

Project Reference No: **46S_MBA_017**

Title of the project: **E-LEARNING AWARENESS AMONG RURAL FARMERS IN MUDHOL TALUKA**

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Introduction:

The advent of technology has brought about significant changes in various sectors, including agriculture. E-learning, which refers to the use of electronic devices and the internet to access educational resources, presents a promising avenue for providing valuable knowledge and skills to rural farmers. This research aims to explore the introduction of e-learning awareness among rural farmers, focusing on the benefits, challenges, and potential solutions to bridge the digital divide in agricultural communities.

As traditional farming methods struggle to cope with the challenges posed by climate change, market demands, and limited resources, e-learning has emerged as a promising solution

to empower rural farmers with knowledge and skills necessary for sustainable agriculture practices. This research aims to explore the introduction of e-learning platforms and raise awareness among rural farmers, highlighting its potential benefits and challenges.

Background:

Rural farmers play a vital role in ensuring food security and sustainable development. However, they often face limited access to up-to-date information, agricultural best practices, and training opportunities due to geographic constraints, lack of infrastructure, and financial limitations. E-learning can bridge these gaps by offering farmers convenient access to agricultural knowledge, market trends, weather information, and technical guidance. It enables farmers to acquire new skills, improve productivity, and make informed decisions regarding crop management, livestock rearing, and market opportunities.

Objectives:

1. To know the level of awareness about e-learning among the farmers.
2. To know the e-learning technology adopted by the farmers.
3. To know the reasons for the gap between farmers perception and agriculture departmental interventions towards e-learning technology

Methodology:

Total population: 53100

Number of sample size: 381 Farmers

Sampling design: Convenience sampling

Method: Schedule

Survey Area : Mudhol Taluka

Results and Conclusion:

The schedule survey was carried out in different areas of the Mudhol Taluka. Most of the farmers were of the age group of 46-60. The educational level of the most of the farmers was High School (SSLC). One fifth of them were degree holders. Majority of them had not participated in the e-learning programs. As they were unaware of the e-learning and had not participated in the e-learning technology, they have not adopted the e-learning technology and not used it for the agricultural purposes. But a vast majority of farmers think that e-learning is useful for the agricultural purposes. Some farmers who participated in the e-learning, have accessed it through a smartphone and attended pre-recorded videos. The main objective of those farmers for attending e-learning program was to adopt the new technology. The potential benefits of e-learning for the farmers according to them are: access to new knowledge and skills, improved agricultural practices and increased productivity. The farmers got to know

about the e-learning either through word of mouth or TV. The biggest challenge among farmers for not participating and not adopting the e-learning technology is lack of awareness about the e-learning and its potential benefits. Most of the farmers are very much interested in attending the e-learning training sessions. They want to learn mainly about the crop management and soil health management in the sessions. The reasons for not adopting the e-learning and new technologies are: no awareness about these things, no promotions being done for the awareness regarding e-learning, communication gap between farmers and agriculture department.

Scope for future work:

E-learning is a platform that provides with means of improving teaching and learning activities. E-learning has opened enormous opportunities for learners – students, housewives, dropouts, companies, and working professionals. What we know of E-learning now is only the beginning, the use of technology such as augmented and virtual reality (AR/VR) will drive E-learning forward and transform learning. It is now more convenient than ever and has the potential to revolutionise how knowledge is shared. In underdeveloped and developing countries, e-learning raises the level of education, literacy, and economic development. This is especially true for countries where technical education is expensive, opportunities are limited, and economic disparities exist. This research was carried out on farmers in the Mudhol Taluka. The research studies on e-learning can be carried out in different area like education, business, hospital and various other fields.