



# ROLE OF VIRTUAL LEARNING DURING PANDEMIC PERIOD: A THEORITICAL ANALYSIS

**Dr. Asok Kumar Das**  
**Library Professional**  
**Prafulla Chandra College, Kolkata**  
**Email- [akdas\\_67@yahoo.com](mailto:akdas_67@yahoo.com)**

**And**

**Dr. Haripada Banik**  
**Librarian,**  
**South Calcutta Law College, Kolkata**  
**Email: [haripadabanik@gmail.com](mailto:haripadabanik@gmail.com)**

## ABSTRACT:

This paper represents the importance of virtual learning during Pandemic period. Virtual learning likewise as e-learning Environment may be a few of the foremost effective and innovative approaches in learning procedure especially to implant and strengthen the opportunities to apprehend learning goals. At present, there are many tools for composing virtual learning experiences that becoming more strong and easier to use, and Internet technology is gaining at astonishing levels. This paper presents some fruitful virtual learning Environment related tools as communication tools, content delivery, assessment; and their strong point in learning along with some fundamental issues to be entertained while using virtual learning Environment. In addition to Virtual Learning Environment related manner, this paper extremely presents variety of the foremost essential issues about E-learning. The development of virtual learning and also the advantages through virtual learning are presented through this analysis. During the quantity of pandemic virtual learning similarly as e-learning plays a big role near the learners. Virtual learning could even be a recent way of learning, which has electronic media within the sphere of education. In pandemic situation, when information outbreak is big, it's the time to remind

the society of the importance of virtual learning also as e-learning. Lastly, it's mentioned variety of the restrictions of using virtual learning.

Keywords: Virtual learning E-learning, Environment, Information and Communication Technology, Internet, Pandemic period, Education Technology.

## **INTRODUCTION:**

For the past few years computer technologies are developed to support teaching including as assessment or communication tools. At present, new technologies approved these tools to be jointed into single products called virtual learning environments (VLEs). So, a virtual learning environment (VLE) is defined as a self-contained computer based online environment facilitating interchanges between instructor and learner. A Virtual Learning Environment deals with information immediately related to student teaching, as an example, lecture notes, online discussions and perhaps student grades. Moreover, a Virtual Learning Environment leads with the guidance of other particulars which may not be immediately linked with teaching 'in the classroom'. E-Learning is also a general term accustomed ask a spread of learning during which the trainer and student are distinguished by time or space where the gap between the two is cross over through the use of online technologies. E-learning is utilized interchangeably during an oversized selection of circumstances. In organizations it's followed the policies that use the organization network to deliver training courses to employees. In virtual learning system Universities it's described as a managed teaching/learning practiced that uses an outsized continuum of technologies mainly Internet to envisage learners at a distance.

Information and communication technology entered in every profession. E-learning is claimed with virtual learning and web-based learning to increase educational occasion for all, anywhere and at any time. Thanks to information outburst gigantic information is available in electronically/digital arrangement. Different kinds of e-learning yet as virtual leaning tools like social network, social media, blogs, wikis, e-mails, and messenger are affecting education system. Educational institutions face problems like trained and educated teachers, lack of framework and required of valued education. Virtual learning could solve the issues. The long term education is completely supported virtual learning. It's very difficult to define virtual learning. These terms simply mean that there's a distance between learner and tutor, learner must use some technologies i.e. computer, mobile etc. to access the educational material, to interact with the tutor, instructor or other learners. Virtual learning is becoming a key element of campus-based education additionally as a foundation of distance learning.

## **OBJECTIVES:**

The following objectives are framed for this analysis:

- i) to grasp the trend and purpose of virtual learning also as e-learning in pandemic period.
- ii) to spot the benefits of virtual learning environment in pandemic situation.

- iii) to look at the role of virtual learning in pandemic period.
- iv) to grasp the impact of virtual learning environment among learner's community.
- v) to make up a perception about way forward for virtual learning.

## METHODOLOGY OF THE ANALYSIS:

The present analysis is solely supported data collected from various sources and my very own concept.

## LITERATURE REVIEW:

Virtual learning is that the employment of information and Communication Technology (ICT) to transfer matter for education where instructors and learners are divided by distance, time, or both so on boost the learner's learning experience and performance (Keller et al., 2007).

Tarhini et al., 2016). Horton (2011) describes e-learning as a gaggle of instructions transferred via all electronic channels just like the net, intranets, and extranets. Thus, by eliminating the obstacles of it slow and distance, individuals can now head of their own lifelong learning (Almajali et al., 2016; Bouhnik and Marcus, 2006; Fletcher 2005; Obeidat et al., 2015).

Virtual learning environments concise the worth of provision and then rise revenues for educational institutions (Masa'deh et al., 2016; Ho and Dzeng, 2010).

A virtual leaning environment (VLE) can be an internet based software package designed to facilitate learning and teaching with the utilization of tools and activities (Joint system committee, (JISC, 2009a), students employing a VLE are often given a task to end in class or at their own pace, time and placement, they'll contribute to synchronous and asynchronous discussions to help them develop their learning (JISC, 2009b).

Users are ready to explore social situations and "try out" different behavior responses for a spread of simulated social interactions (Kerr, Neak, & Cobb,2002).There is increase interaction among students with their lecturers because peer phobia is eliminated so therefore, all students have equal ability irrespective of ego or psychological stress which could possibly be manifested within the normal learning environment.

In this 21st. century, the convergence between computers and communications has created 'virtual' communities and organization altogether fields which have resulted within the reduction of the barriers of some time and distance. These barriers wee preventing collaboration on a decent range of tasks and activities, because of these new developments, "it is now technologically feasible for faculty kids and teachers from everywhere the world to 'meet' collaborate, and exchange views" (Quinton, 2010, p.31).

A VLE is an electronic system which will provide online interactions of varied kinds which will occur between learners and tutors, including online learning, (JISC, 2003).

### **A Virtual Learning Environment (VLE):**

A VLE is a web (web) environment, where different kinds of tools are furnished for the teacher and also the student to make easier the training expertise. VLEs normally work through the vast Web, so we continuously only require an online link to access a VLE, although to make contact are limited to recorded learners by the teacher. Purpose of employing a VLE on endure teaching and learning rather like in what face-to-face teaching to propose so as to further learning: (a) Information supply (b) Peer withstand (c) Team work (d) Appraisal (e) Lexical Investigation: Critical thinking (f) Teacher–learner communication (g) Tutorials. Generally a Virtual learning environment furnishes a scattered of tools to facilitate the identical teaching and learning principles, but they're delivered online in an exceedingly 'virtual' environment.

Thus, using engineering doesn't involve a full new approach to teaching it utilizes the identical methods but applied during a different way. However, it implies that the identical thought and consideration must even be applied to online teaching as we'd do with face-to-face teaching. Moreover, supplementing traditional face-to-face teaching methods, there is variety of challenges in pedagogy which VLEs can help with and these include: (a) Increased student numbers (b) Increasing assessment marking (c) Widening participation (d) Limited teaching resources. The description of VLEs has become so famous and implant in many institutions is because there are real advantages to be benefited from the employment of the technology. Ever booming student numbers is one obscure issue for institutions where VLEs can help. Learners can carry on good communications links and there are chances for self assessment. In terms of enhancing interest, VLEs can offer support and resources to, say, part-time learners who can't always trip the campus.

### **Forms of Virtual Learning**

The forms of such style of learning can vary looking on the academic institution. In most instances, video is employed to convey information to the scholar. Such kind of video could also be pre-recorded or real-time. Virtual guidance generally uses a learning management system, or LMS.



- Learners have access to their instructor through email or chat. Learners usually have access to check groups and/or other classmates through the shape of message boards, social media groups or chat rooms.
- Textbooks and study materials are almost completely online. Learners may be encouraged to get physical books, but this can be becoming less common.
- Assignments are delivered to the instructor/tutors through online portals. Instructors/tutors might need an email that's dedicated to receiving assignments, but it's more common for learners to upload assignments to a drive that the trainer can then access.
- Quizzes and tests are all computer based. So, some learning institutions might require that learners take tests in real-time employing a timer so as to discourage cheating. Others use the glory system and permit the learners to require tests around their own schedules.

**VLE offers teaching and learning related tools:**

**Some of the foremost useful Virtual Learning Environment tools as follow:**

Category	Tool
<b>Communication</b>	Through Email
	Through Discussion board
	Through Live Chat
<b>Content Delivery</b>	Through Lecture Support Notes
	Through Images
	Through Audio
	Through Video
<b>Assessment</b>	Through Power Point Presentation
	Through Assessment tools
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	Though Online grades
	Through Interactive whiteboards
	Through File Exchange
	Through Calendar and task lists



**Communication tools:**

It is obscure that communication between learners could be a reportable source of communication, authorize them to argue new ideas and share information in pandemic period. By adding a VLE as a communications tool during this way speedily includes to the teaching bear part which learners might otherwise miss. Email is now a well-recognized type of communication for many people and any useful VLE should have some type of email communication tool. Other Basic tool is that of a discussion team. It's analogous to a physical board on the in close a department where anyone can post a message for everybody else to read and anyone can answer this message on the identical board. An electronic notice or discussion board works in much the identical way by allowing people to post messages for others to read and to post replies. One advantage of are often that conference can be encouraged. Live chat could be a tool which allows synchronous communication (i.e. at the identical time) and sometimes is stated in numerous ways, often called 'chat rooms' by commercial providers with which many of us are familiar. One advantage of this tool is that it can enable learners to speak whether or not learners are in several locations. Although the identical is true of dialogue boards, the communication is immediate thanks to learners chatting synchronously.

**(b) Content delivery:**

A unique tool of any VLE is that the ability to deliver content in an exceedingly kind of formats. It can encompass delivering: lecture support notes presentation files images or perhaps audio or video material also as interactive animations. Supplying lecture support notes is a useful aid for teaching and learning. Further using electronic whiteboards, learners are ready to compose materials interactively in a very synchronous way where everyone sees the work from their own computer and is ready to contribute. Again, a plus of such type is that we are able to work with the learners, without having to be located physically within the same place. Additionally to the sort of electronic whiteboard facility available as a VLE tool, there's also another type, which may be a classroom audio-visual aid.

**(c) Assessment:**

Many VLEs offer computer-assisted assessment tools that enable learners to assess learners online. Even not all VLEs are able for offering assessment tools, there's a large range of individual assessment products accessible which might occasionally be linked to a VLE to elevate its functionality. There are well-established methods of assessment and far research has been undertaken about the validity of various sorts of assessment like the flexibility of multiple-choice quizzes to assess deep (comprehension) or surface level (factual recall) learning. So, computer assisted assessment isn't any less valid than paper-based assessment and has a crucial role to play in supporting teaching and learning. Over and above the flexibility for employees to supply learners with files, learners are able to share files with each other. It implies that learners are ready to share add an internet environment instead of need to meet face-to-face all the time. Taking this into consideration with the

opposite tools available within a VLE, learners can therefore communicate with one another, share ideas and files online and collaborate on work as a part of a bunch.

### **Some issues to be considered when employing a Virtual Learning Environment:**

Although VLEs offer such lot functionality, it's easy to become overwhelmed by them and what they'll offer in terms of teaching and learning support. Therefore, the foremost important start line is to think about how the technology can help support your teaching and not how your teaching can fit the technology. By considering the subsequent points, the mixing of VLEs into your teaching are going to be more successful: (a) Have a transparent purpose in mind for using VLEs (b) Have a transparent plan for employing a VLE to support your teaching (c) Get wont to using the technology before introducing the learners thereto (d) Give learners time to induce wont to using it (e) confirm the learners understand why they're using it and what the benefits are.

### **ADVANTAGES OF VIRTUAL LEARNING:**

To get an excellent understanding of online education, let's have a glance at a number of its advantages:

1. As learners' improvement through classes, they look for more liberty and thoughtful freedom. Virtual learning can help them chase highly individualized learning programs, probably even college-level courses. These are jointed with hands-on exercises, real-world investigation, and thorough evaluation may be extremely advantageous to their learning improvement.
2. By trying out introductory topics from different fields, it allows the learners to explore their options before committing to any specialization. Virtual learning techniques make these learners become more independent learners.
3. Since virtual learning provides greater control to users through the utilization of minimal infrastructure, the learners can personalize their learning. This allows learners to require up new courses and learn almost from anywhere and anytime.
4. Everyone encompasses a different and unique learning pace matched by delivery of virtual learning. Online learners take pleasure in flexible learning schedules.
5. Virtual learning offers an enhanced discussion element, often in an exceedingly forum for discussion board.
6. At traditional schools, speech a lecturer after class will be challenging. This can be not the case in virtual learning environment.
7. Virtual learning makes parent-teacher collaboration positive and transparent.
8. Virtual learning systems permit deep analytical summaries of a learners' progress. Such sort of helps in creating a individualized learning journey for every student.

## **Limitations of Virtual learning:**

### **Infrastructural Challenges**

Primarily, there's plenty of expenditure to line up online classes. The setup requires an improve to support the new tech and in many cases, a scarcity setup forms an obstacle in contributing live virtual classes.

### **Extra Training**

At the time of using new tech, it's essential to understand about it first. There are only a few learners and trainers who are well versed with the full process. There are fewer chances of technical issues if the trainer or the scholar knows a way to troubleshoot them. Moreover, few teachers find it challenging to arrange soft copies of the lectures/notes. Hence there's always a requirement to possess IT support that trains teachers and learners time and again.

### **Lack of Social & Emotional Skills**

Since the classes happen over the web there isn't much interaction or face-to-face communication among the learners. So, one can observe that there's a loss of social and emotional skills within the child.

### **Physical Activity is Compromised**

At the time of faculty, students move around, play, run and do all types of activities that keep them fit. The PT classes, sports, dance, etc., support them to be bodily energetic. Online learning reduces their activity and leaves them confined to their desk and laptop, just watching the screen to be told what they need signed up for.

### **Effects of Excess Screen Time on Learners**

Everyone understands how the blue light of those screens is damaging to an oversized extent. Constantly watching the screen damages eyes and should cause many problems within the future. Regular breaks are advised when using laptop/phone screens.

### **Reduced Personal Interaction between Teacher & Students**

Along with the teaching going digital, there's no physical approach in having a brainstorming or a Q&A session between teachers and students. The essence of a physical classroom is lost with the appearance of technology and digital classes.



**Conclusion:**

Virtual learning changes aspects of education sector which affects education in several ways. Virtual learning educates the users and facilitates education as per their need. Furthermore, with this sudden shift far from the classroom in many parts of the world, the adoption of online learning like virtual learning will still persist post-pandemic, and such a shift would impact the worldwide education market.

**References:**

Cheung, C M.K., Pui-Yee, C., & Matthew, K.O. L. (2011). Online social networks: why do Students use facebook?. *Computers in Human Behavior*, 27(4), 1337-1343.

Chin, P. (2004). Using C&IT to support teaching. Routledge.

Clyde, W., & Delohery, A. (2005). Using technology in teaching. London: Yale Press.

Dougiamas, M. (2004). Moodle: A virtual learning environment for the remainder people. *TESLEJ*, 8(2)1-8.

Erben, T., & Ban, R. (2009). Teaching language learners through technology. New York: Routledge.

Greenhow, C., Beth, R., & Hughes, J.E. (2009). Learning, teaching, and scholarship in a digital age web 2.0 and classroom research: what path should we take now? *Educational researcher*, 38(4), 246-259.

IGI Global (n.d.). What's E-learning. URL: <https://www.igi-global.com/dictionary/e-learning/8785>

Kattoua, T., Musa A., & Alrownad, A. (n.d). *A Review of Literature on E-learning systems in pedagogy*. URL: <http://www.ijbmer.com/docs/volumes/vol7issue5/ijbmer2016070504.pdf>

Mak, B., & David, C. (2008). Using wikis to enhance and develop writing skills among secondary school students in Hong.Kong. *System*, 36(3), 437-455.

Mansoor A. A. (n.d). *Assessing University Governance and policies in relevancy the Covid-19 pandemic*. URL: <https://www.igi-global.com/dictionary/administrators-assessments-online-coursesstudent/8785>

Nwagude, A.A.R. (n.d). *How would virtual learning environment (VLE) Enhance Assessment for learning mathematics by the education needs students (SENS) in teaching sector*. URL: <https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED567061.pdf>

Safran, C., Denis, H. , & Christian, G. (2007, September 26-28). E-learning practices and web 2.0 [Conference session]. Conference ICL. Kassel University Press.

Shishkovskaya, J., Dina, B., & Artem, G. (2015). EFL teaching in the e-learning environment: updated principles and methods. *Procedia-Social and Behavioral Sciences* 20(6), 199-204.

Studies in Indian Place Names (SIPN).

URL: <https://archives.tpnindia.org/index.php/sipn/article/download/1626/1562>

Thamarana, S. (2016, August). *Role of E-learning and Virtual learning Environment in English Language learning* [Conference session]. Eltai Tirupati Chapter 4th. Annual International Conference.

URL:[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/305913807\\_Role\\_of\\_Elearning\\_and\\_Virtual\\_Learning\\_Environment\\_in\\_English\\_language\\_learning](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/305913807_Role_of_Elearning_and_Virtual_Learning_Environment_in_English_language_learning)

World Economic Forum. (2020). *The COVID-19 pandemic has changed education forever. This is often how.*

URL: <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2020/04/coronavirus-education-Global-covid19-onlinedigital-Learning>

Global-covid19-onlinedigital-Learning

