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An overview of E-learning Tools and Analysis of its Awareness among Management Students

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Abstract: - Management students are supposed to have not only the strong theoretical foundation but also the knowledge of current affairs, strong analytical skills, decision making skills etc. E-learning tools offer many of advantage to improve the quality of education through interactive teaching learning environment.

This study is one of the steps towards analyzing the awareness & use of internet as well as e-learning tools by management students in NMU region and an overview of E-Learning Tools. It is based on primary data that is collected through structured questionnaire.

Analysis reveals that students are available with sufficient time to spend on internet. Similarly internet tools are used to collect information & theory contents only and its use for interactive processes is very limited. Based on aforesaid analysis, it is concluded that adoption of digital teaching learning environment in North Maharashtra University is very limited. And students themselves are not well trained to use e-learning tools to the full extent. Hence there is need of digital approach in management education.

Key Words: E-Learning tools, Web.2, Management Education, Digital Education
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I.   INTRODUCTION:

Curricular of management studies is mix of theory and practical. Management students are supposed to have not only the strong theoretical foundation but also the knowledge of current affairs on commerce and corporate world. Management students are the future managers and they are supposed to have strong analytical as well as strong decision making skills. Such domain requires that management students must see beyond the curricular aspect and get themselves update with current affairs and acquire necessary skills. For this purpose they need to expose themselves to the extensive readings of current affairs.

E-learning tools are a computer based educational tool or system that enables you to learn anywhere and at any time. Internet is the platforms through which these e-learning tools are available and provide abundance advantages to students and all other stakeholder in education system. With the help of these e-learning tools process of teaching learning can be expanded beyond the geographical limits of an institute or class room and thousands of students can be entertained in

one stroke. It can also transform the boredom of education in fun loving exercise. Most important for developing countries; cost involved in e-learning tools is minimum as compared to other platform [1].

Further acquiring information only from printed media of library is not enough for student in the digital era and there are many limitations in front of students while using traditional library resources. There is need to have a quick way of searching and reading contents with the help of internet. E-learning tools are one of the most centralized places for acquiring information and sharing knowledge through interactive process. It can also improve the quality of education through interactive teaching learning process.

From the above discussion; it is very clear that MBA student must have the knowledge & skill of various e-learning tools through which they can satisfy the needs of management domain in a corporate setup. There are ample of web sources through which they can get in touch with all these aspects. This paper also focuses on brief overview of E-Learning tools.

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There are seven MBA institutes in North Maharashtra University, Jalgaon. And 650 students pursue MBA curricular every year. Considering the requirement of standard MBA curricular, it is necessary to ascertain to how much extent such e-learning tools are adopted by MBA institutes in NMU Region. This study is one of the steps towards analyzing the awareness & use of internet as well as e-learning tools by MBA student in NMU region.

II. OBJECTIVES:

1. To take an overview of E-Learning tools available on internet.
2. To study the awareness of e-learning tools among MBA students in NMU region in relation to regular curricular, project work, research work and entrepreneurial curricular.
3. To study usage of e-learning tools by MBA students in NMU region in relation to regular curricular, project & research work and entrepreneurial curricular.
4. To study various difficulty faced by students while using these online tools.

III. REVIEW OF E-LEARNING TOOLS:

Tutorials Points:

Tutorials Points is Educational Website. It provides users a search engine to search tutorials as per preference. It provides tutorials of different areas of subjects of education such as Java Technology, Web Development, Scripts, Management, SAP, Digital Marketing, Academics, Soft Skills, Microsoft Technologies, Sports, and Competitive Exams etc. In Management sector it provides tutorial for Collaborative management, CRM, HRM, SCM, Consumer Behavior, Strategic management etc. Also user can opt for online courses as per their preference [2].

Wikipedia (Wiki)

A wiki is a collaborative website which allows its users to add, modify, or delete its content via a web browser. It is simplest online database that serve many different purposes, such as knowledge management and note taking. Wiki is popular for its contents in easy to understand language. Students prefer to visit Wikipedia to collects its study materials [3].

Slide Share:

Slide Share is a Web 2.0 based slide hosting service just like Youtube.com. Users can upload files privately or publicly in the following file formats: PowerPoint, PDF, Keynotes or Open Document presentations. Slide decks can then be viewed on the site itself, on hand held devices or embedded on other sites. It is also popular web-portal through which, ample of study materials is available on academic syllabus [4].

Survey Monkey

Survey Monkey is an online survey development cloud-based ("software as a service") company. It provides free, customizable surveys, as well as a suite of paid back-end programs that include data analysis, sample selection, bias elimination, and data representation tools. Survey monkey provides expert advice on any contents that are the part of business analytics and research both theoretical and practical [5].

Google Forms

Google Forms is internet based online survey development tools. User can create free, online surveys, quizzes, questionnaires, registration forms, and many more data collection tools. Through Google forms students can conduct online survey and can reach wide geographical area to conduct their study in professional manner. Similarly, an institute can as well use Google forms to collect valuable feedback from students, parents, alumni and most important employers and industries [6].

Vassar stats

Vassar stats provides free statistical calculators, convert to standard scores, data transformation, Randomizer, Estimation of a sample's Mean and variance from its Median and Range, Note pad, simple graph marker, Pocket calculation, PDH & Excel Download and data representation tools [7].

Entrepreneur.com

In 1997, the Entrepreneur magazine launched its website, Entrepreneur.com, which has now expanded to include features, contests and other publications and spin-offs [8]. The website receives more than six million unique visitors each month [9]. Entrepreneur.com is a North American publication that carries news stories about entrepreneurialism, small business management, and business opportunities. It is a good resource available to MBA students which covers all about enterprising and entrepreneurship [10].

Franchise India.com

Franchise India.com is a business development Internet base web site, founded in 1990. Franchise India.com provides free, business plan, business tips, data development plan, Randomizer, Estimation of a plan and police, Note pad, simple market plan, small store of successes, small business management plan [11].

IV. IMPORTANCE OF E-LEARNING TOOLS:

E-learning tools and technology is becoming a necessity in classrooms. Technology gives to lecturers the diversity of their lectures, displaying more information, and enhancing student learning. In addition, the use of different technologies in the education can help to save time and allow for more attention to be paid to the content of course. There are numbers of advantages of e-learning tools in the education:

- More active learning
- Diversified teaching ways
- Better student attention and realization

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- Less time for hard work
- Visual stimulation
- Expanded horizons of students beyond the curricular of course.
- Improved monitoring and mentoring of students by faculty.
- E-Learning tools acts as means of faculty development.
- Improved institute administration which relives faculty to focus on research, development and more engagement towards students [12].

It reduces the travel time and other resources required by students as well as teachers [13]. In Jordan, numerous universities are offering now e-learning sites (portal) for academic and administrative purposes. Jordan Isra University, Petra University, and Hashimate University use e-learning systems such as MOODLE and Blackboard. These portal sites help students and teachers to introduce the contents of courses in easy and effective way [14].

Chikate & Randhir, (2013), has studied the awareness and usage of various internet tools by librarians of engineering colleges in Khandesh region. The study reveals that awareness these tools are very good but usage is very limited among them [15].

E-Learning tools have the ability to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of education system in all corners and among all stakeholders. The horizon of E-learning tools covers all processes that are part of an education system right from teaching-learning aid, process, knowledge sharing, student's evaluation and progression, institute & course administration, interaction with stakeholders and faculty development etc. It can increase skill, scale and speed of entire education system.

V. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

Type of Research:

It is a descriptive research study based on survey method [16]. The purpose of this study is to ascertain use of digital teaching learning environment and obstacles students facing in North Maharashtra University, Jalgaon. Secondary, data is used to conceptualize the approach of research study.

Type of Data:

The study is based on primary as well as secondary data. Primary data involves factual information on awareness and use of internet for social purpose as well as study purpose. It was collected through structured questionnaire. Secondary data is previous research findings on web.2 as well as various e-learning tools.

Sample Size:

There are 750 students registered during the academic year of 2014-15. And feedback is collected from 100 MBA senior students at 9.13 % margin of error & confidence level of 90.87. Samples are selected according to convenient sampling method [17].

Scope of the Study:

The study is limited to e-learning tools that are most popular and useful for management students.

VI. DATA ANALYSIS & INTERPRETATION:

1) Usefulness of e-learning tools:

Table 1: Rating of Usage by Students

Sr. No.	E-learning tools	Usage Rating (Mean)
1	Regular Study - Theory	5.02
2	Project & Research Work	4.37
3	Entrepreneurship	2.06

(Source: Primary Data)

Table 1 denotes that e-learning tools for regular curricular is useful to students to the extent of 5.02 (Mean) out of 7 Point rating scale, 4.37 (Mean) for project & research work, 2.06 (Mean) for entrepreneurship curricular. It is clear from the above analysis that e-learning tools are most useful for collecting theory contents.

2) Difficulty faced by students:

Table 2: Difficulties faced by students

Sr. No.	Difficulties	Frequency %
1	Barriers of English Language	45%
2	Don't know how to search contents online	14%
3	Proper guidance is not provided by teacher	20%
4	Internet does not provide exactly required contents	21%

(Source: Primary Data)

Table 2 denotes that 45 % students are facing language related barriers while using e-learning tools. 14 % students lack the knowledge of basic internet use. 20 % students accord that proper guidance is not available to them for faculty. And 21 % students found that e-learning tools do not provide the very required contents. Near about 60 % students are not able to use internet properly for their study purpose.

VII. RESEARCH FINDINGS:

Awareness of e-learning tools:

1. Proportion of students using internet frequently is 71% that means awareness of internet among student is good to use online e-learning tools. Similarly proportion of students spending more than 2 hours a day on internet 62 %. That means students are available with sufficient time to spend on e-learning tools with their daily academic schedule.

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2. Wikipedia is most popular site among the respondents 90%, followed by Slideshare 66% and only 4% for noteme.com. 10 % students are unknown about all of these portals.

3. Awareness of e-learning tools for project & research work is very limited as 62 % students are not aware about any kind of web tools for project & research work. 22 % students are aware of Surveymonkey.com, 14 % for Vassarstats.com, 4 % for pewresearch.com and 20 % for Google Forms. Use of e-learning tools for project & research work is also very limited.

4. Awareness of e-learning tools for entrepreneurship curricular is as well very limited as 40 % students are not aware about any kind of web tools for improving entrepreneurial curricular. 59 % students are aware of Entrepreneurship.com, only 2 % are aware of Businesshitchhilar.com, 29 % for Franchiseindia.com.

Usage of E-learning tools:

1. Out of 7 Point rating scale, students use e-learning tools to the extent of 5.02 (Mean) for regular theory curricular, 4.37 (Mean) for project & research work and 2.06 (Mean) for entrepreneurship curricular. It is clear from the above analysis that e-learning tools are mostly used for collecting theory contents only and its use for interactive learning process like research work, project work, brain storming sessions, net based learning assignments is very limited.

2. E-learning tools for theory curricular are useful to the extent of 69.80 %, Project & research work to the extent of 62.20 % and entrepreneurship curricular to the extent of 43.20 %.

Difficulties faced by students:

1. 45 % students are facing language related barriers while using e-learning tools. 14 % students lack the knowledge of basic internet use. 20 % students accorded that proper guidance is not available to them from faculty. And 21 % students found that e-learning tools do not provide the very required contents. About 60 % students are not able to use internet properly for their study purpose.

VIII.   CONCLUSION:

Above Analysis revealed that awareness of various e-learning tools for theory curricular & research work is good among MBA students in NMU region. But awareness in relation to entrepreneurship is very limited. Similarly internet tools are used to collect information & theory contents only and its use for interactive processes is very limited. Hence, it is concluded that adoption of digital teaching learning environment in North Maharashtra University is very limited as well as students themselves are not well trained to use e-learning tools to the full extent.

There is need to leverage the e-learning tools in order to boost the societal return from education system. This will enhance the knowledge and skills of students through support of digital education platform.

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