



E-Learning: Theories and Philosophies in Practice

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Many ?'s in teachers mind:

- Why we have to adapt technology?
- What is the importance of technology?
- How technology facilitates their teaching
- How technology helps to students in their learning?
- How to choose and use ICT, e-learning technologies to deliver the content?

- The answer for these questions relies on the theories and philosophies of learning.
- In this situation, it helps practitioners to look into the theories and philosophies once again to understand the importance of ICT and e-learning to put in practice in relation to pedagogical practices.

Quality of Education rely ultimately on

- How best a student learn, understand the things.
- But how and by whom?
- what is the best way to achieve this?

TEACHER = PEDAGOGY + TECHNOLOGY
(In particular E-learning technologies)

- Technology can play a vital role
- Moreover it has changed the way people interact and communicate with one another.

E-Learning:

Often, e-learning is used synonymously with terms

- Online learning
- Distance learning
- Computer-based training (CBT)
- Web-based training (WBT)

(Norbert Pachler and Caroline Daly, p.11, 2011).

“E-learning can be defined as ‘learning facilitated and supported through the use of (ICT). It can cover a spectrum of activities from the use of technology to support learning as part of a ‘blended’ approach (a combination of traditional and e-learning approaches), to learning that is delivered entirely online. Whatever the technology, however, learning is the vital element”.

-JISC (Joint Information System Committee)

E-learning may involve the use of some, or all, of the following technologies:

- Desktop and laptop computers
- Software, including assistive software
- Interactive whiteboards
- Digital cameras
- Mobile and wireless tools, including mobile phones

- Electronic communication tools, including email, discussion boards, chat facilities and video conferencing
- Virtual Learning Environments (VLEs)
- Learning activity management systems

-(JISC, 2004)

Theories of Learning:

A **theory of learning aims** to help us to understand how people learn (Linda Harasim, 2012).

Our learning mostly influenced by **three major schools of learning:**

- Behaviorist
- Cognitive
- Constructivist.

Each school of **thought** introduces a **new perspective** on **what learning is** and **how** it can be affected **pedagogy** and **technology**.

Perspectives on Learning:

Behaviorism:

Learning happens when there is a **change** in the **probability that a particular behavior will occur in a particular situation.**

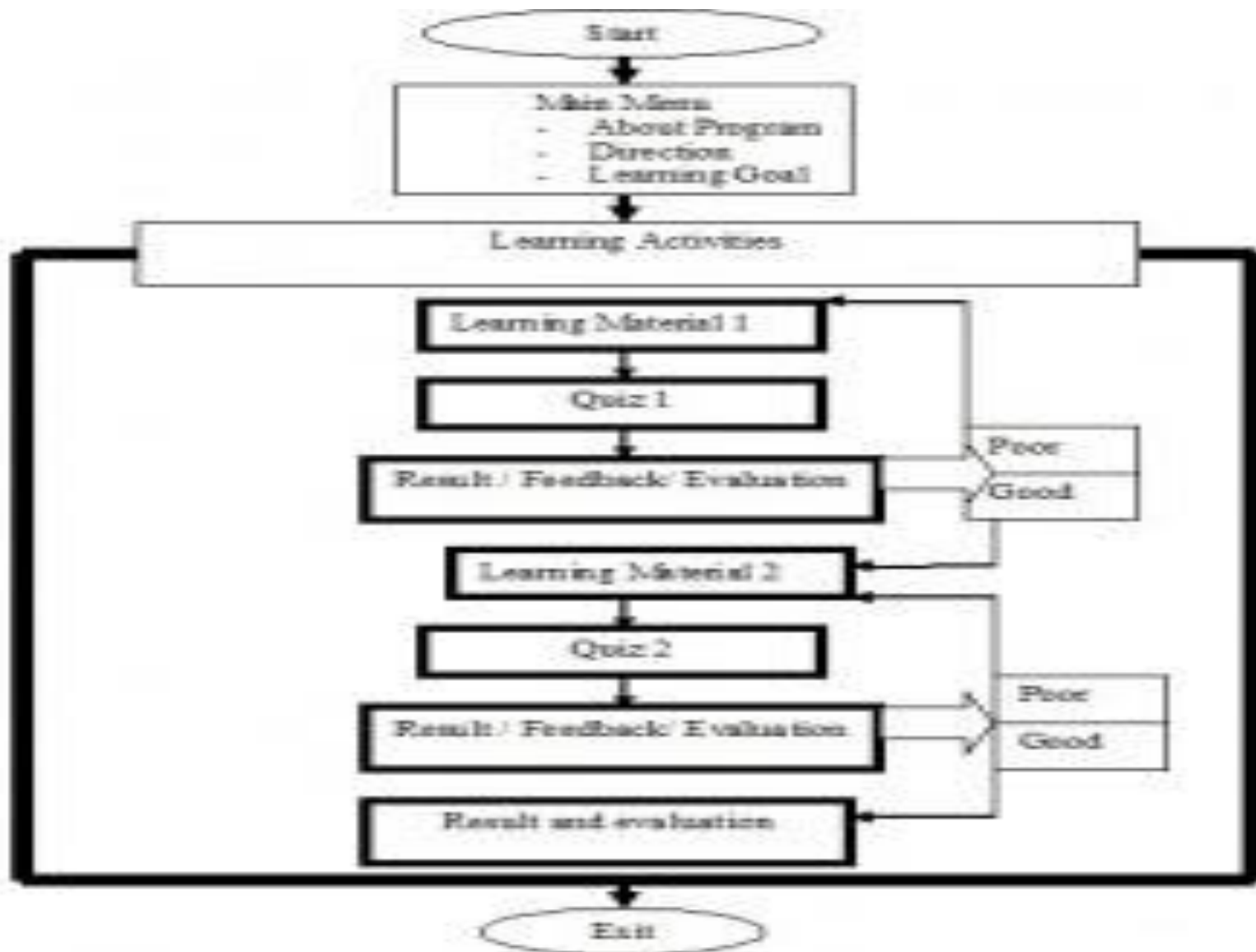
Whatever happens in **the learner's internal environment** ("covert behavior") is **unknown** *and is* **not a primary factor** in learning.

Key Features

- Primarily concerned with -observable behavior, as opposed to internal events like thinking.
- Emphasizes objective measurement
- Behavior is the result of stimulus – response.
- Behavior is determined by the environment (e.g. conditioning).
- Classical Conditioning & Operant Conditioning
- Reward & Reinforcement

Flow chart of e-learning:

(drill & practice: CD tutorials such as TOEFL tutorial, IELTS tutorial, Grammar exercises on CDs, key terms etc.,



Cognitivism:

Learning happens when there is a **change** in the **knowledge** *stored in* **memory**. (short-term memory → long-term memory).

Learning is *deter-mined* by these **internal processes**, not *by* **external circumstances**.

Constructivism:

Learning happens when there is a **change** in **meaning**, **new ideas, or concepts constructed** *from* **prior knowledge and experience.**

Individuals construct knowledge (learn) *as they* solve problems, *usually through* **collaborating with other people.**



E-LEARNING

...Key to Success



Connectivism:

According to connectivism, **knowledge is distributed across an information network** and can be **stored in a variety of digital formats**. Learning and knowledge are said to “rest in diversity of opinions” (Siemens, 2008, para.8).

According to this, **learning** that **explained** how **internet technologies** have creates new opportunities for people to learn and share information across the **World Wide Web** and among themselves. These technology *include* **web browser, email, online discussion forums, social networks, You tube** and any other tool which enables the user **to learn and share information with other people.**



Philosophies of Learning

- Huge data and Technologies
- The **Impact** is felt more than anything – Practitioner, Educators
- Field of Education moved into **profound changes**
- The way the courses, Programmes are **designed and delivered**
- New possibilities, New challenges and **Growing Concern** – **Visible**
- It is essential to understand and to meet the challenges of 21st century
- Rethinking the Learning for **Technology-rich age**

Growing Concerns

New Possibilities

- Accelerating global competition
- Increase in quality of learning experiences
- Remove situational barriers
- More Cost-effective

New Challenges

- Commercialization of teaching
- Decreasing Face to Face Culture
- Techno-centric models
- Demolishing Discourses and Discussions
- Centralization of decision making
- Reducing real time classrooms

Growing Regulations

- What will be taught?
- How it is taught?
- What role of e-learning technologies play?
- What will be the purpose and outcomes of learning activities?
- What will be the content of teaching?
- What will be methods, strategies and instructional materials to choose?

Reflections - Philosophical and Ecological Lenses

- Who is determining whom? Technology – Human Practices
- Will technology replace the teachers?

Philosophy of Technology and Teaching:

A conceptual framework with certain values in which we see all the aspects of Education

Philosophy of Technology:

- Uses Determinism
- Social Determinism
- Technological Determinism

Philosophy of Teaching

- **Liberal** – Technological determinism
- **Progressive** – Uses determinism
- **Behaviourist** – Technological determinism
- **Humanist** – Uses determinism
- **Radical** – Social determinism
- **Analytical** – Uses determinism

If I don't
learn the
way you teach,
then teach the
way I learn!



"Destiny of India is being shaped in her Classrooms"
– Kothari Commission (1964-66)

THANK YOU

