

Mobile Learning; An Effective Way of Teaching and Learning English Language

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Abstract: *Mobile technology could have a significant role to play in educational development in the present time. The term M-Learning, or "mobile learning", has different meanings for different fields. In other words, with the use of mobile devices, learners can learn from various locations. The term covers: learning with portable technologies including computers, notebooks, mobile phones and tablets. M-learning focuses on the mobility of the learner, interacting with portable technologies, and learning that reflects a focus on how society and its institutions can accommodate and support an increasingly mobile population. Using mobile tools for creating learning aides and materials becomes an important part of informal learning. It is convenient for the teachers and the students because it is accessible from anywhere*

Keywords: *Mobile technology, mobile learning, mobile tools, informal learning, accessible.*

1. INTRODUCTION

As we are living in 21 century, most of the works are done by machines to save time The mobile phone can be used especially for distance education. Through SMS teacher can send any information .Mobile is not just a gadget but it can be used to manage our schedules, check our emails, and connect to one another. Mobile technology allows people to use data and resources without being tied to a single location. Mobile technology could have a significant role to play in educational development. It is also a platform that revolutionizes the way we educate the next generation, by providing students with unprecedented access to resources, advisors and peers – inside as well as outside the classroom, irrespective of distance. Mobile is a device which can be used any where or any time by teacher as well as the students. They can access the learning material any time and make the task convenient .Teacher can make lecture plan and notes while traveling to college. Students are able to engage in educational activities without the constraints of having to do so in a tightly delimited physical location .Learning through mobile can happen outside the classroom or in any location, requiring nothing more than the motivation

Mobile devices are light weight and easy to carry and used for communication and collaboration. It is used when the learner is not fixed at a predetermined location or he wants to avail the learning opportunity and utilize his time not being stuck to a place. Teacher can listen or watch the professional development course material available on mobile and can use it in the class room.

India is a country in which more than 50% children are working to earn their lively hood .They don't have time to go to school so mobile learning can be beneficial to them. They can get education without the financial loss of their family. Teacher can send assignment through mobile and they can submit it. Mobile learning is the next wave of learning. It is used to enhance the learning capacity of students by sending quizzes and teachers can provide the answers and can get the feedback instantly .Students can receive the academic information and can reply easily.

There have been a rapid move in education institutions to use mobile devices .Through mobile phone teacher can send the report of the students to their parents by using SMS facility. It is important to enhance the process of teaching and learning. It can be called the best and cost effective tools of communication. It can connect students and teachers through simple and

effective technology and pushes the boundaries of the teaching and learning outside the class room. In today's world there has been a significant development in technology encouraging students to avail independent learning and allowing students to choose the approach what they like. Students can record images, video, and take notes and record information important to their course work.

It can be beneficial for the teachers to personalize. It provides the freedom to the students to access resources anywhere and anytime. These devices can be carried easily and can be used for communication and collaboration, and can make teaching and learning different from other media. Mobile learning can be used to enhance the provision of educational information and to improve publication. Students can get all the information on mobile such as news and events, academic calendar etc. It can help the students to prepare better for tutorials and encourage them to be more focused in their studies and enjoy learning. Mobile can be also used for social purpose. In this modern world people can discuss the social issues with other people and can utilize their time of traveling or waiting for the bus at bus stop. It helps to stop the paper wastage.

2. LANGUAGE LEARNING THROUGH MOBILE

English is very popular and commonly used language in non English speaking countries. It needs practice of a large number of vocabulary, grammar and memorization learning a foreign language can be easy by using mobile phones. It is the most difficult area especially when the spoken language is involved. Mobile phones are small; teacher as well as the students both can carry their phones with them all the time. So it is easy to practice their skills every day by using the mobile application.

3. READING COMPREHENSION

Reading comprehension is the act of understanding what you are reading. It is important because without it the reader can not get any information. It is incredibly complex and multifaceted. Comprehension strategies have been taught by the parents and the teachers but it needs a lot of time to practice. So by using mobile technology this task can be made easy- either teacher can send a passage to all the students or they can download these from internet and practice it whenever, and wherever they get time. They need not carry book or note book with them.

4. LISTENING COMPREHENSION

The craze of learning through mobile is increasing day by day. Language learning depends on listening. Listening is the most important skill. It has a major impact on your job effectiveness so it is very important to learn the different listening strategies. Listening strategies are techniques that contribute directly to the comprehension of foreign language with the help of mobile MP3 player. The learner can carry English lessons, scientific publication and projects. He can download videos and watch them to learn a foreign language.

5. PRONUNCIATION

It means the ability of the person to use appropriate stress and intonation of a word. Words can be pronounced in different ways by different people. Mobile is playing a very important role in education sector. It is hard to learn the correct pronunciation of a foreign language but not impossible to learn the correct pronunciation. First, one has to listen to the sound carefully and this can be made easy by using mobile phones and if one has interest in singing, he can listen and sing songs. It is a fun way to improve pronunciation and vocabulary.

6. VOCABULARY

The vocabulary is very important in English learning. Wilkins puts it, "without grammar very little can be conveyed, with out vocabulary nothing at all can be conveyed". Harmer (1994) also echoes "If language structures make up the skeleton of language, then it is vocabulary that provides the vital organs and the flesh". So vocabulary mastery is needed to understand and respond the thoughts in English. And it is not necessary that students can learn the vocabulary only in class room he can also learn it out side the class room by independent learning. Mobile technology increases the independent learning and can help the students to learn vocabulary.

informally. It is also very important that students should know new sources and ways to learn the language.

7. ADVANTAGES OF M LEARNING

7.1. Used As an Educational Tool

Mobile phone is very easy to use as a supporting material for the students as well as teachers. They can access data from any where and teacher can send messages and assignments to them anytime.

7.2. Improve Communication skill

M-Learning can improve the communication skills among the students and can help them to remove the hesitation in speaking in public. Mobile can make the communication between teacher and students easy. Teacher can easily talk to the parents and can give all the information regarding the students' performance immediately to the parents.

7.3. For Better Management

Each and everyone has different interest, skills and mental status. No two person can be the same. So teaching through mobile can give an opportunity to the student to learn at their own pace.

7.4. Large Reach

Mobile learning has no limitation of class room. Students can access the data from anywhere and teacher can talk to them outside the classroom too.

7.5. A New Way of Teaching

Now a days more and more technology are coming in market. Students are eager to learn and do something new. Now there are several apps in mobile that can make teaching and learning easy and effective.

8. DISADVANTAGES OF M LEARNING

M Learning is easy, interesting but costly. For this type of teaching and learning everyone should have a mobile phone .Moreover technology is changing very fast so it is also very essential to upgrade the devices frequently as well as students have to charge for monthly data card if he/she wants to download any file. Thus, it will take time and money.

1. The mobile is so small so it can be stolen and lost easily.
2. It is not easy to search and save all the information on mobile.
3. Screen of mobile is very small, only a small amount of information can be displayed at a time.
4. Mobile Battery is also a problem in M Learning. Once the battery runs out, the student/teacher have to plug it for recharging

9. CONCLUSION

Thus M Learning is flexible, timely and very effective way of teaching and learning. Although mobile learning can really help a student in studying, it can be limiting in such a way that only the privileged few can afford having a mobile device. Yes, smart phones and tablet computers are great tools for learning, but then again, students have to consider the budget to see if mobile learning is really worth it or not.

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