

E-LEARNING: THE BEGINNING OF A NEW ERA

By Supriya Mandal

“Someday, in the distant future, our grandchildren’s grandchildren will develop a new equivalent of our classrooms. They will spend many hours in front of boxes with fires glowing within. May they have the wisdom to know the difference between light and knowledge.”-Plato

It is really a matter of surprise to us that how a person foretold about the coming future even two thousand years ago. The fact is that the ancient philosophers could predict with the depth of their knowledge and insight.

Now we are in the 21st century where a huge progress in the fields of technology, information and communication has been done. The traditional education system has also been changed and has become dynamic. New technologies, mechanical inventions are capturing the place of so-called education system. In knowledge-based society, information and communication play a pivotal role. Even in the global **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** report, 2015 of the United Nations, a strong emphasis was laid on ICT or, Information and Communication Technology.

We, the citizens of 21st century, are witnessing the recent trend of globalization. The entire society has been transformed into a globalized, to some extent, commodified society. Although competing with the developed, the developing countries are also advancing too fast to touch the sky, and even beyond the sky; but in the third world countries like India, the socio-economic, religious, racial, cultural, language, illiteracy, electricity and many other problems in remote, rural areas, are matters of great concern, and these are hindrances for further development in technological spheres.

However, people of all ages and all kinds are enjoying the benefits of digital age. The whole world is within our grips and the educational process has become easier. With the help of virtual learning, a student can learn what the teacher teaches in the classroom even sitting in his/her

room. Any type of information is available on internet. Every inanimate object becomes livable on computer screen and the networking system is spread almost everywhere like web. But e-learning decreases students' reading habit from books, and our expression, feeling and other human attributes have become status-based. We cannot imagine our existence without any electronic device for a moment.

To conclude this article, it can be said that e-learning is a gift for us, and it is the responsibility of today's youths to make proper utilisation of scientific innovations. In 1999, the Training and Development Editor Donna J. Abernathy rightly remarked that **"Online learning is not the next big thing, it is the now big thing."**

Bio

Supriya Mandal passed graduation with hon. in English from University of Kalyani, Kalyani, West Bengal, M.A. in English from Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, U.P., and B.Ed. from Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, U.P. She was a Guest Lecturer of English at Nagar College, Nagar, Murshidabad, West Bengal, and at present is an Assistant Teacher at B.P. School (under W.B. Govt.), Murshidabad, West Bengal. She loves writing, recitation, singing and dramatic performance.

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