

## **Abstract**

India higher education system is expanding to reach out to the demands of students. The characteristics of e-learning anyone, anytime and anywhere helps to cater the needs of today's Indian higher education demand. The report of the UNESCO International Commission on Education in the 21st Century titled "Learning: The Treasure Within" (popularly known as Delors Commission) emphasized four pillars of education: learning to know, learning to do, learning to live together and learning to be. Technology offers unprecedented opportunities to meet the needs and expectations of the next generation of learners. Building on increased internet access and mobile platforms, blended learning – i.e. the fusion of online and face-to-face contact time between teaching staff and students provides a means to enhance quality, equity, and access to lifelong learning opportunities, which is a key goal for UNESCO. Issues about the quality of education are at the heart of the Sustainable Development Goals, which were adopted during the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit in September 2015. Sustainable Development Goal four, known as Education 2030, aims to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning opportunities across all modes of formal and non-formal learning. To make an effort in the same direction an experimental study was conducted of designing an online course for undergraduate students of family and community sciences discipline. The course designed is offered at undergraduate level as a foundation course to first year students. The designed online course is designed using WordPress open source platform. An experimental study was conducted using pre-post experimental design. Blended learning method was used to teach 95 first year students of faculty of family and community sciences, the Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, Vadodara. The major finding of the study revealed that there was significant difference in gain in knowledge of the students studied through the designed online course. There was significant difference in the gain in knowledge of the students in learning through online course in relation to their Medium of Instruction in School, Monthly Family Income, Usage of Computer and Internet and Exposure to ICT. Not many studies are conducted in the area of e-learning and social sciences, this would be a contributory study to take up future researches in the same area.