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RELEVANCE OF ONLINE TEACHING-LEARNING SYSTEM DURING PANDEMIC

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Abstract

During the COVID-19 epidemic, schools responded to national calls to implement the “School’s Out, But Class’s On” policy, i.e. suspending classes without stopping learning. The world is facing an alarming situation due to novel Corona virus. This pandemic had forced millions to stay at home. This virus transmission may impact 290 million students worldwide according to UNESCO. To overcome this critical situation educators have come up with the solution of e-learning for the safety and comfort of the students. All educational institutions, schools, colleges and universities are trying their best to build a platform for the students to get online learning. E-learning technology can help in providing quality education. Use of online technology in education will help to reorient education in India. The government administration is trying to provide all types of facilities to the students. Many new courses have been designed by government agencies like SWAYAM which are available at free of cost. The impact of pandemic COVID-19 is observed in every sector around the world. The education sectors of India as well as world are badly affected by this. It has enforced the world wide lock down creating very bad effect on the student’s life. Around 32 crore learners stopped to move schools, colleges, universities and all educational activities halted in India. The outbreak of COVID to us that change is inevitable. It has worked as a catalyst for the educational institutions to grow and opt for platforms with technologies, which have not been used before. The education sector has been fighting to survive the crises with a different approach and digitising the challenges to wash away the threat of the pandemic. **The purpose of this study is to focus on the relevance of online teaching-learning system during pandemic.**

Keywords: Online teaching-learning system, E-learning, Pandemic, New Normal, Education

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INTRODUCTION

Delivery of classes through online medium has been a recent modification brought out by the education system in India in the wake of the current pandemic situation. Corona virus has engulfed almost whole world. WHO (World Health Organization) has declared it as pandemic. India is a country which is also suffering from this virus. Nearly in the month of March the patients suffering from corona virus started finding in India. As a precautionary measure the schools and colleges were instructed to shut down temporarily. The cases of Covid-19 patients have surged. So closure for educational institutions were extended for some more period and then lockdown was declared. This has definitely affected education sector as there is no certainty of opening the schools and colleges. The pandemic Covid-19 has spread over whole world and compelled the human society to maintain social distancing. It has significantly disrupted the education sector which is a critical determinant of a country's economic future. On February 11, 2020, the World Health Organisation (WHO) proposed an official name of the virus as COVID-19 an acronym for Corona virus disease 2019. It was first identified in Wuhan, China on December 31, 2019. First death by COVID 19 was the 61-year old man in Wuhan, China on January 11, 2020. WHO declared COVID-19 as a pandemic on March 11, 2020. The first case of the COVID-19 pandemic reported on 30 January 2020 in the state of Kerala and the affected had a travel history from Wuhan, China (Wikipedia). The first death due to COVID-19 was reported in India on March 12, 2020. It has affected more than 4.5 million peoples worldwide (WHO). According to the UNESCO report, it had affected more than 90%

of total world's student population during mid April 2020 which is now reduced to nearly 67% during. Outbreak of COVID-19 has impacted more than 120 crores of students and youths across the planet. In India, more than 32 crores of students have been affected by the various restrictions and the nationwide lockdown for COVID-19. As per the UNESCO report, about 14 crores of primary and 13 crores of secondary students are affected which are two mostly affected levels in India.

After observing the corona virus pandemic situation the WHO advised to maintain social distancing as the first prevention step. So, every country started the action of lockdown to separate the contaminated people. The education sectors including schools, colleges and universities became closed. Classes suspended and all examinations of schools, colleges and universities including entrance tests were postponed indefinitely. Thus, the lockdown destroyed the schedules of every student. Though it is an exceptional situation in the history of education, COVID-19 has created many opportunities to come out of the rigorous classroom teaching model to a new era of digital model. The lockdown has compelled many educational institutions to cancel their classes, examinations, internships etc. and to choose the online modes. Initially, the educators and the students were quite confused and didn't understand how to cope up with the situation of this sudden crisis that compelled closure of the educational activities. But latter on all realized that the lockdown has taught so many lessons to manage with the emergence of such pandemics. Thus, COVID-19 has created many challenges and opportunities for the educational institutes to strengthen their technological knowledge and

infrastructure. The lockdown has given them a ray of hope for teachers and students to continue their educational activities through online. The teachers assigned work to students via internet, delivered lectures through live video conferencing using different Apps like Zoom, Google meet, Facebook, Youtube, and Skype etc. There are WhatsApp groups of guardians, teachers, students and parents for affective communication through which they are always in touch to share their difficulties through this e-medium.

BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

The world is facing an alarming situation due to novel Corona virus. This pandemic had forced millions to stay at home. This virus transmission may impact 290 million students worldwide according to UNESCO. To overcome this critical situation educators have come up with the solution of e-learning for the safety and comfort of the students. All educational institutions, schools, colleges and universities are trying their best to build a platform for the students to get online education. E-learning technology can help in providing quality education. Use of online technology in education will help to reorient education in India. The government administration is trying to provide all types of facilities to the students. Many new courses have been designed by government agencies like SWAYAM which are available at free of cost.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Corona virus has engulfed almost whole world. It has created mayhem. WHO (World Health Organization) has declared it as pandemic. India is also suffering from the virus. Nearly in the month of March the patients suffering

from corona virus started finding in India. As a precautionary measure the schools and colleges were instructed to shut down temporarily. As the time passed the situation has worsened. The cases of Covid 19 patients have surged. So closure for educational institutions were extended for some more period and then lockdown was declared. This has definitely affected education sector as there is no certainty of opening the schools and colleges. The pandemic Covid-19 has spread over whole world and compelled the human society to maintain social distancing. It has significantly disrupted the education sector which is a critical determinant of a country's economic future. On February 11, 2020, the World Health Organisation (WHO) proposed an official name of the virus as COVID-19 an acronym for Corona virus disease 2019. It was first identified in Wuhan, China on December 31, 2019. First death by COVID 19 was the 61-year old man in Wuhan, China on January 11, 2020. WHO declared COVID-19 as a pandemic on March 11, 2020. The first case of the COVID-19 pandemic reported on 30 January 2020 in the state of Kerala and the affected had a travel history from Wuhan, China (Wikipedia).

The first death due to COVID-19 was reported in India on March 12, 2020. It has affected more than 4.5 million peoples worldwide (WHO). According to the UNESCO report, it had affected more than 90% of total world's student population during mid April 2020 which is now reduced to nearly 67% during June 2020. Outbreak of COVID-19 has impacted more than 120 crores of students and youths across the planet. In India, more than 32 crores of students have been affected by the various restrictions and the nationwide

lockdown for COVID-19. As per the UNESCO report, about 14 crores of primary and 13 crores of secondary students are affected which are two mostly affected levels in India. After observing the corona virus pandemic situation the WHO advised to maintain social distancing as the first prevention step. So, every country started the action of lockdown to separate the contaminated people. The education sectors including schools, colleges and universities became closed. Classes suspended and all examinations of schools, colleges and universities including entrance tests were postponed indefinitely. Thus, the lockdown destroyed the schedules of every student. Though it is an exceptional situation in the history of education, COVID-19 has created many opportunities to come out of the rigorous classroom teaching model to a new era of digital model.

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

- Jena, Pravat.(2020) has studied on Impact of Pandemic Covid-19 on Education in India . He has found both positive and negative impacts of Covid-19 on Education.
- Karalis,Thanasis. & Raikou, Natassa.(2020) have studied on Teaching at the Times of Covid-19: Inferences and Implication for Higher Education Pedagogy. They have shown the instant effects of the crisis conditions on the university education during Covid-19 situation.
- Srivastava, Janhvi & Singh Akanksha(2020) have also studied on Paradigm Shifting From Classroom Education to Online Classes during Covid-19 Pandemic. They have shown the consideration and challenges students and teachers are facing during Covid-19 pandemic.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the study are to:

- focus on the impact of Covid-19 pandemic on the online learning system.
- draw attention regarding the challenges students and teachers are facing during Covid-19 pandemic.

RELEVANCE OF ONLINE TEACHING-LEARNING SYSTEM

Concept of Online Teaching-Learning System

One of the most oft-used terms after the pandemic is the term “new normal.” The new normal in education is the increased use of online learning tools. The COVID-19 pandemic has triggered new ways of learning. All around the world, educational institutions are looking toward online learning platforms to continue with the process of educating students. The new normal now is a transformed concept of education with online learning at the core of this transformation. Today, digital learning has emerged as a necessary resource for students and schools all over the world. For many educational institutes, this is an entirely new way of education that they have had to adopt. Online learning is now applicable not just to learn academics but it also extends to learning extra- curricular activities for students as well. In recent months, the demand for online learning has risen significantly, and it will continue doing so in the future. As with most teaching methods, online learning also has its own set of positives and negatives. Decoding and understanding these positives and negatives will help institutes in creating strategies for more efficiently delivering the lessons, ensuring an uninterrupted learning journey for students.

Education and pandemic

Education is the first step of knowledge. Looking at the present scenario we can suppose that the pandemic has hampered the basics of learning by traditional methods. There arise many questions due to disruption in the normal functioning of the education. What could be the solution for upcoming education obstacles is the basic query.

Traditional to contemporary learning

An immediate measure taken to continue learning in schools and colleges is e-learning. This new method is interesting, enjoyable and personalized. The institutions are setting new platform of open source digital learning and learning management software (LMS). Due to speedy spread of internet it is possible to access these tools in remote parts of India. The main advantage of e-learning in this pandemic is that the students don't have to attend schools physically. Staying at home they can attend the classes. Several educational institutions are using platform like zoom, Google meet etc. to continue the flow of teaching and learning.

Positive Impact on Online Teaching- Learning System

The pandemic situation has created many negative impacts on education, educational institutions of India have accepted the challenges and trying their best to provide seamless support services to the students but Indian education system got the opportunity for transformation from traditional system to a new era.

The positive impacts of Covid-19 on Online Teaching- Learning system are follows:

- ***Collaborative Work***

There is a new opportunity where collaborative teaching and learning can take on new forms. Collaborations can also happen among faculty/teachers across the world to benefit from each other.

- ***Mobile and Blended Learning***

COVID-19 has accelerated adoption of digital technologies to deliver education. Educational institutions moved towards Mobile and blended mode of learning. It encouraged all teachers and students to become more techno-savvy. New ways of delivery and assessments of learning opened immense opportunities for a major transformation in the area of curriculum development and pedagogy. It also gives access to large pools of learners at a time.

- ***Use of Learning Management Systems***

Use of learning management systems by educational institutions became a great demand. It opened a great opportunity for the companies those have been developing and strengthening learning management systems for use educational institutions.

- ***Use of Soft Copy of Learning Material***

In lockdown situation students were not able to collect the hard copies of study materials and hence most of the students used of soft copies materials for reference.

- ***Online Meetings***

The pandemic has created a massive rise in teleconferencing, virtual

meetings, webinars and e-conferencing opportunities

- **Digital Literacy**

The pandemic situation induced people to learn and use digital technology and resulted in increasing the digital literacy.

- **Demand for Open and Distance Learning (ODL)**

During the pandemic situation most of the students preferred ODL mode as it encourages self-learning providing opportunities to learn from diverse resources and customized learning as per their needs.

- **World Wide Exposure**

Educators and learners are getting opportunities to interact with peers from around the world. Learners adapted to an international community.

- **Time Management**

Students are able to manage their time more efficiently in online education during pandemics.

- **Use of Electronic Media**

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.

Negative Impact on Online Teaching-Learning System

In India, Education sector has suffered a lot due to the outbreak of COVID-19. It has created many negative impacts on education.

The Negative impacts of Covid-19 on Online Teaching- Learning system are follows:

- **Unprepared Teachers and Students**

Not all teachers or students are good at it or at least not all of them were ready for this sudden transition from face to face learning to online learning. Most of the teachers are just conducting lectures on video platforms such as Zoom, Google meet etc. which may not be real online learning without any dedicated online learning platform.

- **Hampered Educational Activity**

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 3 months of the full academic year of 2020-21 which is going to further deteriorate the situation of continuity in education and the as students would face much difficulty in resuming schooling again after a huge gap.

- **Impact on Employment**

Most of the recruitment got postponed due to COVID-19. Placements for students may also be affected with companies delaying the on board of students. Unemployment rate is expected to be increased due to this pandemic. In India, there is no recruitment in Govt. sector and fresh graduates fear withdrawal of their job offers from private sectors because of the current situation.

- **Reduced Global Employment Opportunity**

Some may lose their jobs from other countries and the pass out students may not get their job outside India due to restrictions caused by COVID-19. Many Indians might have returned home after losing their jobs overseas due to COVID-19. Hence, the fresh students who are likely to enter the job market shortly may face difficulty in getting suitable employment. Many students who have already got jobs through campus interviews may not be able to join their jobs due to lockdown. The Indians who have been doing their jobs abroad may lose their jobs. Recent graduates in India are of also fearing for withdrawal of job offers from corporate sectors because of movement restriction in the current pandemic situation

- **Increased Responsibility of Parents**

Some educated parents are able to guide but some may not have the adequate level of education needed to teach children in the house.

- **Loss of Nutrition**

Mid day meals is a school meal programme of the Government of India which is designed to provide better the nutritional food to school-age children nationwide. The closure of schools has serious implications on the daily nutrition of students as the mid-day meal schemes have temporarily been shut. Various studies have pointed out that mid-day meals are also an important contributing factor for increased enrolment in the schools

- **Access to Global Education**

The pandemic has significantly disrupted the higher education sector. A large number of Indian students who are enrolled in many Universities abroad, especially in worst affected countries are now leaving those countries and if the situation persists, in the long run, a there will be a significant decline in the demand for international higher education.

- **Payment of Schools, Colleges Fee got Delayed**

During this lockdown most of the parents will be facing the unemployment situation so they may not be able to pay the fee for that particular time periods which may affect the private institutes.

- **Access to Digital World**

As many students have limited or no internet access and many students may not be able to afford computer, laptop or supporting mobile phones in their homes, online teaching-learning may create a digital divide among students. The lockdown has hit the poor students very hard in India as most of them are unable to explore online learning according to various reports. Thus the online teaching-learning method during pandemic COVID-19 may enhance the gap between rich/poor and urban/rural.

SOME SUGGESTIVE MEASURES

- Teachers should prepare students for online teaching and should discuss benefits with them.

- Teachers have to tell students about technological support, proper equipment and software required for class to help students to participate in online class without interruption and hindrances.
- Teachers should provide proper timetable for courses, assignments so that students can set reminders for their courses and assignments and plan accordingly.
- Teachers should design course content in attractive way.
- Teachers should use Software's like video chat platforms and VR applications to improve communication.

CONCLUSION

As corona virus epidemic prevails education sector has come up with online learning as substitute to traditional method of learning. This method can't be replaced permanently because traditional method involves one to one interaction with the students. Like every coin has two sides there are some limitations for online learning. But as we have to get out of this situation e-learning will pave the way in dealing with the crisis. The decisions taken about exams, results may affect some student's careers. Even it will impact

internships, admissions for higher studies, job opportunities etc. The students aspiring to start new career have to remember that other than academics they have to incorporate with new skills which will extend more opportunities. It is hard to adapt e-learning technology easily. But to encash benefits of e-learning the students and teachers have to come up with positive approach. Our government is planning different strategies to mitigate the effects of pandemic on education sector. As learning and knowledge goes hands in hand, every individual may be teacher or student has to attribute with online learning. It's the only way to be at home and to be safe to win over the crucial situation.

Indian government has initiated the scheme DIKSHA which has more than 80,000 e-books for the classes from 1st to 12th. These books are created by NCERT, CBSE, states and union territories. Another platform created is e-pathshala which has audios, videos along with e-books in different languages. PM e-Vidya programme will be launched for online classes for standard 1st to 12th. Government is planning to broadcast classes on Television Channels.

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