

# AWARENESS OF POST GRADUATE ARTS AND SCIENCE COLLEGE STUDENTS OF TIRUNELVELI DISTRICT TOWARDS E-LEARNING

Research  
Paper

## ABSTRACT

*The main objective of the study is to find out the level of awareness of post graduate arts and science college students towards e-learning. The survey method is adopted in this study. The sample consists of 300 arts and science college students in Tirunelveli. E-learning awareness questionnaire developed and validated by L. Vasanthi Medona and E.Aarthi (2015) has been used to collect data. It was found out that post graduate arts and science college students differ in their awareness of e-learning with respect to gender and major subject, and there is no significant difference among them in their awareness of e-learning with respect to computer facility at home.*

## INTRODUCTION

E-learning refers to the use of electronic media in the learning process. In e-learning an individual receives education through online or offline electronic media instead of taking a whole course from a nearby institution. The subject matter is delivered through the internet, intranet, audio video tapes and CD-ROM. E-learning is "a term covering a wide set of application and processes, such as web based learning, computer based learning, virtual classroom and digital collaboration. It includes the delivery of content via internet, intranet, audio and video tapes, satellite broadcasts, interactive TV, CD-ROM and more" (Singh 2003). E-learning is a blended learning where the traditional teaching is upgraded by using the visual aids.

## STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Awareness of post graduate arts and science college students of Tirunelveli district towards e-learning

## SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

Education is a unique investment for the present and future citizens for their well-being. It is the backbone of a progressing nation. Today we live in a knowledge era. Technological advancement has invaded the branches of education. This has paved the way for a new electronic literacy where the materials are made available in electronic form. Teachers are preparing materials in electronic form and students are also presenting assignments, papers and projects in electronic form. All these developments in education portray the transformation from an

industrialization to information based society. E-learning refers to learning through electronic devices instead of a hard copy like book and paper. Awareness is the state or quality of being aware of something. The investigator's review of related literature has found that studies have been done only on the awareness of e-learning in agricultural research scholars, B.Ed., students and university students and undergraduate students. So far no one has conducted a study on post graduate arts and science college students. This study will help to know about the awareness level of postgraduate arts and science college students of Tirunelveli district towards e-learning.

## OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To find out the level of awareness of post graduate arts and science college students towards e-learning.
2. To find out whether there exist any significant difference in the awareness of post graduate arts and science college students towards e-learning with respect to gender, major subject and computer facility at home

### L.Vasanthi Medona

Assistant Professor of Mathematics  
St.Ignatius College of Education (Autonomous)  
Palayamkottai.

### E.Aarthi

M.Ed scholar, St.Ignatius College of Education  
(Autonomous), Palayamkottai.

## HYPOTHESES OF THE STUDY

1. The level of awareness of post graduate arts and science college students towards e-learning is moderate in nature.
2. There is no significant difference between male and female post graduate arts and science college students in their attitude towards e-learning.
3. There is no significant difference between arts and science group post graduate arts and science college students in their attitude towards e-learning.
4. There is no significant difference among post graduate arts and science college students having computer facility at home and those who are not having computer facility at home based on their awareness towards e-learning.

## METHODOLOGY

The investigator used the survey method for collecting data.

## POPULATION

The population for the study was post graduate arts and science college students of Tirunelveli district.

## SAMPLE

The investigator selected 300 post graduate arts and science college students for this study by using the simple random sampling method from 10 arts and science colleges in Tirunelveli district.

## TOOL USED

The investigator used the following self-constructed tool for the present study.

E-learning Awareness Questionnaire

## STATISTICAL TECHNIQUES USED:

Mean, standard deviation, and 't' test were used to analyse the data.

## ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS

### Hypothesis 1

The level of awareness of post graduate arts and science college students towards e-learning is moderate in nature.

Table 1  
**SHOWING THE LEVEL OF AWARENESS OF POST GRADUATE ARTS AND SCIENCE COLLEGE STUDENTS TOWARDS E-LEARNING**

Research Paper

Variable	Low		Moderate		High	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Awareness	53	17.7	203	67.7	44	14.7

From the above table, it is inferred that the calculated moderate value (67.7) is higher than the other two values. This implies that the level of awareness of post graduate arts and science college students towards e-learning is moderate in nature.

### Hypothesis 2

There is no significant difference between male and female post graduate arts and science college students in their awareness towards e-learning.

Table 2  
**SHOWING THE SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE BETWEEN MALE AND FEMALE POST GRADUATE ARTS AND SCIENCE COLLEGE STUDENTS IN THEIR AWARENESS TOWARDS E-LEARNING**

Variable	Category	N	Mean	S.D	't' value	Remarks
Gender	Male	64	13.20	4.247	4.214	S
	Female	236	10.70	4.103		

From the above table, it is inferred that the calculated 't' value (4.214) is greater than the table value (2.58) at 0.01 level. This implies that there is significant difference between male and female post graduate arts and science college students in their awareness towards e-learning.

### Hypothesis 3

There is no significant difference between arts and science group post graduate arts and science college students in their awareness towards e-learning.

**Table 3**  
**SHOWING THE SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE**  
**BETWEEN ARTS AND SCIENCE GROUP POST**  
**GRADUATE ARTS AND SCIENCE COLLEGE**  
**STUDENTS IN THEIR AWARENESS**  
**TOWARDS E-LEARNING**

Variable	Category	N	Mean	S.D	't' value	Remark
Major Subject	Arts	150	11.80	4.135	2.325	S
	Science	150	10.67	4.306		

From the above table, it is inferred that the calculated 't' value (2.325) is greater than the table value (1.96) at 0.05 level. This implies that there is significant difference between arts and science college students in their awareness towards e-learning.

**Hypothesis 4**

There is no significant difference among post graduate arts and science college students having computer facility at home and those who are not having computer facility at home in their awareness towards e-learning.

**Table 4**

**SHOWING THE SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE**  
**AMONG POST GRADUATE ARTS AND**  
**SCIENCE COLLEGE STUDENTS HAVING**  
**COMPUTER FACILITY AT HOME AND**  
**THOSE WHO ARE NOT HAVING COMPUTER**  
**FACILITY AT HOME IN THEIR AWARENESS**  
**TOWARDS E-LEARNING**

Variable	Category	N	Mean	S.D	't' value	Remark
Computer facility at home	Yes	195	11.30	4.221	0.353	NS
	No	105	11.11	4.329		

From the above table, it is inferred that the calculated 't' value (0.353) is less than the table value (1.96) at 0.05 level. This implies that there is no significant difference among post graduate arts and science college students having computer facility at home and those who are not having computer facility at home based on their awareness towards e-learning.

**CONCLUSION**

The development of new information technologies in the 21<sup>st</sup> century is expanding the range of information

resources; it is also creating conditions for the formation of a global environment in the educational system.

Though the post graduate students are well informed, they are not up to the level of competition in this globalised world. This difference can be nullified if sufficient awareness is brought to the students from the school level itself. Thus the 21<sup>st</sup> century education system faces the challenge of equipping students with new knowledge, skills and values needed to be competitive in a global educational environment. E-learning is the only method of learning, where three distinct learning styles such as auditory learning, visual learning and kinaesthetic learning are incorporated. E-learning is suited to the individual's learning preference. Though the transition period is painful, the ultimate fruit will be surely in favour of both the teachers' and students' knowledge exploration.

**REFERENCE**

1. Arulsamy, S. & Siva Kumar, S. (2009). *Application of ICT in Education*, Hyderabad: Neelkamal Publications Pvt.Ltd.
2. Azliza- Yacob et.al., (2012). Student Awareness towards e-learning in education, *Procedia Social and Behavioural Sciences*, 67, 93-101. Retrieved on 24 November 2014, from <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1877042812052962>.
3. Johan Kwame Euafo Edumadze et.al., (2014). A study on Evaluating the Awareness and Perceptions of Lecturers in using e-learning tools for teaching in University of Cape Coast, *International Journal of Computing Academic Research (IJCAR)*, 3(1):1 Retrieved on 08 December 2014 from [http://www.academia.edu/9021094/Evaluating\\_the\\_Awareness\\_and\\_Perceptions\\_of\\_Lecturers\\_in\\_using\\_E\\_learning\\_Tools\\_for\\_Teaching\\_in\\_University\\_of\\_Cape\\_Coast](http://www.academia.edu/9021094/Evaluating_the_Awareness_and_Perceptions_of_Lecturers_in_using_E_learning_Tools_for_Teaching_in_University_of_Cape_Coast).
4. Saxena & Oberoi. (2008). *Essentials of Educational Technology and Management*, Meerut : R. Lall Book Depot .
5. Shoji Lal Bairwa et.al., (2014). Awareness about e-learning among agricultural research scholars of Benaras Hindu University, *Current Research in Agricultural Sciences*, 1(2):35- 41. Retrieved on 27 November 2014, [http://econpapers.repec.org/article/pkpcriasc/2014\\_3ap\\_3a35-41.html](http://econpapers.repec.org/article/pkpcriasc/2014_3ap_3a35-41.html)