

Innovative Technology in Higher Education

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Abstract

India is known as one the world's top education destination in the global education industry. With some of the best universities and colleges India has been successful in attracting bright talents all over the world. Indian education system is robust and built on strong foundations. According to Indian Brand Equity Foundation Indian education market is currently pegged at \$100 billion with higher education contributing to 59.7%, school education at 38.1%, pre-school at 1.6% and the remainder 0.6% consists of technology and multi-media based education. The use of technology like Distance education , class room based learning ,on line management based system , learning through mobile app, video based learning , open educational resources .

Key Words: Technology , Higher education

Introduction

Today India is one of the fastest growing markets for e-learning based products and services. It is expected that this segment will have a turnover of \$40 billion by 2017. There are different ways technology can be used to bring about reformation in the Indian education system. Even government aims to increase digital literacy of the country to 50% from current 15% by bringing out favorable policies to give impetus to technology based learning. Many entrepreneurs and startups have grabbed this opportunity to develop technology based educational products for private and government based schools, colleges and universities.

Technology in higher education

1. Distance education Distance education is a way of learning where the students or working professionals can learn the courses remotely through online access and interact with faculty via online classroom. It helps students to interact with their mentors or tutors directly through chat, e-mail or phone call. India is a developing country and for many students who are living in remote places or villages getting degree for higher education is still a distant dream. In such instances technology enabled distance education can help them to complete their studies, upgrade their skills and get a degree. This gives the students or working professionals the flexibility to learn at their own time without the compulsion of going to a class. According to a report released by All India Survey on Higher Education 2014-2015 by Ministry of Human Resource Development the total enrollment of students for Distance education constitute of 11.7% out of which 46% are female students. Availability of broadband and hi-speed internet along with low cost computers to tier 2 and tier 3 cities has made learning seamless without any glitches.

2. Classroom based learning Nowadays technology has become integral part of classroom based teachings. Today in many schools, colleges and universities in India instead of blackboard projector screens are used for teachings. Hand writings of teachers are replaced by power point presentation. Student experience a different kind of set up in today's technology based classroom. Gadgets like tablets and laptops are used to take down notes. Animated content are created on various subjects and in different languages so that students can have better understanding of a complex subject in a simple way.

3. Online learning management system

Many colleges and universities in India are integrating online Learning Management System or LMS platform into their web portal. Students can remotely login to access course material and also attend live classes with teachers. Pre-recorded lectures, videos can be uploaded on the LMS platform making it easy for students to go through it multiple times. LMS adoption is still poor in many parts of India where students do not have the access to computers or broadband internet.

However, government is providing computers to remote areas and creating content that consumes less data and can be easily accessed on internet.

4. Learning through mobile apps According to a report released by Counterpoint Research, India has become the second biggest smart phone market in the world after China with more than 220 million active users. This presents a huge opportunity for delivering e-learning content through mobile apps. Today educational mobile apps are available on popular platforms like Android and iOS. Developers are creating educational apps based on particular subjects. They are simplifying complex concepts with easy to understand illustrations and animations, puzzles games etc. There are apps available for grammar, physics, chemistry, mathematics and so on. With the prices of tablets and smart phone coming down people from villages and remote areas can also make use of this apps to learn and update their skills. There are also certain websites like Khan Academy and various YouTube channels that offer video lectures by eminent scholars and teachers in various subjects. Even though some of the educational institutions in India ranks par with world's best universities and colleges the use of technology is still limited in Indian education sector. With the rising cost of education, technology based learning can come to the rescue of those who wants to go for higher degree but cannot afford it. Government needs to play an active role in encouraging educational institution in adopting latest technology for teachings and delivering course content. With its population of 1.2 billion people the scope for technology based learning can surpass that of many developed and developing nation.

Conclusion

Many innovative start-ups as well as the big tech giants like Google, IBM, Apple, etc, are working on disruptive innovations in education, which makes the next decade very exciting for the higher education and important aspect of our lives.