

## Nature of M-Learning Affecting Learning Style

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**Abstract:** Through this paper we are focusing on how to relate M-Learning with disruptive technology. It also focuses on the ways by which the drawbacks of traditional way of learning can be overcome using M-Learning. It also lays emphasis on linking M-Learning with student centered approach of learning.

**Keywords:** M-Learning, Disruptive Technology, Student-Centered Learning (SCL) approach

### 1. INTRODUCTION

The term Mobile Learning commonly known as “M-Learning”, has different meanings for different communities. Although related to e-learning and distance education, it is distinct in its focus on learning across contexts and learning with mobile devices. One definition of mobile learning is: Any sort of learning that happens when the learner is not at a fixed, predetermined location, or learning that happens when the learner takes advantage of the learning opportunities offered by mobile technologies.<sup>1</sup> In other words mobile learning decreases limitation of learning location with the mobility of general portable devices. M-learning focuses on the mobility of the learner, interacting with portable technologies, and learning that reflects a focus on how society and its institutions can accommodate and support an increasingly mobile population. M-Learning also brings strong portability by replacing books and notes with small RAMs, filled with tailored learning contents.<sup>2</sup> In addition, it is simple to utilize mobile learning for a more effective and entertaining experience. Mobile learning is gradually moving from small-scale, short-term trials to larger, more sustained and blended deployment, but within institutional constraints such as budgetary and human resources, institutional practices, procedures and priorities.

### 2. NATURE OF M-LEARNING

Disruptive is a term commonly used to describe mobile learning. Why mobile learning is considered disruptive and is this type of disruption a good thing? Answering these questions requires first understanding what is meant by the term disruptive in the context of mobile learning. Next is to determine how mobile learning fits into this definition.

Disruptive technologies cause a change or paradigm shift in business practices, markets and commerce, and even consumers' lives. However, disruptive technologies do not always wholly replace the existing technology because it can adapt and the two technologies can evolve together.

## **2.1 Relating M-Learning as disruptive technology**

There are a number of ways in which mobile learning is interrupting the normal flow of our activities, thoughts and ideals and each of these contribute to mobile learning being disruptive.

### **2.1.1 Mobile devices are ubiquitous<sup>3</sup>**

The Mobile technology is becoming more and more pervasive in people's daily lives. Every day humans are becoming more and more dependent on mobile devices to the point that they don't even realize just how much they use them to learn. Take for instance turn-by-turn navigation, whether it is a dedicated device such as a Garmin or TomTom, or if it is the navigation system built directly into an Android device. When a estimation is programmed in, there is an expectation that the device will show how to get to the location directly, quickly and accurately. If it is a friend's new home or somewhere we never plan to go again, there is still learning occurring in the sense of how to get to the destination including any alternate routes that may be available. The point is, regardless of how much people realize it or how deliberate they are in their use, mobile devices are playing a big role in helping individuals learn and discover new things every day.

### **2.1.2 Mobile learning is challenging traditional views of teaching<sup>3</sup>**

Teaching has focused on the concept of "learn now, use later". These ideas, which have driven the design of many learning theories, have a strong emphasis on memorization and retention. For instance, many would agree on the importance of learning CPR, but unless you work in the medical field, this knowledge is something we hope never to have to use.

Mobile devices, however, are proving to be great for the notion of "need now, learn now." Now the in-class instruction can focus more on proper technique and less on memorizing the exact cadence and timing of the breaths and compressions. Both teachers and students are actively involved in the process of learning and thus changing the traditional view of learning.

### 2.1.3 Mobile devices are enabling more life-long and self-directed learning<sup>3</sup>

“All learning activity undertaken throughout life, with the aim of improving knowledge, skills and competencies within a personal, civic, social and/or employment-related perspective”.

Most learning theory is based on the principle of an instructor and a student. The instructor determines the learning objectives, the curriculum and the pedagogy to be used. The student is then the recipient of this information in the form of instruction. The instruction can happen in a classroom or on a computer in the form of eLearning. It doesn't matter; the learning content is predetermined by someone other than the learner.

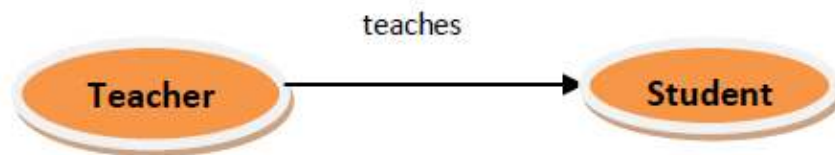
With mobile learning, instruction can be very personal and individual. Imagine two people in downtown Chicago standing in front of the Willis Tower (formerly the Sears Tower). One may be very interested in the history and physical aspects of the skyscraper, when it was built, how tall it is, why the name was changed, etc. The other person may be interested in knowing how the building has been used, what corporations have had offices there, the cost to lease space and the historical occupancy rate. In this case, each individual is learning what matters and is most relevant to them. Their learning is not being dictated by what someone else thinks is important.

### 2.1.4 Changing how and when information is accessed aspect of mobile devices<sup>3</sup>

Suppose we are listening to a song and we want to inquire about the artist who sung it. Earlier we had to wait and search the things by calling to RJ or by browsing it on internet but with mobile devices new applications have been loaded in which the songs are not only provided with the details like artist, when it is been recorded but one can also buy it online. This is the tremendous change what technology has bought in our life.

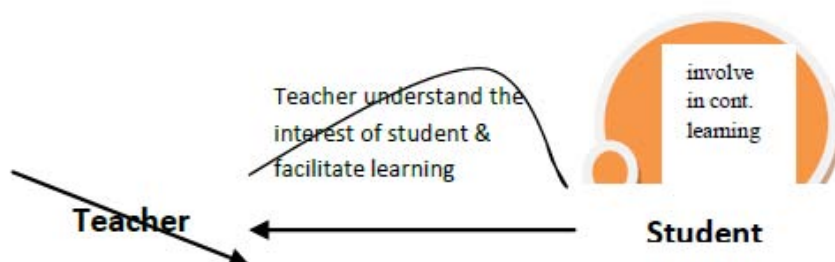
## 3. M-LEARNING SUPPORTS STUDENT CENTERED APPROACH OF LEARNING

Traditionally the approach of learning is teacher centered approach which is related with transmission of knowledge. It emphasize on the role of the teacher as a dispenser of information and the role of the student as a passive receiver, storer and repeater of the transmitted information (Figure 1.1).



The prevalence of this view is supported by observations that teachers continue to rely on old standbys such as lectures, textbook reading, and fill-in-the-worksheets practices that reduce students to passive recipients of information and fail to develop their thinking skills. A teacher in a teacher-centered approach focuses more on making relationships with the students. They focus more on content than on student processing. This approach places the control of learning in the hands of teacher. Teacher uses his expertise in content knowledge to help learners to make connections. The effort to get to know the student and the way the student process the information is secondary. This issue of traditional approach of learning can be solved by using student centered learning.

Student centered learning is an approach to education focusing on the needs of the students rather than those of others involved in educational process. Student-centered learning is focused on the student's needs, abilities, interests, and learning styles with the teacher as a facilitator of learning. Student-centered learning requires students to be active, responsible participants in their own learning. Teachers and trainers must not only act from what they want to teach the student, but also take into consideration what the student can learn and wants to learn.



Mobile learning is any sort of learning that takes place when the learner is not at a fixed, predetermined location and is apart from his/her teacher/trainer. The student can benefit from mobile technologies. For example, using knowledge sources in mobile situations. In this context, learning-on-demand can take

place anywhere and at any time, and can encompass both formal and informal learning, where knowledge is situated in a context.

### **3.1 Focus on “how to learn” aspect of learning**

Learning is the process of discovering and structuring meaning from knowledge, and the experience that the individual creates by filtering perception, thoughts and emotions obtained throughout life. For continuous improvement in the process of learning it is crucial that emphasis is laid on “how to learn” it is because if the structured knowledge is not being provided then it will lead towards confusion among the learners. In the process of learning both teacher and student are exposed to new studies and research and thereby they should be provided with structured information.

Distance-learning with smart phones, laptops and internet offers new opportunities to obtain knowledge on demand. Also in situations when the need for information is urgent. Technical solutions help to structure this knowledge and to obtain it "on demand".

### **3.2 Ease in access for every student**

All students can easily store information. However, learning speed and perceptual capacities can vary from student to student. Mobile learning can be a useful add-on tool for students with special needs. Different features can be used, according to the students' specific needs or difficulties. It might be more motivating to watch a mobile video than to read a book or a map. The student can watch the video several time, to increase his/her understanding.

### **3.3 M-Learning enhances creativity among students**

Students develop creative and interrogative thinking skills by planning, monitoring and evaluating their way of thinking. By providing a visual form of lessons to the students helps them in better understanding of the issues. They became familiar to the problem and are indulge in thinking about the feasible solutions which enhances student's creativity. Thus, learning how to learn has high priority in student-centered learning. An appropriate choice of features from mobile technology can help the student to generate information and to exchange it with other students, teachers or trainers. The student then learns to think in new ways and use information in a learning context.

### **3.4 Success provides intrinsic motivation**

Control, responsibility, emotions, goals, interest fields, etc. are motivating factors for the student's learning. Motivation makes learning possible. Using mobile technologies to strengthen these motivational factors facilitates student-centered learning. The use of this kind of technology is a source of motivation for young people.

### **3.5 Changing the mindset of students**

The use of smart phones for learning purposes can be a starting point to capture the imagination of certain groups of students and ultimately change their attitudes towards learning.

### **3.6 Positive relations between students increase learning level**

Interaction with other students with different backgrounds is valuable and facilitates learning. With the introduction of mobile device for student centered learning students are now able to interact with the students which are away from their global reach. For ex- while sitting in India a student can interact with a student of Australia and can discuss the area of their problems. They can seek each other's advice. Thus M-Learning promotes positive relations among the learners.

Therefore, student-centered learning emphasizes teaching strategies based on cooperation in groups.

## **4. CONCLUSION AND FUTURE ENHANCEMENT**

Mobile learning is having enormous impact on learning style. Mobile learning is disruptive in nature. With advancement and improvement in M-Learning it has slowly become more pervasive in our life and we are using it in many day to day activities. If M-learning is integrated with learning strategies then it could help the learners in many different ways. It affects the learning strategy. It helps in providing structured information on demand which promotes better understanding. It enhances the creativity among students. It is interrupting long-held teacher-centered approaches of learning and it is overcome by student-centered learning (SCL) approach which focuses on how people learn, what they learn and at what time. M-Learning is a SCL technique.

We can take a step ahead by introducing courses on demand which will allow the students to opt for the subjects as per their interest and take them in his/her curriculum. This will promote diversity and will showcase a more competitive

scenario where the learners are involved in what they enjoy learning. Class room programs can be given a new direction by introducing the usage of mobile devices while will enhance the learning rate.

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