

A Study on Awareness of e-learning among researchers

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Abstract

This article deals with the e-learning awareness among the research scholars of various disciplines. Total 24 questionnaires were received back from the respondents. Major recommendations are: e-learning should be part of the coursework conducted by universities, promotion of e-learning requires active participation of teachers or supervisors and researchers need to be motivated, indigenous e-learning resources created for the benefit of scholars should go. Subjects such as: scholarship, research ethics, plagiarism, IPR issues, e-learning projects, etc., should be part of the PhD course work curriculum of universities.

Keywords: Awareness, e-learning, research scholars

Introduction

E-learning enables the individual to understand in a way that provides a platform for learning and memorization more than traditional learning. E-learning is also known by computer-based training, Internet-based training, web-based training, web-based instruction, computer-assisted collaborative learning, technology-enhanced learning, computer-assisted learning, online learning, and advanced distributed learning. All these words are co-related and interdependent. People use these words interchangeably in different contexts.

Information communication technologies provide a wide spectrum to provide an alternative platform for a user or group to learn in an effective and efficient manner. In the learning society, e-learning is getting more and more importance because of the various benefits associated with it. Several efforts have been made by government agencies, NGOs and institutions to promote e-learning content. In India, e-learning can make up for the lack of access to good teachers and reading materials. In the present

article, an attempt has been made to find out the level of e-learning awareness among the researchers of various disciplines.

Definition of Important Terms

The definitions of important terms are:

Awareness is a broad term that includes knowledge, behaviour, attitudes, interests and understanding of various phenomena and helps to function and perform in social processes.

According to Wikipedia, ‘E-learning is the use of electronic educational technology in learning and teaching.’

Research scholar means the person involved in higher level of intellectual or academic activities, especially conducting research for the award of PhD degree.

Objectives of the study-

Present study aims to study and analyze the following:

- To know the level of awareness about e-tools and sources among the researchers.
- To know about knowledge about basic applications required in e-environment.
- To know what type of e-resources are consulted by researchers for their research work.
- To get information about institutions/projects engaged in popularizing e-learning or e-content URLs in India?

Methodology of the study-

The objective of the present study is to record and analyze the level of awareness among research scholars in various disciplines about the concept of e-learning and emerging concepts of ICT. Survey research method was used for this study and purposeful sampling method was used for this survey. A researcher was the unit of observation for this study. Data have been collected from these selected respondents through structured questionnaire. 40 questionnaires were distributed among the research scholars and 24 research scholars responded and their responses have been analyzed in data analysis.

4. Analysis

The results and their analysis are given in following tables-

4.1 Access to Networked Computer

Table-1
Access to networked computer

S.No.	Items	Total	% age
1.	Yes	19	79.16
2.	No	05	20.84
	Total	24	100

Table-1 indicates that out of 19 respondents 24 (79.16%) have access to networked computer. It shows the widespread access to machines and diffusion of technology in their learning process. Only 5 (20.84%) do not have access to networked computer.

4.2 Place of Using Networked Computer

Table-2
Place of using networked computer

S.No.	Items	Total	% age
1.	Department	02	8.34
2.	Home	19	79.16
3.	Cafe	03	12.50
4.	Libraries	01	4.17

Table-2 shows that 19 (79.16%) respondents use network computer at home while 03(12.50%) go to use network computer at cafe and 02 (8.34%) and 01 (4.17) respondent use network computer at departments and libraries. The analysis of data shows that students prefer home and cafe to have access to networked computer.

4.3 Technology Awareness

Table- 3
Awareness of Technologies

S.No.	Items	Total	% age
1.	Internet	24	100
2.	Intranet	02	8.34
3.	Extranet	00	00
4.	Groupware	04	16.68

The analysis of data stated in Table-3 shows that out of 24 respondents, 24 (100%) respondents are aware of internet and only 02 (8.34%) respondents are aware of intranet and 04 (16.68%) respondents are aware of groupware respectively.

4.4 Knowledge of tools/services

Table-4
Knowledge of tools/services

S.No.	Items	Total	% age
1.	Icon	24	100
2.	Menu	23	95.83
3.	Drag	9	37.50
4.	Windows	24	100
5.	Logon / Log off	24	100
6.	Username	21	87.50
7.	Password	24	100
8.	Help screens	4	16.66
9.	Webcams	7	29.16
10.	Blogging	11	45.83
11.	Video conferencing	21	87.50
12.	Chatting	19	79.16

Collected data as tabulated in the Table 4 indicate that out of 24 respondents 24 (100%) respondents have knowledge of Icon, Windows, Logon/Log off and password, 23 (95.83%) respondents are aware of menu, 21 (87.50%) are aware of username and Video conferencing and 19 (79.16%) research scholars are aware of Chatting. Only 9 (37.50%) and 07 (29.16 %) respondents have knowledge about drag and Webcams and lowest percentage of Help screens as 04 (16.66). Analysis of data shows that most of the students have knowledge about tools and services.

4.5 Use of E-resources for Studies

Table-5
Consultation/use of e-resources/tools for studies

S.No.	Items	Total	% age
1.	Blogs	10	41.66
2.	Chats	19	79.16

3.	Wikis	09	37.50
4.	Messenger	20	83.33
5.	E-mail	24	100
6.	Virtual learning systems	4	16.66
7.	Digital video conferencing	14	58.33
8.	Mobile texting	24	100
9.	Mobile video sharing	24	100
10.	You Tube	24	100

Table 5 reveals that out of 24 respondents 24 (100%) respondents are using e-mail Mobile texting, Mobile video sharing and You Tube for their studies. It indicates that research scholars are using e-mail services for their studies as a medium for sharing the views or getting information. 20 (83.33%) respondents are consulting Messenger, 19 (79.16%) respondents are using chats. 10 (41.66%) respondents are using Blogs for their studies and 09 (37.50%) respondents have taken benefit of Wikis and 04 (16.66) Virtual learning systems. Analysis of data shows that research scholars are aware of the e-resources/tools but they are not consulting or taking benefit of all resources equally. Plenty of reading materials on all subjects are available on internet from various sources.

4.6 Awareness about Applications

Table-6
Awareness about applications

S.No.	Items	Total	% age
1.	Logging	17	70.83
2.	Download/upload	24	100
3.	Navigation	12	50.00
4.	Basic applications	21	87.50
5.	IPR Issues	3	12.50
6.	Plagiarism	09	37.50
7.	Installing	03	12.50
8.	Referencing	05	20.83

The data in the Table 6 shows that out of 24 respondents 24 (100%) respondents are aware of download/upload, 21 (87.50%) respondents have knowledge of Basic applications and 17 (71.83%) respondents are aware of Logging. 12 (50.00%) and 09

(37.50%) respondents are aware of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) issues and plagiarism respectively. IPR and plagiarism issues are concerned with the research activities.

4.7 Familiarity about Popular Programs

Table-7

Familiarity of institutions in popularizing e-learning/e-content

S.No	Items	Total	% age
1.	UGC- INFONET	17	70.83
2.	Programs of NCERT	12	50.00
3.	NCTE	13	54.16
4.	Gyan Darshan	21	87.50
5.	Gyan Vani	21	87.50
6.	E- sikshak	7	29.16
7.	Project Aakash	15	62.50
8.	e-pgpathshala	3	12.50
9.	Virtual Labs	3	12.50
10.	Talk to Teacher	7	29.16
11.	Spoken Tutorial	9	37.50
12.	Digital Library INFLIBNET	9	37.50

The analysis of data in Table 7 reveals the fact that 21 (87.50%) respondents are familiar with programmes of Gyan Darshan and Gyan vani, respectively. These are the popular programs among the research scholars. 17 (70.83%) are familiar with the UGC-INFONET. 15 (62.50%) research scholars are aware of each Project Aakash. 13 (54.16%) respondent for NCTE and 12 (50.00%) of Programs of NCERT. 09 (37.50%) respondents for each of Spoken Tutorial and Digital Library INFLIBNET. 07 (29.16) for E- sikshak and Talk to Teacher. 03 (12.50) for e-pgpathshala and Virtual Labs for Educational Communication (CEC) of have shown their familiarity. Data indicate that PhD research scholars are aware of multiple benefits of e-learning, but not exploiting these resources equally due to various reasons.

Conclusions-

In this study the researcher found that the most of the research scholars are using different platforms of online learning for their research as well as all are aware of computers, internet and other so many resources of learning process.

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