

Technology Enabled Learning

Jayanthi, M.Com., M.Ed., M.Phil.

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Abstract

This preliminary study compared the effects of technology-enabled courses and face-to-face instruction using student learning styles and student preferences for content types. Two groups of students enrolled in problem-based courses (one in the College of Engineering and the other in the College of Applied Science) were included in this quasi-experimental research. A survey was used to collect information about the students' preference for content types. Kolb's Learning Styles Inventory was used to measure student learning styles preferences. The results indicated an expected preference in the engineering technology disciplines for concrete experience over abstract conceptualization. Neither the delivery medium nor the content type (face-face or online) had any statistically significant impact on students' final performance. A significant finding was that both group profiles suggested differing needs for presentation of content and learning styles for students in the two colleges. The conclusion was that learning styles could influence content type preferences among students in either environment (face-to-face or online) but this hypothesis needs more research.

WHAT IS TECHNOLOGY ENABLED LEARNING (TeL)

NEW DIRECTION IN EDUCATION

The Technology Enabled Learning (TeL) is a platform for providing Internet enabled Education. Its significance has increased as the penetration of Internet clearly indicates the worldwide acceptance of it as a communication tool. Technology Enabled Learning (TeL) uses Internet as a media for leveraging the pitfalls of our traditional education system by providing an environment, which is more learners centric rather than being more instructors centric, powered by Internet Technology. The Technology Enabled Learning (TeL) has laid a new chapter in education. Through the Technology Enabled Learning (TeL), learners can

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now undergo training sitting at their home or any other place with Internet accessibility and continue their education.

Education shapes the destiny of a nation. It is the principle instrument of developing human capabilities and transforming the economy. The traditional structure of the classroom has existed for thousand of years and has evolved by passing through various phases. The first phase was the Gurukul where gurus imparted knowledge to shishyas. Then came the second phase where the teacher taught using blackboard and chalk. In the third phase virtual aids like OHP and multimedia took over the traditional system of imparting education.

Now **Education becomes ONLINE**. Technology Enabled Learning (TeL) is Internet enabled technology driven education that allows you to **study Anytime.... Anywhere....** as per your convenience.

In the context of rapid technological advancement and changing global market, the impact is felt on every field including education arena. Technology Enabled Learning (TeL) is one of the ways of imparting effective education to the aspiring people, residing anywhere in the world, to pursue and advance their learning process via Internet, without messing up their professional responsibilities and duties with education by presenting a variety of solutions and subjects beyond the scope of traditional education. Online learning helps to increase the educational experiences irrespective of age and geographical diversity.

Technology Enabled Learning (TeL) is an umbrella term that describes learning done on a computer, usually connected to a network, giving us the opportunity to learn almost anytime, anywhere. Technology Enabled Learning (TeL) is not unlike any other form of education - and it is widely accepted that Technology Enabled Learning (TeL) can be as rich and as valuable as the classroom experience or even more so. With its unique features Technology Enabled Learning (TeL) is an experience that leads to comprehension and mastery of new skills and knowledge, just like its traditional counterpart.

Instructional Design for Technology Enabled Learning (TeL) has been perfected and refined over many years using established teaching principles, with many

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benefits to students. As a result colleges, universities, businesses, and organizations worldwide now offer their students fully accredited online degree, vocational, and continuing education programs in abundance.

Some other terms frequently interchanged with Technology Enabled Learning (TeL) include:

- » Online learning
- » Online education
- » eLearning
- » Web-based training
- » Computer-based training (generally thought of as learning from a CD-ROM)

Technology Enabled Learning (TeL) is a broad term used to describe learning done at a computer.

WHY TECHNOLOGY ENABLED LEARNING (TeL)?

We have to keep on learning so that we can grow personally, professionally, socially and economically. For thousands of years, the paradigm of learning was the classroom-training model. In a time when formal learning was scarce, resources were concentrated around and centered on the availability of the educator, rather than the learner. Today Technology Enabled Learning (TeL) is the self- paced learning methods combine advanced technology and multimedia in a format that engages students so they learn faster, participate more actively and consequently, retain information longer.

FEATURES OF TECHNOLOGY ENABLED LEARNING (TeL)

"Good teaching is good teaching, no matter how it's done." The old adage still rings true, and Technology Enabled Learning (TeL) brings with it new dimensions in education.

Some of the unique features of Technology Enabled Learning (TeL) are listed below.

- Learning is self-paced and gives students a chance to speed up or slow down as necessary.

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- Learning is self-directed, allowing students to choose content and tools, appropriate to their differing interests, needs, and skill levels.
- Accommodates multiple learning styles using a variety of delivery methods geared to different learners; more effective for certain learners.
- Designed around the learner.
- Geographical barriers are eliminated, opening up broader education options.
- 24/7 accessibility makes scheduling easy and allows a greater number of people to attend classes.
- On-demand access means learning can happen precisely when needed.
- Travel time and associated costs (parking, fuel, vehicle maintenance) are reduced or eliminated.
- Overall student costs are frequently less (tuition, residence, food, child care).
- Potentially lower costs for companies needing training, and for the providers.
- Fosters greater student interaction and collaboration.
- Fosters greater student/instructor contact.
- Enhances computer and Internet skills.
- Draws upon thousands of years of established pedagogical principles.
- Has the attention of every major university in the world, most with their own online degrees, certificates, and individual courses.

BENEFITS OF TECHNOLOGY ENABLED LEARNING (TeL)

Enables education anywhere, anytime and to anyone

The world-wide-web empowers the University to deliver training & critical information to its wide spread student base no matter where & what time zone the users are in. They can just access it whenever they feel like, from home or from office.

Always on

Class starts when you want. Facilitates self-paced learning- It gives the students the flexibility to go through the programme content at the time that is most convenient to him and thereby achieves an appropriate balance of work, family, community and educational commitments.

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Better Access

Determining the best time to schedule a class and lure the student into the "brick and mortar" classroom is one of the major drawbacks of traditional training programs. Technology Enabled Learning (TeL) provides access to training for students when and where they need it.

Cost Savings

A much-touted benefit of Technology Enabled Learning (TeL) is cost savings. Lot of amount can be saved in travel and downtime alone by using Technology Enabled Learning(TeL). Training materials can be updated for a fraction of the cost of revising materials distributed by other means. Payback can be seen clearly over the near and long term.

Learner Focused

Technology can personalize content and anticipate learner's future information learning needs. It also can match content with each individual's learning style, experience and skills.

Measurable

Powerful Learning Management System (LMS) features make the implementation, hosting, tracking, testing, auditing and administration of online courses a flawless process. Technology Enabled Learning (TeL) provides secure and reliable systems for recording and capturing what an individual knows and is able to do.

Better Learning Outcomes

Research from around the world has proven that the Technology Enabled Learning(TeL) results better outcomes in terms of learning and knowledge retention when compared with traditional methods of teaching.

Faster Response Time

Time sensitive training can be delivered faster than through traditional classroom methods. By using communication technology to deliver training to multiple sites at the same time,

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Technology Enabled Learning (TeL) becomes a competitive advantage.

Better Use of "Experts"

An expert presenter or trainer can be used more cost effectively with Technology Enabled Learning (TeL) than through traditional classrooms. Programs that require the presence of an expert can send the expert's message to multiple sites simultaneously - saving time and money. And the message is consistent for every delivery of the course.

CONCLUSION

It is necessary to take a broad view in order to understand and determine how ICT impacts on learning. This is because educational achievements are shaped not only by the way education is organized but also by the socio-economic background of the learners, their socio-cultural environments, the changing skills and competences that are necessary for employment, education and training, self-development and participation in society. This clarifies partly why non-formal learning, informal learning and adult learning are increasingly seen as crucial for the future of learning.

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Jayanthi, M.Com., M.Ed., M.Phil.
Assistant Professor
Jayanthi College of Education
Tirupur
Tamilnadu
India