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EASE OF LEARNING EDUCATION THROUGH MOBILE LEARNING OR 'M-LEARNING'

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Abstract:

The present article discusses the importance of 'Mobile Learning' in the progressive transition of a traditional learning to modern learning system that is termed as 'M-Learning'. Education is the process of facilitating learning or obtaining knowledge, wisdom, skills, ethics, values and beliefs to acquire these, 'M- Learning' is the best way which supports learning with ease . Even though 'M-Learning' emerged a decade ago, no one presumed that it would undergo such a phenomenal development. In this Globalized learning system 'M-Learning' has been recently introduced and it is the beckoning future. It is a new approach of learning the content by using electronic gadgets like hand-held mobile devices, laptops or tablets. This method of learning is more convenient for anyone to learn whenever and wherever if it is felt. The advent of mobile learning is utilized by corporate institutions because most of the corporate educational institutions have been changing their traditional learning system and turning towards to introduce 'M- Learning ' in their institutions. Through this method, learners can quick access to the content multiple times and whenever and wherever they want to learn. By watching videos which are relevant to the content and learners can understand the concepts with ease. In support of this method in the market, many educational learning apps have been designed and developed with the help of these apps learners are getting the concepts quickly. It is presumed that 'M - Learning would take lead in all educational institutions by 2025.

Keywords: Conventional Method, Education System-Learning and Mobile Learning etc

Introduction:

The word 'Learn' means to acquire knowledge. Learning is the process of gaining new, or modified, existing knowledge, behaviour, values, skills. The nature and the process involved in learning are studied in many fields, educational psychology is one among. Learning through conventional method has been gradually changing and searching for new methods of learning in educational field. A decade ago a new method emerged that is 'M-Learning' or 'Mobile Learning'. The word 'Mobile Learning" or 'M-Learning' has different definitions, anyhow, it is called as E-Learning, which focuses on learning across contexts and learning with mobile devices, like notebooks, tablets, I pod and I pads. These are popular devices for mobile learning because of their cost and availability of apps.

Mobile Learning is specifically designed for the learners who want to use their journey or leisure time to be utilized in learning the things without attending any particular institution or trainer. Mobile Learning aims on the mobility of the learner.

This is because of mobile devices have features and functionality which support learners. Mobile Learning is making it convene into learner to download the videos and watch them at any time and learn the content. For instance National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning (NPTEL) courses and Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) which are available and utilized by the learners by using Mobiles only. Irrespective of age and specialization for many courses have been offered and learners are choosing them and gaining the knowledge and getting certificates through Mobile Learning.

Mobile Learning has brought remarkable changes in the learning attitude of students. Because learners are more fascinated to learn by using educational apps which are based on activities. Through activities, learners can understand with ease while playing games they can learn the concepts for example: Word puzzle can fulfilled by a learner by playing a game quickly when compared to conventional method.

Present Education:

The present education is blended with conventional and E- Learning. Conventional Method of Teaching the term is used to refer to teachers teach using chalk and board : slate pencil, pencil or pen and slate or paper for students in a classroom. In addition to this teachers may use other methods like giving lecture, demonstration methods , question and answer methods too. E -Learning it is system based teaching & learning method with the help of electronic equipment is known as E - Learning. Teaching would be either in class or out of the classroom and mostly students have to access the educational curriculum outside of a conventional classroom. Learners would learn course content, program delivered completely

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through online with the help of computers or laptops along with internet facility . Here, in these both methods there would be some limitations in acquiring degrees or to complete the courses. But in 'M - Learning' there wouldn't be such limitations and learners can register for multiple courses and based on his/her available time they would go through the content and finish the course and gain knowledge.

Get Rid of Heavy Loads:

In the present education method students or learners have to carry heavy loads on their backpacks. It is most dangerous for the growth of a child, because students who are studying V or VI class they are bearing nearly 15- 20 kg weight of books on their backpacks due to this many students have been walking by bending their body so as to maintain balance. It was stated that in an article about 5,000 children are visiting emergency rooms each year because of the heavy backpack-related injuries, at least 14000 kids are treated related with the same kind of case. It can't be said that every child will go to the hospital because of heavy backpacks, those who are carrying overweight loads would cause neck, back and shoulder pain and more over heavy loads create a forward trunk lean which causes a forward head posture with extended neck creating neck and shoulder pain and making it difficult for muscles and ligaments to hold the body up.

Therefore, with this new learning system many advantages are there for the learners if it is compared with traditional learning method. By using 'M-Learning' method students can get rid of carrying heavy loads on their back packs because the curriculum has been designed and students have to refer the course subject, study material or audio and video lectures on their mobiles, tablets or laptops. Having the course structure and content in their mobiles, tablets or laptops one should not need to buy text books or note books in this way it would be better for the environment to avoid usage of books so that trees can be left freely and students can be free from carrying heavy loads on their backpacks.

Access to Multiple Courses :

It is a remarkable change in learning attitude has been identified after the Government of India under Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) initiated to introduce 'E-Learning or Online Learning courses under the platform of SWAYAM (Study Webs of Active -Learning for Young Aspiring Minds). Under this program nearly 2000 courses and 80000 hours of learning content is provided. It would not be possible to access so many courses with conventional learning method, it is only feasible with the help of Mobile Learning.

Opportunity for Teachers :

'M- Learning' has become a boon for the teachers to uplift of their career or to be upgraded with new courses or technologies. Because, teachers might have got the jobs based on their qualifications but after a few years syllabus or course structures might have been changed to reach or to upgrade themselves they have to attend the refreshment courses or faculty development programs but it requires time and as adult learners, teachers are almost they always feel shy and hesitant to learn in a face to face classroom, which is not the case with this new 'Mobile Learning' one can register online and access the courses by using mobile, tab or laptops. Therefore, one can learn the new courses and it is not only convenient but also offers a better flexibility in terms of time, distance and content to improve their knowledge.

Future of Education:

The future of education turns on mobile learning through educational apps because it helps the learners to build confidence in themselves and to improve the subject, to learn in a way that they feel comfortable. The most advantage of learning app is its adaptability. The learners learning progress can be tracked and stored and evaluated later. The learners are fully equipped with an intensified understanding of their subjects. With these apps it is improvised their productivity also.

The following are the best 10 educational apps:

1. Goole classroom
2. edX
3. Khan Academy
4. Duolingo
5. Remind
6. Photomath
7. Sololearn
8. Quizlet
9. Jahoot
10. Udemy

Benefits of Educational Apps:

Through educational apps it is got active participation, sustained engagement, established meaningful connections ,social interactions, unlimited access to educational contents, new learning techniques,individual and social learning is possible.

These educational apps are highly interactive and helpful to attract the learners for studies. These apps are useful in the following ways like to enhance communication and faster grading process, to get video tutorials, study material handouts, interactive quizzes, interactive stories, forum discussions, sharing handouts and flyers, scan printed or hand

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written problems, multiple solving methods, animated instructions, interactive graphs, scientific calculator, tutorials on the latest coding, free mobile code editor, practice tests, study sets for standardized exams, custom image and audio to enhance learning, experts instructions, discussions, interactive learning etc., are feasible with educational apps in Mobile Learning.

Differences Between Conventional Learning And Mobile Learning

Course	Conventional Learning	Mobile Learning
Place	lecture in classroom	learning anywhere, anytime
Pedagogical Change	More text- and graphics based instructions	More voice, graphics and animation based instruction
Instructor to Student Communication	Face to face communication	Instant communication
	Scheduled	Spontaneous
Learner to Learner Communication	Face-to-Face	Flexible
	Live	Audio-and video-teleconference possible
	One to One Specific time bound	24/7 Direct messaging
	Specified location	No geographic boundaries
	Travel time to reach to location	No travel time with wireless internet connectivity
	Dedicated time for group meetings	Flexible timings on 24/7 basis
Feed back to student	One to one basis is difficult	One to one basis possible
	Mass/standardized instruction	Customized instruction
	Benchmark-based grading	Performance & improvement-based grading
	Simulations & lab-based experiments	Real-life cases and on the site experiments
	Paper based	Online
	In-classroom	

Assignments & Exams		Not specific or Any location
	Time bound	24/7 Instantaneous and stipulate time
	Restricted amount of time	Unrestricted amount of time
	Standard Exam	Individualized Exams
	Usually delayed feedback	Instant feedback possible or fixed time feedback
	Fixed-length tests	Flexible-length/number of questions
Presentations, Exams,Practicals & Assignments	Theoretical and text based	Practical oriented exams direct on site, hands on based
	Observe and monitoring in lab	Observe in the field and monitoring from remote location
	Class-based presentations	One to one presentations with much richer communication
	Usually use of one language	Automatic translation for delivery of instructions in multiple languages (possible)
	Mostly individualized, component based group work	Synchronized collaborative group work
	Possible for live experiments Individualized and Group wise	Not possible for live experiments
	Paper-based assignment delivery	Electronic-based assignment delivery
	Hand-delivery of assignments at a particular place and time	E-delivery of assignments at any place and time
	Expert's time used to deliver lectures	Expert's time used to offer individualized instructions and help
	Answers may be differ	Answers may be same in some cases

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Table 1: Differences between Conventional Learning and Mobile Learning Advantages of Mobile Learning

- Mobiles are lightweight compared to books
- With mobile learning paper can be saved
- Quick learning and understanding
- Globalized learning can be possible
- Multiple courses can be accessed and get certification
- Thousand of video lectures can be streamed
- It would be a great usage of new technology in learning method
- Mobile Learning keeps alert the learner with motion pictures or videos
- Convenient to learn at any time and get advanced knowledge through 'M-Learning'
- Time and money can be saved with the Mobile Learning method
- Adult literacy has been increasing and improvising their skill development too
- More friendly technology and more storage capacity will be available.
- Communication will be fast and information can be transferred quickly
- Mistakes in assignments can be corrected or rectified with ease
- Multiple lecture videos can be cross checked or verified for relevant information

Disadvantages or Challenges

- Mobile learning would be difficult without technical gadgets
- Sudden distractions or disturbances can be taken place
- Streaming content may be difficult with poor signals
- Battery life can not always be supportive always
- Information or files can be corrupted
- Mobiles are differ in size and vary in specification
- Due to multiple operating systems files may not be supported
- Available memory may be insufficient to store files
- Conceptual learning difference between conventional learning and mobile learning
- Young learners can be misled with faster technology
- Eye-sight may be affected by watching continuously or learning through mobiles
- Radiation effect would be serious
- With the blend of academic and personal files in the same mobile mistakes may take place while submitting assignments

Conclusion:

Mobile Learning has been increasing day by day and as innovative ideas and teaching techniques as well as learning methods have been changed. In this 21st century time is more precious than anything so learners want to acquire information or knowledge quickly with the help of technology. Therefore, Mobile Learning is the best source for them to gain knowledge rather than conventional learning method.

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'M- Learning' can be possible anywhere like travelling mode, in a classroom, at living room, at functions, and in shopping malls anywhere wherever network is available. Mobile Learning depends on technology it has good working mode mobile, internet facility, good battery life and latest touch screen smart mobiles or tabs. This Mobile Learning would be feasible for the employers, students, researchers and house wives to gain knowledge and to be upgraded to the current technology.When compared to Conventional Learning Method, this M-Learning would be better for the present generation pupils. Many researchers have been doing research for the last few years and many learners have already been trying out these approaches and contributing to the development of this learning method the future education is laid on Mobile Learning.

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