

Key to Technology Enabled Learning

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ABSTRACT

A Brief Perspective

While there are many government schools especially in Tamil Nadu where technology-enabled learning has been commissioned, the bigger challenge in the new year and the years to follow would be of propagating the same to rest of the government schools in the entire country, This is to ensure that they are on par with private schools, which are relentlessly spending crores of rupees on the new education model.

EdServ, another popular e-learning company in the country is of the opinion that it would be impossible to retain school children and increase their admissions in higher education unless schools are supported with quality content and teacher empowerment using technology. NIIT Ltd. too has its version of opinion on how technology-enabled learning has enabled students to learn the theories and practical better. And it attributed this to the ready availability of multimedia computers and internet.



Mr. Asheesh Raina of Gartner has two cents on how technology is changing the education today. He said, “*today’s kids are ‘digital native’-born in the digital world as opposed to a person in his 30s being a ‘digital immigrant’ i.e. those who entered the digital era in the last few years. Students are using sophisticated gadgets at a young age. This puts pressure on the education system to make content available on gadgets rather than on black boards. Also, with the shortage of skilled teachers and low salary levels, technology is the alternative*”.

Language in India www.languageinindia.com

13 : 2 February 2013

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Key Players in the field

Altogether there are about 200 players in this space in India and prominent ones among them being Everonn, EdServe, Educomp, NIIT. The areas that these companies focus on include online tuition, online test preparation, soft skills training etc. This literally depicts that technology-enabled learning has a huge scope and potential in the country owing to its huge population.

The Government of India has also been contributing in this field. For instance, UGC-INFONET set up by the University Grants Commission (UGC) allows for online access of scholarly literature in all areas of learning to various universities in the country. Mention can also be made of National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning (NPTEL) being offered by IITs and IISc in collaboration with the Ministry of Human Resource Development that uses multimedia and web technology to enhance learning of basic science and engineering concepts. Like these, there are other initiatives as well.

Key Takeaways

Talking of the main advantages of this new education model, teachers would find it easier to disseminate their knowledge. In the blackboard model of teaching what happened was they have a hard time explaining concepts that encompass complicated diagrams. An example of that is the DNA diagram. A teacher explains the diagram on the blackboard while students are in the state of perplexity as they have to take notes alongside visualizing/understanding the same. But in the technology-enabled learning, students are taught the same concept with interactive multimedia content that makes grasping the concept a breeze for the students. Perhaps, they get the real feel of the diagram due to the powerful visuals used in the video/slides.

Justindiainschools.com has an interesting report on technology-enabled learning in Indian schools. It said that this model of learning can remove social and economic boundaries by ways of making classroom teaching highly interactive.

WHAT IS TECHNOLOGY ENABLED LEARNING (TeL) NEW DIRECTION IN EDUCATION

The Technology Enabled Learning (TeL) is a platform for providing Internet enabled Education. Its significance has increased as the penetration of Internet clearly indicates the worldwide acceptance of it as a communication tool. Technology Enabled Learning (TeL) uses Internet as a media for leveraging the pitfalls of our traditional education system by providing an environment, which is more learners centric rather than being more instructors centric, powered by Internet Technology. The Technology Enabled Learning (TeL) has laid a new chapter in education. Through the Technology Enabled Learning (TeL), learners can now undergo training sitting at their home or any other place with Internet accessibility and continue their education.

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Education shapes the destiny of a nation. It is the principle instrument of developing human capabilities and transforming the economy. The traditional structure of the classroom has existed for thousands of years and has evolved by passing through various phases. The first phase was the Gurukul where gurus imparted knowledge to shishyas. Then came the second phase where the teacher taught using blackboard and chalk. In the third phase virtual aids like OHP and multimedia took over the traditional system of imparting education.

Now comes the Education Revolution! Barriers of time and space have been eroded.... **Education becomes ONLINE.** Technology Enabled Learning (TeL) is Internet enabled technology driven education that allows you to **study Anytime.... Anywhere....** as per your convenience.

In the context of rapid technological advancement and changing global market, the impact is felt on every field including education arena. Technology Enabled Learning (TeL) is one of the ways of imparting effective education to the aspiring people, residing anywhere in the world, to pursue and advance their learning process via Internet, without messing up their professional responsibilities and duties with education by presenting a variety of solutions and subjects beyond the scope of traditional education. Online learning helps to increase the educational experiences irrespective of age and geographical diversity.

Technology Enabled Learning (TeL) is an umbrella term that describes learning done on a computer, usually connected to a network, giving us the opportunity to learn almost anytime, anywhere. Technology Enabled Learning (TeL) is not unlike any other form of education - and it is widely accepted that Technology Enabled Learning (TeL) can be as rich and as valuable as the classroom experience or even more so. With its unique features Technology Enabled Learning (TeL) is an experience that leads to comprehension and mastery of new skills and knowledge, just like its traditional counterpart.

Instructional Design for Technology Enabled Learning (TeL) has been perfected and refined over many years using established teaching principles, with many benefits to students. As a result colleges, universities, businesses, and organizations worldwide now offer their students fully accredited online degree, vocational, and continuing education programs in abundance.

Some other terms frequently interchanged with Technology Enabled Learning (TeL) include:

- » Online learning
- » Online education
- » eLearning
- » Web-based training
- » Computer-based training (generally thought of as learning from a CD-ROM)

Technology Enabled Learning (TeL) is a broad term used to describe learning done at a computer.

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WHY TECHNOLOGY ENABLED LEARNING (TeL)

We have to keep on learning so that we can grow personally, professionally, socially and economically. For thousands of years, the paradigm of learning was the classroom-training model. In a time when formal learning was scarce, resources were concentrated around and centered on the availability of the educator, rather than the learner. Today Technology Enabled Learning (TeL) is the self-paced learning methods combine advanced technology and multimedia in a format that engages students so they learn faster, participate more actively and consequently, retain information longer.



FEATURES OF TECHNOLOGY ENABLED LEARNING (TeL)

"Good teaching is good teaching, no matter how it's done." The old adage still rings true, and Technology Enabled Learning (TeL) brings with it new dimensions in education.

Some of the unique features of Technology Enabled Learning (TeL) are listed below.

- Learning is self-paced and gives students a chance to speed up or slow down as necessary
- Learning is self-directed, allowing students to choose content and tools appropriate to their differing interests, needs, and skill levels
- Accommodates multiple learning styles using a variety of delivery methods geared to different learners; more effective for certain learners
- Designed around the learner
- Geographical barriers are eliminated, opening up broader education options
- 24/7 accessibility makes scheduling easy and allows a greater number of people to attend classes
- On-demand access means learning can happen precisely when needed
- Travel time and associated costs (parking, fuel, vehicle maintenance) are reduced or eliminated
- Overall student costs are frequently less (tuition, residence, food, child care)
- Potentially lower costs for companies needing training, and for the providers
- Fosters greater student interaction and collaboration
- Fosters greater student/instructor contact
- Enhances computer and Internet skills
- Draws upon thousands of years of established pedagogical principles
- Has the attention of every major university in the world, most with their own online degrees, certificates, and individual courses

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BENEFITS OF TECHNOLOGY ENABLED LEARNING (TeL)

Enables education anywhere, anytime and to anyone

The world-wide-web empowers the University to deliver training & critical information to its wide spread student base no matter where & what time zone the users are in. They can just access it whenever they feel like, from home or from office.

Always on

Class starts when you want. Facilitates self-paced learning- It gives the students the flexibility to go through the programme content at the time that is most convenient to him and thereby achieves an appropriate balance of work, family, community and educational commitments.

Better Access

Determining the best time to schedule a class and lure the student into the "brick and mortar" classroom is one of the major drawbacks of traditional training programs. Technology Enabled Learning(TeL) provides access to training for students when and where they need it.

Cost Savings

A much-touted benefit of Technology Enabled Learning(TeL) is cost savings. Lot of amount can be saved in travel and downtime alone by using Technology Enabled Learning(TeL). Training materials can be updated for a fraction of the cost of revising materials distributed by other means. Payback can be seen clearly over the near and long term.

Learner Focused

Technology can personalize content and anticipate learner's future information learning needs. It also can match content with each individual's learning style, experience and skills.

Measurable

Powerful Learning Management System (LMS) features make the implementation, hosting, tracking, testing, auditing and administration of online courses a flawless process. Technology Enabled Learning(TeL) provides secure and reliable systems for recording and capturing what an individual knows and is able to do.

Better Learning Outcomes

Research from around the world has proven that the Technology Enabled Learning(TeL) results

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better outcomes in terms of learning and knowledge retention when compared with traditional methods of teaching.

Faster Response Time

Time sensitive training can be delivered faster than through traditional classroom methods. By using communication technology to deliver training to multiple sites at the same time, Technology Enabled Learning(TeL) becomes a competitive advantage.

Better Use of "Experts"

An expert presenter or trainer can be used more cost effectively with Technology Enabled Learning(TeL) than through traditional classrooms. Programs that require the presence of an expert can send the expert's message to multiple sites simultaneously - saving time and money. And the message is consistent for every delivery of the course.

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