The significance of E -learning :
Challenging Issues of Tribal Education in Kalinga Nagar, Jajpur District of Odisha

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ABSTRACT

The objective of the paper is to analyse the status of tribal education in the medium of E-learning. The accessibility of E-learning in remote tribal locality is very difficult due to lack of primary infrastructure such as electronic equipment and computers. In the competitive world, the process of E-learning plays a significant role, particularly for the tribals those are leaving in the remote locality .It provides ample opportunity and bright future. The E-learning education will ensure economic empowerment of the tribals, because the cooperative sectors and as other sectors will put a huge demand for E-Learners in the coming time. Hence the government should required for tribal E-learning education. The present study focuses on the challenges faced by tribals students for E-Learning, in Kalinga Nagar, Jaj Pur District of Odisha. Lack of skilled teachers and components and inadequate availability of computers is a major challenge before the students of this locality. At last the student as well parents should realise the value of E-Learning and join, for the better opportunities.

1.Introduction:

Education has been in consideration as the cardinal aspect of socio-economic development, both at the micro and macro levels since long past. But more specially modern education has proved itself to have greater implications on shaping up of the overall development goals at the levels of individuals, families, communities, tribal and finally nation as a whole. Socio-economically, a nation is more advanced if its people are more literate and educated than other nations. This has become universally true for all the developed as well as developing nations of the world and therefore, many vibrant action plans have been formulated and implemented in the past and now many innovative plans and programmes are also in operation at the international sphere to spread education effectively among the largest possible populations of different nation of the world and thereby let them enable to reap the benefits of this and look forward in the right direction.

With the advancement of science and technology the education system has been changed and introduced new methods of teaching and learning process. At present E-Learning has completely transformed the way in which learning is imparted to students. Unlike traditional chalk and board method of teaching, E-Learning makes learning simpler, easier and more effective. The term E-Learning has only been in existence since 1999, when the word was first utilized at a Computer Based Training (CBT) system seminar. The principles behind E-Learning have been well documented throughout history, and there is even evidence which suggests that early forms of E-Learning existed as far back as the 19th century. The Odisha government launched an E-Vidyalaya programme designed to bring E-Learning in the state. The programme will provide easy access of technology designed to help students learn beyond regular classroom studies beginning with the set up information and communication technology (ICT) Labs. Special training

will also imparted to teachers to help them in using new facilities to their full extent. Each ICT Lab is equipped with high-end integrated computer, interactive board, projector, television and audio-visual facilities. At present generation, learners want relevant, mobile, self-paced, and personalized content. This need is fulfilled with the online mode of learning and students can learn at their own comfort and requirement. Rastrya madhamika saskhya avijan(RMSA)2009.

2.The Problem:

The E-Learning process is new in Odisha in general and Kalinga Nagar of Jaj pur district in particular. The present study focuses on the "The significance of E -learning :Challenging Issues of Tribal Education in Kalinga Nagar, Jaj Pur District of Odisha". The accessibility of E-Learning in the tribal belt is minimal, whereas a few numbers of public schools as well as private schools introduced E-Learning process. In this locality the most common E-Learning challenges that to motivate the students to join in the classes. Many students are hesitant to take an E-Learning course, because they think that they would not be able to go at their own pace or that it will require a great deal of their time. Most of the learners have not any knowledge about the latest tech gadgets, which is the major problem for them to understand this programme. The innocent tribals believes that E-Learning offers no supports for their children. Sometimes a learner is not able to see the value or benefits of the E-Learning course, and especially how the subject matter is going to help them in the real world. As a result the E-Learning professionals are facing above problems to peruse e-learning courses in the tribal locality.

3.Significance of E-Learning:

The online method of learning is best suited for everyone. This digital revolution has led to remarkable changes in how the content is accessed, consumed, discussed and shared. Online educational courses can be taken up by office goers and housewives too, at the time that suits them. Depending on their availability and comfort, many people choose to learn at weekends or evenings. Unlike classroom teaching, with online learning one can access the content an unlimited number of times. A prime benefit of learning online is that it makes sure that you are in synchronization with modern learners. This enables the learner to access updated content whenever they want it. E-Learning is a way to provide quick delivery of lessons. As compared to traditional classroom teaching method, this mode has relatively quick delivery cycles. It helps in creating and communicating new training, policies, concepts, and ideas. Weather it is for formal education or entertainment, E-learning is a very quick way of learning. This process enables educators to get a higher degree of coverage to communicate the message in a consistent way for their target audience. This ensures that all learners receive the same type of training with this learning mode. It is also cost effective as compared to traditional forms of learning. E-Learning has a positive influence on an organization's profitability. It makes easy to grasp the content and digest it. As E-Learning is a paperless way of learning, it protects the environment to a lot of extent. At present E-Learning has become quite popular and appreciated among students all over the world.

The government of Odisha started E-Learning programme under the E-Vidyalaya programme which was launched by the state government. It was decided that information and communication technology (ICT) will be established in government-run and added schools. These schools have to make ICT lab as part of their academic calendars and time tables. The programme will provide easy access of technology designed to help students learn beyond regular classroom studies beginning with the set up of ICT Labs. The ICT@school scheme of E-Vidyalaya Programme has been started under Odisha Madhyamika Sikshya Mission (OMSM) and aims to reach 4,000 government schools in the first phase and an additional 2,000 government schools in the second phase. Special training will also be imparted to teachers to help in using new facilities to their full extent. Information and communication Technology (ICT) Labs have been set up in different schools. Each ICT Lab is equipped with high-end integrated computer, interactive board,

projector, television and audio-visual facilities. Odisha Knowledge Corporation Limited (OKCL) has prepared e-content in various subjects for Classes 8 ,9 and 10, which can be utilized through the ICT Labs. The ICT programme in schools scheme was created by the department of School Education and Literacy under the Ministry of Human Resource Development of India. The scheme aims to give equal opportunities to utilize technology to those in disadvantaged socio-economic and geographical situations.

4. The E-Learning Programme In Kalinga Nagar of Jajpur District:

The Jajpur District is an interior district of Odisha, covering an area of 2, 887.69 km2 (1,114.94 sq mi) which lies between 20 .850N 86.3330 E(Illus:2). The total population of the district is about 18,27,192 of which 16,92,095 (about 95.5%) live in villages. The tribal population of Jajpur district is 1,51,432 according to 2011 census . The literacy rate of Jajpur District is 80.44 percent . Kalinganagar is a geographical unit consisting of a compact landmass of Danagadi and Sukinda block of Jajpur district of Odisha. It is a global steel hub of international business and commerce and is one of the industrial complex of India. (Ota:2010:41). There are thirteen number of E-Vidyalaya in Danagadi block and twelve number of E-Vidyalaya in Sukinda block.

The educational institutions in Kalinga Nagar, up to 5th standard (UP school) have been established in all the six affected villages of the project. ME Schools are established in Chandia, Gobarghati and Baragadia villages while there are High Schools in Gobarghati and Bargadia village. The High School of Goberghati village is under the management of SC & ST Development Department of Government of Odisha. For higher education beyond 10th class and technical education, students go to Jajpur Road which is at a distance of 12 to 15 kms from the village. Most of the tribal students of this locality are going to Budhraja Bidyapitha, (Dangadi), Govt. High School(Ssd),Tomka (Dangadi) and Govt. High School(Ssd) Gobarghati (Sukinda). All three schools are perusing E-Learning to the students.

5. Suggestion and conclusion:

E-Learning is an incredibly tool for the present educational system. There are many problems arises while pursuing this system, but to overcome such problems the professionals as well as the learners should learn the benefits of this programme.

It is important to make the E-Learning course as engaging and inspiring as possible among the students. Even if the topics are boring, the professionals have to make it exciting and effective for the students. The E-Learning games and videos are great ways to achieve the studies more relevant and interesting. All of these gives learners the opportunity to immerse themselves within the subject matter, rather than just reading about it.

The students sometimes unable, to take E-Learning course because they think it will require a great deal of time. The lengthy text blocks or cluttered pages within the E-Learning modules should avoided. As a result the programme will more effective and informative for the learners. It will help to attract the attention of the learners and keep them engaged with multimedia elements which deliver key pieces of information clearly and concisely.

In the interior locality like Kaling Nagar, not all the learners have latest technological gadgets, it is a challenge for them. The E-Learning should also be free of any multimedia elements.

It is general misconception that E-Learning courses offer no support for the learners. In fact this belief prevents many students to join the class. A strong motivation is required among the learners and encourage them for peer collaboration.

Sometimes a learner is not able to see the value or the benefit of the E-Learning course, and especially how the subject matter is going to help them in the real world. Even the most the informative E-Learning course aren't going to be effective if learners are not made aware of how the materials can help to improve their lives, either personally or professionally. The professionals should offer them real world

examples, or group collaboration projects that are based around problems or issues they might encounter regularly outside of the virtual classroom.

By overcoming the common E-Learning challenges, the effective and enlightening courses should be introduced for the learners. There might be some disadvantages of the E-Learning like, no face to face contact, isolation in to the learning environment, elimination of the structure of classroom, low-tech learners can have a difficult time to take training, occurs in the E-learning programme. Despite the lacuna, the E-Learning programme is effective and easy access in the classroom. E-Learning has a positive influence on the school going students and it is easy to grasp the content and digest it and also enhance the ability to learn and implement the new process or knowledge at the workplace. As E-Learning is a paperless way of learning, it protect the environment to a lot extent. It helps in retaining information for a longer time. To conclude it here E-Learning is a highly eco-friendly way of learning and more effective for the students in remote locality.

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