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Education and Technology in Covid Era

Era of 2020 was started with great enthusiasm and fervor. The life of every living being was carrying on according to one's own schedule. All were busy in their daily chores. Then suddenly the clouds of coronavirus began hovering in the sky and in no time these clouds became global and shower the rain of deadly disease on the earth. Covid 19 became an unprecedented worldwide pandemic. This has been compared to third biological world war, the great depression and the Spanish flu in terms of the impact on human behavior. The disease hold to numerous originating tales. Some reflect it to be a consequence of the bat soup taken by the Chinese that communicated some unknown illness from animals to humans. However some still are of the opinion of the ailment to be a result of political conspiracies. On the contrary one of the strongest ideologies consider it to be a laboratorial blunder where the virus was born unconsciously while conducting regular biological experiments.

No one would have guessed that a virus like Covid 19 would come and alter the life style of the people. Tracking its origin to Wuhan, China, the disease has trembled the natural, social and financial foundations. The disease caused by dreadful Coronavirus has left lakhs died, millions suffering and billions praying. The news of the prevailing sickness alarmed the world in the initial days of 2020. Shaken by the news and according to the precautionary guidelines issued by the international organisations like WHO all the countries declared abrupt nationwide absolute lockdowns accompanied by curfews. The official records of the affected lives published everyday terrified the masses and therefore leaving the so called intelligent life caged. The disease shadowed upon each and every human related aspect. The dumb creatures were reported roaming freely, stunned of the desolate landscapes which was one swarming with homosapiens. The nature too got the golden opportunity to rejuvenate and heal some of the man given wounds. The earthly temperature onlooked some stabilization due to the Zero fuel consumption and negligible pollution levels. Even the environment became so clear that at some places, far off mountains also became visible. It made the human race realized that how industrialization verses modernization has adversely affected the atmosphere.

It spontaneously spread over seven of the earthly continents faster than forest fires. It badly shook the economic backbone of the world economy. The developed countries of the world also surrendered in front of this disease. The deadly virus grabbed chains of people and engulf them to deaths and ill health. The virus being from the SARS family proves to be a catastrophe for human respiration. Each niche of the society suffered one way or other. The upper strata of the society enjoyed the lockdown time as leisure where as those who were at bare subsistence level found difficult to manage.

Front warriors like health workers, police officials, political leaders, social workers, volunteers and NGO's worked 24*7 to help the victims. Educators also prepared themselves as warriors. As a response to the covid19 crisis, many countries around the world closed schools, colleges and universities to halt the spread of the virus. According to the data from UNESCO, the peak in school closure was registered at the beginning of April 2020, when around 1.6 billion learners were affected across the countries. All the countries were worried about the future generation. No one can bear the loss of human resource in the field of knowledge and skill. The sudden enclosure of schools meant that education policy makers, school Principals and teachers had to find out alternatives in order to guarantee children's right to education. The young generation, the upcoming future was made inceptively devoid of education but it has a heartily gratitude paid off to technologies that made it possible for the tender souls to study and interact with their teachers online. A variety of software and applications were introduced for the smooth workings. The government too played significant roles in contributing to the enhancement of online study. Educational bodies like CBSE, ICSE and state boards immediately jumped in and started different training programmes for the teachers

and educators to provide quality education. Many systems have adopted online teaching and learning on an unprecedented scale, often in combination with widespread remote learning materials such as T.V. or radio. Pandemic brought revolution in virtual education. Over night the classrooms were shifted from class rooms to mobiles, laptops or desktops. In response to significant demand many online learning platforms are offering free access to their service like Zoom, Teams, Meet, Webex etc. which proved to be boon. Virtual classes, e-library, e-laboratories, online exams, celebrations, competitions, quiz, workshops, webinars or what not all have made teaching learning process in continuation. Online learning can be more effective in many ways as it requires 40-60% less time to learn than in a traditional class room setting because students can learn at their own place, going back and re-reading, skipping or accelerating through concepts as they choose.

The Covid 19 pandemic has forced people to adopt internet and internet based services to communicate interact and perform their official duties from home. Technology proves to be saviour during the lockdown as people were able to do many things virtually including business, travel, trade, hospitality, shopping etc. It connected the people globally and enabled everyone to know the well beings of their dear ones living at far off places. Social media made people aware regularly about the use of home remedies to save themselves from covid. It also inspired the common masses about social distancing, use of mask and sanitizer through short videos and memes.

The effectiveness of online learning varies amongst age groups. Younger ones are more easily distracted. Teenagers also leave no stone unturned in misusing the online platforms. The trend of online games has also increased at wide scale. It also brought a noticeable surge in the time people spent in watching content on various OTT platform like Netflix, Amazon, Prime, Hotstar etc.

But the sad truth is that it is not available to many students all over the nation. The present situation is beyond control which is being faced globally. Millions of people around the world experienced technological difficulties because of the high usage rate of online learning system, video streaming, software and other digital tools. The platforms are overloaded, poor quality audio and video, internet problems, insufficient data plans etc. are various problems which everyone is facing. Little can be done to resolve the connectivity problem when everyone goes online. Calling your provider and seeking advice can work out in some cases but not all. The other side of coin is that we all have to adapt a slow internet speed amid the covid lockdown and learn to live with it. It is hard for teachers, students and parents to switch on online learning or operating any digital tool without proper learning. They could be overwhelmed by the amount of data they deal with trying to go digital as well as frustrated facing the unknown.

The covid 19 outbreak or any other crisis has prepared a fertile ground for cyber criminals, unleashing the wave of cyberattacks. During online lectures it is hard to keep students engaged without a teacher's physical presence and face to face contact. Facing online misbehavior like entering in online classes with fake id's and names on zoom calls, sending unpleasant memes to disturb the classes has been a biggest challenge.

While facing all these challenges everyone took the sigh of relief with the advent of vaccines like covaxin, covishield to boost the immunity power. Herd immunization drive has been launched globally.

To conclude it has been observed that gradually the life is coming back to its normal. But its deep imprints will be felt for long time. There is no second opinion that covid era has changed the world scenario which is now more dominated by technology. Now the knowledge of 3Rs is not the pre requisite for a literate person, the knowledge of technology has also become the essential component of literacy. Ultimately now everyone is to become intelligent artificially to survive in the new culture developed in covid era.