2010 General Assembly directed the board of Education to establish criteria for the approval of virtual schools programs that provide instruction to students in multiple school divisions . The criteria and process were approved by the board in November 2010 to provide flexibility for diverse learners.

## **VIRTUAL VIRGINIA**

It offers pre-advancement placement (AP) and AP classes as well as academic electives and world languages. It is designed to meet the needs of students who are unable to take these courses due conflict with schools. The deadline for registering is the end of the first week of the local school calendar.

The following hardware and software tools create the basic foundation of virtual activities and projects.

- \* Computers with internet access.
- \* Web browsers: Netscape navigator or internet explorer version 4.0 or later.
- \* Local web server or ISP (internet service provider) with FTP.
- \* Student email account.
- \* Discussion boards.
- \* Instant messaging software.
- \* Controlled chat environment.
- \* Video conferencing software.
- \* Mini video webcams.
- \* Scanners and digital cameras.
- \* Video camcorders.
- \* Computer based video editing software.

\* Interactive multimedia software.

## TEACHER'S ROLE

The teacher must create and post the material for a virtual learning activity on the internet. These pages can reside on a local school server, on free personal web page sites, or if connected to the internet via an ISP, on their server. These instructions then require the students to perform assigned readings, conduct library research, compile resources gained from surfing the net, notate research material from CD-ROMS, and other research resources. The final page may be posted by the students on the internet with a brief page of what they learned. The teacher can use this to post homework assignments, gather student feedback. The teacher can use this information further for improving the objectives. The length of the project must be decided by the teacher. These virtual experiences can benefit us at a large scale and are more effective. Learning through these experiences can benefit us in many ways given as below

- 1 With virtual experience, there is no risk.
- 2 With virtual experience, we can simulate any condition we want.
- 3 With virtual experience, we can isolate cause and effect.
- 4 With virtual experience, we can accelerate and control the timing of events.
- 5 Virtual experiences can be personalized and measured.
- 6 Virtual experience can be highly motivating.
- 7 Virtual experience can be highly scalable and widely accessible.
- 8 With virtual experience, we can succeed through failure.

## FREE E-LEARNING SITES

Virtual learning can be done through various free e-learning sites some of the e-learning sites have been mentioned below.

- 1 Findtutorials.com
- 2 Beginners.co.uk
- 3 De central
- 4 Ehow.com
- 5 Lifelong learning

- 6 Techtutorials.com
- 7 Wannalearn.com
- 8 Worldwidelearn.com
- 9 Howstuffworks.com
- 10 Free-ed.net
- 11 Intelinfo.com
- 12 Learn2.com
- 13 TheTutorial.com
- 14 FindTutorial.com
- 15 Web monkey
- 16 Autodidact
- 17 Learnfree.com
- 18 Online Sapiens
- 19 Goodwill Global Learning
- 20 The Creativity Portal

### **ADVANTAGES OF VIRTUAL LEARNING**

Following are the advantages of virtual learning.

- 1 Retaining the job while attending the school. With online learning, both can be done.
- 2 Learning at any time. It can be done without disturbing our family life.
- 3 New findings from anywhere in the world can be brought in quickly and easily. New concepts and changes can be known easily.
- 4 Student interactions are increased as the students share their views all around the globe.
- 5 We can study with such experts who are giving online courses anywhere in the world.
- 6 In an online class a student can learn at his own pace. Classes are usually open 24 hours a day seven days a week.
- 7 Personal and business emergencies can be solved and handled without any problem .

- 8 Physically handicapped students benefit from these courses.
- 9 Ageism is unlikely to exist. Other students do not know your age.
- 10 Money is saved through these courses.
- 11 Time is saved in making lecture notes and organising the material.
- 12 Financial aids are also available to online students.
- 13 No residency requirement for online schools.
- 14 On line classes may be more equitable, ensuring that all students are treated equally.
- 15 Geographic and socioeconomic disadvantages are minimized.
- 16 Cross cultural and hands of learning experience are increased.
- 17 Students research and writing capabilities improve quickly which helps the students to perform well.
- 18 Students participation in the class increases.
- 19 Less behaviour problem occur in the class.
- 20 Teacher are able to track the strength and weaknesses of their students easily.

#### **DISADVANTAGES OF VIRTUAL LEARNING**

Virtual learning has some disadvantages also.

- 1 It is not good for those students who require eye contact with the teacher for their focus.
- 2 If you depend on class peers to motivate you, online education may be tough for you.
- 3 If u enjoys listening to teachers and other students, the more visual style required for online learning may not work for you.
- 4 If you know that your appearance or style or interaction has helped you win in the past, online learning may nullify these advantages.
- 5 Students who has to learn computer and the Internet will likely experience a learning curve and have to work doubly hard to keep up with the class.
- 6 Those who prefer to listen only in lectures and class will find that online learning requires a record of their participation.
- 7 Passive learners will find it tougher.

8 Your emotional aspect is also at a disadvantage.

9 On line learning through the computer is costly especially for the rural areas.

10 Electricity is also a main problem.

## **CONCLUSION**

This learning has provided educators with new opportunities for teaching and learning that does not require schools or teachers to spent thousands of dollars for expensive equipments. Web conferencing can open the world to both you and your students. Everything you need to develop is to plan the virtual learning activities which can be made available in the classrooms via your computer and web browser. We can offer students a learning experience that feels just like physical classroom, where an instructor can virtually lecture and conduct hands on labs with the students. Working in the virtual environment will enhance the skills specially the Internet skills and open the door to cross cultural experiences.

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