

Online Education in India: A Critical Review during Covid-19 Pandemic

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ABSTRACT

According to UNESCO monitoring, world's 192 countries announced nationwide lockdown and its impact 99.9 % of world's student population. At the same time in India a nationwide lockdown, announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the month of March and it's suddenly stuck up India's school & college education system. Stuck up of education system not only impact teachers, students, and their families, but have far reaching to economic and social consequences. But the existence of Internet and communication technology appreciates online education system and appears as a new source of education to meet global challenges. In the time of pandemic classes goes online and on air. Millions of students in cities and towns are glued to computer and smartphone screen as education provider and Internet & communication technology as Education Hub. With this media everyone is busy with new age of education and enjoying the advantages of electronics education system as a new model of home based education system. This research paper will help to enlighten various mode of online education, its advantages to society; this will suggest the measures to uplift the standards of higher education and enhance the employability skills by young age to meet global challenges. In one sentence we can say that, this helps us all to stay home, stay safe and stay educated.

KEYWORDS: Online Education, E-learning, Covid-19 pandemic.

INTRODUCTION

The long lockdown period of Covid-19 pandemic has closed school, colleges and other education system and education during this phase is a big question mark to all stakeholders. But this pandemic phase opens all the doors of online education system. The existence of internet and communication technology opens the doors of electronics education System and s increased the demand for e-learning at the formal as well as informal sector of education. E-learning is the system

based upon anywhere and anytime learning to access educational curriculum outside of a traditional classroom. One can join only with good internet and computer/mobile system. Internet and communication technology touches the each and every aspect human life. Technology has taken over almost every field of our lives; likewise it has major impact on education system also. If we look at the past pictures of education, it has changing drastically and adopting new epoch of education.

During this period some institutions are busy with uploading video lectures on YouTube, while Kendriya Vidyalay Sangthan arrange its its own Swayam Prabha Portal, which has its lectures on DTH and online, Various state Governments launches different academic series on Doordarshan channels which will helpful for Indian schooling and college education. At the same time various education institute adopted Zoom App, Byju's App, Google Classroom, TCS Glass-rooms and other media to complete their curriculum. Even initiate new programs like personality development, communication skill and much more with the help of National-International level Corporate Trainers, Motivational Speakers. Some are start on Webinar series and much more. In this way online education bridges the gap between conventional education system and new age education system. This will definitely help to adopt online education in full phase, in near future.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To get better understanding the concept of online education.
- To get better understanding the importance of online education during and after corona virus lockdown period.
- To ascertain the online education as a best possible solutions to resolve the existing issues and upcoming challenges like Covid-19.
- To evaluate Online Education System as a best tool to challenge uncertainties.
- To suggest the measures to uplift the standards of higher education to meet global challenges during such an accidental time.

RESEARCH APPROACH

This is basically a qualitative research and the key source of the information in this research is the secondary data. This review covered multiple websites, recent online articles, news etc. This research output is the outcome of an overview of articles from the reputed National and International journals, websites and its related issues.

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

It cracks the problems in conventional education system and sort out the challenges after corona virus lockdown period. The study will help to overcomes uncertainties and new challenges arise in days to come. It attempts to narrate and conquer the drawback in existing structure of education. The study is concluded with recommendations for effective implementation of online education after the phase of Covid-19.

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK OF ONLINE EDUCATION

Online learning is a type of education that takes place over the Internet. This is a learning system based on modern teaching aids with the help of electronic resources known as E-learning. This can be use inside or outside of the classrooms. E-learning can also be expressas a network enabled transmits of skills and knowledge, and the delivery of education is made to a large number of recipients at the same or different times. The major components of online education system are the internet, wireless communication network, computer terminals, smart phones and Television.

This is also known as e-learning. It includes graphics, video, audio, text, animations, virtual learning environment and live conversation with resource person, teacher or professor. It incorporates the new concept of delivering education. The online education conquers the weakness of traditional education system and permitted 24x7 anytime and anywhere learning. It has inflamed the role of education in the economy.

1. Online Education means:

At present we can feel that the knowledge is available all around us and it has been possible through the techniques of online learning. Both New and old generation inclined towards online education due to convenience, affordable cost and quality of education.

UGC and HRD ministry launches free education by using following online resources during corona virus lockdown,

- a) **SWAYAM Online Courses:** SWAYAM (Study Webs of Active Learning for Young Aspiring Minds) is an online portal which provides most excellent teaching-learning experience. Anyone can apply for SWAYAM here. Candidate can register to this portal for online courses.
- b) **UG/PG MOOCs:** UG/PG MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses) hosts learning material of the SWAYAM UG and PG archived courses.
- c) **E-PG Pathshala:** This portal provides high quality, curriculum-based, interactive e-content containing 23,000 modules in the form of e-text and video in different 70 Post Graduate disciplines of science, social sciences, arts & humanities, natural & mathematical sciences.
- d) **E-Content courseware in UG subjects:** e-Content courseware in 87 Undergraduate courses with about 24,110 e-content modules is available on the CEC website at <http://cec.nic.in/>.
- e) **SWAYAMPURABHA:** These channels are absolutely free to air and which can also be accessed through your cable operator. It includes group of 32 DTH channels. This all channels delivered high-quality educational curriculum-based course contents, covering multiple disciplines such as arts, science, social sciences, commerce, arts & humanities, engineering & technology, law, medicine, agriculture, etc. to all teachers, students and general public across the country interested in lifelong learning.
- f) **CEC-UGC YouTube channel:** CEC-UGC YouTube channel provides access to unlimited educational curriculum based lectures absolutely free.
- g) **National Digital Library:** National Digital Library is a digital repository of a vast amount of academic content in different formats and provides interface support for leading Indian languages for all academic levels including researchers. It also provides wide variety of content to life-long learners of all disciplines and offers all popular form of access devices and differently-abled learners.
- h) **Shodhganga:** Shodhganga is a digital repository platform of 2, 60,000 Indian Electronic Theses and Dissertations for researchers to deposit their Ph.D. theses and make it accessible to the whole scholarly community in unlock access.
- i) **E-Shodh Sindhu:** E-Shodh Sindhu provides most up-to-date as well as archival access to more than fifteen thousand core and peer-reviewed journals, number of bibliographic, citation and factual databases in different area of disciplines. This source of e-learning provide versatile database by large number of publishers and aggregator to its registered member institutions as well as centrally-funded technical institutions, associated universities and colleges etc. that are covered under 12(B) and 2(f) Sections of the UGC Act.
- j) **Vidwan:** It is a premier database of scientist and research scholars, which provides information about experts to peers, prospective collaborators, funding agencies policymakers and research scholar in the country. Faculty can register with this portal to expand the database of experts.

Apart from above, other online learning aids i.e. websites; Mobile Apps etc. are also available which are as follows,

- k) **YouTube:** This is a free to use service for all i.e. from Children to old ages person. It contains all type of material like music videos, comedy shows, how to guides, study material in the form videos, recipes, hacks and more. This is the most popular accepted media where anyone access required information and anyone can uploaded video for public use/knowledge.
- l) **Zoom App:** It is very much popular media of online education during the Covind-19 lockdown phase. In recent time Zoom is the leader through which host can arrange his online lecture by sharing one meeting id with all attendees. Anyone can join this video communications, with an easy,

reliable cloud platform for video and audio conferencing, chat, and webinars.

- m) **Byju's App:** This is a mobile App through which anyone can register himself/herself for online education. **BYJU** provides **learning** programmes for students in class 4–12 and also helps competitive exams such like, NEET, CAT, IAS etc. It is not a free app.
- n) **Google Classroom:** This is one of the best online education aid developed by Google. This product facilitates electronics communication system between teachers & students and streamlines educational workflow. Google Classroom is a free web based service which intends to simplify constructing, distributing, and grading assignments in paperless way. The basic purpose of Google Classroom is to streamline the mechanism of sharing files in between teachers and students.
- o) **TCS iON Digital Learning:** Very recently TCS launches their portal for online education system. Different education institute can registered with this along with faculty and students details. With the help of this, Institute can create different learning community, learners can access study materials provide by instructors and Instructors can take test, give assignments. There is also scope for Student-faculty industrial exposure and much more.
- p) **Websites:** There are numbers of websites to provide online education, which covers vide, variety of syllabus from Std. 1 to UG/PG and above. One can search with proper keyword by means of Google search engine.

2. Benefits of online education during Covid-19 Phase:

- **24 x 7 Availability:** During covid-19 phase each and everyone locked at home but education is not. As online education is open 24 hours for all students during this critical phase and which is continuously going on in all the way.
- **Better Clarify of Concept:** Media available in the form of audio, video,

animation, blogs, expert helps etc. which help to students for better clarity of concept. With the help of online education one can easily access all documents, transcripts, live discussions and training materials

- **Time & Money Saving Concept:** As compare to regular education, online education is much more cost effective. It helps to those students who cannot afford a regular college degree. One can study at your own time and own place. It helps to save time as well.
- **Learn at your own place:** Classroom education where everyone taught together is not possible, during lockdown period of time. With this technology everyone can learns at his own place where he has staying. This is a serious disadvantage of traditional education and this trend solves this issue.
- **More choice:** Variety of Programs and courses available on different websites, this result to more choice to students. Students have no of choice to utilize his/her time in this time wasting phase of Covid-19, simply from their home with the help of digital media.

3. Limitations:

- The human touch is missing with the online education.
- Availability of computer, bandwidth problem of Indian Internet connection i.e. lacks of infrastructure can hamper this education system.
- As there is no face to face interaction most of the time and hence learners are bound to feel absence of direct social interaction.

CONCLUSION

Online learning is the newest and most popular form of education today. Within the past decade it has had a major impact on education system and this trend is more increases during corona virus pandemic. This technology has multiple advantages to students, teachers, educationalist, education institutions, corporate

trainers, motivational speaker, over conventional education system. Also offer number of opportunities to institute, teachers & students. Online Education helps to enhance their knowledge, skills, and therefore, enhance the standard of education through constructivist learning environment with digital touch. This will also help the people to stay home and stay safe. In this pandemic time Online Learning industries increasing its market in India and this will definitely help education system as well as Indian economy in days to come.

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