

# Role of M-Learning in Higher Education

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## Abstract:

At present, the higher education system comprising of general, technical, medical and agricultural streams is fragmented in terms of structures and policies. Greater cooperation among the streams should be encouraged by promoting networking, sharing of facilities and development of manpower including teacher's training. Facilities for Mobile Technology education would be further strengthened in collaboration with the department of higher education in India. As a country, we need to educate the next generation of scientists, inventors, engineers and entrepreneurs. Educating a workforce that is effective in a global context and adaptive as new jobs and roles evolve will help to support our economic growth. Mobile learning makes it possible to extend education beyond the physical confines of the classroom and beyond the fixed time periods of the school day. It allows students to access content from home, communicate with teachers, and work with other people online. Mobile excites eyes, ears, fingers and the brain. It is best effective presentation tool. The value of mobile devices is that they allow students to connect, communicate, collaborate and create using rich digital resources. Mobile Learning allows learning activities to continue outside the scope of the traditional classroom environment. This can be either a stand-alone mobile program, or a continuity of learning that takes place

on a regular desktop computer. With mobile technology becoming less expensive and internet access widely available, the trend for mobile learning is likely to increase dramatically in coming years.

**Keywords:** Mobile learning, Wireless Technology, Smartphones.

## M-Learning or Mobile Learning:

Mobile learning is the ability to obtain or provide educational content on personal pocket devices such as PDAs, smartphones and mobile phones. Educational content refers to digital learning assets which includes any form of content or media made available on a personal device. Mobile learning using handheld computers is in its infancy in terms of both technologies and pedagogies. It should be defined: in terms of devices and technologies; in terms of the mobility of learners and the mobility of learning, and in terms of the learners' experience of learning with mobile devices. Most researchers and educators probably view mobile learning as the immediate descendant of e-learning. In line with this definition, several authors defined as follows: Pinkwart,(2003) defines e-learning as 'learning supported by digital electronic tools and media', and by analogy, mobile learning as ' learning that uses mobile devices and wireless transmission'. Quinn (2000) defined it earlier, as simply learning that takes place with the help of mobile devices, or the intersection of mobile

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computing and e-learning. Turunen(2003) view mobile devices may assist us in combining work, study and leisure time in meaningful ways. Traxler (2005) defined it as "any educational provision where the sole or dominant technologies are handheld or palmtop devices."

### Differentiating e-learning from mobile learning :

e-learning	m-learning
Lecture in classroom or Internet labs	Learning anywhere, anytime
E-mail-to-e-mail	Instantaneous messaging
Private location	No geographic boundaries
Travel time to reach the internet site	No travel time with wireless internet connectivity
High level price - device cost	Low price compare to Laptops.

### Mobile Apps:

If we have a smart phone or other mobile device, we probably use apps. Easy to download and often free, mobile apps allow you to play games; get turn-by-turn directions; and access news, books, weather, music, or videos. Infact, apps can be so much fun and so convenient that you might download them without thinking – about how they're paid for, what information they may gather from our device, or who gets that information. Wi-fi connections usually are

faster, we can also access the internet using a wi-fi hotspot. Learn more about protecting our personal information on public wi-fi networks at [OnGuardOnline.gov/hotspots](http://OnGuardOnline.gov/hotspots). To set up a home wi-fi network, we'll need to pay for internet access and a wireless router. Learn how to secure a home wi-fi network at [OnGuardOnline.gov/wireless](http://OnGuardOnline.gov/wireless). The country's largest education provider PaGal Gurukul soon add 20 more courses to its mobile learning app Prepathon. Currently the app helps students preparing for competitive exams such as SS,CGL Bank Po and CAT. Prepathon, a unique mobile app that comes with a personal coach was launched in Sep-2015. Over 130,000 students have already downloaded the app. Mobile app provides an enriching and unique interactive learning experience to the users such as the following online degrees are available in a wide variety of subjects from business administration, psychology, healthcare management, education, nursing, information technology and so much more.

### M-Learning Innovation:

Mobile technology or Wireless Technology provides new content and facilitates information access wherever a student is located. It enables, empowers, and engages learning in ways that transform the learning environment for students inside and outside of school. Mobile devices allow students to connect, communicate, collaborate, and create using rich digital resources. One of the virtues of mobile devices is that they make it possible to customize educational content for individual students. In most nations, teachers

deal with classrooms of very diverse students. Pupils come from different backgrounds, have divergent interests, and learn in unique ways. Research in Turkey with 221 university students has found that M-learning was as effective as face-to-face instruction for learning English. A comparison of those who received training through electronic means reported more positive attitudes and equally effective results compared to traditional approaches.

There are a number of ways in which mobile technology enables educational innovation. Research by Project Tomorrow shows how access has improved across various mobile platforms. Eighty percent of high school students said they had a smartphone, 45 percent had tablets, 38 percent had digital readers, and 58 percent had a cellphone. These percentages are up over just a few years ago. In 2008, only 28 percent of high schoolers had a smartphone. And in 2015, only 26 percent of students in grades 6-8 had a tablet computer, compared to 52 percent now.

Digital technology helps people think about new classroom models. Students can take more responsibility for their own learning, while teachers can focus on more advanced problem-solving and building critical skills for those in their classrooms. The result is an educational collaboration that is more satisfying for students and teachers. Mobile provides great benefits through new learning applications. It represents a way to connect teachers, tutors, students, and peer groups. Pupils can utilize social networks in order to share information and knowledge. It also provides new platforms for reaching the millions

of children and adolescents who are currently not enrolled in school. Researchers calculate that mobile enables 180 million students to further their education by 2020 in developing countries.

"Students in the rural village, seriously lacking educational resources and technology exposure, may have benefited substantially more from mobile technologies than urban school students." They argued that mobile devices in rural areas helped students because it gave them access to information that their higher socioeconomic status peers living in urban areas already had.

**Conclusion:** To summarize, M-learning technology represents a growing part of the economy and is a driver of major innovation. In the 21st century economy, students need a range of skills beyond traditional math, reading, and writing. Through new products and services in education, health care, and community living, among other areas, the mobile economy is creating new jobs and opportunities for many different people. There already is a wide range of digital content available to students and teachers. This includes instructional games, augmented reality, interactive websites, and personalized instruction. The virtue of electronic information is that it gives students greater control over their curriculum, thereby allowing students to proceed at their own pace and in their own learning styles.

Teachers can embed pop-up quizzes in online content delivery and pupils can be evaluated on an on-going basis. This provides regular, real-time feedback to students and parents, and allows teachers to see which

individuals need extra help and which ones require more challenging assignments.

Finally, mobile technology is a way to transform learning. It is a catalyst for creating impactful change in the current system and crucial to student development in the areas of critical-thinking and collaborative learning. Those are the skills that young people need in order to secure their place in the globally competitive economy. As a country, we are educating the next generation of workers and students in the 21st Century in higher order thinking skills, analysis, synthesis, teamwork and collaboration. The advances seen, and to come, in technology as well as changes in organizational infrastructure show a need for workers to be able to think creatively, solve problems, and make decisions as a team. Embracing and institutionalizing mobile technology can transform learning. Thus, M-Learning provides an enriching and unique interactive learning experience to the users and also transforming education, engaging students and improving outcomes.

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