# 3E-education : Making New Horizons

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### ABSTRACT

*As a nation we are so backward in education that we cannot hope, to fulfill our obligation to the nation in this respect in a given time during the generation, if the program is to depend on money. I have therefore to suggest that education should be self-supportive.*

*–Mahatma Gandhi*

*Education is pivot of life. Life is useless without education. Every religion, every country gives great importance to education. In India three levels of education exist- primary level, secondary level and tertiary or higher level. Primary level is meant for knowing about our environment, secondary level for advancement of knowledge and higher education for examining our thoughts and knowledge in a crucial way. The current scenario of higher education is not good. Traditional learning or teaching in higher education is suffering from various problems like improper content, improper method, lack of efficient and skilled teachers, lack of communication, and uncontrolled mass of students.*

*Arrival of Computer and Internet in the field of education has changed the procedures and patterns of education. Now education knocks at the door of students or learners. Today anyone can obtain education anywhere, anytime. Latest information and content is available at lower cost. New technological terms replaced old terms such as education into e-education, banking into e-banking, commerce into e-commerce, governance into e-governance, learning into e-learning etc.*

## Introduction

The Indian Constitution advocates providing quality education to all its citizens and in an effort to fulfill the educational needs of the country specifically for the multi-cultural society of the country. Indian education system is categorized in three levels namely elementary education, secondary education, higher education. E-learning is a useful and effective medium through which goal of development of each citizen could be achieved. In the current radically changing era and digital world, education needs to meet the additional demands of present time such as creating globally competent work force.

E-education is a new sensation and trends in the field of education. This paper mainly deals with the importance and significance of e-education.

## Meaning of e-education

Some other words like paperless education, e-learning, online education and web based education are also used for e-education.

According to Neeraj & Ganesh (2004), "The term e-education means electronic

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education and it is basically the online delivery of information, communication, training and learning." E-education is internet enabled learning components include content delivery in multiple formats, management of the learning experience, and a networked community of learners, content develop by experts. According to Rosenberg, "e-education refers to the use of Internet technologies to deliver a broad array of solutions that enhance knowledge and performance."

**Need and Importance of e-education**

Presently India is passing through a transitional stage. While on the one hand we are looking forward to global standards, global facilities and global education, on other hand we are fighting with poverty, diseases, starvation, pollution, natural disasters etc. A huge mass of population is waiting for basic education and facilities. Some major obstacles in the path of Indian higher education are given below-

- Commodification of Higher education
- High cost of higher education
- Inadequate resources and lack of funds
- Lack of global level content
- Underemployment ad unemployment
- Overcrowded classrooms
- Student indiscipline and unrest
- Linkage problem among universities and institutions
- Immovability of students and teachers

India is a developing country. Uncontrolled population is a major constraint in the path of success. Due to overcrowding teachers as well as learners feel not so good in classrooms. Consequently, learning cannot take place in proper way. In this fast and mechanical era, students and teachers, both have no time to interact with one another. In these circumstances students become unidirectional and feel restlessness. E-education apparently provides a solution in this problem.

E-education is a combination of e-teaching and e-learning along with the various administrative and strategic measures needed to support teaching and learning in an Internet based environment.

A new trend called e-education affects traditional education very much in different aspects. In a country like India, traditional education is unable to provide education according to learner's needs. "One size fits for all" is commonly used in traditional teaching. This is very unusual with one way communication. In a classroom every student has his/her own mental ability, IQ, capacity and pace of learning.

A very common and vital drawback of traditional classroom teaching is students having low mental ability and inability to keep pace with the teacher. Traditional teaching generally uses unidirectional principles and does not take into account personal background, needs and requirements of a learner. Proper learning and experiences as well as output and outcomes are essential for a learner to be successful in life and working situations. E-education is flexible education where a learner can learn any content according to his or her need and capacities.

**Main Characteristics of e-education-**

- Flexible education
- Learner Autonomy
- Large and qualitative content
- Effective and efficient teaching learning
- Error free and speedy technology
- More practical teaching learning
- Environment friendly and economic
- Transparent and authentic system of education
- Reduce student's indiscipline and unrest problem
- Large mass covered

- More planned and organized system of education
- Access and success for all

**Nature of e-education**

E-education is much more interesting. It is amazing to actually discuss things on voice chat and practice on screen simultaneously. E-education has given a new look and feel to studies. Unlike one-way teaching module in traditional teaching, e-education is a two way learning process. It is a platform wherein a student can interest with a teacher online and learn by discussion. The student is free to ask the teacher anything be it from prescribed syllabus or beyond it. With the help of voice-enabled chat the discussion and practice session become all the more productive.

E-education is totally technology based education. Classes, content, teachers, learners, examinations, all these are available online through internet. Internet is the backbone of e-education. Students can get e-lectures, e-demonstration and e-instruction of eminent personalities from anywhere through e-mail or Internet. Students and learners can seek answer of their question form teacher without any travel for impersonal interaction. For e-education, the learner and the teacher must have a internet enabled device. Through this system the learner and the teacher also can go through the path of knowledge.

**Procedure of e-education**

Procedure of e-education is quite different from traditional educational procedure. As e-education is online education, teachers can make content delivery with the help of e-lectures, e-seminars, e-demonstration, e-counseling etc. For effective teaching, the teacher can use e-boards and e-pen for geographical representation. Similarly, the learner can induce the learning process by using or attending e-classes, e-notes and e-assignments. For advancement and enrichment of knowledge learners can use e-books and e-library.

By using all the media of print, audio, video, animation and simulation, content in e-education can be developed in the formats of e-lectures, multimedia in distance education format, interactivity based content out of question answer, seminars, workshops, assignments and projects done by students. In e-education content has to be developed and stored in such a way that a teacher or learner should be able to continue various small units of content with definite learning objectives and outcomes.

The e-education program can offer more content on a topic than the traditional class, learner are invariably limited to the amount of information that they can get. On the contrary, a lecture of 1-2 hours duration can be converted by a spectacular e-content package. With the use of sound, animations, and graphics the lecture can be made more effective and interesting.

**Advantages of e-education**

E-education has some great advantages. These advantages are listed below-
- There is no need to waste time in travelling to classroom.
- Through e-education a learner can share his/her knowledge with others at the global level
- A learner can organize his/her study according to his/her need.
- The most important advantages of e-education is that the learner can learn according to his/her pace
- In e-education the learner receives individual and immediate feedback
- E-education exposes the learner to the richness of group study.

But the question is, Is India ready for e-education? The first challenge in the path of e-education is to change the attitude and mentality of person who are directly or indirectly connected with higher education. We have to remove technological inertia from our teaching community. Ratherford (1992) also focused their research on academic staff fear in the face of technology. They identified many areas such as fear from change, fear for facing the technology, time commitment, techno failure etc.

The second challenge concern is related to funds. In developing India it is not possible for the government to invest huge amount on e-education. Collaboration with corporate houses will be able to solve the funding problem. If we accept e-education than the dream of ANTYODAYA could become a reality.

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