Technology Adoption and online study in COVID-19 pandemic: Challenges and Opportunities

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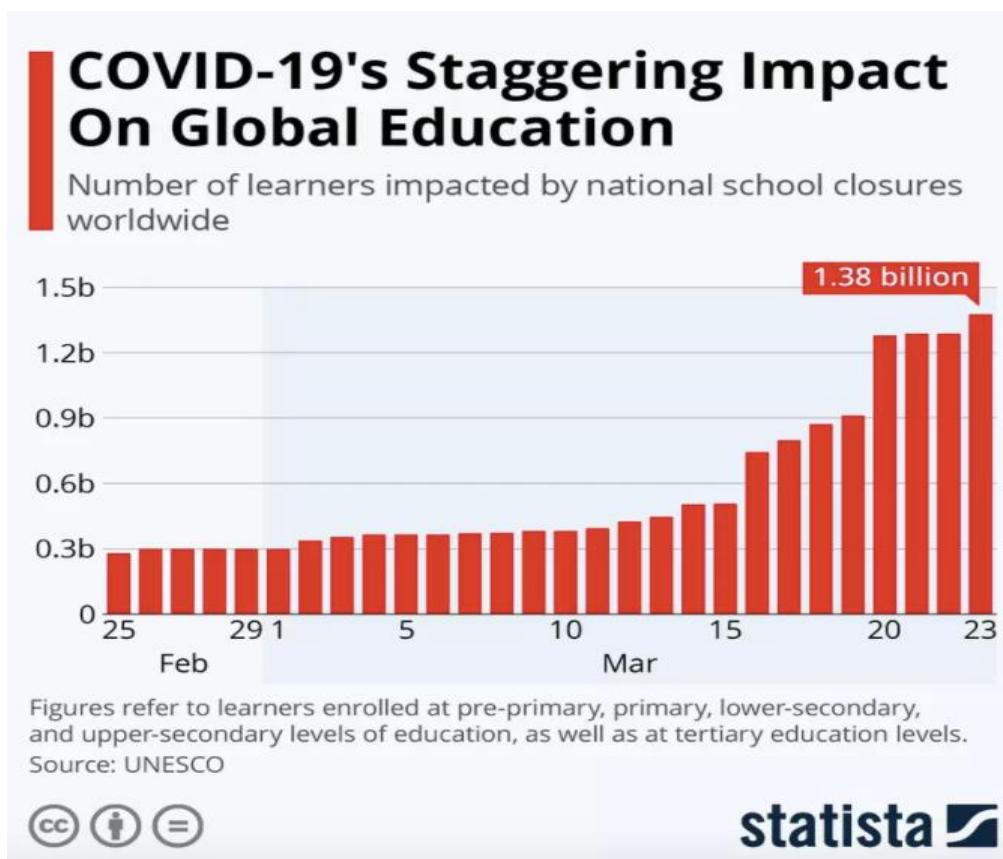Department of Chemistry, Govt PG College Bilaspur, HP, India

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Abstract : The COVID-19 has created the largest disruption in education system in recent history and this pandemic has significantly interrupted the normal class room study everywhere in the world. A quick and sudden digital transformation process of institution created a gap in the learning process. In the changed scenario, almost all the educational institutes have shifted from classroom teaching to online learning platforms to keep a contact with students and maintain the smooth academic activities. However, in the developing country like India, the questions about the preparedness, designing and effectiveness of e-learning is still not clearly understood, where the technical constraints like suitability of devices and bandwidth availability poses a serious challenges. But, in the pandemic of COVID-19, India takes it an opportunity to bridge the digital gap and reform the educational systems in the region. In this pandemic like other institutions SV Govt. College Ghumarwin also adopted online mode of teaching. Thus, by various teaching-learning tools we kept connected to our students virtually.

Keywords: Pandemic, e-learning, digital gap, virtually.

1. Introduction

The World Health Organization declared Covid-19 as a pandemic that has posed the threat to humanity. The pandemic results in lockdown all over the world and especially educational activities face severe crisis and migration of all the educational institution toward online learning as the educational platform. Digital revolution is not an instant phenomenon, but it has been started by higher education institutions for some years ago.[1] This process of digital transformation consists of strategic preparation, trust establishment, amalgamation and reinforcement of all stakeholder, separate, collaborative as well as organizational knowledge. In today's uncertainties, it is vital to gain a wide understanding of students' online learning experience, especially, in times of the COVID-19 pandemic.

COVID-19's Staggering Impact On Global Education

Number of learners impacted by national school closures worldwide

Figures refer to learners enrolled at pre-primary, primary, lower-secondary, and upper-secondary levels of education, as well as at tertiary education levels.
Source: UNESCO

The COVID-19 has forced us to go from offline chalk duster to another world i.e., online learning and we are still learning. Here are some of the biggest challenges in online learning. First one a very important in the country like India is digital literacy. To attend the online classes, students always need a certain degree of technological proficiency including the ability to successfully log in, participate in classes, submit work, and communicate with teachers and classmates. Other challenges are socio economic disparities, lack of motivation, control and discipline, data security, isolation etc. On interaction with students it is found that another challenge faced during online study is gadgets shortage. In my class I noticed that every student teacher has not a personal gadget to use during study. Many of them share their laptops, mobile devices and computers with their parents or brother and sister to keep up with their work. Another challenge was some weaker students not able to understand the lecture due to lack of human contact, absence of a teacher and inability to discuss problems are the probable reasons.

A recent study conducted by the World Economic Forum showed that after the US, India has the largest number of online course enrollments. Indian students are keen to learn about the concept of online education. When they get a chance to showcase their skills and capabilities in an interactive and advanced environment, they prove them best on all platforms. Flexible schedule, collaborative work and improvement of resources are the main opportunities up rise during pandemic[2]. With this goal, quality, cost and access to educational opportunities persist as commonly cited challenges across the Indian education system[3]. From good old times to new, reforms in the educational system have positively revolved around technology, making classroom learning a outmoded[4]. Online study can be cost effective and other cost savings factor includes cheaper text books, especially if online learners can purchase digital versions. Another advantage of online study is flexibility that involves prospective students' geographic location. Besides the career benefits, most online degrees and certificates also allow the learners to continue working while they study. Improvement of technical skills is other advantage of learning online required on the job.

2. Present study

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the education pattern forever. As a result, education has changed dramatically, with the rise of e-learning i.e., online study. The present study adopted a collection of online tools used by the teacher of SVGC Ghumarwin Distt. Bilaspur (HP) during covid-19. The data is also collected from B.Sc. III SVGC Ghumarwin Distt. Bilaspur (HP) for further analysis to study the impact of online education on the students. This approach allowed the researchers to collect the data and transformation of online study during pandemic.

3. Results and Discussion

In this pandemic like other institutions SV Govt. College Ghumarwin also adopted online mode of teaching. Thus, by various teaching-learning tools we kept connected to our students virtually. Initially, students were taught through whatsapp groups, but gradually we shifted to other modes such as Google meet, Google classroom, Zoom etc (Figure 1).
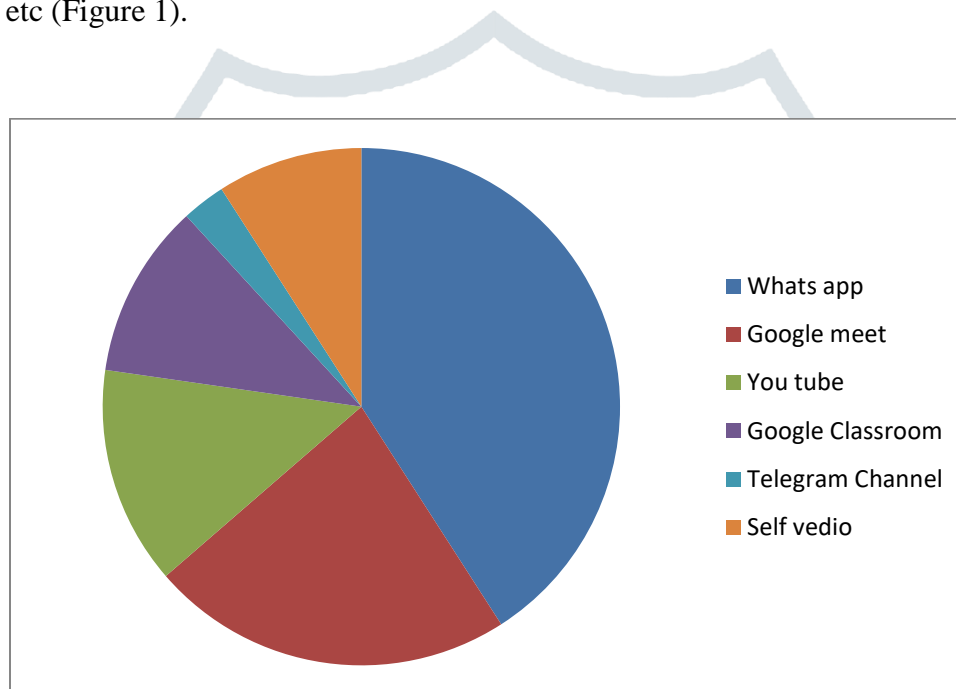

Figure 1 Schematic Representation of tools used in online study during COVID-19

With the rapid increase of technology during COVID-19 , the way students learn and teachers teach have been changed.Today's students are comfortable and familiar with technogy and using the internet to gain information for complettion of curriculum and also for compititive exams. In the past a person would have gone to the library and referred to an encyclopedia for information but Today learns pull smartphones out of their pockets and ask Google or other tools to tell all about any topic. Students also reported during the survey that online teaching is not only saving time but easily accessible and have permanent record and they can listen and access the lecture at any time (Figure 2).
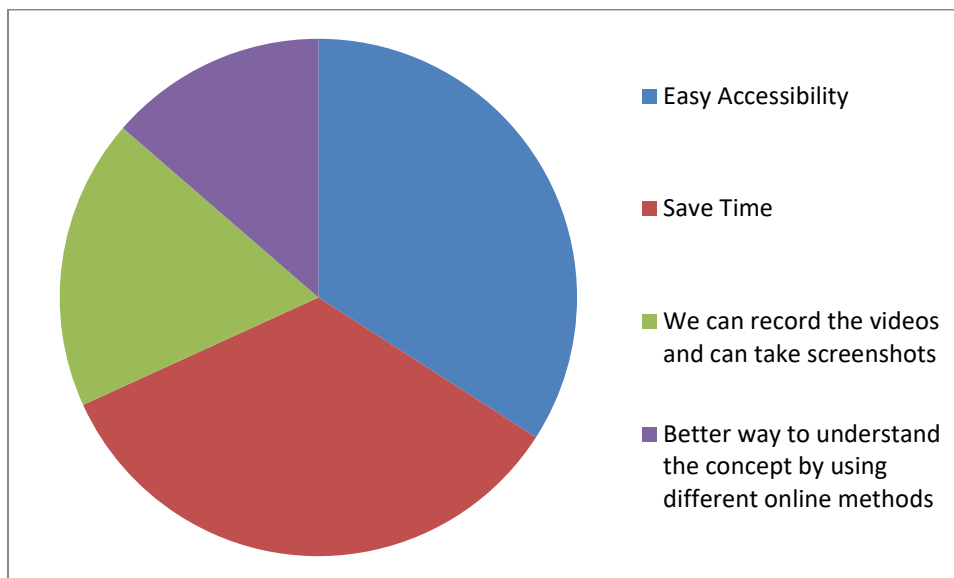
Figure 2 Schematic Representation of opportunities during online classes

Bseide the benift of online teaching, some of our students, without high speed internet access not able to participate in digital learning and results in the gap between teacher and students across the countries (Figure 3). Preparedness and practice is going on and I hope that we would overcome all the hurdles and get remain connected with students in this virtual journey.
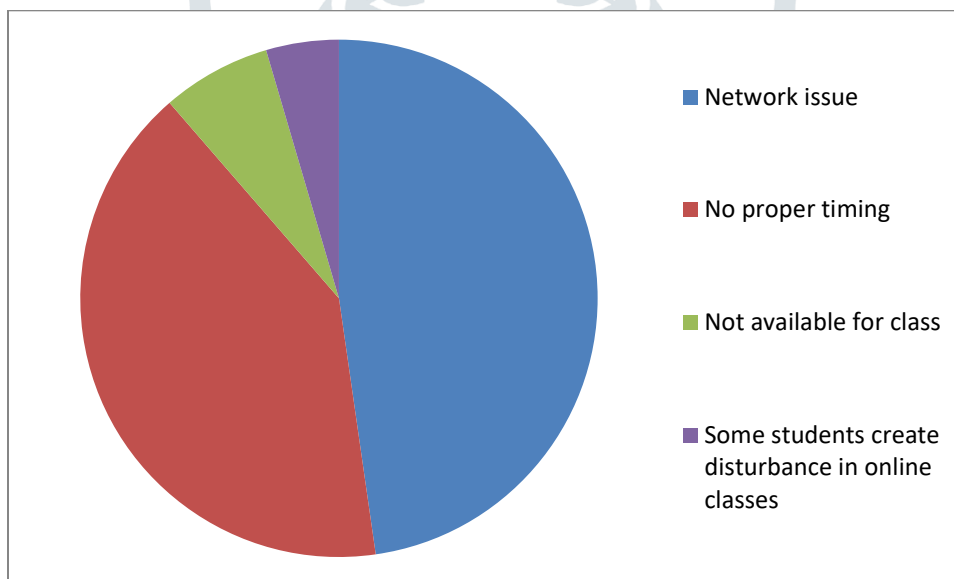

Figure 3 Schematic Representation of Challenges during online classes

4. Conclusion

From above discussion it can be concluded that online teaching is beneficial to the learns, teachers and the institution. On interaction with students it has been observed that online education has brought a positive impact in their lives. It has given an opportunity to remove the gap between study during COVID-19 pandemic. Online education has also helped the teachers completion of syllabus online which do not require much of practical work. But there is need to improve the network issue faced by the students. With hope on the horizon as vaccination begin globally, online education has positively impacted the learning for students and educators not in our college but all over the India, and will likely continue to expand and facilitate learning opportunities even after the pandemic is over.

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