E-learning is a tool for developing skills among the students to function efficiently in the knowledge society and also improve the teaching and learning method via a computer network such as the Internet. E-learning has a very important role to play in today's teaching-learning processes and the overall learning environment. The study aims to investigate the awareness and understanding of e-learning among the students of Tripura University and found that 87% of the total respondents belong to the male category. The majority of respondents (73.49%) are in the age group of 21-25 years followed by age group 26-30 years (20.48%). Most of the respondents are post-graduate students (85.54%) followed by undergraduate students (12.65%). Maximum (86.75%) of respondents understand E-learning which is very encouraged itself. More than half of the total respondents (88.58%) are interested in registered e-learning in the near future. The study concluded that all of the respondents are connected with the e-learning sites and a maximum of them think that there is a good impact on the learning environment on the students' academic purpose.

**Key Terms:** E-Learning, Online Learning, Virtual Learning, Tripura University, E-PG Pathashala, Swayam

In the present day, e-learning is technology-based learning in which learning materials are distributed electronically to distant novices through a computer network such as the Internet. In the past years, e-learning has become a capable solution to lifelong learning and continuous learning thus thousands of online courses, certificates, diploma and degree programs are offered by universities worldwide. For most of the programs and courses, most universities now involve access to basic course information online; such as the syllabus, resource lists, and instructors.

E-learning has many interpretations but in short, it stands for learning by electronic means. This means learning not directly from lecture notes, books or face-to-face from teachers and through electronic devices and tools. Common forms are computer-based training and web-based learning or online learning. With the advent of advanced technology, learning may be taken anytime anywhere. These learning can be made more interesting using multimedia i.e. combination of text, images, graphics, sound, animation, and video. E-learning can be delivered to the learners via various means e.g. PC, PDA, Mobile phone and TV.

This study aims to investigate the understanding of E-learning among the students of Tripura University from the state of Tripura, India. Tripura University is the only central university in the state of Tripura. In the year 1987, it was started as a state University and converted to a central university in the year 2007. A total number of 40 departments are running different courses in this university, it includes certificate courses, undergraduate, postgraduate, postgraduate diploma studies. The Government of India has taken some steps towards the implementation of E-learning courses through portals such as "Swayam" and "E-PG pathshala".

**Swayam**

Swayam is a programme initiated by the Government of India and designed to achieve the three fundamental principles of Education Policy viz., access, equity, and quality. The goal of this effort is to take the best teaching-learning resources to all. This is done through a native developed IT platform that facilitates hosting of all the courses taught in classrooms from 9th class till post-graduation to be accessed by...
anyone, anywhere at any time. All the courses are interactive, prepared by the best teachers in the country and are available, free of cost to the residents in India. More than 1,000 specially chosen faculty and teachers from across the country have contributed to preparing these courses.

The courses hosted on SWAYAM are in 4 quadrants - (1) Video Lecture (2) Specially prepared reading material that can be downloaded/printed (3) Self-assessment tests through Test and quizzes and (4) An online discussion forum for clearing the doubts.

E-PG Pathshala

An MHRD, under its National Mission on Education through ICT (NME-ICT), has assigned work to the UGC for the development of e-content in 77 subjects at postgraduate level. The content and its quality is the key component of the education system. High quality, curriculum-based, interactive content in different subjects across all disciplines of social sciences, arts, fine arts & humanities, natural & mathematical sciences, linguistics, and language is being developed under this initiative named e-PG Pathshala.
E-learning is considered a new technology in an academic environment. So, it becomes necessary to study the understanding of the students towards E-learning. And also it becomes necessary to evaluate the major concepts of this technology.

**Scope**
1. Population: students of Tripura University.
2. Area: Tripura University only.
3. Sample: A total of 166 responses were received and based on responses data analysis and interpretations have been made.

**Literature Review**

Elabaid & Rafida tried to evaluate how computer literacy and the execution of e-learning might contribute to the learning and teaching process within the education sector in this area. The study was carried out among the students. The survey was conducted to gather data through questionnaire and interview methods. It was reported that most of the students accomplished their work with windows functions.

Gayan & Das tried to determine awareness and perception towards e-learning among the faculties of Tripura University. This study found that most of the respondents (faculties) are aware of the e-learning concept and e-learning course like SWAYAM, e-PG pathshala. The maximum of the respondents had not enrolled in an e-learning course. The maximum respondents (25%) out of the enrolled ones had enrolled e-learning courses from the NPTEL portal. The results offered great help for the stakeholders of e-learning as it provided new insights.

Zawaideh’s study aimed to goal at identifying factors that could give details of the usage of E-Learning environments by higher education students. This study tried to explore the use behaviour of using E-Learning as the factor that directly influenced behavioural intention of using e-learning the most.

Ashraf & Khan electronic learning (e-learning) study gained reasonable recognition from educational institutions at all levels. There are various studies conducted by researchers considering different aspects of e-learning to investigate how people can benefit in imparting quality education.

D’Enrico, Paciello & Cerniglia study aimed to investigate the skilled emotions by students within different e-learning contexts like chats with the teacher, private group discussions, forum threads, content activities and understand their possible relation with students’ engagement. This study found that negative emotions play a central role during interactive activities with teachers, as performing these learning tasks can be the first warning of insufficient preparation. Therefore the study demonstrates the importance of an e-teacher to regulate students’ negative emotions experienced across the e-learning activities, as they can negatively influence both affective and behavioural dimensions of engagement.

**Objectives**
- To identify the awareness of E-learning among the students of Tripura University
- To determine to understand using E-learning tools among the students
- To determine the frequency of use of E-learning tools among the students
- To identify the rate of enrollment of E-learning courses by students of Tripura University

**Methodology**

The present study survey method has been adopted and a questionnaire was used as a data collection tool. A structured questionnaire was designed and distributed among 200 respondents comprising fifteen questions covering different aspects of the problem such as awareness of online learning courses, understanding the different areas of E-learning and application, etc. Total of 166 responses received from respondents for data analysis. All the collected responses from respondents were entered in Microsoft Excel (software) for tabulation and analysis.

**Data Analysis**

- **Gender-Wise Distribution**
  
  Table 1 shows the gender wise distribution of the sample and it shows that out of 166 respondents, 87 (52.41%) are male and 79 (47.59%) are female.

- **Age Group of Respondents**
  
  Out of total 166 respondents, the 6 (3.61%) respondent’s age were between 15-20, 122 (73.49%) respondents age between 21-25 is, 34 (20.48%) respondents are age between 26-30 and 4 (2.41%) were above 31 years.

- **Educational Wise Distribution of Respondents**
  
  The respondent’s educational level is Under Graduate were 21 (12.65%), Post Graduate are 142 (85.54%), and others 3 (1.81%) of the total responses received.

- **Awareness of E-Learning**
  
  Table 4 shows the awareness of the e-learning of the respondents. Out of total number 144 (86.75%) were aware of e-learning and 22 (13.25%) of respondents were not aware of it.
The problem in Accessing E-Resources

Table 7 reveals that out of 166 respondents, 97(58.43%) respondents are facing problems to access e-resources and 69(41.57%) respondents are not facing any problem in accessing e-resources.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Respondents</th>
<th>%age</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>58.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>41.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>166</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Hurdles in Accessing E-Resources

Table 8 shows the hurdles in accessing e-resources, where different respondents have stated different hurdles for facing problems in accessing e-resources. 65(38.01%) respondents faced the problem about internet speed, 39(22.81%) respondents faced the limited resources problem, 29(16.96%) respondents faced lack of training, and 31(18.13%) respondents faced others hurdles and 7(4.09%) respondents did not state any hurdles.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hurdles in Accessing E-Resources</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>%age</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Internet speed</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>38.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Limited resources</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>22.81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of Training</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>16.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>18.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Hurdles</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4.09</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Frequency of Using E-Learning Site

Table 9 shows that out of 166, 82(49.40%) respondents are daily user of e-learning sites, 32(19.28%) respondents access on weekly basis, 18(10.84%) respondents access once in a week, 10(6.02%) respondents access twice in a week, and 24 (14.46%) respondents did not respond the questions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Respondents</th>
<th>%age</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Daily</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>49.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weekly</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>19.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Once in a week</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>10.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Twice in a week</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>6.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Did not mention</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>14.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>166</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Usefulness of E-Learning for Academic Purpose

Table 10 contains responses regarding the usefulness of e-learning for academic purpose, it is clear that out of 166 respondents, 158(95.18%) respondents have expressed that responded e-learning is useful for academic purposes and 8(4.82%) respondents have said that responded e-learning is not useful for academic purpose.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Respondents</th>
<th>%age</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>158</td>
<td>95.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>4.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>166</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FINDINGS

1. The study has been conducted through students’ survey in the different departments’ students of the Tripura University, state of Tripura, India. The male respondents are more than female respondents.
2. According to the age group of the respondents, maximum respondents (73.49%) were in the age group 21-25 years.
3. The majority of respondents (85.54%) respondents are postgraduate students, followed by undergraduate students, which was (12.65%) of the total sample taken.
4. The majority of respondents (88.55%) stated that they are interested to register themselves for e-learning in the near future.
5. About half of respondents (51.81%) said that their institution provides e-learning courses.
6. It was seen that about half of the respondents (49.40%) under the study were daily using an e-learning site while (19.28%) of respondents are using weekly.
7. It was revealed that (48.54%) of respondents preferred web resources while (21.84%) of respondents were used self-assessment.
8. Out of total respondents, (95.18%) of respondents said that e-learning is useful for academic purposes and the majority of respondents (83.73%) used e-learning sites on the university campus.

CONCLUSION

E-learning has become an important activity in student daily life. In this study, an attempt was made the researchers are trying to present an impact of e-learning courses in Tripura University. E-learning is increasingly becoming a dynamic stream and modern model of education worldwide, including developing countries. The study explored and analyzed how students have been using the e-learning course and what purpose of using the e-learning site, which type of e-learning resource is preferred and how frequently they are using. From the study, it is clear that all of the respondents were associated with the e-learning sites and a maximum of them think that there is a good impact of such courses on the students’ academic learning. The Government should take more measures for popularising e-learning courses like Swayam and EPG-pathshala.
REFERENCES


