

E-learning and Pakistan - An Era of Modern Education

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Keywords: E-learning, ICT, Virtual University, Digital Collaboration.

Abstract. E-learning is a flexible approach towards learning, providing various ways of effective utilization of IT infrastructure like Social Media / Internet / TV to deliver advance training and education. It includes but not limited to Internet based learning, Computer assisted learning, virtual classrooms with digital collaboration etc.

Pakistan, where 67% of the people live in rural areas with minimal opportunities to receive quality education, e-learning is one of the key initiatives to create education opportunities through ICTs, specifically the internet within the reach of the digitally divided rural community.

Virtual University of Pakistan (VU) is among the pioneer e-learning initiative at graduate and post graduate level in Pakistan. The main motivation behind establishing such a full-fledged university is to deliver quality education at different disciplines by combining television, internet and all the modern IT approaches. The success of university has now open doors for various other educational institutes to come forward and provide quality education to the mass.

Internet is a very effective communication tool these days. You can put strength in e-learning by adding this valuable resource which can bring personalized services and an individualized approach to the learner. Despite the benefits of Internet in e-learning there are issues involve in order to spread internet technologies in underdeveloped countries like Pakistan. Culture, language, availability of infrastructure, quality control are few which can impact a lot in the success of learning via internet approach. Government of Pakistan proactively trying to spread telecommunication network across every town and village in order to provide opportunity and empowerment specifically, to the rural communities for the access of education and employment.

This paper provides a high-level overview on the background and current e-learning initiatives and directions to the policy and strategy making in Pakistan. That is not limited to benefits but also highlights the potential issues involve in order to spread education among 184 million people with only 33% live in urban areas. The paper also highlights the emerging trend of creating a Virtual Community which is not restricted to any country boundary but a single hub of same thought across everybody. The paper concludes by presenting a detailed survey on e-learning usage in Pakistan. This comprehensive survey was conducted in Jan 2013 to find out and observe the problems and their potential solutions for e-learning and ways to improve current situation of e-learning in Pakistan.