



IMPACT OF COVID 19 IN TEACHING AND LEARNING

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ABSTRACT

The COVID-19 pandemic has created the most significant disruption of education systems in human history, affecting nearly 1.6 billion learners in more than 200 countries. Closures of schools, institutions, and other learning spaces have impacted more than 94% of the world's student population. This has brought far-reaching changes in all aspects of our lives. Social distancing and restrictive movement policies have significantly disturbed traditional educational practices. Reopening schools after relaxation of restriction is another challenge, with many new standard operating procedures.

Within a short span of the COVID-19 pandemic, many researchers have shared their works on teaching and learning in different ways. Several schools, colleges, and universities have discontinued face-to-face teachings. There is a fear of losing the 2020 academic year or even more in the coming future. The need of the hour is to innovate and implement the alternative education system and assessment strategies. The COVID-19 pandemic has provided us with an opportunity to pave the way for introducing digital learning. This article aims to provide a comprehensive report on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on online teaching and learning of various papers and indicate the way forward.

KEYWORDS

Online Teaching, Learning, Internet usage

INTRODUCTION

COVID 19 pandemic has spread all over the world, almost affecting all countries. It was first identified in December 2019 in Wuhan, China. All countries all over the world are requested to take responsive care. Public

care included handwashing, wearing the mask, social distancing, using sanitizer, avoiding public programs.

Lockdown was declared, and no one was allowed to step out of their home. Bhutan is the first place to announce the closing of schools and institutions, reducing shop hours. The complete lockdown all over the world was implemented in august 2020. In between, offices began to function by following all the protocols. Also, schools for higher-level students and colleges began to reopen. All the other grade students continued with their online classes.

The impact of this has affected learning during these academics. Most of the schools, universities have discontinued the offline mode of teaching. The COVID 19 pandemic has provided us with an opportunity to pave the way for introducing digital learning (Dhawan 2020). This Paper shows the weakness of online teaching, the limited exposure of students. They have no suitable environment for learning from home, nonavailability of digital devices. Also, this paper gives a clear picture of the impact of the COVID 19 Pandemic on the teaching and learning process across the world.

EDUCATION THROUGH ONLINE

Lockdown and social distancing due to COVID 19 pandemic have led to the closure of schools, higher education institutes in almost all countries. Teaching shifted from offline to online. The online learning distance and continuing education have become a panacea for this unprecedented global pandemic, despite the challenges posed to educators and learners. The transition of the educational system from the traditional chalk-talk method to the online mode creates a different experience for both the learners and teachers. The education system and the educators have adopted "education in an emergency" through various online platforms and are compelled to adopt an approach that they are not prepared for.

E-learning plays an essential role in this pandemic situation. It helps the students including schools and universities, to learn through online platforms. The learners having fixed mindset find it challenging to adapt and adjust to this e-learning, but growth mindset learners quickly adopt it. It is possible to study a variety of subjects through online learning. Different topics and age groups require different approaches to online learning. Physically challenged students got more freedom and exploration in learning in the virtual environment once they were limited.

When the school has been closed to cope up with the global pandemic, it badly affects everyone. While the government, health workers were doing their best to reduce this pandemic condition. The educational system

tries to impart quality education to everyone during this challenging situation. Many students undergo psychological and emotional distress and not have been unable to do something productively. The best teaching method depends on expertise and exposure to information and communication technology for educators and learners. Some of the online platforms used are zoom; Google meet, google classroom, etc., allowing the teachers to create educational courses and training skill developing programs. Learning materials are shared in the form of word, pdf, audio, video. These also allow the tracking of student learning.

The flipped classroom is a simple strategy for providing learning resources such as articles, pre-recorded videos, and YouTube links before the class. The online classroom time is then used to deepen understanding through discussion with faculty and peers. This is an effective way of encouraging problem-solving, critical thinking, and self-directed learning.

CHALLENGERS OF ONLINE EDUCATION

So many challenges are faced through online education. Many countries have substantial issues with a reliable Internet connection and access to digital devices. In many of the developing countries, economically backward children are unable to access to digital learning. Online education poses a risk of exposure to increased screen time for the learner. Therefore, it has become essential for students to engage in offline activities and self-exploratory learning. Lack of parental guidance, especially for young learners, is another challenge, as both parents are working. Student assessments are carried out online, with many trial and error, uncertainty, and confusion among the teachers, students, and parents. The approach adopted to conduct online examinations varies as per the convenience and expertise among the educators and the compatibility of the learners. Appropriate measures to check plagiarism are yet to be put in place in many schools and institutions, mainly due to the large student population. The lockdown also affects the main public examinations such as university exams, entrance exams. Some students expressed that they want to take their family members to hospitals etc. After that, when they came back, they are not able to attend the online classes. The majority of the students don't access smartphones.

There is no or less income for a huge population due to the closure of businesses and offices. It is challenging to design a proper system to fit the learning needs and convenience of all students.

OPPORTUNITIES OF ONLINE TEACHING

Although there have been overwhelming challenges for educators, schools, institutes and the government regarding online education from a different angle, several opportunities were created by the COVID-19 pandemic. The use of online platforms such as Google Classroom, Zoom, virtual learning environment, and social media are explored and tried for teaching and learning for the first time to continue education. This can be explored further even after face-to-face teaching resumes, and these platforms can provide additional resources and coach to the learners. Teachers are obliged to develop creative initiatives that assist in overcoming the limitations of virtual teaching. Teachers are actively collaborating at a local level to improve online teaching methods. There are incomparable opportunities for cooperation, creative solutions, and willingness to learn from others and try new tools as educators. Online learning has provided the opportunity to teach and learn in innovative ways, unlike the teaching and learning experiences in the regular classroom setting. As all students' assignments and examinations are carried out from home, it is challenging for educators to find the authenticity of the work and the actual learning taking place. Grading of students is another area of study as no proper criteria are developed and effectively used.

CONCLUSION

The study on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on teaching and learning across the world concludes that although various studies have been carried out, in the case of developing countries, appropriate pedagogy and platform for different class levels of higher secondary, middle, and primary education need to be explored further. Internet bandwidth is relatively low with lesser access points, and data packages are costly compared to the income of the people in many developing countries, thus making accessibility and affordability inadequate. Policy-level intervention is required to improve this situation.

The need for developing tools for authentic assessments and timely feedback is found to be another area of study. The affordability and accessibility for all the learners of varied economic backgrounds are identified as a challenge, for which the developer of the educational tool could focus on customization. The policy level intervention is also vital. Education system across the world including Bhutan needs to invest on the professional development of teachers, especially on ICT and effective pedagogy, considering the present scenario. Making

online teaching creative, innovative, and interactive through user-friendly tools is another area of research and development.

COVID 19 pandemic teachers that both the teacher and student will be oriented to different online educational tools. So the present pandemic condition has both merits and demerits.

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