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## Online Education (E-Learning) In India

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### **ABSTRACT:**

*Over a period of time it is found that different sectors of economy have changed including education sector. Unlike any other sector, education sector has seen many evolution and changes. Education system changed from Guru-Shishya Parampara to class room teaching, then teaching with the help of projectors or LED and now its online teaching classes or teaching through E-Learning portals or Web Based E-Learning (WBEL). It has been seen from the past several years that online education system or E-Learning system has emerged as a powerful contender for new education system. From the recent past it has been found that several online courses have been conducted to educate millions of people around the globe on various topics. In spite of difference in culture and language and diverse population E-Learning system has gained a lot of popularity increase in affordability and purchasing power of Indians. The only reason for growth in E-Learning system is drastic change in information technology and technological improvements. This article aimed at examining the impact of E-Learning or Web Based E-Learning (WBEL) in modern India Education System.*

**KEYWORDS:** Education, E-Learning, Web Based E-Learning (WBEL), Information Technology, Purchasing Power, Education System.

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### **INTRODUCTION**

India is a vast country having diversified culture, heritage, language, class of population and education system. We have various schools following Gurukul system to schools having world class infrastructure. We have some schools conducting in-house activity for physical and overall development of students where as some students are still struggling for basic educational facility such as books and stationary. Some schools and colleges have international tie-ups sending students to different country for study or for orientation programme. There are great variations in quality education due to reasons like social background, poverty, difference in standard of living, lack of teacher training programme etc.

Indian education system is one of the largest education system in the world and holds key position in global education industry. In 2018 there are 10,30,996 schools in India, out of which 8,53,184 are in urban and 1,77,812 are in rural area. Up to 31st March 2019, there are total number of 907 universities in India in which, 399 are state universities, 126 deemed to be



universities, 48 central universities and 334 private universities. Irrespective of such a large number of school, colleges and universities, there is still a ray of growth and development in education system. However there is still a lot of potential in Indian education system. The online education market is forecasted to be USD 18 billion by 2021, growing at a CAGR of around 20% over a period of five year.

WBEL or online learning is paper less and electronic education system with the use of information and technology. It is a combination of learning service and technology. It is learning educational curriculum outside traditional class room with the use of electronic technology. As we are aware that that technology has almost taken every part of our life and is considered as path breaker.

### **BACKGROUND OF THE RESEARCH STUDY**

As we are aware that Internet is having plenty of knowledge, there for it is for the betterment of students to open the ocean of knowledge. This can be possible only by the use of Information Technology (IT) and World Wide Web (WWW) as a medium of delivery. E-Learning portals has a benefit of flexible place, time and medium of use. In a country like India, where basic or higher education is not possible due to many constrains like financial and social problems, online education system helps people to access to world class education system. As India is the second largest populated country in world, there is a huge requirement of E-Learning or online education system. With a view to complete the demand, India is a home of many E-Learning portals and WBEL system. Good bye teachers, class room and books, E-Learning is now a new trend in education system. E-Learning can be contemplate at two stages. 1st state is educator level where as 2nd stage is trainer level. Elementary and higher education falls under 1st stage where as 2nd stage is used by companies and business to train and develop their workers or employees.

The benefit of E-Learning is not only restricted to schools and colleges but now a days it extends to corporates and companies also. Corporates also use E-Learning portals for training and development of their employee. As far as India is concerned, there are many constrains in education system like population, income and social backwardness, student teacher ratio, WBEL prove to be the game changer. Web Based E-Learning portals are expected to grow much faster because it can be used with the help of basic electronic devices like computer, mobile phones, tablets, smart phone etc. WBEL provides live interactive classes, recorded videos and different modules as per the requirement of client and students. Through WBEL participant can ask any query and questions online and gets answers and interactions with other students online. In this research paper Web Based E-Learning (WBEL), E-Learning, Online Learning, Web Portal have been used interchangeably.



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## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This research study is based in the secondary data. The said secondary data is collected from different sources such as reference books on E-Learning, Web Portals, Online Education, Distance Learning.

For this research study, the secondary data is also collected from various magazines and journals which are connected to E-Learning, Web Portals, Online Education, Distance Learning.

For the said research study the secondary data is also collected from various websites, search engine and online information providers.

## OBJECTIVES

The objective of E-Learning differs from person to person. These objective may be general or specific. General objective are common for every person but specific business vary from one person to other. Some of the most commonly objectives of this research paper are as follows:

1. To study the meaning and concept of E-Learning.
2. To study the different E-Learning portals in India.
3. To study the impact of E-Learning in India
4. To study the benefits and objectives of E-Learning
5. To study the barriers, demerits and limitations of E-Learning
6. To study the growth prospects and future of E-Learning in India.

## HYPOTHESIS OF THE RESEARCH STUDY

WBEL or online learning is paper less and electronic education system with the use of information and technology. It is a combination of learning service and technology. E-Learning portals has a benefit of flexible place, time and medium of use. For the use of Web Based Learning System, we need not to have access to school and spend a lot of time and money, all we need is a good internet connection and computer system, mobile or laptop. The research study was carried out with following hypothesis in view:-

1. E-Learning is very helpful for country like India which consists of large amount of youth.
2. It provides better utilization of Information Technology.
3. The impact of E-Learning in Indian Education System is positive.
4. With the increase in the use of internet day by day, the scope of E-Learning is wide.
5. There are many growth prospects of WBEL in India with some limitations



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## TYPES OF E-LEARNING MODELS

There are basically 3 types of E-Learning i.e. Synchronous, Asynchronous and Blended Learning.

1. Synchronous means at the same time, so in Synchronous type of E-Learning, there is a interaction between participant and instructor via Web Bases Portal.
2. Asynchronous means not at the same time, so in Asynchronous system of E-Learning the portal allow the participant to complete the syllabus or training without interaction with the trainer or instructor.
3. Blended learning is a combination of E-Learning tool with traditional class room teaching. In Blended learning students can enjoy classroom experience with interaction with teachers and students via actual classroom. Blended E-Learning has benefits of face to face interaction with social benefits of classroom training and different teaching techniques.

## SOME DIFFERENT E-LEARNING PORTALS

There are numerous E-Learning portals around the globe. Some of the famous E-Learning portals working in India are as follows:

### 1. Indiaeducation.net

Is the largest virtual network of 45 educational portals covering more than 450 domains. It is one of the biggest and largest network with portals from 28 states, 6 union territories and 4 metros in India. This portal is basically designed to provide education at all levels. Some of the area of operation are school education, higher education and distance education.

Website: [www.indiaeducation.net](http://www.indiaeducation.net)

Subjects offered:

- Management
- Engineering
- Law
- Medical
- Education
- Mass communication
- Science



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- Commerce
  - Finance
  - Animation

## 2. Khan Academy:

Formed as a non profit organization, Khan Academy is providing world class education to everyone on various subjects. Its lectures are produced in short videos in English and can be translated into 36 different languages. To provide specialized contents, they partnered with NASA, The Museum of Modern Art, MIT, The California Academy of Science. Started from one man tutorial, now it has grown into 150 people organization.

Website: [www.khanacademy.org](http://www.khanacademy.org)

Subjects offered:

- Math
- Science
- Engineering
- Computing
- Arts
- Humanities
- Economics
- Finance

## 3.Coursera

On coursera, every course is taught by experts from world class universities and companies so as to provide something new anytime and anywhere. Hundreds of free lectures and videos are provided in this portal. Coursera is having 207 partners across 52 countries providing 4116 courses. It has collaboration with 190+ leading universities and companies which includes Google, Duke University, IBM, Stanford University, Imperial College London.

Website: [www.coursera.org](http://www.coursera.org)

Subjects offered:

- Arts



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- Science
  - Entrepreneurship
  - Accountancy
  - Business
  - Information Technology
  - Computer Science
  - Math and Logic
  - Language Development
  - Physical Science

#### **4. EDX**

Founded by Harvard and MIT, EDX is now a home for more than 20 million learners, learning from top colleges, universities and companies. It provides high quality education by minimizing barriers like cost, location and access. It consists of 120+ institutions as a partner. It offers 2400+ courses to various participants across the globe. Harvard University, Boston University, Australian National University, The University of Queensland are some of the charter members of EDX.

Website: [edx.org](http://edx.org)

Subject offered:

- Architecture
- Arts and Culture
- Computer Science
- Electronics
- Ethics
- Food and Nutrition
- Health and Safety
- Math
- Music
- Data Analysis and Statistics

#### **5. BYJU's**

Founded in year 2011 as Think and Learn Pvt Ltd. At foundation stage, the main focus is on development of strong team of experts across media, contents and



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technology so as to develop world class learning contents. In year 2015, BYJU's launched an application for grade 6 to 12 students. In the year 2016, it became 1st Asian company to receive investment from Chan-Zuckerberg Initiative (CZI).

Website: [byjus.com](http://byjus.com)

Subject offered:

- CBSE
- ICSE
- NEET
- JEE
- CAT
- Commerce
- Bank
- NCERT
- UPSC
- Physics

## **6. Meritnation:**

Meritnation is India's largest online learning portal which provides access to millions of people from 9 countries. Its provide services to students of class I to XII of leading Boards in India. Meritnation realize that need of every student is different based on academic history, area of interest and learning style. In the year 2015, Meritnation awarded as a best educational website. After 2 year, Meritnation received award for the top 5 android app for CBSE students.

Website: [meritnation.com](http://meritnation.com)

Subjects offered:

- Science
- Math
- English
- Hindi
- General Knowledge
- French





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## **ADVANTAGES OF E-LEARNING:**

Out of the several advantages, one of the most important advantage is that with the use of E-Learning, user can access E-Learning portal at any time and according to their comfort. It can also be accessed from any browser or on any platform or device. Flexibility of time and place make E-Learning portal and services more popular amongst youth and professionals. One of the main advantage is that updated information can be accessed from any part of the world only with the help of internet. Even user from remotest part of the world can access and learn updated learning material through E-Learning portals. Its provides great advantages to working Professionals by providing flexibility in learning. Many certification courses are easily available which are earlier not possible with travelling from one place to other.

## **DISADVANTES OF E-LEARNING :**

Beside many advantages, there are some disadvantages of E-Learning are also there, one of them is Limited Internet connection. In a country like India, connection of internet is limited in respect of geographical expansion. There are many remote areas of India where there is no internet connection as well as there are many places where there is slow or limited connections and speed. Low connection, slow downloading and uploading speed, bad quality of audio and video are some of the big problems of E-Learning services in India. As E-Learning portals are static in nature, limited interactions between educator and learner is often leads to great disadvantages of E-Learning portal. People also resist to change from traditional way of learning to Web Based Learning. E-Learning portals and providers find it difficult to reach end users as it is difficult to convince users to deliver their E-Learning access. Not all courses could be delivered through Web Portal as some topics or courses requires more personal attention and touch. Many E-Learning courses are outdated as they were developed 10 years back and required regular update according to changing environment. It requires improvements from time to time.

## **CURRENT STATE OF E-LEARNING IN INDIA:**

Due to new-startups, new technology and higher internet speed and availability of smartphones, the dimension of online learning is growing manifold. Government of India is also making endless efforts to provide access to online learning available to students in every corner of the country. Low internet tariff, cheap mobile phones and easily availability of SIM cards provides stimulus to the effort of government. Today in India we have online courses from primary level to professional level. Large number of training institutes and start-ups companies are provide wide variety of services in E-Learning. many service providers are providing video lectures along with study material. Where as many focuses on providing access to subjects anytime and anywhere through convenience based training and learning





system. Another reason for growth of E-Learning in India is requirement to update in skill and knowledge. For example a software professional having experience of 10 years, also is in needs to update his or her skill in the field of programming language, data analytics, cloud computing etc. Increment in salary, promotion, better working condition also insists people to update their skill and knowledge and this can be achieved only with the help of E-Learning resources.

In India, lot of start-ups are already setting their business in the field of E-Learning or online learning. many startups like Learn Social, Simplilearn and Intellipaat are playing a role of aggregator and aiming mid-level professionals to provide them access to E-Learning resources. Simplilearn, the Bengaluru based start-up is currently providing near about 200 certification courses in the field of Quality Management, Financial Management, Project Management, Information Technology etc. the company has trained over 2,25,000 professionals across the globe.

According to CEO of Intellipaat, Diwakar Chittora, after starting its operations in 2011, the company is witnessing growth of almost 1000%. Intellipaat is providing online IT training including corporate training and more than 80 technological courses worldwide. Learnsocial, six year old Hyderabad based company is working on an aggregator model. The aim of company is to become Amazon of online learning. mid-level professionals and students are targeted customers of company. According to founder, Raju Vanapala, company has above 2,00,000 users and trained over 1,500 learners.

#### **CHALLENGES FACED BY E-LEARNING IN INDIA:**

From last 50 years, Government of India is providing immense support and funds to make India, world's largest system of Education. In attaining this objective government is facing many challenges. Unable to maintain high standard of education, slow pace of growth of technology and knowledge, awareness amongst people, rigid bureaucracy are some of the constrains of development in E-Learning. creating awareness amongst people staying in rural parts of country, lack of infrastructure, poor availability and connectivity of internet is a major challenge in development of E-Learning system in India. Difference in culture, gender, religion and level of literacy is one of the major challenges faced by E-Learning providers. Due to religious or spiritual difference, some contents, although important for courses, may some time unacceptable with certain sections of the society. geographical difference creates major challenges specially in Live Classes because of difference in time zone.

#### **FUTURE OF E-LEARNING IN INDIA:**

As far as E-Learning industry is concerned, India has major role to play at International level. Presence of world's one of the best training professionals and educational infrastructure, makes India, world's best E-Learning provider. As India is already a leader in IT Industry, the



future of E-Learning portal is bright. Through regulation and financial support, Government of India is taking every measure to boost E-Learning environment in India. Not only government but many private sector participants are also taking every step to provide pace to E-Learning system in India. All these measure and steps make India as attractive destination for E-Learning industry. Many foreign company are planning to setup their business of E-Learning system in India.

The future of open university are also very bright in India. Till date there are more than 10 open universities in India providing more than 500 courses. Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) is the pioneer and biggest open university in India. In order to promote Distance Education, Distance Education Council has been set up to promote and develop Distance Education in India. Distance Education is also expanding its scope and pace in India, as it is 50% less in cost and better and high quality education could be accessed without leaving home and profession. Expansion of bandwidth, expansion of network and towers, providing low cost internet are some of the measures taken by Government and Private network service providers to expand the scope of E-Learning Services in India. With the increase in number of mobile phone users, awareness amongst youth, we can say that future of E-Learning services are very bright in India.

#### **CONCLUSION:**

From the above study, conclusion regarding Impact and development of online Education (E-Learning) system in India are as follows:

- The future of Education in coming period is E-Learning or web-based learning system.
- It is boon to the society as it could be accessed by every section of the society.
- Government needs to expand the scope of online education and should create awareness amongst different segment of the society.
- E-Learning is not only beneficial for students but also helpful for teachers and professionals to upgrade their knowledge and skills.
- In a country like India, where there are diversification in language, religion, age and knowledge, one need to focus on marketing of E-Learning system. More marketing will create new customers for E-Learning Providers.
- Vast expansion of internet, mobile phone and other electronic gadget users, we can say that traditional learning system can be replaced by E-Learning system in near future.
- In a country like India, level of economic development, education and literacy can be achieved with the help of expansion of E-Learning system.
- Not only to students, teachers, professionals but online education will also provide diversified opportunity to corporates to expand their business opportunities.



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