DIGITAL LEARNING ENVIRONMENT: AN OUTSTANDING PLATFORM FOR THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE MODERN LEARNERS.

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Abstract: The modern learners are very much independents, they always need up-to-date information or knowledge to cope up with the modern changing environment. They want to learn in their own time, pace and path. Digital Learning Environment (DLE) is a technology based learning platform, which facilitates the anyone, anytime and anywhere based learning platform. In this regards the DLE can play a crucial role to satisfy the need and demands of the modern learners. This paper discusses the modern learner and their requirements and how the DLE can help to satisfy them.

Keywords: Digital Learning Environment, ICT, Modern Learners, Distributed Learning.

1.0 Introduction

We are living in the high level ultra-modern society, where the knowledge is considered as the driven force for the overall development of the society. All the sphere of human society is very much dependent on the appropriate and updated knowledge for its different activities. This society is termed as the knowledge society. The learners of this society is termed as modern learners. They need upgraded information to sustain in the competitive busy life. They need distributed learning environment, so that they can learn in their own time, pace and place. They want to learn and share their learning resources in a reliable and effective environment. In this changing circumstances the Digital Learning Environment (DLE) can play a crucial role to satisfy the growing need and demands of the modern learners. The DLE facilitates an emerging platform for the modern learners to cope up with their modern situation and the learners can learn in their own time, place and style also.

2.0 Modern Learners and Their Characteristics

Modern learners are the learner of the modern society. They are tech-savvy in nature and well informed about modern technologies. They use the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in their every works of daily life. Simply they very much dependent on the ICT in their life. Naturally they use the ICT in their learning. With the help of ICT they make their learning process more accessible, effective collaborative and interactive in nature.

There are so many characteristics of the modern learners. Some of these are as follows: [5]
- The modern learners are social in nature. They spent their time in the social media (facebook, twitter, blog or in whatsapp) regularly and they chat or discuss their topic with friends. Social networking facilitates them a face to face communication as well as collaborative platform.
- The learners are the independent. They want to learn in their own way, own time and own place. In the modern society the learners learn independently with the help of ICT and apply their knowledge in the changing environment.

- The modern learners are usually impatient. They want to get their required information quickly. So they need such a learning platform that can give them authentic and fast information in their hand.
- The modern learners are so collaborative in their learning environment. They create group in the social network and discuss their problems. They solve their assignment, project work and even they can make preparation for the exam also in this collaborative measure.
- The modern learners are so much communicative in their own way. They communicate each other by phone, e-mail or by social network. In the age of ICT there are so many tools for interactive communication for face-to-face interaction. They use some tools for video calling, chat or for discussion over network.
- The learners are so busy, because they are overworked. They perform different jobs and responsibilities, which make a difficulties in their life and careers.
- The modern learners are very much dependent on the ICT or digital technologies. So the learners need to use the digital technologies in their study or daily life. Therefore the digital literacy is highly essential for the learners of the modern society.

3.0 Digital Learning and Modern Learners.

With the development as well as application of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) the demand of the modern society has been changed dramatically. In this changing circumstances the DLE can act as a game changer to satisfy the need and demand of the modern learners. The DLE can provide an alternative and essential learning platform for instructors and the learners to teach as well as learn in innovative way.

3.1 What is Digital Learning? [4]

Digital learning is a pedagogical method that uses the information and communication technology (ICT) that enhance the learning environment for the learners of the modern society. It facilitate high quality and upgraded digital objects or materials which are remotely access through ICT, direct and quick feedback from the participant, anytime and anywhere learning, personalize and customized environment and which is devoted to ensure the full attention and engagement of the learners.

Digital Learning is technology oriented learning process which represent the learning, teaching, and discovering environment over the Internet beyond the time, place, path and pace.

To understand the concept of Digital Learning we have to discuss some of the key concepts:

3.1.1 Time: The modern learning process is not restricted in time factor. The use of Internet in the teaching process has changed the situation tremendously, anyone can learn anytime and at any age also.

3.1.2 Place: The modern education system is not limited within the four walls of a classroom. With the use of Internet in the teaching and learning process has given students and teachers community the ability to learn and teach from anywhere and everywhere.

3.1.3 Path: In the age of ICT the learning process is not restricted on the guidelines of the teachers. There are so many Interactive and adaptive digital learning software are available which allows the students community to learn their own ways and style.

3.1.4 Pace: Digital Learning is no longer restricted to the pace of an entire classroom of students. The Interactive and adaptive digital learning software help the students to learn at their own pace and consume less or more time as they wises to achieve the level of understanding on a particular topic or subject.

3.1.5 Technology: Technology is a method for delivering of the learning resources to the learners. Which includes the hardware, software, network and all the network devices that are used to connect or sharing information to one computer or laptop or smart phone to another.

3.1.6 Digital Objects: Digital objects or the materials are the upgraded and high quality digital information and which is used to teach or to learn by the teacher or by the learners through ICT. This Digital objects or the materials are easy to deliver or share to the learners over network. This digital objects includes word documents, pdf, images, audio or video lectures, games and PowerPoint presentation also.

3.1.7 Instruction: Instructors or teachers are the part and parcel of digital learning. With the advancement of technology the role of a teacher has changed but did not eliminate the value of a teacher in the learning environment.

In the digital learning environment, teachers can provide direct and personalized guidance to ensure the interactive learning environment throughout life. Teachers may be the guide on the side, not the sage on the stage.

So the digital learning is a combination of information and communication technology, digital objects or contents and instructions which creates such a virtual environment entirely based on users' time, path, pace and place.

3.2 How Digital Learning can help the Modern Learners?

DLE facilitates some important services, which make the learning platform more useful and effective for the modern learners. These services can help the learners to learn in their own pace, path and time. These services are:

3.2.1 Personalized learning environment : The Personalized learning service of DLE facilitates the learners to customize the learning environment in their own passion, needs and as they like. In this way the DLE enables the learners to learn in their own way and their own choice.

3.2.2 Distributed Learning environment : Digital learning open out the learning facility worldwide. So the anyone can learn from anywhere and anytime also through Information and Communication Technology (ICT). The modern society need an open learning environment for the lifelong learning facility for the knowledge workers and digital learning can solve this problems effectively.

3.2.3 Interactive learning environment: The success of DLE depends on the interactive components in the learning environment. Which allow the learners to directly interact with the teacher or instructor for their study. DLE use video conferencing to interact with the remote students. Learners can chat, discuss in the forum, they can listen the audio speech or interact by mail also. With this interactive environment the learners or the employees of the modern society can gain more and more knowledge for their development.

3.2.4 Engaged Learning environment: Digital learning environment can help to increase the motivation level of the learners. It enhances the engagement of the learners in the learning process. It enables the learners to active participantion in their own learning, express their own experiences, evaluate themselves, to realize their own development etc. These facilities helps them to become more attentive, persistence, engage in their study.

3.2.5 Self-evaluative learning: Digital learning facilitates self evaluation for the individuals of the learning environment. The learners can discuss their drawbacks in the chat room or in the discussion forum, they can test knowledge through online test and even they can track their own development, naturally they will be attentive or improve themselves.

3.5.6 Cooperative learning: Digital learning empowers the cooperation among the learners community. Through the social media like facebook, blog or twitter the teachers, students or the scholars can create or manage a social group for sharing the thought content of their study. They can discuss about for problem solving, writing assignment and preparation for projects or for exam purpose. This make the learning environment more cooperative and collaborative.

3.5.7 Quality Learning Objects (LO): Digital learning environment is very much strong for its' learning objects or materials. Digital learning objects or the products are very easy to carry, share and accessible through digital media. Even anyone can give feedback if there is any fault or mistake or anyone can edit with appropriate information also.

3.5.8 Easy to share: With the help of digital communication media anyone can share the digital materials to the others. There is so many content and tools are freely available in the public domain so anyone or any institution can use it or share it freely.

4.0 Conclusion:

Digital Learning Environment is an important as well as appropriate platform for the modern society. DLE facilitates an interactive platform, where the learners can interact with the instructors as well as with their classmate or friends. They can create their group for discussion their problems about their class notes, assignments or exam also. The learning community easily can access and share their required learning objects or resources. The learners always can use the DLE as lifelong learning platform to develop their personal as well as professional skill and knowledge for the future. So the DLE can serve as an outstanding platform for the sustainable development of the modern learners as well as for the modern society also.

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