

Digital Learning Environment (DLE) as an Emerging Platform for Lifelong Learning (LLL)

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Abstract-

The modern society is very much depended on the Information and Communication Technology. The citizen of this society is very fast and authentic. They always need some authentic and important information for them as well as to satisfy the others. So they need such a lifelong learning platform that can give up-to-date information to satisfy the need of the society. This study presents how the Digital Learning Environment (DLE) play a crucial role to give a lifelong learning platform.

Keywords: Digital Learning Environment, ICT, Lifelong Learning, Lifelong Learners.

I. INTRODUCTION

We are living in the rapidly changing society where the innovative ideas and information is the driven force for the overall development of the society. This changing landscape of the society needs quality learning for the well beings of the citizens. In the changing society, all the people are busy in the professional life. They always perform their level best to give or satisfy the clients in their respective profession. So they always need some upgraded innovative ideas and information for the betterment of their profession as well personal life. So that they can satisfy the clients with the authentic services. They need such a learning environment, which can facilitate the lifelong learning platform with innovative ideas and updated information. In this regard, the ICT based digital learning environment can play a crucial role to satisfy the changing need and demands of the modern society. The present paper discusses the concepts of lifelong learning and its different aspects and how the digital learning environment can facilitate the lifelong learning platform to satisfy the changing need of the professionals and the clients.

II. LIFELONG LEARNING: MEANING AND CHARACTERISTICS

Lifelong Learning (LLL) is a continuous process of learning activities for giving up-to-date knowledge to the learners for their personal or professional development. LLL is a new method for the overall development of the society which promotes the personal development, self-sustainability, employability and help to become the active citizenship of the global village.

With the development of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) the world became a global village. Generally, the need for the global society as well as the demand and work pattern has changed. The global villagers always need to up-to date themselves for their daily work of life. Where LLL can give an outstanding facilitates to upgrading themselves with required skills and knowledge to cope up with the increasing demand.

Meaning of LLL

The Belém Framework for Action defines the concepts of Lifelong Learning as “an organizing principle of all forms of education”. “The entire education system is designed to facilitate lifelong and ‘lifewide’ learning and the creation of formal, non-formal and informal learning opportunities for people of all ages... The concept of lifelong learning requires a paradigm shift away from the ideas of teaching and training towards those of learning, from knowledge-conveying instruction to learning for personal development and from the acquisition of special skills to broader discovery and the releasing and harnessing of creative potential. This shift is needed at all levels of education and types of provision, whether formal, non-formal or informal.” [15]

The European Lifelong Learning Initiatives define lifelong learning as "...a continuously supportive process which stimulates and empowers individuals to acquire all the knowledge, values, skills and understanding they will require throughout their lifetimes and apply them with confidence, creativity and enjoyment in all roles circumstances, and environments." [17]

Characteristics of Lifelong Learning

Lifelong Learning has some unique characteristics. These characteristics are as follows. [12]

- ❖ **Formal and Informal process:** LLL is the combination of the formal and informal learning process. Formal learning is an academic programme that runs from the primary school to the university, which gives a certificate of degree and the learners adapt their technical and professional knowledge. The informal learning is a continuous process throughout life from where the learners acquire skill, knowledge, experience, values from daily life, from their family, neighbours, marketplace, library, social media etc.
- ❖ **Self-motivated learning process:** LLL is self-motivated learning. the learners motivated by themselves on the basis of their requirement. They feel their need and can participate in the LLL process to solve their problems throughout life.
- ❖ **Self-funded learning process:** In the LLL process the learners are responsible for the required funds. They bear all the cost for their continuing education programme. They are responsible to invest money, time and efforts for their lifelong learning process.
- ❖ **Universal participation:** In the age of Information and Communication Technology the lifelong learning is a worldwide programme. Anyone, anytime and from anywhere can participate in the lifelong learning programme. Universal participation in lifelong learning is highly essential for the rapidly changing knowledge society.

III. FOUR PILLARS OF LIFELONG LEARNING [1]

LLL is a continuous and never ending process. These four key pillars continuously play a vital role in the lifelong learning environment. These pillars are:

Learning To Know: Learning to know means how the learners will learn by developing their knowledge, skill, understanding and enhance the thinking power for the future. They have to learn to understand the world, for their professional skill, actively participate in the socio-economic development and for communication with people for better lives. This pillar acts as a crucial tool for the better understanding of the global complexities and provides an appropriate and adequate platform for the future learning as well as better life.

Learning to do: This pillar is related to the professional or occupational training programme. It helps how the learners or the employees achieve their required knowledge and how they apply that knowledge in their future professional life. It enables the learners to adapt their personalized skills, talents, social behavior, leadership skill, Communication skill etc . so that they can effectively engage in the knowledge based society.

Learning to Live Together: This pillar implies that the lifelong learning encourages the learners to think positively. They establish a social relationship to each other, they realize each other, they solve their problem, they share their happiness and they help each other. Lifelong learning can give a better, happy and effective life in the age of global competitive economy.

Learning to be: This pillar identify the overall development (body, mind and spirit) of the learners. Different types of talent and personality are needed in the knowledge society to perform the varied responsibilities and therefore the overall development of the learners is highly essential. LLL facilitate the learners to develop their mental, physical and spiritual productivity to satisfy the need of the society.

IV. LIFELONG LEARNING (LLL) IN DLE

Digital Learning is information and communication technology (ICT) oriented teaching-learning platform which represents the learning, teaching, and discovering environment over the Internet beyond the time, place, path and pace. Digital learning is a new method for transferring the teaching-learning and evaluation process to the learners desktop through information and communication technology (ICT). It facilitates high quality and upgraded digital objects or materials which are remotely accessed through ICT, personalize or customized learning platform where the learners can join in their own time and from own destination and can give direct and quick feedback and which is devoted to ensuring the full attention and engagement of the learners.

So the digital learning is a combination of information and communication technology, digital objects or contents and instructions which create such a virtual environment entirely based on users' time, path, pace and place.

Lifelong Learning (LLL) is an ongoing or continuous process of learning activities for updating or gaining knowledge for personal or professional development. Lifelong Learning is a tool for the socio-economic and cultural as well as community development process which enhance the personal development, self – sustainability, employability and help to become the active citizenship of the global village.

With the development of ICT, the world became a global village. With this changing environment, the need of the global society has changed. They always need to up-to date information for their daily life to satisfy the growing need for them and others. In this circumstance such a platform which can provide the updated information or knowledge to cope up with the changing society. DLE such a platform that can be able to facilitate to acquire the life skill, professional and technical knowledge for the personal or professional development.

Now we can discuss how the DLE can facilitate the Lifelong Learning for the society

- ❖ In the digital learning environment (DLE) the learners can learn at their own pace and path. The DLE enables the learners to learn in their own way and their own choice. They can customize the learning environment in their own passion, needs and as they like.
- ❖ DLE open out the learning facility worldwide. So anyone can learn from anywhere and anytime through Information and Communication Technology (ICT). The modern society needs an open learning environment for the lifelong learning facility for the professionals as well as modern learners.
- ❖ DLE facilitate more interactive and collaborative learning environment by which the learners can directly interact with the teacher or instructor for their study. Learners can use the chat box, discussion forum, audio or video conferencing to interact with their teachers or classmate to increase the quality of learning.
- ❖ Digital learning environment can help to increase the motivation level of the lifelong learners. It enhances the engagement of the learners in the learning process. It enables the learners to active participants in their own learning, express their own experiences, evaluate themselves, to realize their own development etc. These facilities become them more attentive, persistence and engage in their lifelong study.
- ❖ Digital learning facilitates self-evaluation for the individuals of the learning environment. The learners can discuss their drawbacks in the chat room or in the discussion forum, they can test knowledge through the online test and even they can track their own development, naturally that help to be attentive or improve themselves.
- ❖ Cooperation is one of the important characteristics of the lifelong learners. In the LLL environment, the learners cooperate each other in their personal or professional development by giving the upgraded information in their domain. DLE empowers the cooperation among the learning community. Through the social media like facebook, blog or twitter the teachers, students or the scholars can create or manage a social group for sharing the thought content of their study. They can discuss their problems, writing assignment and preparation for projects or for exam purpose. This makes the learning environment more cooperative and collaborative.
- ❖ Digital learning environment is very much strong for its' learning objects or materials. Digital learning objects or the products are very easy to carry, share and accessible through digital media. Even anyone can give feedback if there is any fault or mistake and some time anyone can edit with appropriate information also. In the LLL environment always need the up-to-date materials to fulfil the ever growing need and demands of the world. So the DLE can be helpful to cope up with the changing world.
- ❖ With the help of digital communication media, the lifelong learners can share the digital learning resources to the others. There is so many tools are freely available in the public domain so anyone or any institution can use it to share it freely.

V. CONCLUSION

DLE makes the teaching-learning and evaluation process more interactive and collaborative in nature. It provides more independent, communicative and social learning platform, where the learners can learn and share their views with an open minded environment. In this regards the DLE is the more effective to enrich the lifelong learning for the modern busy society. DLE increase the motivation level of the learners by giving an interactive platform, where they can chat or discuss their problems, share their views and communicate by using social media like facebook, twitter, blog etc. It also provides the self-evaluation process by which the learners can judge themselves and which helps to increase the engagement of the learners in the learning environment. So we can say that the DLE is an outstanding platform for lifelong learning for the learners of the ultra modern society.

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