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E-LEARNING- A SHIFTING PARADIGM AND ENHANCEMENT IN TEACHING AND LEARNING METHODOLOGY

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Abstract:

E-learning has inevitably transformed cognitive learning which has changed the forms of education and learning in the 21st century. This has helped to have control and navigation over the learning process for the student or a learner who may not be able to keep pace with others whether in a classroom or an organization. By learning how visual language works, the implicit knowledge has become explicit. The means of identifying, describing, discussing, analyzing, and evaluating visual language has helped to gain a better understanding of visual language texts. Just as a close reading of written texts promotes understanding in-depth, so close study of visual texts provides important insights and develops interest and curiosity to finish the work. This has exhibited a transformational power that has enriched both the context and the content. The learning of English in special has become more synchronized and collaborative. This paper aims to discuss, as mentioned in the title, the impact of visual learning, and the subsequent reduction in procrastination. It targets to speak about various features, phenomena, tools, techniques, and collaborative social interaction associated with it.

Keywords: E-Learning, Visual aids, Tools.

Introduction:

The importance of the English language is undeniable. This language has come to assume a place of power and status and has become an undisputed global language. This has sown the seeds for the futuristic genre of learning and teaching. Once upon an implicit knowledge, it has now become an explicit mode of communication. The process of understanding, analyzing, evaluating, and describing has become astute and sharp. E-learning has inevitably transformed cognitive learning which has changed the forms of education and learning in the 21st century. This has helped to have control and navigation over the learning process for the student or a learner who may not be able to keep pace with others whether in a

classroom or an organization. The avenues of teaching have increased through it which has not only created an ambiance of learning and teaching but also of creative study methodology which has enhanced the role of technology and communication.

E-Learning is a part of new dynamics that have become closely associated with the modern trends of education and learning. Bernard Ruskin states "E" has a broad meaning. It can be inferred as exciting, expressive, educational, extended, and excellent along with being electronic. E-learning has made the instructor a facilitator rather than a teacher." The use of information and technology for the educational purpose has increased manifolds. It covers many terms like computer-based learning, technology-based learning, and computer-based training.

Communication oriented learning includes communication and interaction. E-Learning is based on pedagogical interactions between students and the content. Learning is facilitated by the use of digital tools. Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing have catapulted the learning and teaching method through e-learning which has helped to enrich both -the context and the content. Newer digital technologies such as OHP, interactive boards, the Internet, Audio equipment, E-mails, Video Conferencing and many more are not only promoting education methodology in schools, colleges, and universities but also supporting changes to the way students are learning.

This form of learning has made distance learning possible. It has become the harbinger of the future style of education in this new millennium. This has added to certain advantages in the arena of education:

- Has promoted a greater level of interest, motivation, and satisfaction amongst the students.
- Better memorizing of the content as it is audiovisual learning-based.
- Effective learning of the new content.
- Sharpening of cognitive and psychomotor skills.
- A greater level of the practical applicability of the acquired knowledge.

Methodologies:

The concept of e-learning has gained momentum in extending better knowledge of the content and providing important insights and interest in the realms of higher education. It has become a value-added package for the whole process of learning and teaching.

Various methods fit the bill to justify the above-mentioned factors. Each method has an important role to establish the importance of e-learning. These methods are:

1) Asynchronous Method
2) Multimedia
3) Animation

4) Internet
5) Videos

1. Asynchronous and Synchronous Method:

E-learning is arguably one of the most powerful responses to the growing need for education. It involves different methods and techniques. Improvements in technology and increasing bandwidth capabilities have led to the growing popularity of Asynchronous e-learning. A lot has been talked about these methods of learning. To know about them is to understand them.

The asynchronous Method is a self-paced or flexible method of e-learning. The basic nature of this form of learning involves technology-based medium like emails etc. This method facilitates an effective balance between work and home as the learner may be connected on line as to when desirous. A student gets a chance to be contemplative as an immediate response is not expected in it. Online discussion on a discussion board helps to critically examine a topic minutely. Personal and Cognitive participation assume a role of importance in this format of learning. The information is properly processed in it.

The synchronous Method is a more social method than the asynchronous method. Based on the traditional method of active participation, this method makes the learner more social and communicative. Based more on video conferencing, chats, etc it is more conversation-based. The planning of the task beforehand is quite easy in it. The element of flexibility is a missing factor in this form as the student is time-bound to respond and attend to the discourses.
Blended e-learning becomes a perfect combination of student-centered learning and the traditional approach of instructor-centered learning. Below given table below clearly brings out the difference between Traditional or Synchronous Learning and Contemporary or Asynchronous Learning:

TABLE 1: Difference between Synchronous and Asynchronous Learning

Synchronous	Asynchronous
Content needs an instructor – clear need for communication between instructor and student (instructor face time)	Content can stand on its own
The instructor is available when students are available	The course is available 24 x 7
Students are not necessarily self-motivated	Students need just-in-time training (available when they are, not when the

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	instructor is available)
The instructor is changing content in real-time (Content is not finished)	Courses that can be used as a corporate resource, a reference for increasing productivity (e.g. can be accessed by a Knowledge Management system)

2. Multimedia:

This is a computer driven learning platform integrating texts, graphics, sounds, animation in an organized way has caused a revolution in the field of knowledge.

The concept of multimedia emerged in the 1950s where it combined two formats- audio and visual to create the necessary effect. Gradually its impact and focuses shifted to the educational field where its importance became unassuming and important especially in online and distance learning. It may include multisensory concepts like texts, music, sounds, documents, etc. It may be connected with overhead projectors, CD-ROM's, etc.

Distance Learning has brought the concept of multimedia to the forefront. This form of education is taught through various means including radio, television, video and audio presentations, computers, etc and which is information-based. The entry of multimedia in the field of teaching has converted traditional modes of learning into a smart way of learning.
Various studies proved that the studies through multimedia mode were not only long-lasting but also the learning and absorption capacity for the topic was enormous. It opened the gateway for learning opportunities and deeper understanding which was a missing factor when taught through traditional mode of teaching. Certain related findings indicated:

- High level of enthusiasm.
- Access to a wide range of topics.
- Accuracy in learning and teaching methodologies.
- Presentation Skills, Representation Skills, Research Skills, etc were greatly benefitted by it. The opportunity to augment their writings with expressions speaks about the advantages of multimedia.

Figure 1. Multimedia in Higher Education

3 Animations:

Animation is the latest and exciting e-learning tool for classroom teaching. The process of teaching has not only become easier but interesting and interactive too. The visual effects help to bring objects to life. This mode of tech learning is indeed a new and wonderful way to communicate creatively and originally.

A student is given an environment to relate with the characters of popular stories and fables in a ready-made cartoon world. A whole new world of creativity is opened for them to explore, unfold, and learn about the traditional stories in a new way altogether. The creativity moves outside the classrooms where the springboard is provided to overcome the language barrier by making pen friends with animated characters. The students can create their own make-believe world. A new and interesting mathematical world is created for the students to learn easily and effectively about calculus functions along with algebraic and computer skills. The connectivity with the audiences is captivating as the presentation gets a complete facelift. The visuals and the audio clips along with the graphics convey the essence of the topic with greater fervor.

Figure 2. Toy Story in Animation

Since there is a constant movement, the psychomotor is always alert. This leads to greater motivation to learn and the engagement with the subject is increased. It has also been found that this method of e-learning offers immediate feedback. This leaves with greater space for the instructor to improve upon the quality of instructions.

4. Internet:

Internet in today's educational world has become a superhighway. Brainstorming and exchanging of ideas has given a different dimension and approach to communication. A student sitting in one corner of the world is as well connected with a fellow student as the student s of the same class.

The Internet has become an integral part of today's education. It is an open system to explore an unfathomable amount of information. Resources are available at one click of the mouse to the instructor and the student. President Clinton had launched a nationwide mission

to make every student technology literate by the 21st century. This education technology has made the resourviours of information and knowledge encapsulates the world into a compact world of well-connected communication.

Figure 3. Internet Learning in a classroom

The Internet has helped the parents as much as it has helped teachers and the students. The involvement of the parents with their ward's schooling and class activities has increased. This has not only bridged the generation gap but also brought them closer to their children. Parents along with their children explore new avenues and areas of learning.

The teachers are well connected with their students no matter in whatever part of the city they maybe. Individual teaching methodology has gained momentum. This has reasonably increased the achievement quotient in the students. This interactive form of teaching assists the teachers to experiment with various forms of teaching. Updations with the current and latest methodologies infuse better understanding and coordination. Ahead starts with computer knowledge prepares them to conquer the world with their expert knowledge.

5 Videos:

According to David Bunnell *"A full-motion video changes everything. It's like turning a ten-speed bicycle into a Harley Davidson."* This mode of e-learning facilitates thinking and problem-solving capacities. Shepard and Cooper (1982) and Mayer and Gallini (1990) strongly advocated a close relationship between visual clues, memory clues, and the advent of new knowledge. It assists in mastering an art through a powerful combination of observation and retention.
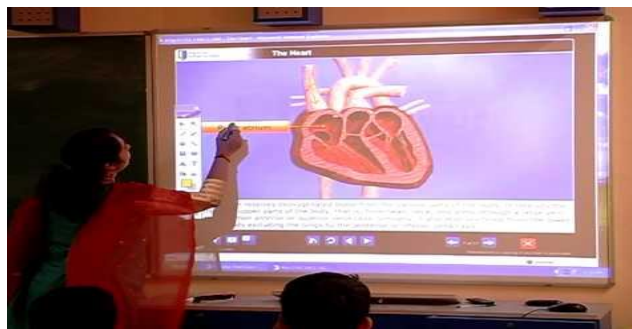

Figure 4. Smart Classroom Teaching Methodology

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The stimulating thought process which is concrete, interactive, and discursive is strongly promoted. It has shifted the traditional '*chalk and talk'* method to the cognitive thinking process. All other methods have paled by comparison. A learner's autonomy is automatically developed through videos. It has been found children's accessibility to this module of e-learning helped them to develop skill and competence in storytelling, visual communication, emotional, ethical, and aesthetic aspects, observations and sensitive aspects, concentration, problem-solving and innovative spaces. This method is a flexible evolution of the technology where the pitfalls of the passive transmission of the knowledge are omitted and interactive sessions are encouraged and promoted.

Discussions:

E-Learning has ushered in a new era in the teaching methodology. It has well-prepared students for the rapid globalization and international standards of education. This form of learning has given a strong foothold especially to the students of the 3rd world in skill acquisition fostering international business and entrepreneurial avenues for them.

According to a survey by Mitchell Institute, USA, attendance has improved significantly from 91% to 98%. This has made the students more responsible in terms of learning. A forum is provided to discuss and bootstrap their knowledge. This modern mode of learning and teaching has well accommodated both conventional and contemporary modes of education. A vast array of reading and study material can be accessed through e-learning which supports the modern art of learning. This has proved to tailor suit to the requirements of the learner. Each learner can explore the field according to his interest and potential.

Through this paper, the thrust areas of e-learning were discussed and analyzed. The spatial and temporal flexibility in the implementation of the processed material is easily available. Every aspect of knowledge is easily verified. It is a representation of all the educational models and has a vast array of technical solutions is provided through it. New approaches and understanding have transcended the domain of classroom teaching.

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