AWARENESS OF e-LEARNING AMONG M.Ed. SCHOLARS UNDER BHARATHIDASAN UNIVERSITY, TIRUCHIRAPPALLI

Research Paper

ABSTRACT

Modernization is generally regarded as a process of change – change of traditional society into a society based on science and technology. Education and modernization are closely related to each other. Education helps to have modernization and modernization helps to have better education. Teacher education means programmes of education and research in training of persons for equipping them to teach at pre-primary, primary, secondary and senior secondary stages in schools including those teaching students of non-formal education, part time education and correspondence education. Preparing technology proficient teachers to meet the needs of the 21st century learners has emerged as a critical challenge facing education in our country. In this scenario, it is important to prepare the teacher educators who will reach the expected levels of proficiency progressively. This paper deals with the awareness of e-learning among M.Ed. scholars so as to know their level of capacity to adopt the e-resources in their classrooms in the future.

INTRODUCTION

The new method that complements traditional learning is referred to as 'e-learning' (electronic learning) and it is nothing but any learning that is facilitated and supported by the use of Information and Communication Technology. The development in computer technology has resulted in e-learning. Teachers play a pivotal role in social reconstruction and in the transmission of wisdom, knowledge and expertise and in passing on the experiences of one generation to another generation and they are called upon to adopt all available e-resources in the teaching-learning process. The introduction of e-learning has created a fear among the teachers that the use of ICT would relegate the place of the teachers to some extent and eliminate them from the teaching scene. In this present scenario, teacher educators and teachers must enrich themselves with the knowledge of the latest development in teaching-learning methodology and should play the multi-facilitator roles in educating their learners.

NEED AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

In order to adopt and implement the modern instructional technology in the teaching-learning process, it is important to know the level of awareness of the technology so as to implement it effectively. Teachers are responsible for the achievement of their students in all educational aspects. Therefore, teacher educators are responsible for producing efficient teachers by utilizing and make the teacher trainees utilize all available e-resources. Before adopting an emerging trend in teaching-learning technology, it is important to realize the level of awareness of the trend. The significance of the study is to know the level of awareness of e-learning among M.Ed. scholars and the teacher educators. This will help the teacher trainees and the teacher educators to make them prepare themselves effectively during their course of study. The present study attempts to assess the e-Learning awareness among the M.Ed. scholars under Bharathidasan University.

Title : "Awareness of e-Learning among M.Ed. scholars under Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli"

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To find out the level of awareness of e-learning among M.Ed. scholars under Bharathidasan University.

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2. To study the factors affecting the awareness of e learning among M.Ed. scholars under Bharathidasan University

METHOD AND SAMPLE

As the present study is descriptive by nature, the normative survey technique was adopted. As many as 152 scholars from 5 colleges and one university department were chosen as sample using the simple random sampling technique. A questionnaire, aimed at assessing the M.Ed. scholars' awareness of e-Learning was developed by the investigator for the purpose of collecting and interpreting data. The collected data were subjected to percentage and descriptive analysis.

TOOL

The investigator developed a questionnaire consisting of 30 items as the tool for the collection of data. It was validated by the subject experts. Data regarding general information and learning awareness were collected from the M.Ed. scholars.

COLLECTION OF DATA

The e-Learning awareness questionnaire developed for the purpose of collecting data for the present study was administered to as many as 152 M.Ed. scholars randomly selected from five self financing colleges and one department of Bharathidasan University.

ANALYSIS

As the present study is descriptive in nature, the data collected through the questionnaire were subjected to descriptive statistical analysis. The data regarding e-Learning awareness among M.Ed. scholars provided by the respondents were analyzed through percentage analysis.

Table 1

ANALYSIS OF SAMPLE IN TERMS OF LEVEL OF AWARENESS

Class	Level of Awareness	Number	Percentage
0 – 15	Below Average	70	46.06
15 – 20	Average	45	29.6
21 – 30	Above Average	37	24.34

From table: 1, it is evident that 46.05% (70) of the sample are in below average level, 29.60% (45) of the sample are in average level and only 24.34% (37) of the sample are in above average level. It shows only about one sixth of the sample have the expected level of awareness of e-learning. It shows that the majority of the sample belongs to below average level of e-learning awareness. Nearly one fourth of the sample has above average level awareness. Similarly, one fourth of the sample has average level awareness in e-learning.

Table 2

FACTOR-WISE MEAN, STANDARD DEVIATION, NUMBER OF SAMPLE AND 't' VALUE OF AWARENESS OF M.ED. SCHOLARS

Sl. No.	Factors	Sub - Factors	Number	Mean	Standard Deviation	t-value	Remarks
1	Gender	Male	92	14.92	6.32	2.629	S
		Female	60	17.45	4.87		
2	Residential Background	Rural	112	14.27	5.36	6.525	S
		Urban	40	20.55	4.81		
3	Place of stay	Home	136	16.06	5.96	0.838	NS
		Hostel	16	14.75	5.46		
4	Major Subject	Arts	57	11.09	4.37	10.104	S
		Science	95	18.82	4.68		
5	Level of Education	U.G.	11	10	2.86	3.588	S
		P.G.	141	16.38	5.83		
6	Type of Institution	Govt.	34	16.23	5.55	0.351	NS
		Private	118	15.83	6.02		

From table 2,

● it is found that the t-value for scores of awareness of e-learning among M.Ed. scholars in terms of gender is 2.629 which is significant at 0.01 level with df=150. It shows that awareness of male and female scholars differs significantly. Further, on comparing the mean value of the scholars, the awareness of the female scholars was found to be superior to that of the male scholars.

● it is found that the t-value for scores of awareness of e-learning among M.Ed. scholars in terms of residential background is 6.525 which is significant at 0.01 level with df=150. It proves that awareness

of scholars belonging to rural and urban backgrounds differs significantly. Further, on comparing the mean value of the scholars, the awareness of scholars belonging to the urban background was found to be superior to the scholars belonging to the rural residential background.

- it is found that the t-value for scores of awareness of e-learning among M.Ed. scholars in terms of place of stay during the course is 0.838 which is not significant at both levels. It shows that there is no change in awareness in terms of their place of stay while they are doing their course of study.

- it is found that the t-value for scores of awareness of e-learning among M.Ed. scholars in terms of their major subjects is 10.104 which is significant at 0.01 level with df=150. It shows that awareness of scholars with Arts and Science major subjects differs significantly. Further, on comparing the mean scores of the scholars, the awareness of scholars whose major subject is Science was found to be superior to the scholars with Arts as major subject.

- it is found that the t-value for scores of awareness of e-learning among M.Ed. scholars in terms of their level of education is 3.588 which is significant at 0.01 level with df =150. It shows that awareness of scholars differ significantly with their level of education. Further, on comparing the mean value of the scholars, the awareness of scholars with P.G. level of education was found to be superior to that of the scholars with U.G. level of education.

- it is found that the t-value for scores of awareness of e-learning among M.Ed. scholars in terms of the types of institution where they are studying is 0.351 which is not significant at both levels. It proves that there is no change in awareness among scholars in terms of the types of institution where they are studying the M.Ed. course.

RESPONSES OF THE M. Ed. SCHOLARS FOR EACH ITEM OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE

- Considering the items, e-learning expansion, meaning, combination and two types of major

application, the scores of awareness of the sample is high (75% to 90 %).

- Considering the items, e- learning limitation, nature, mode of delivery and its required medium, the scores of awareness of the sample is more than average (60% to 65%)

- Considering the items, e-learning practicing mode, provision given, control of learning, practicing channel, off-shoot of e-learning and basic requirement for practicing e-learning, the scores of awareness of the sample is average (50% to 57%).

- Considering the items, e-learning material producer and learner, demands for interaction, steps in production, dissemination and its offering, the scores of awareness of the sample is below average (40% to 46%).

- Considering the items, e-learning representation, UGC recommended e-learning platform and the expansion of VLC, the scores of awareness of the sample is between 30 to 35% only.

- Considering the items, expansion of LMS, LCMS, e-learning open resources and propriety e-learning software, the scores of awareness of the sample is very low (below 25%).

SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings and conclusions given above, the present study offers the following suggestions and recommendations.

- It is important to make necessary arrangement in rural educational institutions to impart education through the electronic media.

- It is important to give enough hands on experience at all levels of education to students of all major subjects. Arts students are to be encouraged to access all available electronic media related to their subjects for their progress.

- It is important to take necessary steps to give education through available media and also make the students prepare any one of the electronic course materials while they are in the course of study.

- It is important to take necessary action to insist that the teacher educators handle all the available electronic resources in the classroom.

- It is very important to give periodic in-service training programmes to the teacher trainees and teacher educators regularly.

- It is imperative that steps are taken to create comprehensive awareness of e-learning among the M.Ed. scholars of Bharathidasan University.

- M.Ed. scholars are to be encouraged to visit the e-Learning portals and review them.

- Steps must be taken to train the M.Ed. scholars of Bharathidasan University in e-content development.

- The M.Ed. scholars may be encouraged to do one or two e-learning programmes freely available on the websites.

CONCLUSION

In order to capitalize on the potential of new technology, particularly digital technology as a learning tool, there is an urgent need for the professional development of teacher trainees. It allows them to construct professional knowledge about pedagogy, content and technology as well as pick up strategies for managing the changing classroom environments. The present study is the first of its kind with its specific reference to e-Learning awareness among the scholars of Bharathidasan University. Though it is specifically related to the scholars of Bharathidasan University, it presents a general view of the awareness of e-Learning among M.Ed. scholars in general. The findings of the study would be of immense use to Bharathidasan University. Only an ethical teacher can create an efficient student, similarly only an efficient teacher-educator can create an effective teacher. It is important to make the M.Ed. scholars understand the need and value of e-learning and its applications in a productive way during the training period itself.

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Research Paper

> Those who educate children well are more to be honored than they who produce them; for these only gave them life, those the art of living well."
> - Aristotle

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> "There are two kinds of teachers: the kind that fill you with so much quail shot that you can't move, and the kind that just gives you a little prod behind and you jump to the skies."
> - Robert Frost

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> "I am indebted to my father for living, but to my teacher for living well"
> - Alexander the Great

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> It is the supreme art of the teacher to awaken joy in creative expression and knowledge.
> - Albert Einstein

> I have come to believe that a great teacher is a great artist and that there are as few as there are any other great artists. Teaching might even be the greatest of the arts since the medium is the human mind and spirit. - John Steinbeck

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