

Future Education: Changing Paradigms

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Abstract : Education is in a state of flux. Not only one need to acquire skills in order to cope with a fast changing global world, an explosive growth in technology, on the other hand is providing a new wave of teaching tools - computer aided video instruction, hypermedia, multimedia, CD-ROMs, Internet connections, and collaborative software environments. The emerging technology incorporates the group qualities of interactive, classroom-based learning while providing individual students the flexibility to participate in an educational programme at their own time and place. The technology facilitating self learning also seems to provide a cost effective solution to the dilemma of delivering education to masses. Online education is a unique learning domain that provides for many to many communications as well. The computer conferencing software defines the boundaries of the virtual classroom. The changing paradigm provides access of instruction to a large proportion of society, promises a qualitative change in the quality of learning and echoes a new way of thinking in educational theory that promotes active learning and open new learning approaches. Putting it to practice is challenging and may fundamentally alter the nature of educational institutions. The subsequent part of paper addresses such questions viz. 'Do we need to radically re-engineer the curriculum and foster an alternate set of skills in students?' in the onward journey.

Keywords : on-line education, self learning, energy and power engineering, future education

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