Study on Mobile Learning in College Campus

Sujanitha.R
University of Madras
I M.Sc IT,
Department of Computer Science
M.O.P Vaishnav College For women,
Nungambakkam,Ch-34

D.Radha
University of Madras
Associate Professor & Head,
Department of Computer Science
M.O.P Vaishnav College For women,
Nungambakkam,Ch-34

ABSTRACT

Energy conservation and green technology is one of the most debated topics in the world today. Corporates are taking measures to work on green technology. Green technology is not only being environmental friendly but also aims at full application and integration of latest advent of technology across all spheres for convenience and ease of use. The rapid growth of technology has provided wide scope for implementing green technology. The drive for working with green technology has led to working towards a paper free environment. Traditionally all organizations worked with paper and manual journals for their day to day operations, but have rapidly transitioned their operations to a paper free environment. Beginning with the use of computers, today technology has advanced towards being portable and available anytime, anywhere. Internet is now available even in the personal gadgets like mobile and I pads which can be carried all the time and remain connected unwired.

The concept can be extended to schools and universities, for work towards a paper free environment. There is a shift in search of alternatives available for replacing textbooks. [9]Mobile learning has been the most prominent and we are working with a test market to see the viability of replacing textbooks. A sample survey on m-learning was conducted and the results are very encouraging. This result has encouraged application of this idea to a wider scope to reach people from all spectrums. With the above m-learning which absorbs e learning can be showcased to minimize if not eliminate the traditional texts. Worldwide all major publishers have already begun the transition and have their material available in a variety of formats. Digital downloads are getting popular and cheaper than traditional texts. Amazon, the world's biggest book store has recorded more digital downloads than selling traditional texts. They have also come up with their own e-reader called The Kindle.These technologies can be applied to wider application on a broader forum and create equal opportunities for all, globally without bias of distance and reach.

KEYWORDS

m-learning, smart education, features of m-learning, mobile learning, survey on m-learning

1. INTRODUCTION

Technological advancement in India has changed people's perspective about everything around them. One can get almost any information using many newly-invented technological devices. The internet penetration in taking the population as the yardstick is used to conclude about the success of internet penetration. While it is true that India has a low penetration the reasons behind them are lack of access and affordability. Internet has evolved as a powerful tool in extending education, in the form of e-learning. Even school children refer the internet to support their homework. [2] They have faster and wider access to information through internet. The evolution of devices such as smart phones, I pads and Personal Digital Assistants (PDA) have opened up new opportunities for learning, as extended arms of internet application.

Mobile applications give substantial scope for improvisation of time and application since the learning is literally possible at any time without any constraint.[3] The growth in the use of smart phones amidst youth in the country makes MOBILE EDUCATION an inevitable and ultimate asset in the medium term.[7] Smart phones have many applications including games, texting applications, magazines, movie applications and just about anything one would want. Students prefer learning to be fun and interactive. With mobile education, it is possible to achieve that. It reduces the usage of paper complying with the "go green" concept.

The implementation of this technology would save time in many ways, reduce paperwork and reach places. With scope for substantial volumes to drive down the prices and increase the affordability, M-learning is going to be a pointer to furthering of knowledge and makes learning more interesting and enjoyable. The growth in the usage of smart phones amidst youth in the country makes mobile education an inevitable and ultimate asset in the medium term.

The main objective of the study is to explore the alternative avenues in making e-learning reach the commonest of the common man killing the distance between the urban threshold and the rural corner. Today, the youth have lot of potential but reduced availability of time due to distances to be commuted.[6] While there is no second opinion on effectiveness of e-learning the advent of tools such as laptops, iPads, etc have made mobile and internet platforms integrate into one another. Mobile was seen more as an entertainment for the youth so far as it was used for listening to songs and playing games in addition to connectivity. But with necessity of movement in urban and rural areas if we do not adapt to m-learning we will be losing a rare opportunity of learning wherever we are.[8] [10]M-learning can happen even when the learner is not at a fixed, predetermined location. This is the main area where m-learning absorbs the e-learning and takes the seat of mother. M learning is an improved and extended scope of e learning. Day is not far-off when m-learning will make e-learning a necessity if not obsolete. If it is not promoted we may have to remain in medieval world. M-learning condenses our input in the available time and enriches our scope making it virtually infinite in application and usage through its cloud computing capabilities.

2. SMART PHONE AND M-LEARNING

Smart phones have engulfed and transformed lives of many. This small handheld instrument became a big hit not too long ago. Originally invented for business purpose, this little device is owned by many youth and old alike now. With so much already coming in, people are all the more willing to buy or upgrade their service to new features that the companies introduce. Telecom operators in India offer mobile internet startup plans which are affordable by a common man. Government is keen to have internet connectivity on wireless to all rural areas by 2015.In a couple of years from now, Wireless-Fidelity (Wi-Fi) connectivity will be available in urban centres. M-learning is economical to help educate the rural poor if the phones and services were to be within an affordable cost.

2.1. IMPLEMENTATION AND ADVANTAGES

Several models of smart phones have become available in such a short period of time. The basic features include, Bluetooth connectivity, Wi-Fi connectivity, Global Positioning Systems (GPS) services, in-built camera, free installation of application (dictionaries, search engines, videos),etc,. [5]Wondering on how these features will come of help with education and their advantages, here is a list of ideas of what can be done to make learning more engaging and easier.

Fatigue of listening to classroom lectures can be replaced by crispy video lectures.

Pop Quiz Application: This application on phones is much faster to take, reduces paper work and very refreshing and it also helps accumulating the credit points.

Assignment Reminders: Students can easily set reminders for their assignments on their phones which help them stay connected and they do not miss out on anything.

Video Lectures: Many things are possible in a video lecture. Animations can be added and more references can be given through the video in short amount of time. This makes the learning process easier and much more fun since it not only lets the students understand the subject literally, but also helps them visualize the subject. Another advantage of video lectures is that it helps students use the time they travel idly to do something useful. And it's all one touch or one swipe away

Bluetooth attendance: This can help students let the professor know that they are listening to the lecture even when they are not physically present in the room. And it reduces paperwork, accomplishing the "go green" concept and saves time.

Forums: Students can interact with each other irrespective of their location. Discussions can take place on the forum pages and brainstorm ideas which help stimulate the brain.

Search Engines: This helps students explore many areas of study without any constraint. At one touch, there are thousands of references students can find about one topic, which gives them more knowledge about any topic anytime, anywhere.

Applications: Applications like dictionaries, which are updated on a regular basis, are of big help to the students.

Electronic books: These are another way to reduce paperwork. Students will be free from carrying loads of books to schools and colleges back and forth every day.

Interacting through Instant Messengers: A student can clarify doubts with either the professor or a fellow student through instant messages. It is faster and clearer this way.

As for the **language classes**, mobile education makes the learning faster, easier and interesting. While students can find pronunciations and meanings for words with search engines or e-books, they also have an advantage of typing in the language they learn on the phones. Many android phones have application of different language keyboards, which could be used to type up a text message in the language. This enhances the interest to learn a new language than when one learns it in classrooms.

These features pave the way to a self-directed and personalized learning without any pressure.

3. OBJECT OF STUDY

The study focuses on the responses about the technology and willingness of the students for implementing mobile learning for education. Generally it was found that the students' responses were in line with the findings, though rarely, there were occasions when the responses were to the contrary. During the study, a questionnaire was given out to the students belonging to various disciplines such as engineering, medical, arts and science to determine the students' acceptability and opinion of mobile learning. However, accuracy and reliability cannot be guaranteed, since the questionnaire data is based solely on the student responses. The sample size was about 300 students from all the colleges.

The questionnaire comprised of two sections. The first section was designed to get an idea to what extent the technology has been applied and how much it has reached the students. So the students were asked to state the duration of their mobile phone usage and their purpose. Majority chose communication and social networking while a few others chose the option that they used the phone for educational purposes. The second section of the questionnaire deals with the willingness and acceptance of the idea of implementing mobile education. The opinions of the students were very convincing that mobile education will very much help the students who commute long distances every day.

3.1.EVALUATION
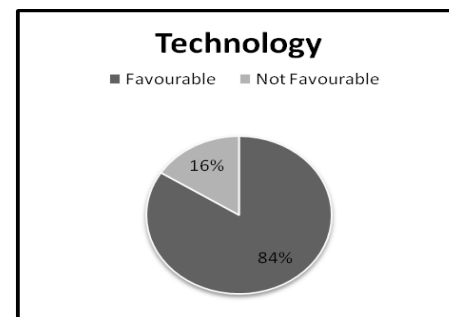
Fig 1

[1]"The cultural ... the way technology is p ...ys Sayan Chakraborty,As it is clear from fig 1, the majority have supported the technology. Almost 90% of the students who took part in this study have smart phones and 70% of them download and update applications regularly. One of the

questions from the questionnaire was asking the students to answer the duration of their usage each day, and majority has answered it to 12-15 hours per day. And as of now, many of the students use it for communication purposes and social networking and only a few students use it educational purpose. Out of all the 150 students who participated, more than 70% of them have unlimited internet package in their phone. Today, college students depend on technology for almost everything. There are about 50% of the colleges in India that have Wi-Fi on campus. But the percentage of students with internet packages on their phones compensate for the other 50% who have no Wi-Fi facility. By taking technology to the students through Wi-Fi the usage of the technology will be near 100%. While it is true that technology could be used for both good and the bad, if used in the correct way, it is very reassuring that the rapid growth in technology could aid this generation even better.
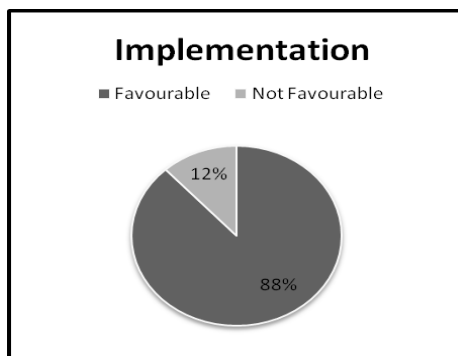

Fig 2

From fig 2 it can be seen that the majority of the students who have participated in the study generally responded positively for the implementation of mobile learning. It is proved beyond doubt that students are willing to adapt themselves to technological changes with the right attitude. Hence taking technology to their steps through Wi-Fi will enhance the usage and will leave only a small percentage to have direct interaction with the teachers or fellow students. Holding of workshops or seminars to exchange viewpoints will eliminate the small pitfalls of the system.

4.CONCLUSION

With the foregoing observations derived from the questionnaire, it can be concluded safely that the students are *m-learning* compatible with advent of Wi-Fi connectivity and affordable price and with the government bringing in more concessions and subsidies. The explosion in value is bound to bring down the cost of learning which will multiply several folds. It is doubtless the day is not far away when mobile learning will be the order of the day.

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Note: Majority of the contents are drawn from our inference out of the answers to the questionnaire which was prepared out of our own imaginative ideas

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