

## EDUCATIONAL LEAPFROGGING IN THE mLEARNING TIME

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### ABSTRACT

In this theoretical study, researcher tries to shed light on the modern strategy of education, Mobile learning is this strategy, which has become a reality exists in the educational institutions and aims researcher of this study. Trying to figure out the reality of Mobil Determining if the mobile learning part of the E-Learning. Trying for identify future of mobile learning. And the researcher collect the information and the data from previous research in addition to what has been published on websites and blogs and has reached the researcher to achieve the successes of Mobile learning at the level of the educational process now , and that this strategy of mobile learning is not part of the e-learning, and generation of generations , but a new way for the development of the educational process educational , researcher is expected to evolve Mobile learning expands even at the all levels of educational.

**Keywords:** Mobile Learning, E-Learning.

### INTRODUCTION

Humanity, after entering the second decade in the twenty first century where everything changed to be more modern, is becoming so important that it became necessary for us to keep ourselves abreast of its development, to maintain its integrity and progress in all areas.

The leading cause for this overturn is information technology that has entered every purview of life and rearranges it to give its new layout and the most important development is educational development that has emerged from virtual classrooms and e-learning to the latest mode of learning, Mobil learning (M-Learning).

"Just like the relationship between e Learning and classroom instruction, the development of mobile learning is not intended to replace the classroom learning, but to enhance the value of wireless communication network. In fact, mobile learning offers another way to deliver content and to embed learning into daily life" (Robert Yu & Liang Ting, 2005). The educational materials should develop from time to time to create flexible learning, so everyone can continue his study anywhere and anytime and overcome the obstacles that he or she may face. "Mobile learning is the ability to obtain or provide educational content on personal pocket devices such as PDAs, smart phones and mobile phones. While educational content refers to digital learning assets which includes any form of content or media made available on a personal device" (Mobi21, 2005 )

In this paper, we are going to look into the true meaning of Mobil learning and the importance of Mobil learning including its objectives, quality, challenges, and technical issues. Thereafter we will move on to look into researchers' ideas about it, and what they consider for future learning with new modern devices and modern strategies. We will also see whether these devices accelerate learners' experience, and after that explore the effects of Mobil learning on the learner's daily life.

For this purpose, the writer proposes three sub themes, that is, what is Mobil learning, E-learning and mobile learning similarities and differences, and finally, Mobil learning future.

## **WHAT'S MOBIL LEARNING**

Actually, there is no single agreed definition for Mobil learning because every researcher has his own focus and preference on what they like to highlight. In this paper, the writer proposes a definition for Mobil learning based on its quality, benefits and challenges.

M. learning is a creative learning strategy that focuses on ability of Smartphone to be students' assistant and provide them knowledge when they need it. Mobile learning is also "the ability to obtain or provide educational content on personal pocket devices such as PDAs, smart phones and mobile phones" (Mobl21, 2005). This means the knowledge is in each individual's personal bucket while the user is in the bus going to the work place or in the train. M. learning is able to develop and improve the learners by the means of the small device, which has many ways to deliver the educational content. That is why Mobil learning should be available everywhere. It extends the knowledge to places far beyond classroom or institution and fix students' problems around the world especially working students who do not have time to set in the classroom or who are over the school age.

## **MOBIL LEARNING QUALITY**

Anybody who wants to speak about Mobil learning quality should be aware of Mobil learning aspects, meaning technical aspects, contents, network accesses and even Mobil capabilities because Mobil learning is a free educational style. However, the Smartphone or Mobil device is not necessarily of the same capabilities. In this sub theme, we are going to discuss the technical aspect and the contents aspect.

In terms of technical aspects, there are many differences between the devices as they come in different qualities and with different features that may detract the quality of learning in some cases, but not all, because some of these devices contain high capabilities and educational software like apple and android devices while some other devices are unable to download certain software for example mobile java application.

"Similarly Microsoft Windows based devices have access to services that are not available on other operating systems." (David Parsons, 2009) On top of that, other factors such as the speed of wireless network, some learning contents that cannot be downloaded into mobile devices, the ineligibility of the device to be used locally and the problem of unequal educational conditions among students reduce the accuracy and quality of education.

Beyond technical aspect, there is another side of Mobil learning, that is, quality contents aspect. On this side, we want to see students' reaction, contents reliability, its ability to deliver information to students and students' feeling towards it. Even though the technical side is important, the contents side is equally important because Mobil learning technologies are technically flexible and contents relevant.

There are many positive indications showing that we can get high quality education with devices of limited capabilities. For example, a study done by Ericsson shows that simple protocol device can deliver knowledge in good quality. 77% of the respondents among the users felt that Mobil learning could increase E-learning technology.

## **MOBIL LEARNING BENEFITS**

According to Fabio Sergio (executive creative director at frog, where he leads innovation programs for companies such as Vodafone, BBC, Telecom Italia,) smart's phones and tablet computers are truly transforming our sharing of knowledge in terms of the speed of information and made available in any place and time. "We have been focusing on the concept of M. Learning -where "m" usually stands for "mobile" but also just as easily for "me." The near-ubiquity of handheld devices and their constantly lowering costs will enable the idea of "education that you can hold in your hand". (fabio-sergio,2012)

To make it simple, the benefits of Mobil learning can be summarized as follow:

- Mobil learning makes connection between the lecturer and his students or the trainer and his employee wherever he stays. Nowadays, if any organization or company wants to organize a workshop or a course they can do so via an easy way, through Mobil learning for all of their employees. "Engagement at the work place consists of mostly verbal and desktop communication, but through mobile learning there are opportunities to engage on a digital and social level outside of work " (renee-seker,2013)
- Mobil learning breaks gender boundaries and decreases physical difficulties. The differences in cultures or genders or even ages cause some difficulties on learners so they can't focus on their class but through Mobil learning students have no such problems because Mobil learning allows different ages and backgrounds and even genders to get together online in private education at same time. "M. learning also helps bring educational material within the reach of people with extreme disabilities, who may not be physically able to get to a class-room or campus on a regular basis". ( fabio-sergio,2012) Therefore, these problems are overcome and everyone has his own freedom to his education.
- Mobil learning offers interesting and personalized way of learning for every student. According to educational facts, every single student has special educational incapability and the trainer or teacher has to cater the differences of every student, which seems to be impossible especially if he has a considerable number of students at the same time. However, with Mobil learning, students nowadays can learn easily and interestingly through their own Smartphone.

While the lesson is in progress, teacher can act as a supervisor so it will be a sharing education and, at the same time, he may focus on personalized way or strategy. "Through mobile learning, students are able to learn in their own way. They can now personalize and enjoy learning" (Mashiihajim, 2012).

- Mobil learning will improve people's life and innovate easy ways to manage their life. Smart phone has many capabilities other than being a tool to make phone calls. Nowadays some people carry out their daily duties through cyber (online) and through online it is very easy to do daily transactions such as making payment or reserving a flight. Online management may save time and money but not many people know how to use online applications. Therefore, through Mobil learning people may learn how to do online transaction, banking, making payment and shopping with M. learning being this first step that helps boost their skill in online management.

### **MOBILE LEARNING DISADVANTAGES**

Mobil learning, being the latest strategy for learning, is now rapidly growing because of the benefits it has to offer which make daily routines easier and because the new smart phones innovation and the researchers' support but it does not mean that, there is no disadvantage of Mobil learning. Here the writer tries to show a few M. learning disadvantages.

- Smart phone's capabilities and technology - Since there are many companies, which produce smart phones, absolutely the smart phones will be different in capabilities and technologies. Therefore, the problem may arise as to which product students should use. As we know, phone is an individual thing, meaning everyone will buy what he likes, and this will surely cause a serious problem because iPods can access flash software but other phones cannot and also its technology is not enough for 100% Mobil learning. In terms of technology, one of the problems is "the issue of limited storage capacity. Not even taking into account that common memory chips now can store well over 32GB of data- far beyond the needs of most learning curriculum" (Matthew, 2010).
- Cost of smart phones is high and not affordable to every student. Cost is an important factor in any decision making. Without the device, how can a student participate in Mobil learning? Smart phones are expensive, not all students can buy one, and they should renew their devices to get the benefits. "Other than the device, there are monthly data charges from mobile providers, so downloading large files not only takes time but also costs a lot" (mashiihajim, 2012).
- Usability of smart phone. Using smart phone for longtime is difficult particularly for learning because many things should be done fast enough but the small size cannot help as much as the students like. Small screen and small buttons make the device difficult to manipulate and even attached external keyboard will cost money. Battery life is another problem because the battery life ranges between 2 and 4 hours only and this range of time is not enough for the student to study all subjects and do the homework.

## **MOBIL LEARNING IN HEIGHT EDUCATION**

The first Distant Education in higher education emerged in UK in 1971 through Open University, formerly known as teleuniversity, which combined broadcast lectures with correspondence texts and visits to conventional universities. (Wikipedia, 2013) They taught courses via radio and television technology. Later on, the technology was gradually improved and then applied for online and visual learning in various college and universities. The latest technology now makes Mobil learning possible, as it is able to extend learning contents to students through smart phones.

In 2012, Seton Hall University gave its new students free I Smartphone as a great incentive, so that they can get the most what they should get in class room anywhere, while "Students at the University of Phoenix study in over 200 institutions and online. With the school's mobile app, students can view their course materials, flag and mark posts even when they're offline, and participate in class discussions" (Fineday, 2013 ).The interest in Mobil learning is growing in Saudi Arabia nowadays because of improving wireless network and growing information communication technology. The government there is looking for another source of income for the country, beyond oil. They decided to venture into new economy by getting involved in the business of information and communication system particularly in higher education (Milydungun, 2011).

## **MOBIL LEARNING IN MALAYSIA**

Nowadays Mobil learning is starting to be known and accepted among Malaysians. It started in higher educational centers such as Open University Malaysia, University Science Malaysia, and University Technology Mara because majority of Malaysian students have Mobil phones making it easy for students. According to Karimuddin (2008), "It was estimated that 90 percent of the population of 27 million Malaysians subscribe to mobile phone services, compared to 16 percent having fixed line and Malaysia has the second largest mobile penetration in South East, behind Singapore"( (Milydungun, 2011). In 2010, 13000 students of Open University Malaysia enrolled for net courses. They benefited from Mobil learning, expressed that SMS system helped them to manage their learning better, and kept them focused on their courses through flexible SMS timely and effectively.

Mobile learning in Malaysia is still limited because until now higher educational centers use SMS system for learning duties and communication between students and teachers.

In other words, this system just helps them to communication about education. It did not use video conference or visual class, even in cyber class. It is same like traditional learning, where students just use the devices to get the information and do their duties without additional life communication.

## **BETWEEN ELECTRONIC LEARNING AND MOBILE LEARNING**

Is mobile learning a new educational strategy or a new stage of electronic learning? What is the relation between mobile learning and electronic learning? The Educators are still arguing on this matter until to date.

**In this paper, the writer will try to explain what the differences and the similarities are, and the relation between (E. learning) and (M. learning).**

**According to John Feser (2010), mobile learning is neither electronic learning nor a mobile device because what we do in m learning is very deferent from e learning. "In fact, the differences between m Learning and eLearning are at least as great as those between eLearning and instructor-led training. The differences between those two deployment paths are so significant which it requires a completely different approach to instructional design" (jfeser, 2010). Laura Bstes (2012) says that mobile learning is not e learning. It is a subset of e learning but it refers to a method of learning, which abundantly makes use of the handheld devices such as Iphone, Ipod or android smart phones. Both of M learning and E learning are new learning strategies, those educational ways are giving quality education but there are some differences between both of them. E-Learning gives more interesting and interactive learning as, for example, it is particularly effective to flip the traditional classroom into games classroom or quizzes. M learning also has ways to offer interesting education and beneficial form of learning "In such a situation, using a mobile learning device like a single tablet, which may be passed easily from hand-to-hand or shared amongst a group of students".**

### **THE FUTURE OF MOBILE LEARNING**

**Mobile learning provides the future step for other strategies in education such electronic learning. The question now, what is the mobile learning next step? It is very easy to know what will happen, because ICT is progressively developing. Mobile learning started with SMS system. Now it changed to tablet and smart phones, which offers video conference, online class and email program together with software that enables taking photos of important things or events.**

**Mobile learning will be together with traditional learning; no one will replace the other because each of them helps students, in one way or the other, but the biggest challenge we face is how to discover new strategies in using mobile phones and smart phones to make learning one of our daily routines. "The challenge will be to discover how to use mobile technologies to transform learning into a seamless part of daily life" (Naismith, 2004) because the majority are looking at the phones as something communicative and not educational.**

### **CONCLUSION**

**Mobile learning is really as one of education strategic, it has come to help the students who cannot study in daily class. Mobile learning is not a luxury but a solution to the problems of many people who want to learn but they cannot go through the normal education system. Just like any other new things, some people agree and the others disagree with mobile learning as good strategy for effective education.**

**There are thousands of students of different ages who are studying through mobile learning; this is evidence of its success in the delivery of educational information, because it offers unlimited age education, so that it over rides the theory that say education can only be carried out within the walls of the school or for a specific age.**

There are many universities, colleges and schools are using mobile learning such as University Mobile in UK and Virginia Collage in Mobile, but this does not mean that mobile learning is perfect. It needs many studies to elevate its level best, and try to ease some of the problems and the challenges it faces.

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