



## The role of mobile learning in education

**Banashri Mandal**

Guest Lecturer in Education, Chhatna Chandidas Mahavidyalaya, West Bengal, India

### Abstract

It has been perceived by people since long that education is an instrument of social change. Mobile learning is the next step in the development of distance learning. Widespread access to mobile devices and the opportunities to learn regardless of time and place make the mobile learning an important tool in education. Mobile learning is an important new learning strategy because mobile devices are now necessary tools in student's daily life. In this study objectives are to examine the value of mobile learning in education. The results of this study show the advantages as well as the potential for improvement of the system and its use in education.

**Keywords:** mobile learning, mobile education, distance education, social change

### Introduction

In some countries the use of mobile learning for students located in remote place is taken as an advantage of communication and for media content development. Mobile learning supports, with the help of mobile devices, a continuous access to the learning process. Educational systems are changing. Mobile learning is important to bring new technology in the classroom. Mobile learning is used in schools, work places, museums, cities and rural areas. Implementing mobile services in education in the form of mobile learning modules is an innovative process at many levels of education. In this paper described role of mobile learning in education.

### Basic concepts of mobile learning

A skill of learning which opted using mobile or any other handheld device is called mobile learning. Mobile learning is shortly briefed as m-learning. Mobile learning is combination of distance learning and e-learning.

Mobile learning or m-learning is learning across multiple contexts, through social and content interaction, using personal electronic devices.

Mobile learning is learning based on mobility often through mobile devices like smart phones, iPad, other tablets, and wearable technology.

For a brief definition of mobile learning we might offer that it is a kind of learning characterized by the need and ability of the learning to be mobile.

### History of mobile learning

Mobile learning had some fascinating pioneering work in the early 1970's by Xerox Photocopier Company, who set up a new group to develop what they called the dynabook, a personal dynamic medium that was about the size and shape of a book. Its niche was that anyone could use it and it had high definition simulations and material from around the world, which forty years ago was an amazing concept

unfortunately. The technology could not keep up with it then. It was around the early 2000's that practical mobile learning really started up with the introduction of tablet computers. In 2001, the European commission funds launch the mobile learn project to explore mobile education.

### Features of mobile learning

1. Portability.
2. Flexibility.
3. Engaging and fun.
4. Light weight when compared to books, PCs etc.
5. Wireless technology.
6. Enables the access the resources in different formats.
7. Collaborative.
8. Enable learners to construct.
9. Low cost.

### Advantages of mobile learning

1. Students can interact with each other and instructor easily.
2. Increasing motivation.
3. Internet access anywhere so reader can read any time.
4. Increases learning performance.
5. Learners can individually control their speed of reading.
6. Possible to share assignments and notes through e-mails, Bluetooth etc.
7. Improves reading and communication skill.
8. New mode learning engages many to read through mobile, PDAs etc.
9. It provides students more independent and flexible in distance education.
10. Access to knowledge.
11. Reduced training times.

### Major technologies used in mobile learning

1. Mobile phones / Smart phones.
2. PDAs(Personal Digital Assistants)
3. Laptops/ Tablets PCs.

4. MP3 players.
5. Ipod.

### **Implication of mobile learning in education**

Over the last decade, the importance of mobile devices has grown dramatically in education. Its aim is to opportunities in education. M-learning is a student oriented approach that makes learning informal, independent and collaborative. More and more schools, colleges and universities are using laptops or tablets. There are increasingly more educational apps are available for teachers. Example of mobile learning in education-

1. Offering mobile learning material.
2. Interaction during lesson.
3. Synchronous learning.

### **Use of mobile learning in various areas in education**

**School education:** Mobile learning is use in school education. The importance of mobile learning in the classroom. Students, as well as education institutions are beginning to discover the many benefits of using mobile technology in the class room. Having mobile devices in the classroom allows students instant access to the latest news, information, statistics etc.

**Higher education:** Mobile learning usage has increased significantly among college and universities students. In higher education lecturers can prepare power point, presentations and upload to a learning management system rather than have to print a read their course materials on their smart phones even while in bed, rather than have to go to the computer labs on the campus before having access to the materials.

**Teacher education:** In general mobile learning have the potential to enhance teachers professional learning by optimizing opportunities access to current educational information and experiences as well as providing opportunities for teachers to analysis and collaboratively reflect on their own practice. Recently mobile learning have started exploring its potentials within teacher development. Mobile learning is especially under theorized in teacher education, despite the need to inform teachers of the value of mobile technologies and how to integrate them effectively into their classes.

**Distance education:** Mobile learning has lot of potential for quick and wide reaching out to the geographically wide spread learners, even though they have no internet connectively. Distance learners can use mobile phone / Mp3 players to their course lectures and for storage and data transfer.

**Special needs education:** Mobile learning can be a useful add on tool for students with special needs. However for SMS and MMS this might be dependent on the student's specific disabilities or difficulties involved.

### **Conclusion**

This paper has sought to explore the role of mobile learning in education. In particular the paper has argued that mobile learning have impacted on educational practice in education.

Mobile learning is nothing but utilizing mobile devices in education is considered as major tool. Multimedia facilities help the use to share data and use of digital media players. Popularized by Apple's iPod™ is wide spread amongst students with synchronous learning.

### **Reference**

1. Ally M. Multimedia information design for mobile devices. In M. pagani E.D, Encyclopedia of multimedia technology and networking. Hershey, PA: Idea Group Inc, 2000.
2. Bonk CJ, Graham CR. Handbook of blended learning: global perspectives, local designs. San Francisco, CA: Pfeiffer publishing, 2006.
3. Hails I. Instructional technologies and material development. Ankara: Nobel press, 2002.
4. Mobile learning community: Mobile Learning Theory, 2010.
5. Sharma SK, Kitchens FL. Web services Architecture for M- Learning. Electronic Journal on E- Learning, 2004; 2(1):203-216.
6. Sharples M, Taylor J, Vavoula G. A Theory of Learning for the Mobile Age. The Sage Handbook of E-learning Research, London: Sage, 2007.
7. Trinder J. Mobile Technologies and Systems. In A & Kuklska- Hulme Ed., Mobile Learning: A handbook for educations and trainers, USA: Taylor& Francis, 2005.