

# Traditional to Virtual Learning: Problems Faced by College Students during Covid-19

Dhananjay Debnath<sup>1</sup>, Dr. Binod Chetia<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Assistant Professor (C), Department of Education, North Lakhimpur College (Autonomous), Assam

<sup>2</sup>Assistant Professor, Department of Education, North Lakhimpur College (Autonomous), Assam

## ABSTRACT

Covid-19 a curse to the whole world makes everyone's life turmoil and affects all areas of life like - social, economical, educational, hospitality etc. Because of Covid-19 educational sector resulted in significant decline, as the situation became worst the global lockdown imposes all over the world and closing of all educational institutions resulted in a stressful event for academic activities with limited options. As cope up with the situation online learning/virtual learning has quickly adopted instead of traditional learning to fulfill the needs and demands of students as education is the main ornament of life to modification of individual behavior in a socially desirable way. In the global pandemic, new techniques are adopting to meet the continuity in teaching learning process. During this time, the authority and concerned teachers adopted online mode of teaching and allowing students to work from home to avoid miss happening due to covid-19. During the pandemic, there is an urgent need to maintain and secure the students, teachers, academic staffs, communities and the country as a whole. The situation challenged the global education system and forcing educators to use or adopt online mode of teaching learning process. The purpose of the study is to provide the observations, experiences, suggestions regarding virtual teaching-learning process in Indian perspective. This paper describes the importance of virtual learning as well as availability of technological resources to cope up with present educational system.

The investigators will try to focus the transforming learning procedure from traditional mode to virtual mode and the barriers and challenges faced by students as the result of the covid-19.

**Keywords:** Virtual Learning, Problems, College Students, Covid-19

## 1.0 Introduction:

The COVID-19 pandemic has been spreading all over the world and becomes a global issue in various fields. Covid-19 a curse to the whole world which makes everyone's life turmoil and affects all areas of life like - social, economical, educational, hospitality etc. In India, prior to pandemic, educational institutions has been using traditional teaching-learning methods and follow setup of face to face teaching and leaning in the classrooms. Sudden arises of Corona Virus stuck all activities of individual life. All schools, colleges, universities, coaching centers have been closed and all concerned are engaging to find out any alternative methods of teaching and learning. In context of such global pandemic, new techniques are adopting to meet the continuity of teaching-learning process. Although, many academic institutions has started blended mode

of teaching-learning during this Covid-19 pandemic. Both Central government and state government issued guidelines for all educational institutions across the country as a precautionary measure to protect from Covid-19. University Grants Commission also issued separate guidelines for all higher educational institutions as a preventative measure to avoid any miss happening due to Covid-19. These guidelines recommended number of preventative measures for all students, teachers, administrators, staffs, parents etc. Here, mentioned that it is not possible to continue normal teaching-learning process in schools, colleges and universities. During this time, the authority and concerned teachers have adopted online mode of teaching and allowing other people to work from home to avoid miss happening due to Covid-19 pandemic. Because of the global pandemic new techniques have

been adopted to meet the continuity of teaching-learning process but lots of new problems faced by concerned teachers as well as students during virtual learning such as - poor internet connectivity, costly internet data packs, lack of proper home environment, lack of android mobile/laptop/computer etc. as India is a developing country, maximum guardians' occupation are agriculture and live in rural areas. So, every guardian has not the capability to afford modern ICT facilities for their child.

As all educational institutions are struggling to sort out solutions to overcome such kind of challenging scenario. In some extend, educational sector resulted in significant decline, as the situation became worst day by day. The global lockdown imposes all over the world and closing of all educational institutions resulted in a stressful event for academic activities with limited options. During the pandemic, it is very important to keep students, teachers, academic staffs, communities and the country as a whole safe and secure. This crisis challenges the global educational process and forcing educators to use or adopt virtual teaching-learning procedure. For cope up with the situation online learning/virtual learning has quickly adopted replacing the traditional teaching-learning to fulfill the needs and demands of students as education is the main ornament of life for modification of individual behavior in a socially desirable ways. Generally, it is said that online learning is simple to use, relatively cheaper mode of learning and students can learn any time any where according to their needs and interest. Through e-learning students can develop new skills at different stages of their life and even easily accessible for rural and remote areas. But there are various issues related to online learning like - accessibility, affordability, flexibility of learning pedagogy etc. During the pandemic like situation Indian government is likewise aware of increasing importance of online/virtual learning and adopted online teaching-learning as a method of teaching-learning process. So, the study aims to share the experiences of selected students of Department of Education, North Lakhimpur College (Autonomous) of Lakhimpur district, Assam those were experienced and observed due to the adaptation of new teaching-learning processes. This study also refers some suggestions for future that might be practiced in

educational institutions to improve quality education through virtual mode of teaching-learning.

## 2.0 Significance of the study:

Every study has its own significance. Now we are living in this techno-friendly world where all are depending on it. After arises of corona virus in the world whole education system as well as traditional mode of teaching-learning shifted to Virtual mode. To operate and smooth running of this new mode of teaching-learning all are needed training but sudden arrival of Corona virus and lockdown did not provide the chances to adopt such new method. So, whole education system has been facing lots of challenges right now also. In this perplex the study on **“Traditional to Virtual Learning: Problems Faced by College Students during Covid-19”** will definitely help educators, teachers, students, stakeholders to find out solutions towards the current problem to make a better education system through virtual mode which will helpful to make the teaching-learning more effective and hassle-free.

## 3.0 Review of related literature:

**3.1 Gulozuduru (2021)** conducted a study to see the problems of pre-service teachers of academic batch of 2019-2020 during Covid-19 pandemic, his study concludes that pre-service teachers faced problems various problems like; lack of time for live course for implementation, failure of establishing communication with friends, students absence in internet or online class, sound problem during session as well as various communication problems.

**3.2 Jena, P.K. (2020)** in his study and emphasized on how online learning is beneficial in Pandemic time, merits and demerits of online learning. In his study he focuses on government measures taken by government and views of learners and educators about online learning. This study stated that online learning is the best method for learning during corona pandemic and government of India also take various measures to cope up with the situation and suggest government institution to adopt policy for free

internet and free internet gadgets to encourage them for virtual learning.

**3.3 Singh, G & Quaraishi (2021)** carried out a study to look out the challenges faced in learning during lockdown on students of Haryana and Punjab out of total 844 students. This study revealed that most of the students are facing challenges or difficulties in learning. Mental stresses also develop among them because of uncertainty in studies and completion of syllabus among them. As classes are online lesser physical activities happen among them which affect mental activities of students.

**3.4 Filho, et al. (2021)** conducted a study on academic staff and students of universities to see the impact of Covid-19 on social isolation. This study revealed that 90% of respondent are affected by the global lockdown as they are unable to do their normal activities in their educational institution. 70% of respondent revealed Covid impact negative effect on them and 60% revealed that they have got additional time to spend with their families.

**3.5 Muthuprasad, et al.** conducted a study on topic "Student's perception and preference for online education in India during Covid-19 pandemic". Their study revealed that majority of the students have positive attitude and preferred online class to cope up with the curriculum due to lockdown and some students suggest to suspending the classes and providing reading material till the lockdown.

#### **4.0 Aims and Objectives:-**

- i. To study about the challenges faced by college students during Covid-19.
- ii. To study about the effectiveness of virtual learning process.

#### **5.0 Hypotheses:-**

The investigators formulated the following hypotheses for the current study-

H<sub>1</sub> Students face lots of problems in virtual learning during Covid-19.

H<sub>2</sub> Virtual learning impacts on student's learning habits.

#### **6.0 Definitions of terms used:-**

- i. Traditional: - Here in this paper investigator means by the term Traditional is normal learning process.
- ii. Virtual learning: - Learning through online mode and use of various sources of ICTs.
- iii. Students: - BA 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> Semester students, Department of Education, North Lakhimpur College (Autonomous).
- iv. COVID-19:- Corona Virus Disease found in the year 2019 originally in China.

#### **7.0 Delimitations of the study:-**

The study is delimited to-

- i) TDC students of North Lakhimpur College (Autonomous), session 2021-22.
- ii) Department of Education, North Lakhimpur College (Autonomous), Assam.

#### **8.0 Methodology:-**

##### **8.1 Method:-**

On the basis of nature of the study the investigators used Descriptive Survey Method.

##### **8.2 Sample:-**

There are 180 numbers of total students in the Department of Education, North Lakhimpur College (Autonomous) containing 60 students in each Semester. Due to the shortage of time it is not possible to cover entire population for collection of the data. So, the investigators selected 63 students i.e. 35 % of total population by using Random Sampling Technique.

##### **8.3 Tools:-**

The investigators used following tools for data gathering and used both Primary and Secondary sources of data collection -

- i. Questionnaire
- ii. Observation

## 9.0 Analysis of Data and Findings:-

After collection of data the investigators analyzed the collected data through simple percentage method. Major findings of the study are mentioned as bellow-

9.1 98% of students have their own personal smart phones and only 02% students used others mobile for virtual learning.

9.2 From the study it has found that 94% students used smart phones and only 06% students used laptops for virtual learning.

9.3 The sources of purchasing of Mobile phone and Internet pack recharge, it has found from the study that only 05% students expended their scholarship and others i.e. 95% students purchased their phone/internet pack from their guardians' earning.

9.4 It has found that 14% students recharged their mobile in Rs.100-150, 50% students recharged in Rs.150-200 and 36% students recharged their mobiles in Rs. 200 and above at a time.

9.5 59% students of department of education, North Lakhimpur College(Autonomous) faced little financial constrains for purchasing mobile and recharging internet pack while 14% faced very much financial constrains and 27% students has not faced any financial constrain in this regard.

9.6 From the study, it has found that 10% students felt dissatisfaction about power/electricity supply system while 79% students felt satisfaction and only 11% students expressed very satisfactory regarding power supply system.

9.7 In case of online classes 40% students faced network connectivity problem, 06% students faced audio problem, 19% students faced video disturbance and 35% students experienced both audio and video problems during the online classes.

9.8 Regarding effectiveness of the online learning only 02% students felt high effective, 56% students felt very effective and 42% students felt less effective in their learning process.

9.9 Regarding clarity of the contents through online learning 76% students expressed

satisfaction, 04% students expressed very satisfaction and 20% students of department of Education, North Lakhimpur College (Autonomous) expressed dissatisfaction on virtual learning.

9.10 63 % students support the virtual learning as the actual substitute of traditional system of learning on the other hand 37% students has not supported the online learning system during the pandemic situation.

9.11 From the study, it has found that 35% students felt some psychological problems and 65% students have not faced any psychological stress due to virtual learning mode during Covid-19 pandemic.

9.12 63% students opined that virtual learning affect on their study habit; on the other hand 37% students felt that there were no impacts of virtual learning on their academic activities during Covid-19.

9.13 From the study it was found that only 22% students expressed overall satisfaction on virtual learning and 78% students of Department of Education, North Lakhimpur College felt dissatisfaction towards virtual learning.

## 10.0 Discussion and Recommendations:

From the study the investigators like to recommend the followings-

10.1 For quality virtual learning mobile Network service facilities should be more effective. In this case, respective service providers and Government authority should take necessary initiative for providing better network facilities, so that students can access the network easily for virtual learning.

10.2 For removal of financial constrains of TDC students government should provide financial assistance for purchasing smart phones, laptops, tablets etc. and sufficient amount for internet pack recharging.

10.3 Mobile Towers should be erected in the areas where the network facilities are found very poor.

10.4 Frequent counseling programmes should be organized to reduce the psychological

problems faced by the students during Covid-19.

10.5 Sufficient learning materials should be posted availably through students e-mail IDs, WhatsApp groups, Google Classroom etc.

10.6 Teachers should keep maintain cordial relationship among the students and guardians so that they can share any kind of problems faced during the pandemic situation.

### 11.0 Conclusion:

Online or virtual learning is the need of the hour as present situation is very crucial for every body. Education sector is one of the most affected areas of Covid-19 pandemic as nobody think earlier that one day this type of situation will face. But changes are the rule of nature and as human being we have to find out solutions for every problems and must be able to adjust with any emerging situations. Stakeholder's, academicians, teachers, policy makers, administrators have pivotal role in such situation to walk with together to chalk out effective ways of solutions. Educational sector from Pre-primary to Higher levels needs a huge modification as all students and teachers have to trained up to operate modern technology based teaching-learning equipments. Economic conditions of the students are also a barrier in shifting traditional learning to virtual mode. So, government should take some necessary initiatives to solve these type of emerging problems. Then, India will be a true fighter not only in the field of Corona Virus but also in the advancement of science and technology along with removal of various burning problems like other developed countries of the World.

### References:

- [1] Jena, P.K. (2020). Online learning during lockdown period for covid-19 in India. *International journal of multidisciplinary educational research*, 9, 5(8). 82-92. [www.ijmer.in](http://www.ijmer.in)
- [2] Khan, G.M. & Yezdani, U. (2020). Efforts and challenges paved by India to confront of Corona Virus (COVID-19). *Bangladesh Journal of Medical Science*, 19, 1-6.

<https://www.researchgate.net/publication/343079655>

- [3] Koul, L. (2019). *Methodology of educational research*. Vikas publishing house pvt. Limited.
- [4] Ozudogru, G. (2021). Problems faced in distance education during covid-19 pandemic. *Participatory educational research (PER)*, 8(4), 321-333. <http://www.perjo>
- [5] Shingh, G. & Quareshi, S. (2021). Covid-19 lockdown: challenges faced by Indian students. *Psychol Study*, 66, 3. 303-307. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12646-021-00608-9>