Pandemic Period Changes the Education System in India

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Abstract: This study deals with the changes which came in Education System in India because of Corona Virus. Due to the pandemic situation Teaching Learning Methodology shifted from offline classes to Online classes. This study hypothesizes about the importance of technology in education system. This study focuses on the merits and demerits of the online education system in India. In future definitely combination of offline and online education can be seen in India. Government of India is also giving importance to the involvement of technology in the new education system. To improve the employability of students, we need to make changes in our education system.

Keywords: Online Education, Pandemic period, Teaching Learning Methodology, Education system in Future.

Introduction

Online education is the need of today's world. Technology became a part of our life. In Year 2020, the complete world went through a difficult phase due to the pandemic situation which made drastic changes in every field and the lifestyle of the people. Corona Virus affected all over the world. Many countries including India announced Lockdown and School, Colleges got closed. New challenges came before the education system. Online education is the best and innovative solutions in this pandemic period.

Online education is not a new thing; it has existed before the pandemic in many countries including India. Till then it was in a very limited form but the lockdown in India and shutdown in other parts of the world have made online classes the primary source of education for students of all age groups. Now in this situation these apps become a mediator between Teacher and students. Distance education system is available for some courses. School and colleges are using this forum as per their convenience.

Due to this pandemic situation, online classes suddenly became the mode of education. There are many problems which came in the way like the users don't have proper training for operating those apps, users face a major problem due to poor internet connectivity in many places. It is not a planned activity. Proper infrastructure is needed for better implementation of online classes. We still believe that "something is always better than nothing" so online classes has been started for the students so their studies don't get affected.

Offline education has its importance in the life of both; the teachers as well as students. Face-to -face communication, teaching with the help of blackboard, asking and solving queries in the classroom, etc. is very important in teaching-learning methodology. A teacher by just seeing the faces of his/her students can understand many things like whether the students have understood the topic, is it necessary for the teacher to explain the topic by elaborating it more. But this becomes difficult during online education. During online classes, teachers are not in direct contact with the students. Teachers can no longer tell if the students are understanding the topic. Online classes perhaps act as a barrier between them.

Objectives of the study

1. To study the changes which came in the education system in India because of Covid-19.
2. To study the merits and demerits of Online Teaching Learning Methodology in Indian context.
3. To study the future of Indian Education System.

Research Methodology

The study is totally based on secondary data. For this study research papers, articles, news and some e-content available on the Google platform are taken in consideration. Experiences of the teachers and students are also considered for this study. How the education system faced the problem in the pandemic period and how the teaching-learning shifted from classroom study to online study; this experience of the education institute is considered for this study.

Changes in the Education System in India in Lockdown period

World Economic Forum, "COVID-19's Staggering Impact on Global Education" the statistics of this article shows that 1.38 billion learners from all over the world are impacted because of COVID-19. Demand for the online classes has increased. Many online learning platforms are offering free access to users. One of it is BYJU'S classes. Mrinal Mohit, CEO of BYJU'S said that there are 200% increase in the number of student users. [1]

"Our education system is losing relevance. Here's how to unleash its potential", this article of World Economic Forum, focused on the need of current situation of the education system and what type of changes are required to update our education as per industry requirements. To make our education system more competent in the manner of technology we need smart uses of resources, job readiness, and value creation. To achieve success, we need to improve quality of our education which is beyond standardized test scores. Quality education would provide learners the capability and competencies to make them productive, develop sustainable livelihoods, enhance individual well-being and contribute to community. Quality education create a value addition from personalized learning and career counselling to job readiness and becoming responsible global citizens. This creates a more holistic development for all.[2]

New Education Policy is giving importance to holistic and multidisciplinary education. "Large multidisciplinary universities and colleges will facilitate the move towards high quality holistic and multidisciplinary education. Flexibility in curriculum and novel and engaging course options will be on offer to students, in addition to rigorous specialization in subjects. This will be encouraged by increased faculty and institutional autonomy in setting curricula. Pedagogy will have an increased emphasis on communication, discussion, debate, research, and opportunities for cross disciplinary and interdisciplinary thinking." National Education Policy 2020.[3]

Government of India initiated the program "SWAYAM" which is easily available to all for the best teaching learning resources. The main principle of Education Policy is Access, Equity and Quality. To maintain the quality AICTE, NPTEL, UGC, CEC, NCERT, NIOS, IGNOU, IIMB and NITTTR these nine National Institutions are appointed. It was launched on 9th July 2017 by Honorable President of India. In these two-three years, SWAYAM reached everywhere. Because of the free access many students are getting registered for different courses. This is the platform where students can easily do the interdisciplinary courses.

It has been observed that during the pandemic period learners are using online free access courses to update themselves. Vedantu and Byjus are providing free live classes. SWAYAMPRABHA and e-PG Pathshala provides the high-quality content about different PG courses. Whereas, Shodhganga, National Digital Library, e-Shodh Sindhu etc. are the open digital platforms where researchers can get information for their further study.[4] Though all these sources are already available but now the users are increased. Learners are smartly using these resources, and creating value addition.

In teaching learning methodology, technology is playing important role. Google Meet, Google Classroom, Zoom, MOODLE, Microsoft Teams, Webex Meet etc. are the apps which are widely used by the people.

Merits and demerits of Online Teaching Learning Methodology

Every system has its own merits and demerits, same way online education system also has some advantages and disadvantages.

Merits of Online Teaching Learning Methodology

Enhance Technical Skills: In this Covid-19 pandemic period one great thing happened that everyone is improving their technical skills. "Necessity is the mother of Innovation" is true in the sense. Most teachers have learnt e-learning techniques to keep students engaged. This was more challenging task for our educators. Sudden change in teaching method, from classroom study to online classes is not a joke. To make online teaching effective, teachers started learning about different apps and its application. Many Webinars and FDPs have been arranged to give training about e-learning techniques to the teachers. To make online classes interesting teachers are using rich content with Audio- Visuals, photographs and interesting quiz games.

Online teaching learning is convenient: It has been observed that in the online teaching as per the convenience of teacher and student classes can be scheduled. Students can complete assignment, Project work and their study any time and from anywhere. Videos of study materials are available 24 hours for the students. This allows students to access recorded study material at a time of their comfort. Teacher can upload assignment, test, discussion questions, case study, practice quiz and any other announcements through online media.

Online teaching learning is more flexible: There is no any restriction for dress code; students can wear clothes as per their likings. Students can give less or more time as per their grasping power. Student can complete the assignment and project work as per their interest. So, there is more flexibility in online teaching learning than offline. There is no need to wake up early in the morning, no fear of getting scolded or punishment.

Online teaching learning is more affordable: Online teaching learning reduces financial costs. This is another advantage of online learning. Class rooms, Campus area, office, parking place, garden, furniture, smart classroom equipments, transportation, etc. are not required for online teaching. One smart device is sufficient to do study. Now there are so many different apps which provides free of cost study material to the students. Teacher also can use free apps to deliver lecture, conduct meeting, upload study material and collect test and assignment from students.

Paperless work: Because of the Pandemic period now we are truly doing paperless work. Notices, instructions, notes, question paper and answer sheets all these activities became paperless. Mails, WhatsApp, Google Classroom such digital platforms are useful for this work.

No physical or social disparity: In online education students from any location and status can access the lectures from the top professor. Online learning helps to eliminate both social and physical barriers.[5]

Self-motivation and Self-discipline: "Though there can be a great amount of freedom and flexibility in an online learning environment, it is important to remember that each online class has due dates for assignments and other requirements that must be met in order to complete a course. Succeeding in an online environment takes a serious commitment and willingness to be disciplined and highly motivated."[6]

Demerits of Online Teaching Learning Methodology

Technology Issues: The key challenge of online teaching learning is internet connectivity. In Semi-Urban and Rural area, a consistent internet connection with decent speed is found very rarely. Sometimes even in Urban area internet connectivity issues occur.

Health Issues: Continuously focusing on the screen for long period of time may hamper the eyes of the children. It may create stress on the mind. Sometimes it may also develop bad posture and other physical problems.

Loss of Human Values and Ethics: Education is not about only syllabus completion. It also includes discipline, manner, morals and interaction with other students and teachers. (Niraj Kumar Bhatt, BRS Nagar)[7] Online teaching is not adequate to inculcate human values. In the classroom teachers are the role models of students, by watching their behavior students learn many things regarding values and ethics.

Sense of Isolation: Students can learn a lot from their friends and teachers by observing them. However, in online classes there is no physical interaction among themselves. This often results in a sense of isolation for

the students.[8] Online learning is a solo act, which may give the learner the feeling that they are acting completely alone.

Not Interesting: Online teaching learning method is neither interesting to teacher nor students. In the classroom face-to-face interaction with students create liveliness in the class. Playing games with our friends in the playground is the most interesting part in offline learning for students. Students find online education less interesting as a result they lose their interest and can no longer focus properly.

Indian Education System in Future

In India online education is expected to increase significantly. Many working professionals are giving preference to e-learning platforms. In the coming years the market for e-learning is predicted to grow multiple times. The pedagogical evolution and the use of technology in the education sector has turned all focus on Indian education market.

As per a report released by KPMG India and Google, Online Education in India: 2021, the market for online education in India is expected to witness a magnificent growth of eight times in three years, i.e., from USD 247 million in 2016 to USD 1.96 billion in 2021. Such high growth in online education market is projected to be the outcome of increased number of paid online education users from 1.57 million in 2016 to 9.5 million in 2021.[9]

Because of this Corona Virus whole world is going through transforming faze. In coming years everyone needs to adopt smart way of doing work. We cannot remove technology from our day-to-day life. Education field is not an exception to this. Technology has become an integral part of our education system. The combination of online and offline education is required to update education system.

"I believe that the integration of information technology in education will be further accelerated and that online education will eventually become an integral component of school education", says Wang Tao, Vice president of Tencent Cloud Education.

Conclusion

Reforms of the current education system is the need of today's world. New education policy of India is giving importance to holistic and multidisciplinary education system. Students have more freedom to choose any subjects as per their interest. In the online education system, it is easily possible to select multidisciplinary courses. This study expresses many advantages as well as disadvantages of online education system. By studying different articles regarding education system in pandemic period and the future education system in India, this study came to the conclusion that in future even in the new normal situation online education and technology will deeply affect the education system. In future, we will see the combination of online and offline education in India. Online education system is not an option to the offline education system but after the pandemic period online classes will definitely leave an impression on our education system. Users are now becoming more familiar with different apps and its applications. The technology will certainly save time, money, and energy. To make Teaching Learning more innovative and interesting, digital platform will provide support to classroom study. Educational Institutions will develop their infrastructure to match with new technology supported education system. Government of India is supporting this transformation by giving free access to different apps to the citizens. Users can easily access these apps and use digital platform from anywhere. The best thing is, there is no physical, social or economic disparity in digital platform.

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