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ONLINE LEARNING: THE ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF E-LEARNING. WHAT IS THE DEFINITION OF "E-LEARNING"?

E-learning, also known as online learning or electronic learning, refers to the acquisition of knowledge through the use of electronic technologies and media channels. In a simpler language, e-learning is defined as "electronically enabled learning" that ranges from the countless "how to" videos on YouTube to e-learning platforms of universities or entire online study programs and digital masterclasses.

In general, e-learning is carried out on the Internet, where learning materials are available at any time and any place.

What are the 5 biggest advantages of E-Learning?

Flexibility

The first advantage of e-learning is flexibility in terms of time and place. Learning content is usually made available in short modules and can be paused at any time. Whether you log on while commuting, at work or during your free time- the learning material can be easily made part of your daily routine. Even if you miss a live online workshop, written summaries or a video of the session is usually available to be downloaded. E-learning is therefore ideal for people working or in education, or simply people who want to know more about their favourite hobbies or interests.

Availability

The organization of teaching content at universities is almost unimaginable without platforms such as Moodle and Blackboard, but online courses also save vast amounts of time in the private sector. Without physical limitations, anyone with Internet access can simultaneously access learning opportunities – provided that the servers are stable to withstand.

Efficiency

Since e-learning packages adapt to the individual learner, the time required to complete a course is significantly reduced. Conventional courses are designed to meet the needs of the entire group. But rarely does a single person need everything that is offered to the group. And, of course, there is no need to travel to the course.

Low Cost

An e-learning package can be reused as often as the user wishes without additional costs. In addition, there are numerous free course offers as well as "freemium access". Since e-learning usually allows more course participants at the same time, it is often less expensive than conventional learning offerings.

Mobile

E-learning takes place wherever you want! All you need is internet connection. Learning materials, tutorials, transcripts – everything is stored in digital cyberspace and cannot be lost with a good back-up.

What are the 5 biggest disadvantages of E-Learning?

Internet connection

The most obvious problem is certainly a lack of Internet access and this still affects over 40% of the world's population. There can be problems with high-speed Internet, insufficient data volume or connection problems that cannot be fixed straight away.

Discipline

If you can learn anytime and anywhere, it is so easy to procrastinate. For many, learning in a separate environment is an important factor to discipline as well as being in the same room with other people that are learning with you awakens ambition and openness to new ideas.

Distraction

There is much more to discover on the Internet than just the learning material. Moreover, you are usually online on your email account or social media at the same time. In addition, partners, roommates and children tend to disturb and make noise at home. It requires a lot of planning and concentration to stay focused in such an environment.

Social isolation

Working at home, learning at home, living at home – the social aspects of life are still important for children to gain social intelligence and develop healthy relationship patterns.

Practical knowledge

While teaching theoretical knowledge online is feasible, many people still find the training of practical skills unsatisfactory. For example, during an online dance lesson your arm position can't be corrected, and steps while dancing can only be observed to a limited extent and movement sequences can only be controlled inaccurately.

The Future of E-Learning

By 2022, the market for augmented and virtual reality is expected to exceed the $200 billion mark and makes devices affordable for private households. The possibilities for integrating AR and VR in e-learning are endless. From developing designs that transport learners to the insides of automobiles to helping medical students understand the intricacies of the human body, AR and VR will play a vital role in enabling a whole new learning experience.

Based on a study published in the International Journal of Advanced Education and Research, the share of AI in the e-learning sector will increase by about 49% in the next 5 years and further improve performance. However, the human being as a teacher still remains indispensable.

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