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AN OVERVIEW: IMPLEMENTATION OF ONLINE LEARNING IN INDIA DUE TO COVID 19

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Abstract: *The Covid-19 pandemic is forcing worldwide educational institutions to travel online, and therefore the current debate about the worth of online education is analogous, never before in human history, have we witnessed educational disruption at this scale; even people think an e-book must be cheaper than a text book or library reference book, some people feel that online class must be cheaper as compared to offline classes. Others feel that online education is insufficient due to lesser human interactions. However, for each such comment, its opposite and more can also be possible.*

When the dust settles, we'd like to preserve what's good about the web format, Microsoft Teams, Chatbox, Zoom, Google Meet, Skype and Blackboard are the new tools of teaching.

Recognising that the normal mode of classroom instruction and closed-book exams was designed more for efficiency and crowd-control than for pedagogical effectiveness.

Keywords: *Covid, Education, Online, Gadgets, Pedagogical*

I.INTRODUCTION

The worldwide COVID-19 lockdown has forced Kindergarten to higher class, schools and universities to shut and send their students home which, has impacted over 91% of the world's student population. The closure has placed unprecedented challenges on governments, institutions, teachers, parents and care givers round the world. Many countries are continuing to handle this disruption by deploying different modes of learning through a mixture of technologies. In most countries, teachers and faculty administrators are encouraged to continue the communication with learners by delivering virtual live lessons or Massive Open Online Course (MOOC)-styled ones.

Online education, a result of the digital world has brought tons to the training table in the least levels of education, beginning from preschool up to higher level institutions. The move to remote learning has been enabled by several online tech stack like Google Classroom, Blackboard, Zoom and Microsoft Teams, which play a crucial role during this transformation. With the event of ICT in education, online video-based micro-courses, e-books, simulations, models, graphics, animations, quizzes, games, and e-notes are making learning more accessible, engaging, and contextualized.

Schools have always considered educational apps or digital learning as a supplementary tool and should have had difficulty in mainstreaming it and understanding its efficacy. However, the present situation has given us a fillip to accelerate the adoption of technology and experiment with online learning and measure its success.

As the digital learning acceleration continues, it also throws light on the digital divide in India. Students from remote districts and economically unstable lack the infrastructure and therefore the means to reap the advantages of online learning. Greater penetration of telecom network and rolling out 5G services will provide a huge impetus to the present sector.

India goes to witness a 50% increase in students over subsequent 15 years and although it's many universities and colleges, only few have the facilities to match this surge of scholars within the future. Online education

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might be a logical solution to deal with this problem. Our government, for the primary time, is allowing Indian universities to feature online degrees which previously was limited to foreign universities. Now, to encourage and widen the spectrum to education , this restriction has been lifted from 20% to 100% courses online.

The sudden, forced immersion of learners into virtual learning during this era of Covid-19 has proved that the education industry is disrupted. Education might go digital within the foreseeable future and with the proper infrastructure and policies, we might be better prepared to handle it.

II. Benefits and Problems of online teaching-learning

Every coin has two sides, if online teaching has its own advantages it will come with some sort of hurdles, to overcome and tackle this we have to think out of the box.

2.1 Benefits

- Ease of schedule :24x7 access from any online computer, assists with busy schedules, no commuting
- Enhanced learning: Research shows increased depth of understanding and retention in fact content, more impactful discussions, focus on writing, technical and lifelong skills like time management, no dependency and self-discipline.
- Common platform: Students can take longer time to think and reflect before communicating, anonymity of the web environment.
- Discussion impact: Increment in student : teacher, student : student ratio will provide more interaction and discussion, a more student centred learning environment in which passive listeners will be less and active learners will be more, a greater sense of connectedness, will be build.
- Innovative teaching: Student centralized approaches, maximum diversification, innovations in learning activities, communicating in varied teaching styles, changes and enhancements can translate to, ground courses also.
- Improved administration: Time to look at student work more thoroughly, ability to document, record online interactions , to manage grading online
- Savings: Reaching and Assisting more students, maximum student satisfaction = increase retaining and lesser repeats
- Maximize physical resources: Less utilization of campus infrastructure, decrement in congestion on campus and in parking lots
- Outreach: Give students alternatives, outstretch new student markets, appeal to current students thus increasing admissions.
- Overall development: Behavioural, mental, social, emotional, physical development reaching ultimate goal of education to be fulfilled.
- If preacher doesn't reach educator, educator can reach preacher
- Online education gives opportunity to those that have obligations of accessing educational institutions (caregivers, part-time earners etc)
- "Expenditure by government on infrastructure   will get reduced, when online education will be expanded,"
- Fast preparation, Execution and Results
- Saves Paper
- Very economical
- Easier for hesitant students to speak using text, as they can see professors in close-up and private instead of at a distance of 10-15 metres and over the backs of multiple heads, and today`s generation likes communicating through screens.
- De-centralized controlled education system.

Problems faced in online teaching

- Having and getting 4G are two different things
- Without access to laptops or tablets, it becomes difficult to urge e-resources and e-libraries. Smartphones cannot always help during this context. Further, students also need iCloud, hard drives, flash drives and other storage devices which they could not get in remote areas.
- Students from economically vulnerable sections are at an obstacle
- Connecting students with Skype, Google Classroom, Zoom etc is not going to serve everyone as it might cost from their pocket money on data plans, and heavy files take time to download in poor connectivity,"

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- It's not just connectivity that's a problem but many of them need assistance and won't be ready to use technology on their own as most of teachers and students are from socially and economically underprivileged backgrounds and aren't conscious of such tools,"
- The teachers will have to make sure that the lecture plan, related notes and contents are communicated before the web class, to ensure an interactive session with student both through online discussion and thru email,"
- Humanities and social sciences can't be done effectively through online methods alone. Students will struggle without public libraries, field work, laboratories.
- The interaction between teacher-student is spontaneous and a discussion can develop naturally, based on current political and social events, "In online education, once we share audio files, it becomes a one-way process which may be read out of context,"
- Campus are wandering space where youngsters learn to reside in a world of ideas and communication.
- The foremost issue is " acquiring knowledge digitally is real knowledge or shifting of public money from maintenance of infrastructure and hiring of teachers to buy digital world and its sustenance".
- It will put a further expenditure burden of internet on students. We don't know the role of government in this extra burden (subsidised /free device with internet to all or any students) or how the web service providers will behave during this scenario.
- Learning is not just the acquisition of skills and competencies, but it happens best, by face-to-face interaction with peers and supervisors in a real university environment. "The distance education offers additional mode of lifelong learning, but it is not a reliable technique to upscale tertiary education`s quality as various e-learning platforms offer varied courses for same subjects with different levels of certifications, methodology and assessment parameters, hence quality differs across different e-learning platforms.

III. RECOMMENDATIONS

In today's world, emotional quotient is equally important as intelligence quotient. It has a deeper impact on society.

For improving gross enrolment ratio (GER) with rates of success in learning, online modes are blended with other forms of media and methods – like self-instructional printed material, radio, TV as well as direct face-to-face interactions should be implied. "There also are other dimensions of openness, as an example split-site (everything not on campus), split-mode (partly face-to-face, and online), self-paced (self-scheduled by the learner), alternative pathways, flipped classroom (information gathering outside and reflection inside the classroom), etc." that are a part of ensuring not merely higher levels of GER, "but also greater rates of completion and success",

There are short-term standalone courses, such as (Global Initiative of educational Networks) GIAN and MOOCs, which permit for online participation which are often an honest way to establish quality assurance mechanisms and quality benchmark by encouraging independent learning and accumulation of credits then be plugged into the architecture of a bigger degree programme, which in zestful and unsettled world of jobs, that requires up-gradation, re-training and reviving as basic for some individuals after every few years to progress upwards or to stay updated".

Content of lectures should be concluded in small files in order that they will be easily sent on email or WhatsApp since many of the scholars are unable to hitch Telegram on which heavy files are often easily sent.

Conductance of Online Exams

- Random Question Set for every individual
- Similar unit distribution for all
- Smart proctoring panel
- Domain intelligence and awareness
- Practical approach for mass execution
- Stability and scalability
- Students appear exam from mobile, laptop, computers, etc.
- EHF support is mandatory
- Poor internets uninterrupted exams
- Collaborative efforts of professors
- Question bank shall support: figures, formulas, special characters, audio and video

IV. CONCLUSION

In an age of design thinking and varied problems education isn't a system of achieving a certificate of knowledge

acquired, but it should be a journey of self-discovery with an appreciation of the way to keep evolving.

Modern societies are built on opinion, which differs from person to person in various social, political, etc. issues, but the key questions are: do we know how to walk hand in hand with those who differ with us, to respect others feelings, decisions and when, where and how to update our views based on emerging reality?

Imparting Education be it in the form of poetic literature, the underlying beauty of nature, furious wildlife, reactions in science or the case discussion in a MBA course all teaches us to open, revalue, and change our mindset. It is the pre-requisite for social progress.

As a society, we must push our universities to show our youngsters the way to change their minds. Finally, the education we get is the education we pay for.

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