A Conceptual Paper on International situation of e- Learning

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Abstract

Distance education has a history that spans almost two centuries (Spector, Merrill, Merrienboer, & Driscoll, 2008), and this time period represents significant changes in how learning occurs and is communicated. From basic correspondence through postal service to the wide variety of tools available through the Internet, society has embraced new forms of communication through the years. One such form, online learning is known to have a history of access beginning in the 1980's whereas another term, referred to as e-Learning, does not have its origins fully disclosed (Harasim, 2000). The design of different types of learning environments can depend on the learning objective, target audience, access (physical, virtual and/or both), and type of content. It is important to know how the learning environment is used, and the influences of the tools and techniques that distinguish the differences in learning outcomes as the technology evolves.

Introduction:

Understanding e-Learning is simple. e-Learning is learning utilizing electronic technologies to access educational curriculum outside of a traditional classroom. In most cases, it refers to a course, program or degree delivered completely online. There are many terms used to describe learning that is delivered online, via the internet, ranging from Distance Education, to computerized electronic learning, online learning, internet learning and many others.

e-Learning can be defined as , courses that are specifically delivered via the internet to somewhere other than the classroom where the professor is teaching. It is not a course delivered via a DVD or CD-ROM, video tape or over a television channel.

It is interactive , in that you can also communicate with your teachers, professors or other students in your class. Sometimes it is delivered live, where you can "electronically" raise your hand and interact in real time and sometimes it is a lecture that has been prerecorded. There is always a teacher or professor interacting /communicating with you and grading your participation, your assignments and your tests. e-Learning has been proven to be a successful method of training .

- **Statement of Problem :**

 To study the international situation of e-learning.

- **Significance of the Study :**

This study is significant as it would explore the situation of e-learning internationally.

- **Delimitation of the Study :**
1. This study is limited for the studying the situation of e-Learning in United States of America only.

- **Limitations of the Study :**
1. The limitation of the study is that all the literature on the topics could not be explored due to the time constraints.

- **Operational Definition :**

  1. **e-Learning :**

     It is the learning conducted especially away from the classrooms, buildings or sites to the other locations using video, audio, multimedia communications, Internet or some combinations of these with traditional

delivery methods.

- **Objective of the Study :**

    1. To study the international situation of e-learning.

- **Assumption :**

    1. e-Learning is one of the important mode of gaining education in United

        States of America.

- **Research Methodology :**

For the study of this problem , Survey method was selected. As the purpose of

this study was to gather information about the international situation of

e-Learning .

- **Data Collection :**

    ▪ **Population :**

        All the institutes in United states providing education through the mode

        of e-Learning .

- **Tools Used For Data Collection :**

All the needed data for the present study was collected from Internet.

- **The Situation of e-learning in U.S.A. :**

e-learning has gone from being fairly uncommon to fairly widespread over
past

five years in The United States of America. The top second and third tier

Universities from America have entered the online market of providing
education.

American Universities offer an expanding number of online programs and classes

to help students reach their professional and educational goals.

A rapidly growing number of organizations worldwide are now delivering training and education over the Internet. There are an estimated ten-million courses now online, and the U.S alone reports about 700 e-learning companies. In addition to college and university courses and degree programs, some e-learning companies or institutions offer online tutoring to students at specific grade levels, ranging from primary through university; others offer courses only for corporations; some offer courses for individuals in career development and/or personal development; and many offer training in various management, finance and IT-related skills.

Increasingly, training and support for teachers is occurring online, and a number of institutions now offer either partial or complete secondary diplomas through

e-learning.

For example, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) recently announced that learning materials and syllabi for all courses were being put on the Internet for anyone to use, although students must be enrolled in the institution to obtain course credit.

The Virtual University in Monterrey is providing a year-long course for 25,000 in service teachers through either satellite television or the Internet, and has been delivering online courses in business, finance and information technology

since 1989. The United States Army recently announced the launch of the Army U, a complete online university degree program available to all Army personnel. In June 2000, the European Commission formally integrated e-learning into its global

Plan.

- **E-learning's Rapid Growth :**

Many believe that e-learning can make the learning experience richer, more engaging and more interactive and that it provides faster learning at reduced costs, dramatically expands access to learning, and assures clear accountability for all parties in the learning process**.**

- **International Efforts in E-Learning :**

UNDP.The United Nations Public-Private Partnerships for the Urban Environment offers distance learning as part of their Global Learning Network. According to published information from its Web site, "UNDP and Yale University initiated distance learning as a flexible instrument for universities and other training institutions worldwide to design joint classes on PPP for their students to facilitate the exchange of information between participating universities."

OEI. The Organization of Iberio-American States has a mandate from the Ministers of Education in the region to develop an education portal for all OEI member states (members are from 24 countries, including Spain, Portugal, Mexico and Equatorial Guinea as well as all Latin and Central American countries). The purpose of the portal

is to provide educational services and training, including courses and scholarships, and to increase Spanish-language and Portuguese content. Their first course is on ethical values conducted in collaboration with Barcelona University, for which 350 teachers are receiving scholarships.

- **Mexico and Latin America :**

  Monterrey Tech's Virtual University has been delivering education at a distance with the use of technology since 1989. It reaches 6,500 graduate students and 58,000 non-credit students a year in ten Latin American countries, and has partnered with the OAS to deliver a 260-hour training program online and through satellite technology to teachers throughout Mexico and Latin America. The Virtual University has partnerships with recognized institutions and universities such as the World Bank, University of British Columbia, University of Texas in Austin, and Carnegie Mellon University. It offers a range of short courses, seminars and degree programs with a primary focus on programs in business, including MBAs and Ph.Ds in business.

- **United States:**

  In 1998, the U. S. Congress launched a nationwide year-long study of e-learning, holding hearings around the country and receiving testimony from hundreds of experts in various areas of e-learning. The Web-based Education Commission explored the use of the Internet to enhance learning opportunities

for all learners from pre-kindergarten through university, and including corporate training and lifelong learning. The Commission's recommendations included a national call-to-action to:

- Make broadband Internet access widely and equitably available and affordable for all learners.

- Provide continuous and relevant training and support for educators and administrators at all levels in the use of technology for teaching & learning.

- Develop a new research framework of how people learn in the Internet age.

- Develop high quality online educational content that meets the highest standards of educational excellence.

- Revise outdated regulations that impede innovation and replace them with

 approaches that embrace anytime, anywhere, and pace learning. This includes rethinking mechanisms and policies regarding granting of credits,

 degrees, availability of funding, staffing and educational service.

- Ensure protection and privacy of online learners.

- Ensure sustained funding in support of enhanced teaching and learning via the Internet.

Distance education provided the base for e-learning's development. e-learning can be

"on demand ". It overcomes timing, attendance, and travel difficulties.

Many e-learning courses now exist in areas related to operating a small business, but few, if any of these are targeted to an audience that may have low levels of literacy. Many online education institutes provide a catalog of online courses that may be appropriate for small businesses, including accounting, finance, marketing, sales, etc. In addition, the most prevalent e-learning courses are in information technology skills, and at the graduate level, MBAs. Little has been done, however, to facilitate access of the poor to e-learning, which will require a range of financial and human support structures. These and many more benefits of distance education have made this concept on e-learning more and more popular in USA. People prefer more to take education along with the work they are doing. This has led the various educational institutes to make available variety of courses for e-learning.

There are more online colleges in the United States of America, than ever before. It's hard to deny how easy it is to get a degree when you don't have to drive to a campus three times a week and take classes at a specific time each and every day. Instead, online colleges allow you the flexibility to take the classes when it's convenient for person, allowing him to get the degree he need while still working or doing anything else that he is doing.

Top Ranked Online Colleges in United States of America for 2014 :

1. Walden University :

More than 46,500 students from all 50 states and over 145 countries choose Walden University for their online higher education. Close to 80 percent of students work full-

time or are self-employed. Walden University offers flexible online degree programs for bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees, as well as individual courses and certificates. Students are able to choose from more than 75 degree programs, ranging from communications to nursing and social work.

2. Ashford University :

Recognized for its strong online presence, Ashford University has been ranked as the fifth best online college by MyCollegesandCareers.com.

3. Post University :

Post University delivers quality education conveniently. Just a few of the many degree programs offered include business administration, human services, management, criminal justice, early childhood education, and marketing. With a student to teacher ratio of   23 to 1, students receive the benefit of small class sizes and increased one-on-one assistance with professors.

4. Independence University :

For more than three decades, Independence University has provided distance education and online programs catered to meet the needs of working adults. Accredited by the Commission of Career Schools and Colleges, Independence University reaches beyond the barriers of traditional on-campus education to provide educational independence to students nationwide and internationally.

5. Colorado State University :

Colorado State University's Online Plus enables more than 10,000 students to gain a world-class education annually.

6. Liberty University :

More than 80,000 students from all corners of the globe enjoy high-quality education in more than 160 online degrees from certificate to doctoral levels. Liberty University

is consistently recognized by the Online Education Database as being among the top 10 online universities, due to its high retention and graduation rates.

7. Kaplan University :

As part of the Kaplan Higher Education Corporation of the Washington Post Company, Kaplan University is a fully online higher education institution. After being founded in 1937, Kaplan has become one of the world's leading providers in lifelong online education. The average class size is 21 for undergraduate and 15 for graduate courses, which means students have more opportunity to work individually with instructors.

8. Western Governors University :

The private, non-profit, online Western Governors University is renowned for being the only university in the nation to receive simultaneous accreditation by four regional accrediting commissions. As a result, students enrolled in the wide range of online degree programs can rest assured of a high-quality education, legitimate degree credentials, and transferable credits to other accredited institutions if needed.

9. National University:

As the second largest non-profit institution for postsecondary learning in California, National University is recognized for providing higher learning opportunities to more minority students than any other college in the state. National University ranks in the top 10 in the nation for granting the most master's degrees.

10. Grand Canyon University:

Grand Canyon University, students have more than 100 online bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degree programs to choose from. Accredited by the Higher Learning Commission, the high-quality academic programs provide 4-credit courses, which allow students to complete their degree at a much faster rate.

List of Few U.S. Top Schools with E-learning Programs :

University of Minnesota - Twin Cities	51,659	(612) 625-5000
University of Florida	50,691	(352) 392-3261
Michigan State University	47,071	(517) 355-1855
Pennsylvania State University	45,185	(814) 865-4700
Indiana University - Bloomington	42,347	(812) 855-4848
Florida State University	39,785	(850) 644-2525
Florida International University	39,610	(305) 348-2000
North Carolina State University at Raleigh	33,819	(919) 515-2011
Virginia Commonwealth University	32,172	(804) 828-0100
Boston University	31,960	(617) 353-2000
University of Cincinnati	31,134	(513) 556-6000
Northeastern University	27,537	(617) 373-2000
George Washington University	25,061	(202) 994-1000
Columbia University in the City of New York	24,230	(212) 854-1754
Drexel University	22,493	(215) 895-2000
Syracuse University	19,638	(315) 443-1870
Rochester Institute of Technology	15,445	(585) 475-2411
The New School	10,260	(212) 229-5600
University of Illinois at Springfield	4,977	(217) 206-6600

- **Benefits of E-Learning :**

1. **Any place:** Participants do not have to meet in person, nor even be in the same country as the teacher. Students and teachers can be anywhere in the world. International sharing is feasible and in fact, often makes the learning experience richer and more interesting to learners. Individuals can log on at work, home, the library, in a community learning center or from their hotel

when traveling.

2. **Asynchronous interaction**: Unlike face-to-face or telephone conversations, electronic mail does not require participants to respond immediately. As a result, interactions can be more succinct, considered and to-the-point. Learners have time to craft their responses, and to think about what others in the course have written. This, in turn, can lead to more thoughtful and creative conversations.

3. **Group collaboration:** Electronic messaging creates new opportunities for groups to work together, creating shared electronic conversations that can be thoughtful and more permanent than voice conversations. Sometimes aided by on-line moderators, these net seminars can be powerful learning and problem-solving experiences.

4. **New educational approaches :** Many new options and learning strategies become economically feasible through online courses. Online courses also can provide unique opportunities for teachers to share innovations in their own work with the immediate support of electronic groups and expert faculty.

5. **Enriched learning through simulations, gaming & interactivity:**
   Academic and workplace research shows increased understanding and more enduring learning when learning activities engage students and immerse them in experiencing the activity or skill being taught. Simulations, games and online collaborations are being used increasingly in e-learning environments.

6. **Integration of computers:** The online learner has access to a computer, so computer applications can be used without excluding some participants.

7. **Performance Support:** Some e-learning providers are also providing workers with on-the-job performance support to boost task performance directly related to business goals and the learning experience.

- **Conclusion :**

Distance education has served specific social needs in its formative years as well as during the 20th century. In the second decade of new century the accelerating pace of innovation in Information Technology and blooming research in education field introduced more theoretical, conceptual and practical opportunities, as well as challenges for the professionals in the field.

Technology in the field of education is a powerful tool. The future is all about technology and multi-screening. Education can't lag behind.

E-learning this concept is becoming popular as it engages and challenges students with brad new and interactive methods of interaction, such as digital learning, communication, collaboration, mobile learning, planning, valuing diversity, problem solving.

One of the challenges with making e-learning effective is how you manage the courses and access to resources. E-learning is cost effective and can produce great results. It's all a matter of how you use it.

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