Review

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# E-LEARNING IN THE LIBRARY ENVIRONMENT FOR THE COMMUNITY COLLEGES IN INDIA: A FUTURISTIC STUDY

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**ABSTRACT:**

E-learning is the important learning method in the era of digital revolution. India has given much emphasis in the field of higher education. Community college which is the latest innovation of the intellectuals in the field of higher education has a great shoulder of responsibility to fill the gap between demand and supply of employment industries. E-learning has its different advantages over the traditional learning which can support the community colleges a long mile in today's digital era. This paper gives a brief description about the community colleges along with different prospects of using e-learning for these colleges. It also forwarded certain ideas regarding e-learning in the library environment that can be extracted for these colleges. A brief conceptual idea is also given for e-learning through libraries with Internet, Digital library and content creation portals.

**KEYWORDS:** E-learning, Community Colleges, Digital Library, Content Creation, data repository

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## 1. INTRODUCTION:

Learning is a lifelong process in any individuals' life. Today due to ease access of information through ICT, the concept of e-governance, e-marketing, e-citizenship, etc are emerged. E-learning is the process which makes these concepts fully implemented in practical. Today E-learning is the part of every individual's life. In academic community specially for higher education sector, it has brought a great revolution.

## 2. E-Learning and community Colleges

E-learning means teaching and learning through computer technology, network technology, mobile technology, e-media technology or any other electronic means or gadgets which either store or processed the bit and byte form of data.

Community colleges are the institutions for higher education, (after 10+2) which are responsible to skilled a person irrespective of their age for employability and also for further higher studies. In India, all the community colleges are under the umbrella of UGC (University Grants Commission). All these community colleges will function from the existing UGC recognized colleges affiliated to Universities and the autonomous Colleges.

### 2.1 Features of Community Colleges

Some of the features as per the UGC guidelines for the community colleges are:

1. It will be skilled based meant for employability.

2. Target individuals are irrespective of any age differences.

3. It is based on lifelong learning.

4. It should preserve and promote the cultural heritage of locality.

### 2.2 Status of community colleges in India

Till May 2015, there are all total 150 nos of community colleges in India.

**Table 1: List of community Colleges in India**

| State | No of colleges | State | No of colleges |
|-------|----------------|-------|----------------|
| Andhra Pradesh | 4 | Maharashtra | 19 |
| Assam | 15 | Manipur | 5 |
| Bihar | 11 | Nagaland | 4 |
| Chhatisgarh | 1 | Puducherry | 2 |
| Gujarat | 4 | Punjab | 10 |
| Haryana | 7 | Rajasthan | 2 |

| Himachal Pradesh | 2 | Telangana | 1 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Jammu & Kashmir | 2 | Tamil Nadu | 13 |
| Jharkand | 2 | Uttar Pradesh | 6 |
| Karnataka | 14 | Uttarakhand | 2 |
| Kerala | 15 | W.Bengal | 7 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 3 | | |

### 3. E-Learning for the Academic community

Today E-learning is considered as a broader term of "Traditional learning. E-learning consists of two different methodologies-one is teaching and another is learning. Also, E-learning can be provided at two different environment-one is at the Institutional environment and another is at the Library environment. At institutional level it will be basically based on the administration aspect like recognition of course, registration of students to that course, teaching, Course related materials, evaluation and finally the certification. But at the Library environment, e-learning is basically a knowledge acquiring aspect through learning where in addition to the course related materials, different information products meant for acquiring skilled among the users is provided.

### 4. E-Learning in the Library environment:

Library E-learning environment is that aspect where all the e-learning tools, technologies and products are used. Basically digital or virtual aspects of library will be primarily considered for the e-learning platform. Skilled is basically a practical aspect which as per the objectives of community colleges one can get employability through such skills. **Si**nce

community colleges are meant for lifelong learning which means there is a need of important platform through which a person enrolled to these colleges can not only acquire skills till his course completed certification but also after entering into the employment industry, one can still take the opportunity to get oneself access to the skilled based resources.

1. **Internet as E-learning platform:** Today internet is one of the major components for accelerating e-learning. There are huge numbers of resources hidden which can be pulled up through ones expertise. Now-a-days it is common phenomenon for a person to get his/her answer to any problem through the help of internet. Students enrolled for the different vocational or any skilled based programme may find an important opportunity to supplement their knowledge power through the platform. Some of the internet tools through which the learners can interact among each others are e-mail, Chat, Blogs, bulletin boards, forums, video/audio conferencing etc.
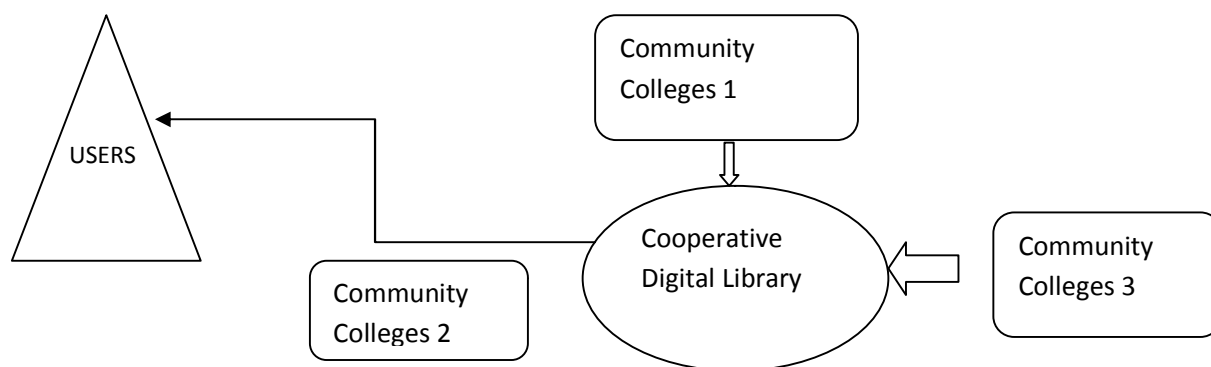
Libraries representing the community colleges are expected to be equipped with

modern ICT technologies and so the above mentioned tools will supplement the learners to acquire the necessary skills. Basically for the internet platform, libraries should have a well developed websites/webpage integrated with the web 2.0 tools. Learners orientation or awareness programme on the "use of internet and its resources" should be delivered.

2. **Digital Library as E-learning platform**: Digital library can be considered an important zone for the purpose of E-Learning. It will be basically resource based repositories containing all the important digital documents stored for its target audience. Basically for the community colleges it will be imperative to build a collaborative digital library system where all the important resources can be accessed via a single platform.



**Fig 1: Access of Information through DL system across community colleges**

3. **Content creation and E-Learning Portal as platform:** It is observed that most of the institutions or organizations started to host their e-content through the e-learning portal for their users. Some of the famous e-content are E-pg Pathsala, Sakshat, NPTEL, CEC for video documents, Akash educational portal, Vocation educational programme, etc. This content created E-learning portals will help the students to acquire the basic necessary skills. Moreover, content creation should also be considered an important task by the community colleges. Libraries that will represent the community colleges should come forward and collaborate with each other to form a

greater data repository in the field of skilled development programme.

## 5. CONCLUSION

Community colleges are another milestone of Indian higher education system. These colleges will have to fill up the gap between the demand and supply of the employment industries. E-Learning is one of the best opportunities that can be opted to supplement the .teaching and learning process. Libraries of these institutions will have to play greater role in creating and disseminating the e-learning products and services. Although the output of e-learning for these colleges cannot be calculated at present but it can be predicted that e-learning in the community colleges can support a long way so as to fulfill the objectives of community colleges.

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