COMPARATIVE STUDY ON DIGITAL LEARNING AND CLASS ROOM LEARNING

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Abstract

The digital learning is learning through electronic means with the Internet as the renowned choice. Learning effectiveness, cost effectiveness and Institutional commitment, access, faculty satisfaction, and student satisfaction are the major factors influencing digital learning. Class room teaching and learning process is based on active involvement of both teacher and student.The teaching strategy is based on time, place and equipments available.For certain areas class room learning is best but it lacks the use of digital technology. Educational technology helps to gain and hold attention, makes points clearer, makes students more on self- study, stimulate discussion and in general, enhance the learning process. This paper is an attempt to know the influence ofdigital learningover classroom learning.

Key words: Digital learning, teaching strategy, class room learning

Introduction

Education is a process of sharing and disseminating information from one person to another. This information helps people to think effectively, to work properly and to make sound decisions as the needs arise. Education should not only provide with the right information at a time but also ensure the full understanding and processing of information in a given context. Education is one of the most important needs in life like foods, clothes and shelter.There are many different ways of learning, and teaching is only one of them. Hence, the objective of education is learning, not teaching.

Classroom learning, as the name suggests, encompasses the merits of the setting of one traditional classroom. Classroom learning needs a certain number of participants or students to be active listeners & participate in that learning environment. The students and teachers need to be physically present in the classroom. It promotes an open exchange of ideas and face-to-face interaction of the students and the teachers. The classroom learning also promotes socialization among the teachers and the students via team projects, peer evaluation, and group discussions.

The classrooms learning usually consist of one teacher and a fairly large number of students. The instructor often fails to give equal attention to each of the students and hence, passive learning takes place. This is the biggest disadvantage of classroom learning.

Now the use of technology is on the rise. Due to the emergence of internettremendous opportunity has opened up in front of the world.

Technology has taken us so ahead in our lives that almost everything is available to us at the tap of a finger on our Smartphone; education is not an exception to this. We are now in the era of eLearning. The process of learning is now accessible over the internet.

In recent years, online learning has become increasingly popular across the higher education spectrum .Currently, the colleges and universities, and even secondary schools, have incorporated digital learning as a teaching strategy but most of these institutions are either using Internet-based or are web-based materials.

Digital learning is replacing traditional educational methods more and more each day. Sotheschools and educational institutions start thinking about newer teaching and learning techniques based on digital learning tools and technologies. The inclusion of digital learning in the classrooms can vary from simply using tablets instead of paper to using elaborate software programs and equipment as opposed to the simple pen.

Digital learning is the acquisition and use of knowledge distributed and facilitated primarily by electronic means. It consists of web based teaching materials, e-mail, blogs, wikes, test chat, computer aided assessment, educational animation, simulations, games, learning management software, electronic votingsystems etc. Digital learning is a means of education that incorporates self-motivation,communication, efficiency, and technology. It is a flexible term used to describing a means of teaching through technology. Digital learning refers to the use of Internet technologies to deliver a broad array of solutions thatenhance knowledge and performance (Rosenberg, 2001; Wentling et al., 2000).

Advantages of digital learning

1. Flexible timings: No need to stick for fixed timings. Students can pursue desirable courses at their convenient timings without foregoing their careers. Students can complete the entire course along with their other commitments. Digital learning makes them adopt appropriate timings to meet educational requirements.

2. Better Interactions: Students can interact with their peers across the world. Better interactions prove better learning and awareness. Peer interaction always enhances confidence in motivating students to get in-depth knowledge.

3. Better access to subject experts: Digital learning provide students, professionals an opportunity to access to expertise they are searching. They may not easily available in their locality and they might need to travel far away places to access the same.

4. Access study material irrespective of the place and time: Since the courses are conducted through online study materials are stored safely. Databases of these courses contain discussion documents, interactive peer to peer discussions, training materials and clarifications. One can sort out not only their doubts but doubts raised by other students studying the same course. That means a deeper understanding of the concerned course.

Advantages of classroom learning

1. Teacher'sguidance: In class room learning students get full attention and guidance of teacher. They get clear explanation of the topic and are more dynamic. Moreover teacher can give gentle push to improve the performance of students.

2. Motivation: The class room learning creates an environment of mutual understanding between teacher and student. This motivates the students to ask their doubts and helps them to improve. They can practice all the crucial skills like speaking, reading, writing and listening Which strengthen the grasping capacity.

3. Enhancingskills: Class room learning helps in enhancing the critical thinking capacity of the students. It also improves social skills and promotes collaborative learning. It also helps in building personality and career of students.

4. Teaching style can be modified according to the need of students

5. Discipline: Class room learning enable the students to be self disciplined and self directed.

Comparison betweenDigital Learning and Classroom Learning

1. Social Interaction

Social interaction and communication among colleagues, students, & instructors tend to be one crucial part of the traditional or normal classroom learning. Questions asked & answered, and hands are raised are some common factors of the

traditional learning. While these factors are sometimes absent in the digital learning environment, which does not mean that these are not possible in digital learning.

Studies show that online interactions encourage substantive discussion and participation. These social interactions occur through chat, forums, email, and discussion boards. As a matter of fact, digital learning encourages active learning.

2. The Place to Learn

In the setting of the traditional classroom, there is one physical classroom. But digital learning transforms any place into a classroom. One can start and stop whenever they want, review/replay material or information during the process of learning & even after. This is not possible in the setting of the traditional classroom. However, one can record the lecture or take notes in the traditional classroom, but it's not as convenient as digital learning.

The ability to replay or review information of the student at any point of time is the biggest advantage of digital learning. It helps the students to understand the information better. This further improves the quality of the learning process.

3. Instructional Material

Usually, when a student takes one training course, he/she will get the material presented verbally & sometimes with the help make power point presentation or other similar visual aids. But in digital learning, the visual and written notes are presented in the place of a traditional instructor. The written and visual notes are presented differently in digital learning. There are usually headlines, highlighted/bold text, bulleted lists, subheadings & other similar devices, which make the material more interesting and important.

4. Audio, Visual & Beyond

The majority of the teaching techniques of an instructor in traditional classrooms cannot be transferred directly to one virtual environment. Digital learning, on the other hand, have a greater and wider range of tools and media that can be used such as visual storytelling, simulations, scenarios, and interactions. One can also use moving graphics as a part of digital learning presentations. These help the instructor to make the message clearer. However, the enhancing a message with visuals can be a distraction. Therefore, the instructor should use necessary enhancements only.

5. Learning Time

A digital learning course is usually less time consuming compared to the time invested in traditional classrooms. Digital learning courses take forty to seventy-five percent less time comparatively. Further, in the case of digital learning, the participants and students can choose to take a smaller session in order to understand the information better.Just because the methods of traditional classroom are used in eLearning, it does not mean that the traditional classrooms are better. Traditional classrooms have drawbacks as well. Digital learning is a revolution over the traditional classrooms.

Digital learning is becoming popular because of its flexibility and time efficiency. Participants and students no longer need classrooms to learn new information. Students can now learn at their own convenient time and place. Digital learning has effectively enhanced lives of employees and workers & at the same time, helping companies to grow as well.

6. Motivation

There is always somebody in a classroom to motive and assess the performance of learners in a classroom, whereas learners are required to be self-driven and a bit self-disciplined to really benefit from digital learning.

7.Cost benefits

Coming to the cost benefits, various research reports show digital learning is more cost effective than to classroom training. Corporates save about 50% to 70% on training, when they replace instructor led training with digital learning, due to reduced or eliminated travel costs and more targeted training (IOMA 2002). Unlike classroom training which requires the presence of trainers each and every time the course is supposed to be delivered, eLearning can be developed once and used multiple times for the training requirements. Digital learning development costs are significantly less compared to classroom training.

Conclusion

The effectiveness of classroom and digital learningoften becomes an issue of debate.Class room learning offers real time interaction with an instructor, where as digital learning allows learning at one's own pace in a flexible manner. So depends on situation one can decide which methodis to be adopted for effective and efficient learning to impart knowledge and skills.

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