The History Of E-Learning & Its Modern Day Implementation.

E-learning is the utility of technology to get the essence of the educational curriculum outside the classroom, unlike the traditional way of learning. You can understand it in another way – it's the course or program or degree that is brought to you through media or the internet online. Education is no more limited to only four pages of a book, the world is bigger than that, so it is about getting updated and gaining knowledge. And, in the world of technologies and discoveries, e-learning is a boon. There are a lot of ways lately to gain the knowledge from anywhere and anytime online via – internet, distance learning courses, and many other ways come under the list. Gone are those days when students were supposed to carry a bag that is as heavy as their own body, to go sit inside a classroom enclosed by four walls and learn from just one professor. The evolution of technology has brought education to your fingertips and constantly improvising it. You have an opportunity to interact with teachers far from you in different cities, and learn. You can learn from e-books, which are a part of e-learning like books in real life are. They're not as expensive as the real ones and you get the knowledge according to your flexibility of time and potential. There's a big crowd that has stated e-learning to be a huge success, and adaptation is supposed to make it into a lot of places in the coming days.

How did e-learning start?

Before the invention of e-learning methods, the concepts of distance courses were known. The demerit being it could only target a few subjects or skills. The first-ever testing machine was invented by Tinius in 1924. The device allowed students to take exams and evaluate themselves. 30 years later in 1954, BF Skinner invented the 'teaching machine'. This machine was different, as the name suggests, it allowed the institutions to administer the instructions to the students. By then, the evolution of technology had become faster. In 1960, the first computer-based training program was launched, which was famous by the name PLATO – Programmed Logic for Automated Teaching Operations. The initial invention was made in favor of the University of Illinois, but later it spread to all the schools in the area. The data interpretation and transfer were underuse as we got into the '70s. This marked the peak of the e-learning invention, where the learning became interactive. In Great Britain, the universities that were not affiliated to certify on behalf of the government or any other authority took advantage of e-learning. They widespread their names and enrolled students from far distance into their courses. With the internet technology available, Open Universities began to advance their education with interaction, unlike the era of emails before.

E-learning in today's world

Today, in 2020, is there anything that technology can not do? From transportation to the conversation – everything is done in the minimum time. We have got everything we need to make our lives easier, so has become access to education. There are a lot of inventions that took place after the spread of the concept of e-learning around the world. The accessibility of computers and the internet by common people became

easy. In the late 20th century, technology evolved and methods of delivery of knowledge through e-learning expanded. Laptops replaced hefty computers, which are portable. Phones are now a necessity. And, internet connection to each electronic device has made it work like butter on bread. It has become very easy to learn your interests from experts – being subjects or the development of certain skills. The virtual learning saw new heights in the following decade, with people gaining the knowledge to get access to learning through internet methods and opportunities.

In the early '90s, a lot of schools abroad were set up with the sole aim of providing e-education to grown-ups only, the people who had a job but not education. They utilized the internet to introduce the syllabus of particular courses and educate the people who couldn't get it previously in their early life. The geographical and time constraints were made to come into negligence.

There was a lot of capital that was put into distant learning earlier. People spent their hard-earned money on education – the material fee, the transportation fee, the extras, and everything. The introduction of e-learning gradually lessened the money spent and was proven to have brought education to a wider group of audience, which erased the thin line between the 'can afford' and 'cannot afford' crowd.

By the 2000s, the companies that hired employees earlier did upgrade the skills of those workers by educating them with e-learning. The skilled-workers are assets to a company and in a way or the other, with update and upgrade of the knowledge of workers, there was a huge benefit brought to the companies which introduced the technology as such. The unemployed crowd was so being allowed to learn, get a degree, and work with e-learning.

Pros and Cons of E-Learning :

Due to the convenient learning from e-learning, it has become famous. People can access knowledge from anywhere, anytime, from anybody according to personal flexibility. Talking of the advantages, there's a list that goes long. Students who are engaged in a one-degree course of several years or employees who have committed to some association have a huge benefit of getting knowledge of new things across the world on their phones or laptops. You become independent when it comes to accessing knowledge. There are important things that are put in front of you, picked up from various big writers' books, that are a lot to complete if taken to study one-by-one. The customization, how you want to train yourself, has crossed limits. You only decide what amount of training you need to go through. You can schedule your days or weeks to learn certain skills or subjects, according to your flexibility. There's no hard and fast rule to follow, unlike the schools and colleges. The chats and open dashboards are provided in almost every e-learning school facility, which influences your learning to be better and clear your doubts on the spot. The understanding of the concept becomes better as you listen or watch the video lectures again and again.

When it comes to disadvantages, we have to count one big flaw in the system that is the implementation of practical knowledge. In a system of learning from a screen, the application of the theory that is being

taught to you barely is put into use in the real world. There's a better understanding between two people in a one-on-one teaching system, which is missing in the e-learning schools. Another con of e-learning is that we are limited to fewer questions, which are mostly objectives because the computer language can not get the answers checked right if it's not appropriate and exact. Another thing is being insecure about the security of the data that you put online. Technology is equally boon and bane. The data may be stolen from the internet by ethical hacking processes and can be used in any way, which mostly has a bad outcome. Hence, security is one of the issues to be looked upon. The authenticity of the work, assessment, or project is doubtful. It depends on the student how religiously he/she provides the work that is assigned. And, even if they do, does that count into practical knowledge?