

Students Awareness about Online Courses in Arts and Science Colleges

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Abstract

In order to capitalize on the potential of digital technology as a learning tool, there is an urgent need of the professional development of teachers. It allows teachers to construct professional knowledge about pedagogy, content and technology as well as strategies for managing the changing classroom environments. Teachers have to develop competence in teaching in the digital world order and redefine their role in technology based learning. The term “information explosion” really means an explosion of knowledge. New frontiers of knowledge are opening day-by-day and the horizon of human knowledge and understanding is expanding very fast. In the present days all above mentioned knowledge information and skill is imparted by the education institutions. Online education originally began through various companies and their training courses. When a new employee was hired online training courses were used to prepare the employee.

KEYWORDS: classroom change, professional knowledge, digital technology, learning technique.

1. INTRODUCTION

Latest development in the learning sciences and technologies provide opportunities to create well-designed, learner-centered, engaging, interactive, affordable, efficient, easily accessible, flexible, and meaningful, distributed and facilitated online-learning environment. Every teacher at present prepares themselves to work in such an environment. A teacher is no longer viewed as the transmitter of knowledge or dimensions of wisdom, but as diagnostician, guide, assistant, whenever appropriate exchanger, stimulator, promoter and an interactive participant in the education process. Teachers have to develop competence in teaching in the digital world order and redefine their role in technology based learning.

Online Learning: Meaning

“Online learning is the process of education i.e., learning, teaching obtaining knowledge and skill through internet”. The internet is method of communication, interaction, entertainment, health, trade and commerce, students can visit websites not only to download desired information but also to ask question still out examination forms solving questions papers and learning information from the teacher so through online education student can learn acquire knowledge information and skill of particular work or job without attending any class but sitting in the house or wherever internet is available.

How Online Education Works?

After researching the best accredited in situation a required to apply to one of the college's degree programs. Once accepted into an online program students are asked to sign up for appropriate courses. After the registration process is complete and students are accepted into the program, the real work begins. Students begin their course

studies by logging onto the internet. Once they're in their appropriate classroom they'll learn by reading assignments asking questions and receiving instructor feedback. Some courses even offer forums and chat rooms where students can gather with or without the instructor to discuss assignments. Finally students are graded on homework assignments final project and test scores.

Online Learning and Its Tools

There are many tools of communication on internet. They include E-mail lists, news group, internet conferencing etc.,

1. **E-mail:** The desire to communicate is the essence of networking. E-mail is the most basic form of communication on the internet and by far the most popular one used in education and research. It facilitates communication from one person to another in the form of non-interactive transmission of text data graphics etc. it is very fast confidential and instills a sense of connectedness. Document can also be attached to e-mail messages.
2. **Listers:** Listers are also called mailing lists. They provide an opportunity for those in education and research to share ideas on common interests. These are usually used for discussions.
3. **Internet Conferencing:** It has great potential for learning in higher education. It facilitates greater opportunity for a dialogue between learners and the instructors as well as amongst the learners. These programmes require that both the users be connected to the internet simultaneously.
4. **E-publishing:** Most of the publishers are choosing web as an access-medium using HTML to mark up the journal contents so that it can be read using a web browser. Most of the reputed publishers learned and commercial societies are hosting their products on the net.
5. **Library Services through the Internet:** Use of library and the use of internet are positively related to education attainment. Traditional information research tools and sources found in the libraries have been recently supplemented by the information available on the internet. Digital library concept may be elaborated as a process of electronically acquiring, storing and disseminating the data to the users.
6. **E-learning:** E-learning is also called online learning. It refers to learning and other supportive resources that are available through a computer. In an online lesson, the computer display material in response to a learner's request. Here online systems refers to continuous and active interaction between two servers through the internet, E-learning is developed to apply information technology skills to education.

2. NEED FOR THE STUDY

The present study attempts to assess the online learning awareness among the college students of Arts and Science colleges in Coimbatore district. It also suggests methods to create sustain and improve Students awareness of online learning.

2.1 Statement of the Problem

Being future professionals, students should be made aware of the importance of online-learning in the teaching learning process. In this backdrop, the present study attempts to find out the "awareness of online learning among college students of Arts and Science Colleges in Coimbatore District". It also suggests methods to improve and sustain the student's awareness of online learning.

2.2 Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To study the demographic profile of the arts and science college students in Coimbatore district.
2. To analyse the awareness about online courses in arts and science college students in Coimbatore district.

2.3 Hypotheses of the Study

In the light of the objectives, the following null hypotheses are formulated for testing.

There is no significant difference between demographic profile of the students and the level of awareness about online courses in arts and science colleges in Coimbatore district.

2.4 Methodology in Brief

As the present study is descriptive by nature, normative survey method was adopted. As many as 60 students from various departments of Arts and Science colleges in Coimbatore district were chosen as sample by using a simple random sampling technique.

2.5 Limitations of the Study

Though online-learning is a vast subject the investigator restricted him only to limited area for this study. The investigation is only on awareness of online-learning among the students of Arts and Science colleges in Coimbatore district. The investigator has attempted to collect data from only six departments from Three Arts and science colleges in Coimbatore district due to constrains of time and money.

2.6 Methods and Procedure

The investigator used a standardized form of questionnaire and the items were validated verified with the help of research guide and the subject experts. The tool was administered to the sample selected in Arts and science colleges in Coimbatore District, data were collected from students of various Departments.

ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSIONS

Table – 1 : Demographic Profile of the Respondents

Demographic Variables		Frequency	Percentage
Gender	Male	40	66.67
	Female	20	33.33
Age (in Years)	Below 25	20	33.33
	26 – 30	30	50.00
	31& Above	10	16.67
Residential Area	Rural	20	33.33
	Urban	40	66.67
Educational Qualification	Upto Schooling	5	8.33
	UG	30	50.00
	PG	20	33.34
	Research Scholars	5	8.33

(Source: Data Collected through Questionnaire)

Table 1 shows that 66.67 per cent of the respondents were male, 50 percent of the students are in the age group between 26 – 30 years, 66.67 per cent of the students were urban area people and 50 per cent of the students were graduates.

Table – 2: Level of Awareness about Online Courses

Level	Frequency	Percentage
High	22	36.67
Medium	30	50.00
Low	8	13.33
Total	60	100

Table 2 shows that 50 per cent of the students are aware about online courses in medium level, 36.67 percent of the students are highly aware about online courses and the remaining 13.33 per cent of the students are aware about online courses in low level.

Table – 3 : Demographic Profile of the Students and the Level of Awareness about Online Courses

Variables	Statistical Tool	Value	Result
Gender and the Level of Awareness	Independent t test	$t = 2.537,$ $p < 0.05$	Significant
Age and the Level of Awareness	ANOVA	$F = 6.312,$ $P < 0.05$	Significant
Residential Area and the Level of Awareness	Independent t test	$t = 2.432,$ $P < 0.05$	Significant
Educational Qualification and the Level of Awareness	ANOVA	$F = 82.678,$ $P < 0.05$	Significant

Table 3 shows that there is a significant relationship between the level of awareness about online courses and the demographic variables of the students of arts and science colleges in Coimbatore District. Level of Awareness based on demographic factors like gender, age groups, residential area and educational level.

EDUCATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

Based on the above given findings and conclusions, the present study offer the following suggestions and recommendations.

1. It is imperative that steps are taken to create comprehensive awareness of Online learning among the students of Arts and Science colleges in Coimbatore district.
2. Steps must be taken to extent the scope of the ICT in Education cause of the Graduate Program of Arts and Science colleges in Coimbatore district.
3. Graduate Students are to be encouraged to visit the Online Learning portals and review them.
4. Steps must be taken to train the students of Arts and Science colleges in Coimbatore district in access of online.

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