



# Impact of online education platforms in child education in India

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## Abstract

Education institutions like Schools, colleges, and universities in India are currently based on traditional learning methods and follow the conventional setting of face-to-face interaction/lectures in a classroom. Most of the academic sector started unified learning, still most of them stuck with old steps. The unexpected Plague of a deadly infection called COVID-19 caused by (SARS-Cov-2) trembled the whole world. The WHO announced it as a disease outbreak. Some institutions were unwilling to change their traditional teaching style but to acquiesce extensively to online teaching learning. This review discussed about education impact during disease outbreak in India. Further, discussion also to challenges regarding to e-learning effect in child education in India.

**Keywords:** Online education, effect, parents, syndromes

## Introduction

Online education has gained immense popularity among working professionals and students pursuing higher education. These categories of online learners find immense benefit in the autonomy and flexibility that these courses offer [1]. Online courses can be planned around their schedule which may include full-time employment, internships and caring for family. Online learning can also help them take out some quiet time to study. Distance learning has been around for a long time, even before technology made it extremely accessible. Traditional schooling is now seeing an increased proliferation of virtual training materials and online courses [2]. Even in a world of tried and tested schooling systems and curricula, the most successful schools are the ones who adapt to the changing times, as well as to the expectations of students, parents and the society. If online education is here to stay, then what are its implications for traditional learning. Instead of focusing on pros and cons, the conversation we should be having today is about leveraging online education to make our education systems more conducive to learning [3]. Online courses call for a greater amount of motivation and self-discipline than a classroom-based course. A classroom has one or more instructors and peers, who can hold a student accountable for their coursework. In contrast, online courses involve setting our own goals, tracking progress and meeting deadlines. One does not learn effectively in isolation so online courses do offer discussion forums, email and one-on-one support [4]. Technology also adds on to the visual experience by incorporating animations that can be used interactively for effective learning and communication.

### **The classroom advantage**

A school provides structure, support, and a system of rewards and penalties to groom its students. Traditional classroom education offers the benefit of face-to-face interactions with peers which are typically moderated by a teacher [5]. It provides children, especially those in their early developmental years, with a stable environment for social interactions, helping them develop skills like boundary setting, empathy and cooperation. It also allows plenty of room for spontaneity, unlike a virtual learning setup.

### **Online education in the context of schooling**

As students progress to higher classes in school, they seek more autonomy and intellectual freedom. Online learning can help them pursue highly individualised learning programmes, possibly even college level courses [6]. These, combined with hands-on exercises, real world exploration, and thorough assessments, can be highly beneficial to their learning progress. They can explore their options by trying out introductory topics from different fields, before committing to a specialisation. Online learning platforms can help these students become more independent learners, before they make their way into college [7]. I believe that we must not hold back students from pursuing an online course but instead provide them guidance as they navigate through it. Mobile apps that provide enhanced learning opportunities for school children have become quite popular as of late. Since mobile phones have already found their way into their hands, these apps are being used to supplement classroom learning [8]. Teachers and parents need to act as anchors and mentors, curating the kind of educational content students are exposed to, during this tricky phase of exploring the right career to pursue. Virtual public schools, that offer full fledged K-12 education have already sprung up in some parts of the world [9]. They even offer a combination of the traditional system with online education. There are programmes that provide support to families that wish to home-school their children in the form of online course material. These programmes bring parents and teachers into the fold, by involving them in their child's education from the get go. However, their effectiveness in the long term needs to be studied. Online learning programmes will also open up opportunities for children from the weaker socio-economic communities who have limited access to learning resources i.e. teachers, text books and infrastructure [10]. It will connect them to a global network of online learners, exposing them to new perspectives. The ideas that they receive will not be limited by the number of heads in one classroom.

### **Online education for educators**

This can also be designed to accommodate a variety of learning styles among students. As educators, it is likely that we will have to put in additional efforts to incorporate online learning programmes into the curriculum in the most suitable manner. Online training programmes are helping teachers/educators advance their skills in curriculum implementation, policy, education systems and leadership, both independently and with the support of their institutions. It lets them collaborate with their peers and learn new instructional skills that are relevant to their career [11]. These programmes can help them develop new skills and capabilities in their students with the help of technology and interdisciplinary approaches. As the overlap of the traditional and online modes of education is becoming more and more inevitable, we owe it to our students to make their education relevant to their future through ingenuity, passion and careful planning [12].

### **Impact of pre learner in India**

The recent pandemic has seen a rise in remote learning, and parents are worried about their children's development. Academics is not the primary point of focus in pre-education. Early childhood education is about children's social, emotional, and physical development as they prepare for kindergarten [5]. The best way that these young kids learn is through play, but online learning and virtual classrooms have taken the fun out of learning in general.

### **Parents apprehension**

Online education for preschoolers can take a lot of time to get used to. Many parents in India wonder if remote learning is effective for kids who are below three years. Some have a hard time getting their toddlers to sit through a 30 minutes class. While some parents say that their kids don't want to attend their online classes. Of course, these parents don't want their kids to miss out or lag behind in their education.

However, most of them now understand that virtual learning is the new normal even though they don't like it [5-9].

### **The three K syndromes**

Even schools are having a hard time finding effective teaching methods for preschoolers online. There is not enough research or case studies to examine how online teaching should be done and how effective it is for pre-schoolers [13]. A child will usually sit and watch YouTube kids on their tablet for 30 minutes, but they are unable to sit through their online classes. The possible reasons are Kids have short attention spans, Kids are easily distracted, Kids miss interacting with their teachers and fellow peers personally [14].

### **Challenges faced by online preschoolers in India**

The World Health Organization allows up to one hour of video interaction with a human per child. However, there is still a communication gap between students and teachers when it comes to virtual learning. Online classes are usually interrupted by technical glitches or slow internet speeds that cause lagging [9]. If the connection is bad or slow, children can either get left behind during the lesson or get cut off and be overlooked by their teacher. It is important to note that none of this is intentional, but sadly it is something that has to gradually come around with remote learning. Parents must take an active role in explaining to their kids how things have changed and what to expect during virtual lessons [12].

Although virtual learning has been going on for the better part of 2020, both kids and teachers are having a hard time adjusting to the new norm. For example, teachers who have not previously interacted with online teaching tools are in a fix about taking online classes. Before they learn how to use a platform like Zoom or Google Meet, a lot of class time has been lost. Preschoolers also have a hard time adapting to the new learning routines. Parents have to explain why they are going to school at home and get them to pay attention during class time [15].

Although kids today are growing up in the digital era, some parents have limited their children's screen time. Maybe kids are allowed to play on their tablets for only one hour a day. However, now they spend more time on their devices, which can affect their social development. Experts have suggested that online learning for preschoolers should focus on social- emotional learning and language skills. It is because education is a social venture, which is why it has always been done in schools where people interact and learn from each other [16].

Another issue is that due to the recent pandemic, many families are going through financial woes. Some parents might not afford to purchase multiple devices for their work and their kids. Imagine if a family has three kids at different academic levels, and both parents are struggling with their jobs due to the pandemic. Parents can have a difficult time arranging the finances needed to buy the necessary devices for all their kids [17].

### **Positive Impact**

Another issue is that due to the recent pandemic, many families are going through financial woes. Some parents might not afford to purchase multiple devices for their work and their kids. Imagine if a family has three kids at different academic levels, and both parents are struggling with their jobs due to the pandemic [18]. Parents can have a difficult time arranging the finances needed to buy the necessary devices for all their kids. Virtual learning has allowed for more creativity in the modes of lessons delivered at GIIS. Teachers use video, animated texts, infographics, interactive puzzles among other methods to teach children certain concepts [2]. It makes learning more interactive and caters to preschoolers who are more of visual and practical learners. Academic experts keep discovering new

methods that can make online learning more interesting for children. Many parents worry about the quality of education delivered by schools [3]. However, with remote learning options, parents can actually visualise the learning process and also access vast information about the child's education welfare at MyGIIS Portal. Moreover, parents can also share inputs with the teachers based on their observations while their child is attending virtual classes [7,8].

## Conclusion

COVID-19 had a tremendous change in the educational sector in India. Though it has raised numerous challenges and various opportunities, it has also progressed [12]. The Indian government and different education participants have discussed the possibility of e-learning by adopting different digital technologies to handle current COVID-19 circumstances. India is not entirely armed to make education grasp all corners of the nation by digital platforms [16]. Universities and India's government are persistently trying to develop a solution for India's education process. The precedence should be to utilize digital technology to create a beneficial point for Millions of young students in India [17]. The educational institution's hour is needed to support their knowledge and Information Technology infrastructure to be ready for facing COVID-19 situations [18]. The conception of "work from home" has greater significance in such condition to decrease the transmission of COVID-19. India should develop inspired strategies to ensure that all children must have viable access to learning during pandemic COVID-19. E-learning practice is pro-moting the students vastly; it should be continued after the lockdown [19].

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