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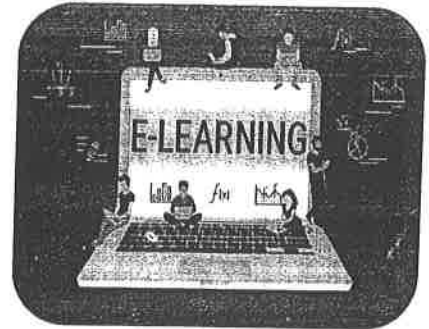
APPLICATION OF E-LEARNING IN TEACHING ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

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ABSTRACT:

E-Learning is the new buzz in today's arena of education. The use of technology to support learning is commonly referred to as e-learning. E-learning or "electronic learning" is an umbrella term that describes education using electronic devices and digital media. India is the second largest population in the world with more than 500 million people fall in the category of 5-24 years. In order to compete with the world class educational institutions in the world government of India has taken initiative to transform the current educational system in India. In view of this many positive things are happening in the process of knowledge sharing. Traditional method of teaching is being replaced with digital revolution coming into the education sector. Teaching of English language can become effective with the help of e-learning tools. Social media is also being used for optimizing the effectiveness of learning experience. Studying, promoting and experimenting with new technology will increase the reach of educational communication.

KEYWORDS: e-learning, India, education, digital revolution, social media.

INTRODUCTION:

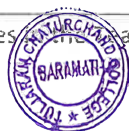
The 21st century is proving to be influential in regards of the use of Information and Communication technology. This age is also known as the Information Age, Computer Age, Digital Age, or New Media Age. There is rapid shift from traditional way of life to the modern, dynamic, high-tech, and knowledge-based society. Every new thing subsisting the development of modern technology is welcomed. The latest example of such revolutionized development is E-Learning. E-Learning is gaining a worldwide reception in the education system due to globalization of commerce and citizenship, and the burgeoning of information and knowledge available on the Internet. The global economy sustained by free knowledge acquired by highly skilled workers (Holmes and Gardner). Today there is increasingly a need to negotiate the complexities of the Information Age, which has become more and more demanding as we are influenced by technology and the greater interconnectedness of nations and their peoples. Our new knowledge societies require more flexibility in their educational structures to adapt more readily to new styles of learning and teaching, new intellectual and social needs, and new levels of skill development (Donnelly and McSweeney).

Learning is a basic and age-old human activity. In ancient India, education was imparted through the *gurukula* system. It was a kind of apprenticeship where students or disciples living near or with the guru, in the same house was (Cheng, Tsui and Chow). But with the passage of time, mass education grew on when apprenticeship became impractical because there were too many knowledge seekers and not enough knowledge providers. This gave way to school system where one subject matter expert, or master, teaches dozens or hundreds of students at one time. But the world of learning is rapidly changing. With knowledge becoming so expansive (and often fleeting), demand for learning growing, and an increasing diversity in what individuals must know, even the best master teachers cannot reach all who have to learn with any semblance of timeliness and effectiveness. Our strategy now must be to capture knowledge so that it can be instantaneously accessed and shared. The only way to do this at anything close to the speed of change is to apply new thinking about learning itself. The technological revolution that spawned our fast-paced, information-centric world can help us master it (Rosenberg). E-learning is a learning system based on formalized teaching but with the help of electronic resources. This system can be operational inside or outside of the classrooms by incorporating the use of computers, smartphones and multimedia tools. Internet forms the major component of E-learning. Therefore, it is also be termed as a network enabled transfer of skills and knowledge, and the delivery of education is made to a large number of recipients at the same or different times. The critics of e-learning disapprove of it by calling it monotonous and mechanical as it is devoid of human element. Let's see how the concept of E-learning has been described or defined by experts. E-learning, or electronic learning, has been defined in a number of different ways in literature. E-learning or "electronic learning" is an umbrella term that describes education using electronic devices and digital media. It encompasses everything from traditional classrooms that incorporate basic technology to online universities. In general, E-learning is the expression broadly used to

describe "instructional content or learning experience delivered or enabled by electronic technologies (Wagner, Head and Hassanein). According to Steeples and others, E-learning covers a wide set of applications and processes, such as Web-based learning, computer-based learning, virtual classrooms, and digital collaboration. It includes the delivery of content via Internet, intranet/extranet (LAN/WAN), audio and videotape, satellite (Almaqtri). The Cambridge Business English Dictionary defines it as "the process of providing courses on the internet or an intranet." E-learning is becoming an increasingly popular training option as technology developments have rendered it less costly.

In a traditional setting e-learning may include educational films and PowerPoint presentations. These types of media can provide students with content that is more dynamic and engaging than textbooks and a whiteboard. Edutainment, or content that is designed to be educational and entertaining, may be used to keep student's attention while providing knowledge about a particular topic. A documentary film, for example, may be both engaging and informative (Christensson) In a more advance setting e-learning includes online courses, videos, PDF and various other resources. The lessons are also interactive in the sense that there are quizzes, audio-visual learning content as well as live chats with the instructors making it more interesting to delve into the subjects available. This helps a person understand better because the brain comprehends things better that are visual as well as auditory in nature. A big advantage lies in the fact that the courses are majority student centric. The teachers are able to focus on one particular person and help them solve any doubts that they may have encountered in the concepts.

India has a bright prospect in the field of online education. As per the report of India Brand Equity Foundation, India has more than 1.4 million schools with over 227 million students enrolled and more than 36,000 higher education institutions. India has become the second largest market for e-learning after the US (IBFE: India Brand Equity Foundation) Nowadays many educational institutions are turning their backs on



the traditional way of education system and creating a vibrant educational atmosphere based on technology. The students are also like welcoming wholeheartedly the use of new technique in the process of acquiring knowledge. More importantly, the use of new technology in education is not only user friendly but also easily accessible and today's young generation has the aptness to master it quick time which ultimately validate their progress.

MOOC

English language has been taught with many approaches, methods, techniques and trends for a long time. But with the surge in the use of technology and digitalization of the world, English, too, is used in digitalized form. No wonder, teachers now a days are deviating from the traditional teaching methods and embracing the technology for enhancing the overall teaching and learning experience. There are many websites with audio and video materials for learning English. Teacher can help students to find such websites. There are even places online where one can learn English live in real time with real people assisting the students in solving their queries and enhancing the learning experience. Some e-learning tools are just like traditional classrooms, with textbooks, teachers, tests and assignments. MOOC, which stands for massive open online course is an excellent example of such online course platform. In addition to traditional course materials such as videos, readings, and problem sets, MOOCs provide interactive user forums that help build a community for the students, professors, and teaching assistants. Enrolment under MOOC courses is absolutely free and anyone can attend these courses. Several platforms such as Udemy, Alison, Lynda, Coursera, and Edx are well known course providers under MOOC.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Although social media platforms such as Facebook and Twitter are called as a great distraction for students, if use wisely, it can be helpful for English language students. Twitter can be a great place to enhance the English skills. Twitter has a 140- character limit. This helps the

user to write in precise sentence with brevity of words. Writing and reading short and basic sentences will definitely help the user to exercise their English. Tweeting is a great activity to practice the writing skills which ultimately improve the vocabulary. Like writing poetry, user chooses the best words to communicate with. Twitter does not afford you the luxury of rambling on about a topic. The advantage of this social platform is that it is being used every moment of everyday helping the users to learn new words as they become popular. On Twitter, one is always without restriction to follow the other users. This allows one the freedom of reading the topics that suits one's interest. It also means one can follow other students who want to learn English, or teachers who are dedicated to helping students learn more English. One can even start or contribute to conversations about learning English by using hashtags. Some useful hashtags examples:

- #EFL or #ESL: Tweets about learning and teaching English as a second or foreign language.
- #eal: Tweets about English being used as an additional language.
- #ellchat: English language learning chat platform
- #grammar: Tweets related to English grammar, spelling

Facebook is another platform to learn English. Joining an English-language learning group will help the students to lean on each other for support and ask questions to others who are in the process of learning English. Students can also use Facebook to create their own group. They can invite fellow English learners from their school or class and use the group as a place to post questions and get answers quickly. It's also an ideal place to share helpful tips and articles they come across so that others can benefit from them, too. Facebook and Twitter are both great platforms on which to follow people or companies that post grammar and writing advice that can really help improve your English. Here are a few great Facebook pages to follow:

- GrammarGirl: Mignon Fogarty, a.k.a. GrammarGirl, offers "quick and dirty tips" on

grammar. She posts videos and articles to help English learners.

- English Vocabulary: This is a great page if you are looking to expand your vocabulary.
- Scribdni: This Facebook page posts all kinds of grammar articles, ranging from fun, interactive quizzes to instructional how-to articles.
- Inklyo: Inklyo posts various articles and images for English learners.

Edmodo

Edmodo is a free social learning network for teachers, students and parents. It is a platform that tries to emulate Facebook, yet with more control. The teacher can moderate the content and students can be restricted in how they interact with each other.

Students can contribute to the social media platform by responding to teacher's post and links, posting a public board, sending private messages to the teacher, uploading content and embedding video. Teachers can set assignments (which can be synced to the class calendar), create quizzes and set up a library. The library feature allows the teacher to upload documents and video. This tool can be used to store important course materials and for independent learning tasks.

Other features include applications for iPhones and Androids and the ability for teachers to invite parents to the classroom so that they can see posts, homework and calendar dates. However, parents are unable to send messages to the students, only to the teacher (Barnes)

YouTube:

It's no secret that YouTube is an English Language Learner's best friend. YouTube is one of the online materials that can improve the teaching and learning experience of both the teacher and student of English language. YouTube is regarded as one of the most effective e-learning tools for acquiring English language skills. Some useful YouTube channels for English learning are listed below:

- Learn English Lab: Learn English Lab is a YouTube channel that provides free English lessons on grammar, vocabulary,

pronunciation, conversation skills, writing skills and many more.

- BBC learning English: It is a brilliant resource to develop an eye towards the English language. This channel covers short lessons on all aspects of English learning such as learning Vocabulary, Grammar, Accents etc.
- IELTS Liz: IELTS is an international standardized test of English language proficiency for non-native English language speakers.
- Learn English with Let's Talk: This is one of those channels in which you will learn to improve your Public speaking, improving body language etc.
- Learn English with EnglishClass101:

To summarize, the inclusion of e-learning in the teaching and learning process is the need of time. Experts believe that the process of making education available* around the clock assures better results and that's encouraging more teachers and institution to incorporate e-learning modules and platforms for disseminating the knowledge. The system of earning knowledge through the internet is highly productive as it is a tool-based education system that concentrates more on interaction and discussion. Integrating technology into English language teaching optimizes the effectiveness of teaching-learning process and making it more interesting and enjoyable.

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