

# CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN DIGITAL LEARNING

LALITHA R.

Lecturer/Department of Modern Office Practice  
Periyar Centenary Polytechnic college  
Periyar Nagar-Vallam-Thanjavur

**Abstract:** Education plays necessary role in overall development of people thereby conducive vastly to the development of a nation. Education globally is one amongst the necessary sectors to witness revolutionary changes in recent times. This happens primarily attributable to digital revolution taken place all across the world. Digital learning is any type of learning that is accompanied by technology or by instructional practice that makes effective use of technology. Considering the rapid change in technology, inevitable changes in education sector are going to happen. In India, there are a lot of challenges and opportunities for digital learning. The standard Indian room was once characterized by students sitting through hour-long session, teacher accustomed discuss the items with none visual presentation. Now, because of digital technology, it's creating life easier for each students and educators. Digital education is fun learning for all cadres and significantly effective for kid learning because the innovative audio-video feature boosts the psychological feature parts in an exceedingly child's brain. faculties square measure progressively adopting digital teaching solutions in their tutorial, and making an attempt to form the room setting a lot of comprehensive and democratic. In India, from previous few years there has been a substantial rise in Digital and Live Virtual lecture rooms at completely different levels of learning. With evolution of technologies like cloud, virtual knowledge center's and virtualization there's immense potential for technology to be integrated with the Education trade. With the increase in number of internet users in India, the paper also looks into what challenges and opportunities are there in digital learning.

**Keywords:** Challenges and opportunities; Digital education, Digital technologies

## INTRODUCTION:

Digital education means that digital learning. it's a kind of learning that's supported by digital technology or by educational observe that produces effective use of digital technology. Digital learning happens across all learning areas and domains. Digital education provides win-win opportunities for all, at one aspect faculty, faculties and alternative establishment finds the fast rise in enrolments and accessorial revenue attributable to digital education, and on alternative aspect students read this as a versatile and alternate possibility permitting them to check as per their convenient time and pace. academics and professors too notice it convenient to arrange their teaching plans assisted by digital technology. Teaching and learning becomes a electric sander expertise because it includes animations, gamification and audio-visual effects. Over the previous few years digital education in Asian nation is evolving at quicker pace. it's dynamic the means students learn completely different ideas and theory at school and faculties.

The standard chalk and speak methodology at school and a faculty has been slowly dynamic with a lot of interactive teaching strategies as faculties and faculty's square measure progressively adopting digital solutions. Digital learning guarantees a lot of participation from students because the current generation of scholars squares measure well versed with laptops, I-pads, and smartphones. E-learning plays an important role in handling the issues and problem of teaching today. With hi-tech network and multimedia, the education sector has emerged to be one of the fast emerging fields. Technological advancement has enabled our Indian classroom to be tech savvy. With the use of technology in education sector, there is an major change in the teaching and learning methods, styles, and content across many schools in India. Today, cloud technology is being explored by students, wherein they can easily submit and review their assignment regularly. With the inclusion of these facilities in a digital learning environment, the classroom becomes much more comfortable and welcoming to students.

## CHALLENGES OF DIGITAL LEARNING

Digital Learning has become very popular with period of time. But it imposes certain challenges which need to be overcome. Someone rightly said, "Digital learning should be more about the human touch that just machines". The following are the challenges of digital learning along with the measures to overcome these challenges:

### 1. Insufficient digital infrastructure:

Although Government of India is taking initiative to develop digital infrastructure but a lot need to be done in this direction. High speed internet and stable power supply are the biggest problem. requirement of today's which will increase the speed of downloading the data.

## 2. Limited Social interaction

Since online education can be accessed at home or any other convenient place, there is very limited direct interaction with the teacher and other people doing the course.

## 3. Questionable credibility of degrees

Although industry has started recognizing online degrees, there are still a lot of fraudulent and non-accredited degrees being offered online. The number of scam operators is rising who are offering fake certificates which does not have any credentials. These scams not only losses the credibility of the online certificates but also the faith of prospective employer in online programs.

## 4. Learners Motivation Classroom:

These which are run in the form of a seminar and discussion have the advantage of accountability and supervision. One of the common challenges in digital Learning is that, left to their own devices, employees may not explore the course material. Even worse, employees may resent using their own time to do coursework, rather than enjoying the "vacation" from their everyday responsibilities afforded by an in-person seminar. Therefore, it becomes rather important and a big challenge on how can we keep our students motivated enough to complete the course and moreover, how can we make them enjoy the learning experience? To overcome this challenge certain measure can be taken Incentives: Accreditation of the courses and certification gives employees a tangible goal that benefits themselves as well as the employer.

More broadly, any job training that can lead to career advancement or resume building is valuable to today's employee. Appealing: One of the best methods to motivate your participants or audience is to make sure the Digital Learning courses you develop are visual and very appealing to the eye. Take a look at this infographic, where you can get ideas on how to make eLearning more attractive.

## 5. Language of the Course

India is a multi-linguistic country, and a vast majority of the population comes from rural areas. The content offered by most of the online courses is in English. Hence, those students who are not able to speak English struggle with the availability of language content. Hence, it is the duty of computer professionals, educators, administrators, language content creators, and content disseminators, to sit together and give a viable framework and standard solution to the learners knowing only Indian languages.

## 6. Resistance to change:

Every improvement has two sides of coin, with one leading to advancement and development and other relates to certain challenges associated with the implementation of this advancement. Unfamiliarity of employees towards technology is one of the biggest challenges of Digital Learning, which the managers need to work with it. People commonly resist change, even if the changes are superior to what they had previously. They might not trust that a technology-based learning program will be as effective as interacting with an instructor. It's a fact that eLearning implementation can create enormous change within a company, so implementers can expect to face some resistance. To overcome this resistance certain measures can be taken Refresher benefit: Feature of multimedia learning enables to makes the material more engaging and easier to assimilate. At the time of refresher, such learning material will be at their fingertips when they want. This will enable to complete the learning within a span of time.

## 7. Effective communication processes:

Communication is the key to incorporate an digital Learning programme effectively. Communication will enable to understand and accept your digital Learning program quickly. It is important that, trainees need to know what benefits digital learning offers them, and what are the objectives, among other aspects.

## 8. Technological Skills of Learners:

The Digital Learning implementation will be dependent upon the computer literacy of the employees using it. The ability of the learner's to access and interact with the course material dictates the utility he will get out of the program. To overcome this resistance certain measures can be taken: Adaptability: This eLearning challenge can be mitigated by scaling the complexity of the system to the needs of the course and of the employees. When the content being taught is fairly basic, a simple interface can be used to impart it; the complexity can be scaled up as the course material and technological expertise of the learner demands. Help when required: When students run into problems while using the Digital Learning courses, technical support services should be there, like Live chats, auto-help buttons, emails, discussion boards. Availability of digital learning facilitators available will also make them feel they are supported in the programme.

## 9. Evaluating effectiveness:

Yet another important challenge of Digital Learning is the task of determining whether the course is having the intended effect. In the absence of pop quizzes and report cards, how can an employer tell whether the eLearning implementation is achieving its goals? Solution Assessing the result is important, it is essential to know how many employees are using the Digital Learning program, how long they spend on it, and how many complete the course, but above this it is more important to know the performance reflects their newly-acquired knowledge. If they display the skills and information gleaned from the digital Learning program in their work, then the Digital Learning implementation has been effective. Driving

## OPPORTUNITIES IN ONLINE LEARNING

Change in technology is offering many opportunities for all stakeholders in the online education sector which includes entrepreneurs, education providers and learners. Some of the factors offering different opportunities in this domain include:

### **1. Digitalized classroom/Flipped Class rooms:**

A growing Trend A complete revolution in the way we learn today has been brought by Technology. Teachers teaching in the classroom can capture the students and the full strength in the class by digital screens, thus facilitating each child to get the same base content and input from the teachers.

This feature of digital era has increased the Student engagement as it combines various instructional styles. Each student gets in contact to world-class education, which is not easy to impart by the traditional white chalk and black board teaching. This new learning is more interesting, personalized and enjoyable. With this technological inclusion in the school teaching the students feel studying as enjoyable, easy, competent and above all interesting. The aim of a teacher however should be to create such an atmosphere which makes every student want to study.

### **2. Video based learning.**

Video-based learning as a part of digital marketing has geared up in Indian Education Sector and has made education engaging, entertaining and exploring. It enables learning with a pedigree of learning out of leisure with creativity, fun and entertainment on cards via the wonderful Apps, podcasts, videos, interactive software, e books and online interactive electronic boards. Children are excited and operative with interest to manage the showcase via their intelligence, exploring the weak techno skills of teachers and assist them in public with pride and honour and recognition.

### **3. Massive open online course (MOOCS) & Other distant learning programs:**

A massive open online course (MOOC) is an online course aimed at unlimited participation and open access via the web. India is considered to be the biggest market for MOOCs in the world after the USA. Since the population of India is huge, massive open online course (MOOC) are said to gateways for a lot of Indians in terms of bringing an educational revolution. Online distant learning programs give a great opportunity to avail high quality learning with the help of internet connectivity.

### **4. K12 sector Game based learning:**

K-12 School is a terminology used as Kindergarten through XII grade. Various start-up companies have been the contributor for this sector. Today the world is of Y-generation people who are acquainted with the technological developments taking around them, and they are also surrounded with the required skills and abilities. K-12 creates the game based learning environment, which enables the learner to easily get the word of education in India and give us a better self-trained Y generation.

### **5. Blended Model:**

There will be convergence of the offline education and online education in future. This concept of blended learning combines online digital media with traditional classroom methods. It requires the physical presence of both teacher and student, but student has some control over time, place, path, or pace. This model will take advantage of both face-to-face classroom practices combined with computer-mediated activities. In future, there will be virtual classrooms where face to face offline pedagogy will be aided by digital courses on practical knowledge and soft skills.

### **6. New Courses**

Today the most popular courses in online education are related to IT which includes subjects like big data, cloud computing, and digital marketing. But in future demand for different types of courses in unexpected subjects such as culinary management, photography, personality development, forensic science, cyber law, etc. will increase.

### **7. No Physical Boundaries:**

Digital Learning has no locational and time restrictions. In case of face-to-face learning, the location limits the group of learners to those who have the ability to participate in the area. But this is not the case in digital learning. In digital leaning, there is no physical restriction and the learner can attend the sessions anytime, anywhere according to his/her comfort.

### **8. More Engagement:**

Digital learning is a more engaging experience as compared to traditional learning. Through digital learning, a course can be designed in a way that makes it interactive and fun through the use of multimedia. Even, the more recently developed methods of gamification can be used to enhance the engagement factor. The aim of a teacher however should be to create such an atmosphere which makes every student want to study.

### **9. Cost Effective Digital learning:**

It is cost effective way of education as compared to traditional learning. This is directed towards both learners and teachers. In digital learning, here is a good chance that you don't have to pay exorbitant amounts of money to acquire textbooks for school or college. As textbooks often become obsolete after a certain period of time, e-learning is definitely a cost effective way of learning because of the reduced cost.

### **10. Comfort Zone:**

Comfort zone can be established in digital learning as you can study at the time that suits you. In case of traditional learning where all the students have to present in the class when the teacher is teaching. The same is not the case which digital education. In digital education, the student can study at the time of his own comfort.

## NEW INNOVATIONS IN LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

Key outcomes of Digital learning are E-Learning should be more focused on knowledge creation rather than merely on knowledge acquisition. As knowledge is the integral part of this century. Developing collective cultural practices, physical learning is important as learning takes place between people and their cultural surroundings. Along with emotional and cognitive development, well-being and Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) are also essential for the development of the students. Instead of computer-supported learning, it would be advisable to talk about new forms of Socio-Digital Participation (SDP). This includes media literacy, such as using social media and search engines. Constant reforms in schools and teacher education is essential for development. The schools are not following the important developments of society. There is no evidence that learning styles or types would be informative in designing learning environments. Alternatively, it would be advisable to observe users' motivational profiles or study orientations. Meaningful and engaging learning methods are advisable, which support collaboration and self-regulation.

## RECOMMENDATIONS:

Young generation have smartphones, computers, laptops that are changing the way of education. They actively participate in social communication through online communities since early childhood. But the problem lies in the fact that these activities take place after the formal learning is over and there is no synchronization between this informal learning which the formal learning. Research also states that informal learning is often more engaging and effective than formal learning. Furthermore, research indicates that the students with the best skills in technology are also the ones who are often non-participative in the formal learning. To solve this issue, Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) should be provided by teachers and parents. Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) includes the skills that are needed to regulate oneself and interact with others in constructive ways. Social and emotional skills are critical to being a good student, citizen, and worker.

Many risky behaviors which include drug use, violence, bullying etc can be prevented or reduced when the method of social and emotional learning is used. Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) can be best adopted by effective classroom instruction, student engagement in positive activities in and out of the classroom, and broad parent and community involvement in education.

## CONCLUSION

With so many different ways to define e-learning and the educational approaches that can be taken in these learning environments, it is the conclusion of this author that e-learning is an innovative approach to learning. It is a holistic way of teaching and learning that meets the needs of today's digital natives. It is an environment made up of collaboration, choice, and an array of technological resources that supports a successful online learning experience. However, in order for learners to be successful in this learning environment the challenges to e-learning must be overcome with support and a best practice solutions. Instructors and learners must embrace the shift away from traditional classroom practices to an e-learning approach to education. Despite the fact that today's learners are digital natives, the use of technology for e-learning can be overwhelming and provide student motivation challenges however, with the proper supports from instructors, learners can be successful within these e-learning environments. Finally, and probably the most important challenge for the instructor is to focus on the overall elements of a well-developed course. Developing a purposeful and well defined online course, which supports the instructor and learner, means devoting the appropriate time and embedding the applicable course elements into the e-learning environment. Online education can change the whole future scenario in education if it can be implemented in joint collaboration with industry, universities and government. Drastic changes in course curriculum are required to bridge the gap so that students are industry ready after passing out. Education process needs to be changed by making it more practical with the use of technology. Also course should be designed in different language to increase their reach and more opportunities for youth of rural India. Innovations are required to design ways to increase the social skills of online learners.

## REFERENCES

1. Khan, B. (1997). Web-based training. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Educational Technology Publications.
2. Kaplan, Andreas M.; Haenlein, Michael (2016). "Higher education and the digital revolution: About MOOCs, SPOCs, social media, and the Cookie Monster". *Business Horizons*. 59 (4): 441–50. doi:10.1016/j.bushor.2016.03.008
3. Chauhan, Jyoti (2017). *International Journal of Computer Trends and Technology (IJCTT) – Volume 49 Issue 2 July 2017*

## Web Links

1. <https://www.vccircle.com/the-present-and-future-of-indias-online-education-industry>
2. <https://www.class-central.com/report/mooc-stats-2017/>
3. <https://www.studyread.com/scope-of-online-education/>
4. <https://swayam.gov.in/about>
5. <http://onlinelearningsuccess.org/advantages-and-disadvantages-of-online-and-classroom-learning/>
6. <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/how-employers-view-an-online-education/article36984380/>
7. <https://www.ies.ncsu.edu/wp>

