

ABSTRACT

Mobile Technology is a new wave for educational development which has rich interactivity, total connectivity and powerful processing with capacity for individualized flexible adaptation. Mobile Learning (M.L.) is the latest technology in networking and communication which has enhanced the various aspects of innovative strategy adopted in sharing and interchanging information. So the teachers must teach their students to apply strategies for solving problems and to use appropriate tools for learning, collaborating and communicating. In this study we have discussed the scope, need, potentiality and delivery of the content through Mobile Technology. It is the need of the hour to modernize the teaching-learning process. It is possible for all students to access anywhere at anytime with effectiveness in communicating around the globe in an affordable cost manner

MOBILE LEARNING (M.L.)

'Mobile Learning' is commonly abbreviated to "m-learning", has different meanings for different communities. Mobile learning is the learning accomplished with the use of small, portable, computing devices. These computing devices include Smartphone, Personal Digital Assistants (PDA) and similar hand-held devices. Learning that happens across locations, or that takes advantage of learning opportunities offered by portable technologies which is named as "Mobile Learning" (M.L.). M.L. focuses on the mobility of the learner, interacting with portable technologies and learning that reflects a focus on how society and educational institutions can accommodate and support an increasingly mobile population. **Peters (2007)** viewed mobile learning as a useful component of the flexible learning model and also stated that it was a subset of e-learning, a step toward making the educational process, "just in time, just enough and just for me".

SCOPE OF M.L.

In the fast developing Technological and Communication world, learning through Mobile Phone is inevitable and it has wide scope across the boundaries. The scope of mlearning includes:

- ❖ Using mobile devices in the classroom to enhance group collaboration among students and instructors using a Pocket PC

- ❖ On the job training for someone who accesses training on a mobile device 'just in time' to solve a problem or gain an update
- ❖ Learning outdoors, that is during travel and other free time.
- ❖ Use of personal technology to support informal or life long learning, such as using hand-held dictionaries and other devices for language learning
- ❖ Improving levels of literacy, numeracy and participation in education amongst young adults
- ❖ Provide audiovisual support in order to enhance training that has been provided in classroom environment

In this way, the M.L. is having a wide scope for the learner all over the world. It has high potentiality to grow

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to great extent. Moreover, it will also stimulate other field to grow and strengthen the personality of the users in the right way.

NEED OF MOBILE TECHNOLOGY

Mobile devices are less expensive to buy and maintain than traditional computers and require less electricity or power to run, a feature particularly beneficial to rural areas without a guaranteed source of power. In the last 10 years, the development of mobile phone technology has been unbelievably shift, from analog to digital and from plain and simple cellphones to the current 3G. Smart phone which can serve as a mini computer telephone or camera and transfer data as well as video and audio files. There seems to be constant stream of new technology breaking into the mobile phone market. It is sure that almost all communications will be through the Mobile in the Next Ten Years. Mobile Technology will become one of the basic essential commodities for every individual.

AREAS OF M.L.

There are varieties of area where the M.L. has been exploring to great extent. Some of the areas of growth include:

- ❖ Social networked mobile learning
- ❖ Testing, survey, job aids and just in time learning
- ❖ Sending and receiving the text and picture messages as Short Messaging Service (SMS)/ Multimedia Messaging Service (MMS) to multiple learners simultaneously within a short span of time.
- ❖ Audio and video conversation that is face to face interaction of the teacher and students even when outside of the classroom hours.

POTENTIALITY OF M.L.

Multi-tasking is the operative word towards the context with a camera, computer and music player all packed into the hand-held phone. From downloading software to games, entertainment to accessing content across genres, mobile users are looking for new ways to personalize their handsets with utilities and multimedia content that make their mobile experience richer. All you

need is a General Packet Radio Service (GPRS) connection and an Internet plan, and one will have the world under his fingertips literally. The recent innovations in program applications and social software using Web 2.0 technologies such as Blogs, Wikis, Youtube or Social networking sites such as Facebook, Twitter and Myspace have made mobile devices more dynamic and pervasive in nature. This feature helps the endusers to have more effective interaction where they can able to communicate, converse and collaborate with each other in efficient manner.

India will be the third largest Internet user base by 2013 after China and USA, says Forrester and nearly 10 per cent of Internet users in India access the web from their mobile devices. The mobile phone is drawing the Internet into its small screen and turning into a tool that offers more than calls and SMS.

Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), the first company to launch 3rd Generation or 3G spectrum services in India, offers 3.5 Megabits per second (Mbps) speed on the network. 3G technology will bring in high data transfer rates over longer distances efficient bandwidth with us, map and positioning services and multiplayer gaming. It will also enable high resolution video and multimedia services with audio streaming and video capabilities on the move. It is quite interesting to note the comments that of Madhusudan of Virgin Mobile, "We expect to promote rich content applications around videos and mobile Internet a lot more with the advent of 3G"

DELIVERY OF CONTENT THROUGH M. L.

Mobile Learning is enabled by the use of portable computing devices such as PDA's, Palmtops, Smart phones and tablet PC's communicating over wireless networks. The use of computing in teaching and learning is being extended to spaces beyond the traditional classroom and within the classroom the teachers and learners are gaining more flexibility and new opportunities for interaction with each other.

Portability and immediacy, rather than localization are the essential motivating factors in mobile language learning. Further, the lessons are provided in bite sized

format, a fact appealing to busy students to download the content easily. Lessons typically delivered several times a week or even daily, include translations and provide options for further context-based application.

While the applications of mobile phones have typically been pedagogic in nature, they have also been used for practical or administrative matters, such as simplified and flexible student-teacher communications by the way of course updates and reminders, referrals to related websites and other up-to-date Instructional resources. In language learning the features of mobile technology enable to communicate language practice access to authentic content and task completion. Though all of us are using Mobile Technologies for only personal talking's, the days are not far off to use this technology for internet usage. Then only the communication sharing will be enormous and the effects will be great.

FEATURES OF PERSONAL DIGITAL ASSISTANT

The Personal Digital Assistant (PDA), such as the Palm, Handspring Visor, or Rim Blackberry, generally includes atleast a name and address database, to-do list and note taker. The Calendar functions on a PDA and additional timesaving capability of "hot syncing" well synchronizing and moving the data from the PDA data book to a desktop or laptop computer. PDA software designed specifically for teachers who can aid the process and a camera allows users to take photos and make notes on the same screen.

PDA is cost effective and time saver technology for the student teacher in the 21st century. We can survive only when we communicate rapidly with the use of such modern technology. Variety of activities includes using web page context as well as e-mail, with downloadable software, the PDA user can browse and interact with downloaded web pages. In the above facilities, time is saved and immediate reply is possible.

MERITS OF USING MOBILE LEARNING

Article

There are multifarious merits from different aspects. It is inevitable for every individual in the modern world to adopt this technology i.e. Mobile Learning. Some of the important merits are listed below. Besides flexibility, cost, size, ease of use and timely application, it allows

- ❖ Authenticated users to have access to the system
- ❖ Users to have access to course resources impendent form time and place
- ❖ Users to have access to the resources in different formats (Voice, text, pictures and videos)
- ❖ Reuse of material
- ❖ To enable users to learn at their own speed, b uniquely catering to their requirements in a personalized way.
- ❖ Shared assignments and collaborative working by using wireless network such as Bluetooth or infrared function of PDA.

Like wise, there are different uses of Mobile Learning which are making advantages of utilizing each and every minute purposefully in different ways.

CONCLUSION

The Mobile Technology is the latest technology in the communication network which enhances the various aspects of innovative strategy in sharing and interchanging information through the web of mass media. The four approaches which adopted in the technological factors such as Emerging, Applying, Infusing and Transforming will represent a continuum to make knowledge free and attainable to all those who require it to obtain from educational resources at anytime, anywhere and accessible through this Mobile Technology. The utilization of this Mobile Learning technology by the learners would able to provide problem-solving, guided Instruction with analytical thinking, active participation and self-pacing in flexible learning environment. Hence, it is essential factors for the teachers and students to adopt this technology to face the challenges in the emerging knowledge based society. Therefore teachers and students must work together to enhance the level of utilization of Mobile Learning technology in the teaching-learning process.

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