

Innovation in education



A CONSUMER CONNECT INITIATIVE

The world is now in your hands

Did you know?

Around the globe...

► A number of countries have explored the potential of mobile learning across K-12, tertiary education, vocational education, informal life-long learning, etc.

► The countries that have done pioneering work in Mobile Learning include Australia, Belgium, Canada, Netherlands, New Zealand, Peru, Portugal, Switzerland, Trinidad and Tobago, United Kingdom, United States.

► One of the most mature projects in this field is the Mobilelearn project. Their description of themselves is:

"Mobilelearn provides a unique advancement in learning strategy that makes educational materials available on mobile phones, this allows individuals to learn whatever, wherever, whenever. Mobilelearn provides a platform to learn everywhere you go."



Mobile and handheld learning, more popularly known as m-learning, is driving a new learning model in the country today. Thanks to this, now learners can enter classrooms with their own access devices to learn

PROF MM PANT

When cell-phones were introduced in India around 1995, I spoke to a VP of a leading service provider of its potential for learning, and he asked who could afford education at ₹16 per minute. And the other day, we witnessed the launch by Minister for Human Resource and Development, Government of India, Kapil Sibal of Aakash, the cheapest Tablet in

unprecedented interactivity. With 3G available widely and mobile broadband becoming available anytime now, the use of mobile and handheld devices for learning purposes will grow exponentially and become the enabler of inclusive and universal education, almost doing away with the need for reservations for any special category. So, the launch of Aakash has the direct possibility of high quality world class education for all, bypassing statutory reserva-

thing, 'there's an app for that', is a most used phrase. And of course, India could become the hub for 'learning apps' and also for teaching the world using the new technology, emerge as 'The m-learning Jagatguru'.

Social Media is also easily accessed with handheld devices and all the resources and services with mobiles and handhelds are now driving a new learning model that is building on self and peer learning and fundamentally transforming the traditional pedagogy.

When we imagine a classroom where all learners have de-

vices ranging from Aakash to Apple iPad2 in their hands, the first challenge is for the teachers and administrators.

We now have a situation where learners could enter classrooms with their own access devices (like they come today with their notebooks and pens) and seek learning. The right to education will suddenly acquire a new meaning, implying a right to learn anywhere, without having to go to an inferior quality school, but with mobile and handhelds.

Learners will now desire to learn information seeking skills,

analytical skills, information organising skills, presentation skills and ability to find meaning in large amounts of data and they will want to learn fast.

In the year 2001, the US enacted 'The No Child Left Behind Act' concerning the education of children in public schools. In 2011, we in India have to launch a mission of 'No Teacher Left Behind' as an important step to leverage Mobile and Handheld Learning to its full potential.

—The writer is a world renowned academician, formerly Pro-Vice-Chancellor, IGNOU



the world coming out of India.

As we enter the second decade of the 21st century the access to mobile devices has reached unimaginable numbers, a bewildering variety are available and prices have dropped tremendously. Instead of working through the limitations of 160 characters for text messages, we now have an almost seamless mobile Internet delivering text, images, audio and video and

tions and saving on the costs of creating vast amounts of physical infrastructure.

Of course an enabling and supporting eco-system has to be created for this goal to be achieved.

The year 2011 is the 'Year of the Tablet' and early this year 'App' was declared the 'Word of the year' for 2010 by the American Dialects Society. With almost a million 'apps' available for almost every-