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M -LEARNING: A WAY OF LEARNING

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Abstract

In line with the technology development, learning method has evolved and transformed in acquiring effective and efficient learning system. For the new age education, connectivity pedagogy is a new phase in the education system and mobile learning (m-learning) is one of the supporters for this connectivity pedagogy. M learning is considered as the next generation of e-learning using mobile technologies. Students' awareness of such technology is one of the most focuses for success adoption. This study aims to investigate effective of mobile technology in learning. A small experiment carried out on postgraduate students of education faculty. The procedure and result is shown here with qualitative discussion.

Keywords. *m- Learning, e- learning, learning technique*

Introduction

In the 20th century, mobile learning (m-learning) was part of what defined e-learning. Electronic devices supported the instruction. As technology becomes more sophisticated, smaller, and increasingly portable, and learners increasingly adept at mastering it, the relevancy of m-learning in the world of education has increased. M-learning has now evolved into a discipline of its own. Corporations and educational facilities have recognized the need for this emerging method of instruction.Mobile learning is a technology that uses wireless communication to support the transmission of educational content (test, video, voice, or multimedia) to mobile devices that provide freedom of time and location, it represents two main characteristics of mobile wireless technology that is reachability and mobility (Laouris & Eteokleous, 2005).According to Rekkedal and Dye (2007) in the word m-learning "m" stands for "mobile", representing the back- stage mobile delivery technology. It is obvious that for the expansion of the idea of

learning and the creation of learning schemes that are based on the effective use of motivation that arises when a student is faced with the stimuli, mobile devices with Internet access can offer significant advantages. Mobile technology actually offers the appropriate educational environment to assist learning activities both inside and outside the classroom.

Opposite to the limitations of working and learning only in the classroom or in the lab, mobile technology offers access to learning material regardless of location and time. In this framework mobile learning is translated into flexibility in accessing learning materials but also classmates and teachers anytime, anywhere. Mobile learning is the ability to enjoy an educational moment from a cell phone or a personal digital assistant (Vavoula, 2005). Mobile learning is defined as the provision of education and training on mobile devices: Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs), smart phones and mobile phones. One of the characteristics of mobile learning is that it uses devices which citizens are used to carrying everywhere with them, which they regard as friendly and personal devices, which are cheap and easy to use, which they use constantly in all walks of life and in a variety of different settings, except education. Mobile technology can be use as learning tool in education. There are many researches carried out on mobile learning but the number of researches is very low in compare to international level. Mobile has potential and its potential ability should be checked at different level of education. Keep in mind this thing researcher carried out a small experiment on M. Ed. (postgraduate level) student of Department of Education, Bhavnagar University, Gujarat to check feasibility of m learning at post graduate level.

Methodology

16 students of Educational Technology group of academic year 2012-2013 were selected as a sample for experiment and single group pre test post test design was used for this study. *introduction of technological innovation* - A topic was selected as content for the experiment like,. A test of 20 marks was taken as a pre test. Students were asked to use their mobile phone to search information regarding the topic. They were free to make group for searching the information because of shortage of advance/ smart mobile phone. The experiment was carried out for three days (one lecture of one hour per day). On third day of the experiment, the same test was given as post test and data collected on it.

Data Analysis

Quantitative Data analysis was done with the help of SPSS and qualitative data analysis was done according to its nature.

Test	N	mean	Std. Deviation	t
Pre Test	16	4.31	2.05	
Post Test	16	14.18	3.93	8.89

There was significant difference found on 't' value ; Mean of both tests show that achievement of post test was much higher than the pre one.

Result and Discussion

Result of quantitative data showed that learning by mobile was effective. It was one side of the experiment but the other side- qualitative side was much stronger. Researcher noticed that students were involved in learning during the experiment. Some of those students were not much familiar with smart phone and internet but they showed their interest in learning. Experts show the useful trends in m learning, like: technology-driven mobile learning; miniature but portable e-learning; connected classroom learning; mobile training and performance support; informal, personalized, situated mobile learning; and remote/rural and development mobile learning. Researcher found this instrument useful in learning and the benefits of use of mobile phone in learning are the same showed by Attewell (2005) - and those are:

- helps learners to improve literacy and numeric skills
- helps learners to recognize their existing abilities
- can be used for independent and collaborative learning experiences
- helps learners to identify where they need assistance and support
- helps to overcome the digital divide
- helps to make learning informal
- helps learners to be more focused for longer periods
- helps to raise self-esteem and self-confidence

Such general observation was seen during the experiment. The observation shows that mobile learning supports learning situation.

Conclusion: Mobile learning can also provide good support to inform various schedule of university, and other relevant information related to their studies. It can be useful for receiving results from university offices, information regarding assignments submission, schedule of

workshops, schedule of tutorial meetings, results from tutors, feed back on assignments and receiving print material and study guides.

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