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In the 21<sup>st</sup> century productivity enhancement will flow from the induction of knowledge. If we have to make our citizens more innovative, creative and endowed with the requisite skillsets then we must heed to the knowledge imperative. In the OECD economies more than 50% of the gross domestic product is generated by harnessing and utilizing knowledge.

In this knowledge economy all jobs and the consequent wealth creation will necessitate a regime of education and life long learning. It is a happy augury that ELELTECH is exploring the induction of technology to enhance education and trigger lifelong learning. It is the endeavour of the department of Information Technology in the ministry of Communications and Information Technology, Government of India to respond to the need of the hour. Our vision statement embodies the aforementioned paradigm and our objectives are set to usher technology enhanced learning in the school and college environment. It is also our aim to target both the teacher and the taught to embrace technology in the pursuit of knowledge.

Technology, along with knowledge has always paved the path for the advent of human civilization. But in today's world, the role of technology as a mere knowledge repository is not enough. It should also become the bridge between the source of knowledge and the people who are in its dire need. In other words, the modern-day world demands technology to present the society with a learning environment rather than knowledge content. The best learning environment should provide an integrated mix of synchronous and asynchronous learning activities in combination with dynamic opportunities to collaborate with experts and peers. e-Learning, a facet of technology, can offer such an environment with well established teaching methodologies and proven educational philosophies and also enhance them with a rich mix of interactive multimedia.

India's position as a knowledge powerhouse is no news to the world. But, dissemination of knowledge to every geographical and social circle is the challenge the country is facing today. India being a country with geographical and vernacular diversity has to look at some innovative methods to overcome these obstacles. In this context e-learning provides the ideal vehicle for spreading the light of wisdom to the needful. Features like multi-lingual adaptation, cost-effectiveness, ease of use etc. are the accessories that e-learning has to offer, which would make the dream of complete literacy a pleasant reality.

Our vision is to facilitate an environment of technology based learning and moving up the value chain in providing the learning opportunities to the unreachable through consistent efforts in solving the issues like content, connectivity, standardization and accreditation, Training of trainers, Setting up of Cost effective Infrastructure, Platform and Environment Independent Content Creation etc. that brings a ray of hope for a better tomorrow.

In conclusion, we propose to convert knowledge from an excludable and rival good to non rival and non excludable good with the help of the internet and the attendant technologies of backend enablement, network solutions and frontend tools for students and teachers. We pronounce the death of distance as no one will be denied access to knowledge in such a technology based learning environment.

Thankyou

**(Pankaj Agrawala)**