

Insights of E-Learning during COVID Pandemic

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Abstract

The pandemic COVID-19 has been affected every field around the world. The education fields of India as well as entire world are badly infected by this. It has resulted in the world wide shut down creating extremely adverse effects on the student's life. Around 31 core learners blocked to attend schools/colleges and all activities associated with education halted in India. The outburst of COVID-19 has suggested us that the change is to be anticipated. It has played a role of a catalyst for the educational institutions to cultivate and go for platforms with technologies, which have not been previously used. The education field has been struggling to survive this crisis with a unusual approach and overcoming the challenges to nullify the threat of the pandemic. This paper highlights some measures taken by Govt. of India to provide seamless education in the country.

Especially the education system which is completely shut and to proceed with the academic curriculum, there is a shift from the regular learning process to electronic learning. This can be cited with an increased number of online classes, conferences, meetings, etc. It can be noted that the world is completely dependent on information technologies during this crisis.

Hence, the present study provides an insight into the process of electronic learning and its advantages along with the updated version of its usage. As per our knowledge, there have been scanty scientific reports on this particular situation of the impact of e-learning during COVID-19. The present study is a compilation of the components of e-learning tools along with the future perspective on education using information science.

Keywords: E-teaching and learning, COVID-19, Global stage, Google-apps,

Introduction

The move from the classroom to remote, online learning at the outbreak of the corona virus pandemic interrupted learning for children in low-incomes areas around the world. Those whose families lacked the financial means to afford computers and Wi-Fi internet access were immediately at a

disadvantage. And parents, many of whom lacked the skills and capacity to take on the role of a teacher, had to start homeschooling their children at short notice.

Positive Impact on E-Learning due to COVID 19

The outburst of COVID-19 has created many adverse effects on education, but educational institutions of India have taken the challenges and trying their best to provide seamless support services to the students during this pandemic. Indian education system got the opening for transformation from traditional system to a new education era. The following points may be considered as the positive impacts.

- **Moving towards Blended-Learning:** COVID-19 has increased adoption of digital technologies to convey education. Educational institutions are moving towards blended mode of learning. It motivated all teachers and students to become more familiar with technology. New ways of delivery and assessments of learning created huge opportunities for a major transformation in the area of curriculum development and pedagogy.
- **Increase in the use of LMS:** Use of LMS by educational institutions became a great factor. It provided a good opportunity for the companies which are developing and strengthening learning-management-systems for use for educational institutions.
- **Enhancement in the utilization of soft copy of learning material:** In this lockdown situation students are not able to get the hard copies of study materials and hence most of the students used of soft copies materials for reference.
- **Improvement in collaborative work-** There is a novel opportunity where the collaborative teaching and learning can occur in a new form. Collaborations can also take place among faculty / teachers across the globe to get benefited from each other (Misra, 2020).
- **Increase in e-meetings-** This COVID pandemic has resulted in a massive raise in tele-conferencing, virtual meetings, webinars and e-conferencing etc.
- **Enhancement in Digital Literacy:** The COVID pandemic situation induced people to learn and use digital technology and resulted in rising the digital literacy all over the Nation.

- *Improved utilization of electronic media for sharing information: Learning materials are shared among the students easily and the related queries are resolved through e-mail, SMS, phone calls and using different social Medias like WhatsApp or Facebook.*
- *Better time management: Learners can manage their time more efficiently in online education during pandemics.*
- *Demand for (ODL): During this COVID pandemic situation majority of the student's preferred ODL mode as it encourages self-learning providing opportunities to learn from diverse resources and customized learning as per their needs.*

Challenges of E-learning

Education field is suffered a lot due to this outburst of COVID-19. It has created many negative impacts on educational system and few of them are as listed below:

- *Educational system is badly hampered: Classes have been suspended and exams at different levels postponed. Different boards have already postponed the annual examinations and entrance tests. Admission process got delayed. Due to continuity in lockdown, student suffered a loss of nearly 4months of the full academic year of 2020-21 which is proceeding to further deteriorate the situation of continuity in education and the as students would face much difficulty in resuming schooling again after a large gap.*
- *Employment Issues: Most of the recruitment processes are postponed due to COVID Pandemic. The Placements for students may also be impacted with companies delaying the on board of students. Unemployment rate is expected to rise due to this COVID pandemic crisis. In our country, in this situation recruitment in Govt. sectors postponed and fresher's fear withdrawal of their current jobs from pvt. Sectors due to this current situation.*
- *Unprepared teachers/students for the online education- All teachers and students are not good in it or at least not all of them are getting ready for this sudden transformation from conventional face to face learning to online mode of learning. Many teachers are just delivering their lectures on various platforms such as Zoom, Google meet etc. which may be virtual and not real.*
- *Decreased Employment Opportunity- Few people lose their current jobs from almost all countries and the passed out students may not be able to get their job outside the*

India due to the restrictions created by COVID-19. Large numbers of Indians have already returned to home after losing their ongoing jobs overseas due to this COVID-19. So, the fresher's who are willing to enter into the job may face difficulty in getting suitable job. Many of them who have already got jobs through campus drives may will not be able to join their jobs due to this lockdown. Many Indians who are doing their jobs abroad might lose their current jobs. Freshers in India are also fearing for losing of job offers from many corporate sectors because of this COVID pandemic.

- *Increased responsibility of parents to educate their wards: Some educated parents are able to guide but some may not have the adequate level of education needed to teach children in the house.*
- *Lack of Nutritional meals due to school closure: Daily mid day meals is a school meal programme which is run by Government of India is designed to provide good nutritional food to school age children across the whole Nation. The shutdown of schools has major impacts on the daily nutrition of students since the mid-day meal schemes have temporarily been shut off. Different studies have proved that mid-day meals are important factor for increased enrollment in the schools*
- *Digital world Access: Since many students have partial or no internet access as well as many students cannot afford computers, laptops or supporting smart mobile phones in their homes. E teaching-learning may cause digital barrier among students. The lockdown has impacted poor students in India as many of them are not able to contribute in online learning according to so many various reports. Thus, the online teaching-learning media during this pandemic COVID-19 may accelerate the gap between rich-poor and urban-rural.*

Guidelines to improve student's overall engagement in E-learning

The following guidelines or suggestions can definitely improve the E-learning efficiencies of students when the educators implement it efficiently. For the achievement of big-scale online education, it is very required to create advance contingency plans to overcome the technical issues like traffic overload cases in online educational platforms. Educators have spited the learning material into many smaller modules to increase the attention of students and to ensure their better understanding as well.

Faculty members and school teachers have appropriately

reduced the speed of their tone and speech to catch their attention, allowing them to note down the key parameters from the lectures and the to note down the necessary data from the board in an online audio-visual lecture. Faculties with less experience consulted online teaching assistants to make sure the objectives and needs of every class that has to be conducted by them. Educators have adapted their various teaching techniques by assigning creative and skilful assignments that can accomplish the overall learning requirements of the students for engaging themselves during these online classes. The faculty incorporated various online teaching means and offline time for self studying. Faculties and Professors can engage students in conversation to motivate their perspectives and can provide necessary feedbacks on their assignments. By means of this mode of teaching student will not learn surface, ambiguous and fragmented knowledge rather than the students will experience thorough learning through this kind of diverse discussions.

Not enough pre-class study preparation, limited participation in class discussions, and inadequate discussion are common phenomenon in conventional in-class teaching, similarly, those issue should not be ignored in online teaching. The formats, difficulty, lengths and quality of teaching material should match and meet the student's online- learning behavioral aspects, characteristics and academic readiness. Timely proper feedback should be carried out by the educators for their students to inspire them.

Conclusion:

Various countries in the globe have found several solutions in this COVID pandemic to continue the education system. Online libraries, TV broadcast, online resources, necessary guidelines, various online channels, video lectures, are greatly launched at around 95 countries. The quality and reliability of E-learning yet requires much improvement. Due to this sudden outburst of COVID-19 there was lack of sufficient time to ensure the quality of the E-learning and online teaching-learning process due to the fact that the focus was to save and continue the education process smoothly at any cost and in all possible format during this critical global crisis.

Though few challenges are there related to E-learning, it has really emerged but still it is beneficial to learners and educators throughout the globe. The global crisis has especially manifested the enormous importance of e-learning in today's world. Without the media of e-learning platforms, education would have come to a sudden stop down of the progress since the outburst of the virus.

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