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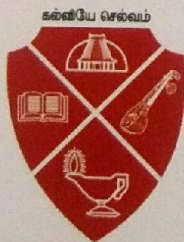# Shanlax International Journal of Education

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LEARNING THROUGH MOBILE HANDSET

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Abstract

21st century is the mobile century. The revolution took place in the field of educational technology. Mobile technology emerged as a tool of learning. The concept emphasized on anytime, anywhere and self-paces learning in the education though we create environment for m-learning. Teachers and learners both are using this technology for better teaching and learning process. M-Learning has its own characteristics to enhance this technology in the field of education. Now the time has come to expand the ICT in various ways like e-learning, online-learning, self-pace learning and obviously M-Leaning. We must use M-Learning tool in our teaching-learning process in the field of education.

Introduction

'Mobile learning' is certainly not merely the conjunction of 'mobile' and 'learning'; it has always implicitly meant 'mobile E-Learning' and its history and development have to be understood as both a continuation of 'conventional' E-Learning and a reaction to this 'conventional' E-Learning and to its perceived inadequacies and limitations. It is the 'mobile' aspect of mobile learning that makes it stand apart from other types of learning, specifically designing learning experiences that exploit the opportunities that 'mobility' can offer us. M-Learning focuses on the mobility of the learner, interacting with portable technologies, and learning that reflects a focus on how society and its institutions can accommodate and support an increasingly mobile population. This is because mobile devices have features and functionality for supporting learners. For example, podcasts of lectures can be made available for downloading. Learners are to expect to engage with these learning resources whilst away from the traditional learning spaces.

Mobile Revolution

The mobile revolution is finally here in the form of m-learning, which is a natural extension of e-learning. In a span of five years, Mobile learning or m-learning has made an exponential leapfrom theory explored by academicians to a real contribution to learning. Globally speaking, the kind of penetration that mobile phones have reached is astounding and no other device can come any closer, not even computers. No demography is immune from the mobile phone and it has slowly become associated with the youth in a bigger way. This kind of digital communication was unthinkable almost a decade back. M-learning has the potential of taking learning and knowledge across geographical boundaries and generations due to the fact that it can be accessed with ease. This brings us to the question what is m-learning and how effective it really is. In the basic sense of the term, it means learning through the use of mobile devices and is targeted at people who are always on the move. This kind of training can be given through mobile phones, PDA□s and digital audio players and even digital cameras.

Now let's take a step back into the past and ponder over its origin. M-learning actually took roots during a Pan-European research and development program aimed at a target audience of 16-24 age groups. This was the group that was at a risk of social exclusion in Europe. There are five basic parameters for production and development of m-learning and they are:

- Portable: If you are using a mobile phone or a PDA, then it's easier to carry it along with you everywhere including the restroom. This makes information access through this platform easy and fast.
- Social Interaction: This kind of data can be sent to your friends, colleagues and others via short messages. You can exchange data with other people and gain considerable knowledge.
- Sensitive to the Context: This has a capability of gathering data unique to the current location, environment, and time. This includes both types of data - real and simulated.
- Connectivity: Connectivity plays an extremely important role and is the backbone of the m-learning project. With the help of a strong connectivity network, one can connect to data collection devices, other mobile phones, and to a common network.
- Customized: The most unique capability is to be able to offer customized learning information.

Definitions

According to Quinn, 'Mobile learning is learning through mobile computational devices.'Shepherd Says 'M- learning is not just electronic, it's mobile. 'Kynaslahti identifies three different elements for mobility and all of these are valuable to teachers and students while they are teaching and learning –