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Higher Educational Scenario and Mobile learning

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- **Abstract :** *This paper is about m- learning in higher education and some part of the paper focuses how e-learning and m-learning differences. It is not covering the all aspect of mobile technology and advances in education but through insights on capabilities of e-learning and m-learning. Higher education scenario and information scenario has wide impact on users and m-learning helps to reach the educational services to ends users.*

Keywords : *ICT, M-learning, e-learning*

- **Introduction:**

The evolution of handheld portable devices and wireless technology has resulted in radical changes in the social and economic lifestyles of modern people. Today, many technological devices are produced in portable form and people have become accustomed to them. These devices are reshaping users daily lives indifferent ways. But the development of digital technologies has so far been limited to social communication and few people have regarded mobile learning as a core pedagogical activity in higher institutions of learning. Although this model has been used as a minor adjunct to learning activities such as lectures and assignments, it is still not the primary mode of delivery in higher education. Currently, the instructional technology transmitted by means of mobile technology is mainly social and, to a lesser extent, economic.

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- **The Mobile Wireless Learning Definition:**

Technological in the field of mobile and wireless learning evolve so quickly that to prevent confusion we must clearly define both learning types. Frequent redefinition will surely be necessary to keep up with the technological changes. We believe that within a reasonable time frame wireless and mobile learning will completely overlap, creating one global mobile campus.

- **Mobile Technology in Higher Education :**

More than two-thirds of those surveyed from academic settings say their institutions offer online courses today. The specialization, customization and convenience that distance education affords have found an eager audience among students, working professionals and employers. Many academic institutions, and especially those with a public-service mandate, consider online learning key to advancing their mission, placing post-graduate education within reach of people who might otherwise not be able to access it. Recently named the top wired university in the US by PC Magazine, the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign offers a case in point. As Scott D Johnson, CIO and associate dean for online learning in the College of Education, observes "As a public, land-grant University, our mission is grounded on the premise of education for all.

The most important yet sophisticated concepts for designing instruction in this context are identifying the technology, learner and learning material as well as mobile technology such as portable devices. It also involves identifying learners who are nomadic and able to understand and interpret learning materials. In general, mobile learning – or m-learning- can be viewed as any form of learning that happens when mediated through mobile devices, and a form of learning that established the legitimacy of ‘nomadic’ learners (Alexander, 2004).

The mobile technology referred to in this article is mainly more advanced cellular telephones. But there are other forms of technology such as “smart” phones, digital cameras, flash-discs, iPods and personal digital assistance devices (PDAs). Mobile devices used to deliver higher education content and instruction can also function as audio-players, media-players and digital cameras. Advanced mobile devices are furnished with Wireless Application Protocol (WAP) and Wireless Fidelity (Wi-Fi) capacities so that a user can connect to the Internet by means of his or her PDA (Trinder, 2005)

Trinder (2005, pp. 7-8) explains the functionalities of the most popular and expensive mobile phone technologies. These include an organizer, video camera, telephone, GPS and film player. They also include games, e-book, e-mail facility Internet access and musical MP3s. But the most popular functions in all mobile phone remain the short messaging service (SMS) and the multimedia messaging service (MMS) – frequently used functions in the delivery of higher education instructions. This innovation has been discussed in terms of Trinder’s (2005) classification of PDA functionality.

Current Capabilities and Applications of Mobile Phone

	E-learning	M-learning
Place	lecture in classroom or internet labs	learning anywhere, anytime
Pedagogical Change	More text- and graphics based instructions. Lecture in classroom or in internet labs.	More voice, graphics and animation based Instructions learning occurring in the field or while mobile
Instructor to Student Communication	Time-delayed (students need to check e-mails or websites.	Instant delivery of e-mail or SMS
Instructor to Student Communication	passive communication	Instant communication
	Asynchronous	Synchronous
	Scheduled	Spontaneous
	Face-to-Face	Flexible anywhere anytime video call
Student to Student Communication	Audio- teleconference common	Audio- and video-teleconference possible
	e-mail-to-e-mail / Chat etc .	24/7 instantaneous messaging
	private location	no geographic boundaries
	travel time to reach to internet sit	no travel time with wireless internet connectivity
	dedicated time for group meetings	Flexible timings on 24/7 basis
	poor communication due to group consciousness	Rich communication due to one-to-one communication, reduced inhibitions
Feedback to students	1-to-1 basis possible	1-to-1 basis possible
	Asynchronous and at times delayed	Both asynchronous and synchronous
	Mass/standardized instruction	Customized instruction
	Benchmark-based grading	Performance and improvement based grading

Presentations, Exams and Assignments	Theoretical and text based	Practical oriented exam hands on site
	Class based presentation	One to one communication
	Instructor's time used to deliver lectures	Instructor's time used to offer individualized instructions and help
	Web application	Mobile applications
	FAQ web based	FAQ and fast communication over mobile

- **Advantage:**

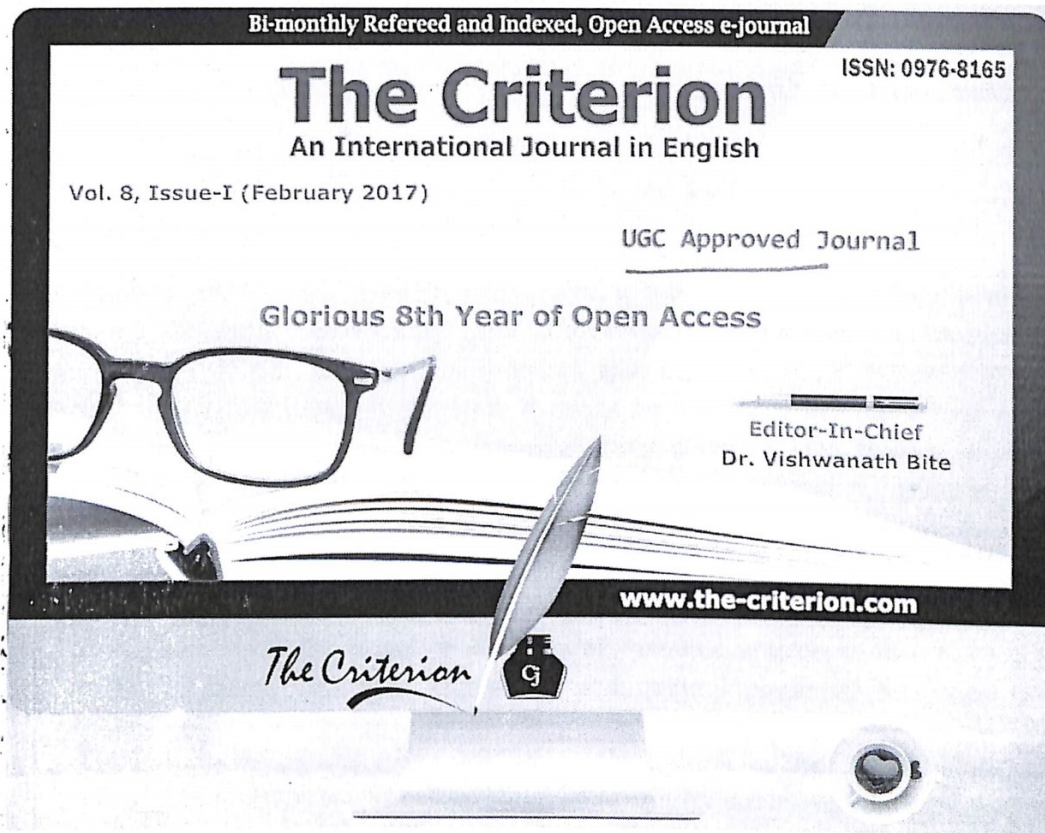
- User-friendly Aid: Familiarity with their own devices and technology helps the users in accessing information quickly and does not require orientation and training.
- Personalized service : Personalized service helps users to interact with teaching to seek specific information or reference away from library.
- Ability to access information sources anywhere at any time will be the great opportunity to help users who cannot visit academic institution by providing content link to required information sources.
- M- Learning application allowing users to incorporate user created content like book review, notes or images upload by users with reliable content.
- All online resources accessible on their devices without any limit i.e. limitless access.
- Mobile communications helps providing various services by voice over content, audio books, storytelling etc. for physically disabled students.

- **Conclusion:**

Mobile learning is emerging as one of the solutions to the challenges faced by education. With a variety of tools and resources always available, mobile learning provides increased options for the personalization of learning. Mobile learning in classrooms often has students working interdependently, in groups, or individually to solve problems, to work on projects, to meet individual needs, and to allow for student voice and choice. With access to so much content anytime and anywhere, there are plenty of opportunities for formal and informal learning, both inside and outside the classroom. Study showed that notebooks, mobile Tablets, iPod touch, and iPads are very popular devices for mobile learning because of their cost and availability of apps. They are used for collecting students' responses (clickers), reading electronic books and websites, recording reflections, documenting field trips, collecting and analyzing data, and much more with the help of M-learning.

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