

Is E-Learning a Learning? University International Students' View

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ABSTRACT:

Recently the use of internet in learning growing fast worldwide. Majority of scholars have different views about it's implications in learning. The aim of study focuses on it's benefits and challenges hindering e-learning through University international students' views. The study used case study research design and qualitative approach. The data collected only through unstructured interview. 33 International students studying at Galgotias were interviewed for this research work. The study findings showed the benefits of e-learning to University International students; provide wide range of learning materials, virtual learning environment, students' engagement and improve collaboration. While challenges hindering University students in utilization of e-learning including; healthy problem, unfair means in exams and plagiarism, impracticability of knowledge and optional learning method. Furthermore the study concluded that precautions need to be taken such as the curriculum must reflect e-learning methods, training students is very importance, find new software application to translate video in all languages, real practical studies must be done, and e-learning should be given according to physical and socio-economic learning environment of particular country.

Keywords: E-Learning, Internet, International Students, Learning, University

Introduction

The internet of things is now growing very fast than two previous decades. Recently every life aspect keep on touching with internet and have specific name accordingly. For stance when internet is used in health become e-health, when is used in commerce is called e-commerce, when is used in agriculture is called e-agriculture, when used in bank is called e-banking, when used in government is called e-government and when is used in learning is called e-learning (online learning). Strong debate exists in the use of e-learning as digital technology method of learning. Proponents view as catalyst and lubricant for learning while opponents view as detrimental tool in learning. This study play great role to get views from university international students.

Background of study

United Nations (2015) Transforming our world: The 2030 agenda for Sustainable Development Goal. 4th goal "ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote life long learning opportunities for all." In the similar goal 4.b. "by 2030, substantially expand globally the number of scholarship available to developing countries, in particular least developed countries, higher education, including vocational training and information and communication technology, technical, engineering and scientific program in

developed countries and other developing countries and 70 sub section analyses the fundamental role of using online platform in learning.”

Furthermore the report showing the internet penetration has grown from just over 6 percent of world’s population in 2000 to 43 percent in 2015. As result, 3.2 billion people are linked to a global network of continent and application. The number of mobile-cellular subscriptions has grown almost tenfold in last 15 years, from 738 million in 2000 to over 7 billion in 2015. In addition to that as of 2015, 95 percent of world’s population is covered by a mobile-cellular signal. Also Global Education Monitoring report (GEM, 2023) has been showing 40 percent of primary, 50 percent lower Secondary and 50 percent of upper secondary schools have internet, 85 percent countries have policy to school learners connectivity, higher education is adopted in digital technology faster and being transformed by it faster. By 2021, 220 million students joining massive open online courses (MOOCs). 224 million views Wikipedia everyday. An internet users increase from 16 percent in 2005 to 66 percent 2023 for different of 50 percent in only 18 years. However the report has been showing only 31 percent of students enjoy internet while 72 percent live in vulnerable conditions, many students do not have much time to practice with digital technology in schools. 10 percent of 15 age use digital devices for more than 1 per week in mathematics and science. The majority of teachers unprepared teaching with digital technology. And two third of education software applications unused in USA. Notwithstanding the changes of digital technology, education system remain the same in many countries in the world. UNESCO, (2021) report in Digital learning for future has been showing the problems facing the use of digital technology in education namely: learning inequalities, increases students’ isolation, narrowing and privatize education experience, violate privacy and trust and consolidate power and control outside public oversight.

UNESCO (2021) report in India education during world’s teachers day Newdelh held on 5th October 2021, “No teacher, no class” ten recommendations were proposed. 7th recommendation envisage to restructure pre-services professional development and strengthen curricular and pedagogical reforms and 9th recommendation has aimed to provide teachers with meaningful Information Communication Technology training in order to strengthen the use of e-learning methods.

Mukhtar et al (2020) E-learning involves the implementation of advancement in technology to direct, design an deliver the learning content. It contains features like white board, chatrooms, polls, quizzes, discussion forums, an survey that allows instructors and students to communicate online and share features content side by side. It includes the use of Microsoft team, Google meet, Edmodo and Moodle with their application for video conference. The report showing the advantages including: flexibility, students centered learning and maintaining integrity, comfortability, accessibility and remote learning. In other side the report showing disadvantages including: unable to teach and learn practical and clinical work, lack of immediate feedback and some students misbehave.

Al Rawashdeh (2021) E-learning or online is used to offer instructional programs to distance learners. It is an online learning platform emerges in a formal context and utilizes a variety of multimedia technology. The use of electronic hardware and software support his system either offline and online. Nevertheless the definition doesn’t indicate how offline can be used as online. Beside that the use of e-learning improve classroom management through positive environment, where students deliberately engaged online tutorials for completing a task to them. Student engagement is highly practice with the use of text, videos, sound, collaborative sharing and interactive graphics. The report also showing disadvantages lack of students’ interactions, ineffective because lack face to face interaction between instructor and students, cultural barriers, lack of self regulation have attendance to not assign sufficient time for completing

assignments hence switching in poor quality work or late assignment; lack of computers and other electronic devices to students; no extracurricular activities; problem of hearing and vision, chance of cheating exams students focus on teaching than content; difficult to apply calendar methods tools, student's isolation and effectively students affected by radiation, electromagnetic field and obesity.

Almahasees et al (2021) using online learning involves Facebook, WhatsApp, phone calls, Microsoft team, zoom meeting, Moreover 60 percent of faculty use WhatsApp to communicate with students. The report analyses the limitations of using e-learning. Lack of proper access to internet for stance cost of having fiber networks; abruptly shift from face to face instructions to online instructions; lack of necessary training in Technological skills and disability Learners like deaf, hard of hearing are in disadvantage point to access e-learning.

Ruth et al (2016) students disengage in e-learning because of less proficiency in English for fear of being misunderstood, inadequate expertise in online tools, lack of social presence, lack of access and connectivity. Despite the study showing that the use of video clips make alive for students and helps students to remember still references and websites as learning tools are few to cater e-learning market. The report concluded before using e-learning three precautions should be considered. Strong social presence; which involve timely learning feedback, interactions with facilitators, peer to peer contacts, discussion forums and collaborative activities; technical aspects including technical access, online self efficiency and computer self efficiency; learning tools involving websites then video clips. The report recommended that video clips and websites should be closely related to the curriculum to enhance learner-centricity.

Varyan (n.d). Defines e-learning as the methodology of teaching or imparting education via help of electronic use. While teaching can be based in or out of the classroom, the use of computers and internet form the major component of e-learning. The e-learning characterized by flexibility, convenience and commencement dates and variety of study materials are available. India manages e-learning because reliable electricity; access to internet device; high speed internet in both rural and urban; 90 percent of content in the existing online platforms are in English and removal gender imbalance. Despite these achievements only 21 percent in India household have internet hence it is against fit for all principle. The report also analysed physical health to students like muscles, joints and eye problems.

Parveen (2023) e-learning means education received through the internet without stepping out home. It involves the use of internet in teaching and learning process which involve flexibility of time. It happens both synchronous and asynchronous. It is more student-centered approach as advocated by many of education scholars. However the report firmly opposed the use e-learning. According to study the use of e-learning lead to psychology problem as long as student stay alone in most of the time, pressure and boredom. The report warns that in future students may refuse to enter in school. Moreover the use of e-learning is more theoretical so best useful in social sciences subject than subject that intends physical experiment and investigation. So this method can not substitute traditional method of learning but useful as emergency teaching and learning methods.

Arkorful (2014) the Role of E-learning, Defines e-learning as method involves the use of digital tools for teaching and learning. It makes the use of technological tools to enable learners study anytime and anywhere. The report continues e-learning make easy communication and improve the relationship that sustains learning. Furthermore e-learning in higher education for faculty administrators and students to enjoy the full benefits that come with its adoption and implementation. The study concluded elearning

involves training, delivery of knowledge and motivates students to interact with each others as well as exchange and aspect different point of view.

Stanley (2023) the report concluded that before using e-learning methods in teaching the following prerequisite should be taken pay attention on use of multimedia communication, self instructional materials, assignment responses, counselling sessions, students support services, regular contact with tutors, library support, workshop and group discussion.

Rani & Anisha (n.d) The report has been showing that teachers use power point presentation, video, YouTube, lectures and Geometrical tools to encourage interaction with students to share their knowledge. According to this report the elearning is effective tool for teachers and administrators in school; promote students engagement; support number of teaching strategies; provide immediate feedback; foster learning; improve access to content and resources and enable the teaching process to strengthen it's quality. Notwithstanding e-learning limitations it enable to strengthen the quality of teaching. E-learning become useful for English teachers who unable to pronounce spells and other Grammatical mistakes. It also supports number of teaching strategies

Rationale of research work

Study helps University international students to gain knowledge and insightful on benefits and challenges of e-learning.

Research Questions

1. How University international students are benefiting by e-learning?
2. What challenges hindering the university international students in utilization of e-learning?

Research Objectives

1. To study the benefits of e-learning to university international students.
2. To study the challenges being e-learning faced by university international students

Statement of the problem

Based on the above discussion researcher tilted his work as “Is e-learning a learning? University International Students’ Views”.

Study gap

Many literature focus on both sides advantages and disadvantages, using multiple students perspectives, Qualitative, Casesudy and multiple methods of collecting data to capture students’ views (Ruth & Queries, 2016; Mukhtar et al, 2020; Al Rawashdeh et al, 2021; Almahasees, 2021; Arkoful, 2023; Stanley,2023; Parveen, 2023; Ran & Anisha, n.d; Varyani, n.d; and. No studies have been done e-learning is a learning or e-learning is not a learning by using Galgotias university international students’ views. Therefore this study used case study, unstructured interview method of collecting data and qualitative approach to capture the university international students’ views.

Research Method. The study used case study research method to explore the benefits and challenges of e-learning to University International students. The study used Galgotias University as case study.

Targeted Population and sampling. The study used Galgotias University Greater Noida, Gautam Buddh, Nagar, Uttar Pradesh, India. 33 students were interviewed for this research work.

Study tool. The study used unstructured interview to explore opinion and attitude of elearning. Every individual was free to give his or her opinion, view and perception. It took 10-15 minutes for each interviewee to give his opinion so as to avoid participants fatigue and to maintain flexibility and freedom of respondents. Moreover the study was used unstructured interview method because of time constraints, financial constraints, readiness of respondents, easy accessibility of respondents and unlimited language barrier. For these reasons make easy for researcher manages to collect opinions within short period of time (Dawson, 2009 ; Kumar, 2011 & Creswell, 2014)

Study area. The study conducted in University of Galgotias in Greater Noida, Gautam Buddh Nagar, Utter Padresh Newdelh India where data collected from University International Students. The researcher talked to each student personally.

Data collection. The researcher used unstructured interview to collect opinions for two days only. Thursday 21st September and Friday 22nd September, 2023. The first day managed to collect views from 17 University International students and 2nd managed to collect only 16, the reason majority of students were prepared to go for kibao kata and pool party music club.

Study Reliability and validity. Before conducting study Wednesday 20th September,2023 the researcher made pilot interview with two students. One was fresh female student pursued psychology from Zimbabwe and male student pursue nursing from Tanzania. The aim was to test the consistency and precision of the study tool. (Marczyk et al., 2005 & Kumar, 2011)

Ethical considerations. The researcher before interview was introducing himself, tell students the aim of study and respondents were free to leave from interview. All study’s risky have been encountered. (Dawson, 2007; Jackson, 2009; Kumar, 2011)

Results and discussion

Demographic information

Table 1: Sex

Sex	Female	Percentage	Male	Percentage	Total	Percentage
Respond	16	48.48	17	51.52	33	100

Table 1 analysis total response rate 33 (100%). 16 (48.48%) Female students and 17 (51.52%) Male students were captured. The different sexual respond rate was 1 (3.04%). According to Mugenda & Mugenda, (2003). The responded rate 10%-50% is eligible for study which targeted population is less 10,000. Therefore the study was eligible since sample exceed 50% to capture information.

Demographic information of sex and degree program

Table 2: Showing demographic data of sex and degree program

Degree Program	Male	Percentage	Female	Percentage	Total	Percentage
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Computer Engineering	3	17.6%	-	-	3	9%
Nursing	2	11.7%	3	18.7%	5	15%
Pharmacy	2	11.7%	3	18.7%	5	15%
Optometry	3	17.6%	3	18.7%	6	18%
Journalism	2	11.7%	-	-	2	6%
Law	1	5.8%	2	12.5%	3	9%
Nutrition & Dietetics	-	-	2	12.5%	2	6%
Food science and Dietetics	2	11.7%	2	12.5%	4	12%%
Civil Engineering	1	5.8%	-	-	1	3%
Psychology	1	5.8	1	6.3%	2	6%
Total	17	100%	16	100%	33	100%

Table 2 showing Civil Engineering and Optometry 3 (17.6%) was highest number of students while lowest for both law and psychology male student was 1 (5.8% . For nutrition and Dietetics null male students. Furthermore Nursing, pharmacy and Journalism were 2 (11.7%) for each course. Nursing, Pharmacy and Optometry were 3 (18.7%) which is highest number of female students captured while Psychology was taken by only 1 (6.3%) female student. Also law, Nutrition and Dietetics, Food science and Dietetics were 2 (12.5). Moreover Journalism, Civil Engineering and Computer Engineering were haven't even 1 student. Generally Optometry have many students 6 (18%), followed by Nursing and Pharmacy both have 5 (15%), followed by Food science and Dietetics 4 (12%), then Computer Engineering 3 (9%), next was Nutrition and Dietetics 2 (6%) and Civil Engineering 1 (3%). In the ground of sex ratio both food science, Optometry and Psychology the number of female and male students were equal hence maintain gender balance. (Mugenda & Mugenda, 2003)

The benefits of e-learning University International students' views.

Wide range of learning materials. The students able to find different studying materials of the same topic hence can have many ways of getting concept of particular topic. Instead of depending only teacher as main source of knowledge. It enables to practice student centered knowledge and share the knowledge with the teacher and change the role of teacher in the lesson Development. Theiros, (2016) and Parveen, (2023). The learners feel self-motivated learning, self-directed and asynchronous learnings. Furthermore AlRawashdeh et al, (2021) in their study done by questionnaire founding that 81 percent of students' perspective e-learning provide scientific materials in an interesting way. This evidence proved by one female students studying pharmacy who says "It is easy to get learning materials because am able to search via internet " (Female Pharmacy Student. Interviewed evening, Thursday 21st September 2023). Furthermore searching different materials through internet enable students to be creative because stay very long time alone. (Male Computer Engineering, interviewed 21st September 2023 in his room). **Therefore e-learning is a learning.**

Virtual Learning Environment. Learning through internet enable students to acquire knowledge anywhere and anyplace without physical barrier like physical distance, rainfall, pandemic problems,

natural disaster. and majority students committed to learn. Therefore makes unnecessary for learners to get access into classrooms and reduces unnecessary movement because students stay at home and learn comfortable. According to Almahasees et al (2021), the study students' perception of online learning during Covid-19. The report showing 60 percent of faculty uses WhatsApp to communicate with students, 14 percent Facebook, 8 percent phone call and 66 percent using Microsoft Team. The idea supported by one of students who studies Computer Engineering. E-learning enable him to study comfortably while stays at home scrutinize materials and reduces the time of going to school and coming back home and well communicating with his lecture. He says "it reduces the time go and go back, you feel well, comfortable in you home, you can stop the topic and you can review the topic many time onto pic after understanding very well and you go the next topic". (Male student, study Computer Engineering, interviewed when he was in Delhi through WhatsApp, Thursday 21st September 2023). Moreover the use of e-learning is option in way that heavy rainfall, natural disaster, calamity and pandemic disease occur (Parveen, 2023). The idea also supported by male Optometry student who says students may select any good place to learn without going to classroom and reduces the cost of going to school. According to him if no disaster students should attend physical learning. (Male Optometry students, interview done at basement E1 block, afternoon, Thursday, 21st September 2023). **Therefore e-learning is a learning**

Improve collaboration. When the student uses internet in learning improve collaboration and hence improve communication. Students can share their thoughts, ideas and concepts they have from different disciplines. Even though students live away each other still have an opportunity to share notes, assignments, solving questions, share lectures across all over the world. By doing so Students may have different friends across the world, this is done through video conference, zoom conference and Microsoft team. It is in point of view students gain new knowledge and increase insightful from others. (Ruth & Queiros, 2016; Almahasees, 2021,). According AIRawashdeh et al, (2021), 80 percent of students who questioned said the use of elearning increases the possibility of communication and interaction between students and teachers. The idea supported by female students who study law. According to her, studying e-learning increases the chance of getting new friends, getting new information, new knowledge and entertainment. (Law female students, interviewed, Friday, morning, 22nd September 2023), Nursing male student via communication and collaboration it makes easy for learner to engage in lesson (Male nursing students, interviewed, 22nd September, 2023). On top of that students may learn together while eating activity takes place (Male Computer Engineering student. Interviewed evening Thursday 21st September 2023). **Therefore learning is a learning**

Students' engagement. In this case, students engage in the lesson effective as results innovation, critical thinking and problems solving take place. E-learning is essential system to build the new 21st learning skills. The students are not tabular they have something to share with their teachers, lecturers and tutorials. When students given an opportunity to engage in lesson become confidence and curious. The role of teacher change and become coach, guide and mentor. The teacher is not dominating in the class. The role of teacher is to create problems and facilitate learners to solve the problems. By doing so learners are easy for them to engage in the lesson. E-learning builds the confidence of learners to share their opinion and ask questions regarding the subject concern. Teacher uses power point presentation, video, YouTube, animation, audio, graphing and Geometrical tools to encourage interaction with students to share their knowledge and skills (Ran & Anisha n.d; Arkoful, 2014). This witnessed by male Journalism student

when he was asked to give his opinion directly he said. "I like online studies because it helps me to build confidence and I don't fear anything..."(Male Journalism student, interviewed, Morning, Friday, 22nd September 2023). **Therefore e-learning is a learning**

Challenges hindering the utilization of E-learning University international students' views

Health problem. It is obvious that the use of internet wants learners who haven't impairment health problem. In order to see and hear properly one must have eyes and ears working properly. Students having hearing and vision problems have in disadvantageous situation to share learning opportunities. Therefore the use of internet does not provide equality to access education as adhered in UN, (2015) in the line of Sustainable Development Goal and it's implementation of 2030 agenda. According AlRawashdeh, (2021) report of students' perceptive in University Education in USA showing 60 percent of students recommended that internet learning become useless for unhearing and vision problems students. The report also showing 66 percent effectively affect students through radiation, electromagnetic field and obesity. Moreover physical health include muscles joints pains, eye train and poor posture hindering e-learning. Also difficulty in attention, anxiety issues and sleep disorder are among of problems.(Varyan, n. d& Almahasees et al, 2021). According to Parveen, (2023). In his study Understanding Student Engagement and online Learning Post Corvid -19 Using Multiple Perspective in India the study showing learners affected health and mental we'll being example psychological problem, pressure and boredom when use elearning. This witnessed by male student who studied B.Tech Civil Engineering. "He said am always getting sleeping in e-learning and am not understanding at all as I go in the classes." (Male student, B. Tech Civil Engineering. Interviewed Morning Friday 22nd September 2023). **Therefore e-learning is not a learning**

Unfair means of examination and plagiarism. The use of internet in e-learning contributed much in copy and paste of learning materials. Majority of learners copying the learning concepts without acknowledgement. It is difficult to supervise and invigilate exam properly because of physical distance. Therefore giving the room for examinee to cheat easily. According to AlRawashdeh, (2021) report showing, there is 51 percent of cheating exams. Moreover the Mukhtar et al, (2020) Advantages, Limitations and Recommendations for Online Learning COV-19 Pandemic Era in Pakistan. It is difficulty to maintain learning integrity due to lack of discipline and plagiarism. The idea supported by both students female pharmacy student and male Journalism student, when interviewed. One among those say "...me I do many online interviews to join University it was very easy for me to cheat....so e-learning should not used for examination..."she finalized. (Female student pursued Pharmacy, interviewed done Thursday 21st September 2023). Learning through e-learning involves high risk of cheating exams and plagiarism for abusive and mistrustful students. **Therefore elearning is not a learning.**

Impracticability of knowledge. E-learning is learning for theoretical knowledge. Some subjects need physical scientific experiment and investigation. These subjects including; Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Geography and Mathematics undeserving e-learning. The e-learning fitting only social studies, art and humanities. Scientific experiment need physical environment and simulation to enable practical in learning. Mixing chemicals, magnetism studies, soil Ph., Cartography, Agriculture and organism classification need practical. Not only that but also e-learning is useful for adults Learners and useless for primary school as teaching and learning methods. The primary learners learn by doing and role play

model. Moreover instead of learners learn the subject content, they are based on watching the scientific knowledge used to deliver materials (Parveen, 2023 & Mukhtar, 2020). According to AlRawashdeh, (2021). The use of e-learning denying the rights of learners to engage in extracurricular activities. According to the report 58 percent of questioned respondent responded that it also difficulty to apply calendar methods and tools in teaching and learning. The ideas supported by female Optometry and female Dietetics student who viewed that even though e-learning enable learners to study anywhere else across the world there is impractical knowledge particularly health science (Both female Optometry and Nutrition Dietetics students interviewed, Thursday 21st September 2023). **Therefore e-learning is not a learning**

Optional learning methods. In order for learner to learn and capture the learning materials traditional methods of learning are effective. The use of e-learning should be used as the only solution when environmental hazards occur example earthquake, torrential rainfall, , Typhoons, Tornadoes, Hurricanes; political chaos example civil war; Pandemic disease example Ebola, Corvid 19. Inorder for learning to take place physical environment and interaction between teachers and students needed. The teacher able to manage the class by controlling discipline. Teachers able to understand psychology of learners, easy for teachers to give feedback to the Learners when traditional methods of learning being used.. It copes and fit for pragmatism theory of learning. It is this point of view the students can engage effectively in lesson development. This idea firmly supported by Parveen, (2023). and proven by one of Journalism students interviewed during data collection he hammered that ”..to my side learning via e-learning is not learning....there a lot of inconveniences and coincidence may occur when I get Learning at home and I feel very comfortable when I attending lecture....” (Male student pursue Journalism, interviewed Thursday, evening 21st September 2023). Therefore e-learning is not a learning

Constrains during study

The study faced with number of challenges include: Majority of students still enjoying the holiday hence it was not easy to access them as planned, some of University international students were very busy for music club hence make it difficult to capture them, some of them were reluctant to give their views and some of them they say they will callback, when researcher recall them refuse to pick up their phones. This makes difficult for reseacher to get views for all targeted samples size.

Conclusion

In general e-learning is inevitable for 21st century learning skills. Achievements of United Nations Sustainable Development Goals in the line of 2030 agenda depends on effectiveness of e-learning in learning. E-learning fulfill the basic education needs of young boys and girls regardless physical distance, sex, age, vulnerabilities, time, natural disaster, disabilities political and socio-economic factors. However e-learning have the challenges like health problems, unfair means in exams and plagiarism, impracticability of knowledge and optional learning method still students get wide range of learning materials, virtual learning environment, improve collaboration and students engagement. Precautions must be taken before the use of e-learning. Mention a few: Availability of elearning tools such as computer, tablets, ipads and smartphones; internet access; elearning literacy; learners' counselling, regular contact with tutors; assignment response rate; education level of learners; curriculum preparation, political and socio-economic ability of particular country.

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