



ROLE OF E-LEARNING IN THE PREVALENT SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF INDIAN SOCIETY IN THE POST-PANDEMIC ERA

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Abstract :

The pandemic period characterized by the sudden spread out of the most virulent type of coronavirus has brought the world house arrest, sloth the pace of the growing and developing economy suddenly. People were not ready to tackle the situation, so many mishaps, destruction, and mortality rates increased with unknown leaps and bounds, to which no one could find a solution unless and until vaccines came out. The pandemic slaughtered the education system, job losses, and slashed economic growth all over the world.

The high point of the discussion of this piece of paper is to discuss how the education system was badly affected, institutions were closed down, the school dropout rate increased, the family system collapsed, and the student community became teacher less, guide less and mentor less. The system of education from the jeopardized situation came alive with the help of the internet and e-learning. The social infrastructure of India comprises a huge digital divide due to disproportionate economic structures like the rich, upper middle class, middle class, below the poverty line, etc. The people belonging to middle-class strata earn their living for regular livelihood and not for fashion or maintaining the status quo. The study aims to identify the impact of electronic learning or e-learning on the socioeconomic strata or infrastructure of India.

The propensity of using electronic media for learning suddenly increased during the pandemic, there was a stiff growth in the sale of smartphones, and every family member managed their expenses to maintain smartphones for their office use complying with work-from-home norms, educational purposes, and other social communication purposes. The education sector could be managed from the effect of lockdown by the use of e-learning methodologies, the traditional classroom transaction practices reached the extremely remote corner of the household with the advent of e-learning. Each and every household member got aware of the usage of digital devices and learned the value of using the devices for the necessary purpose.

This study highlights the issues related to e-learning solutions. This includes considering e-learning in relation to education and society, and the changes faced and acknowledged by the education system. The study then provides an overview of the impact of e-learning on the socioeconomic strata of Indian society.

***IndexTerms* - E-learning, Mobile Learning, Digital Divide, Social Communication, Civic Participation.**

Introduction

The COVID-19 pandemic has uprooted the socio-economic infrastructure of India by closing down the work of the nation, the virulent propensity of the COVID 19, has created a panic within human society causing them to be arrested within home, avoiding all forms of social contacts. This type of situation has caused the deceleration of the growing economy, the increase of social distancing and last but not the least the closure of educational institutions. The closure of the educational institutions has affected the learners community with an everlasting negative attitude towards the good side of life, they have lost their interest and motivation to study, study habits have deteriorated, school dropout rate increased, school students turned out to be a juvenile delinquent.

In India, due to the pandemic situation the education system was badly affected, educational institutions were closed down, school dropout rate increased, the family system collapsed, the student community became teacher less, guide less and mentor less. The system of education from the jeopardised situation

came alive with the help of the internet and e-learning. The social infrastructure of India comprises huge digital divide due to disproportionate economic structure like the rich, upper middle class, middle class, below poverty line etc. The people belonging to middle class strata earn their living for regular livelihood and not for fashion nor maintaining the status quo. The study aims to identify the impact of electronic learning or e-learning on socio economic strata or infrastructure of India. The propensity of using the electronic media for learning suddenly increased during the pandemic, there was a stiff growth in the sale of smartphones, every family member managed their expenses to maintain smartphones for their office use complying with work from home norms, educational purpose and other social communication purposes. The education sector could be managed from the effect of lockdown by the use of e-learning methodologies, the traditional classroom transaction practices reached to the extreme remote corner of the household with the advent of e-learning. Each and every household member got aware about the usage of digital devices, learned the value of using the devices for the necessary purpose. In addition to this education could be protected from paucity, the student community from across school, colleges and other higher education got exposure towards the various e-learning platforms, students got the opportunity to learn at their own pace, mobile learning got the special emphasis.

Govt. of India also introduced and emphasised on the work from home and study from home concept, These models of working and learning have both positive effects and unmanageable aspects towards the society. They also contributed towards the dichotomization of qualitative and quantitative aspects of education, economic aspects like costly and affordability measures to continue with the model, physical nearness and distance, online or blended class environment, real life practical education and virtual ambiguous education etc.

Sudden closure of the face to face education system has caused the private and low income group schools difficult to sustain. Teachers face the issue of underpaid salary, in many of the schools teachers' attrition rate increased. On the other hand, the infrastructure required to flag off the online education system was also lagging behind due to lack of funds, schools raised the tuition fees, which further created a great turmoil between the teachers and parents community.

Both the teachers and students have faced and still are facing many difficulties as per this online education system. These obstacles are because of lack of technical infrastructure, limited awareness of online teaching platforms, lack of technical support and also the teachers' personal problems related to their lack of technical knowledge and poor pedagogical integration with technology. Furthermore, the students of India are also facing hurdles like the external distraction and family interruption during the online teaching-learning process. Some security issues were also observed in the online classes like sudden entry of unwanted learners to which teachers or schools had no control through the technology. This created a sense of seeking more information and getting upgraded in the e-learning platform. Teachers started attending various faculty development programs, which can be considered as a positive side of the pandemic situation.

Some issues needs more attention like clarity of information and direction with respect to the e-learning methodologies, the normal schedule of educational activities like examinations, school admissions, entrance tests of various universities and competitive examinations are in jeopardised condition having no immediate solution, which affected the timely and aptly engaging in online teaching-learning process and no way to stop this outbreak. In this way, the closure of schools and universities in India is hugely affected and shall affect the teaching-learning process across the country, if firm policy is not taken by the Govt.

In addition to this, education could be protected from the paucity, the student community from across schools, colleges, and other higher education got exposure to the various e-learning platforms, students got the opportunity to learn at their own pace, and mobile learning got the special emphasis. Education acts as an instrument in eradicating discriminating attitudes with respect to education facilities, civic participation, employment, and community life. It is so because education enriches people's understanding of themselves and the world, improving the quality of their lives, thereby leading them towards attaining a basket of social benefits, accruing to both individuals and society, alike.

The concept of e-learning inclusion into an education begins with the teacher and the manner in which they teach. A simple explanation of the view is that the teacher is the final authority and source of knowledge. The problem for many teachers is the transition of teaching in a manner that accommodates the use of technology. Mixing how they have previously been teaching with the use of technology which gives birth to e-learning. In e-learning, Technology is simply a means that teachers may use in different

ways in the new environment that can affect students and results. A teacher must make use of technology and needs to think how it may give a solution to a problem of teaching they have within their learning environment. To overcome this problem in teaching use of e-readers could be the best way. It also overcomes the problem of a lack of textbooks. Another way could be helping students understand new ideas and concepts with the help e-learning platform.

Unlike chalk and board methods, e-learning makes the study interesting, fun loving and easier. The e-Learning platforms evaluate the learning pace of the students, which enable them to have self-paced, personalised content which they can access in their own comfort, as and when they require. Online learning or e-learning is also transforming the traditional face to face tuition culture towards the virtual world. E-learning modality encompassing the e-inclusion has also mitigated the teachers incompetencies in the teaching learning environment and thus empowering the student's community with an equitable approach.

2. INTEGRATION OF E-LEARNING IN PEDAGOGICAL TRANSACTION:

E-Learning is a meaningful term that pertains to teaching, learning and the creation of a virtual platform for the exchange of content through digital mode. To make this more proactive various online open educational resources are taken into account. Some examples of using technologies in e-learning classrooms are below:

One-to-Many: Online classes. It includes lecture notes, quiz, and assignment. Using synchronous and asynchronous technologies like attending online video classes, listening to podcasts etc. The teacher presents the lesson through a multimedia projector. The content may include PowerPoint slides, flip books, pdf documents etc.

One-to-One: Teachers examine individual students' progress using a proctored video program, this proctored program facilitates the evaluation of students, admission to specific programs or obtaining feedback.

One-Alone: E-reading tools with textbooks (e-books) like Kindle, audio books.

Group presentation of learners: The students in a group present the content or lessons learned by using PowerPoint slides, adopting audio-visual modes etc.

Teacher Training: Teachers access training materials, exercises and take tests using online software.

School Administration: Learning management System is of much utility to manage the total teaching learning process through interactive online mode.

Each of these described above can be carried out using various e-learning programs, and using various technologies.

3. IMPACT OF E-LEARNING ON EDUCATIONAL INTERFACE OR PEDAGOGICAL TRANSACTION

E-learning makes the classrooms interactive which convert the School into a learning environment.

Interactive classrooms leads to funny way to learn

E-learning Helps in active participation of students and teachers.

The automated nature of E-learning in terms of animated effects of different concepts motivates the learners to understand the concept in a gainful way.

E-learning and teaching also provide teachers with a large database of questions and empowers to resolve the upcoming issues related to educational content.

Teachers can also upload content online; create question paper and examine student's performance

ICT integrated curriculum enables an audio-visual mode of learning that helps in the nurturing of higher order thinking skills of the students.

E-learning has different types of contents like animations, videos, self-explanatory diagrams, quizzes, flipbooks with embedded audio and video, e-pubs containing previous years questions and their solutions with regular updates.

It provides effective teaching and learning means in the classroom for teachers and students with User friendly GUI.

Some of the benefits of E-Learning:

Accommodating: The E-Learning method of education accommodates each and every student irrespective of their age, gender, location, time, comfortability etc., it can be taken by anyone, anywhere.

Accessibility of Lessons: Unlike the traditional classroom teaching method, students can access the same lesson number of times as per their requirement, it helps the student or the learners to revise as many times as required.

Current version of the content: Due to the constant research and innovations in the field of education, the contents are in constant update and are readily available through the e-learning platform.

Recreational modality enhancer: E-Learning platforms are also creating augmented reality based games or applications that make the study habit interesting and entertaining for the learners. This type of interactional exposure moulds up the higher order thinking skills among the students and stimulates the critical thinking and problem solving skills.

Other benefits include direct connection with experts, enabling parents to check the development of a child's performance and getting updated about it through emails and messages, making E-Learning the future of education cutting across the geographic boundaries.

Exemplary Impact of E-Learning on Education:

Upcoming of Massive Open Online Courses through SWAYAM, Coursera etc.

National Program on Technology Enhanced Learning (NPTEL), an initiative of MHRD or Ministry of Education, supported by seven IITs and IISc Bangalore, Now it is working in close collaboration with SWAYAM. The main focus of the NPTEL is to educate the engineering students and working professionals to accumulate the academic bank of credits.

Functions of NPTEL are:

To make lectures in a video format for broadcasting that provides quality content

To create e-learning material that would be made in such a way to meet the needs of engineering students across the country.

To make e-learning material available on the internet for the video lectures to compliment classroom teaching.

The main aim of the NPTEL project is to facilitate the competitiveness of industry in the global markets by improving the quality of engineering education. Another objective of NPTEL is to make high quality learning material available to students of engineering institutions across the country by using the advances in information and communication technology. The target group for this project consists of students and faculty of institutions offering undergraduate engineering programs in India.

The analysis of feedback obtained at the portal of SWAYAM is also of much significance in understanding the impact of e-learning on education as well as on society.

To quote from the portal of SWAYAM central (<https://swayam.gov.in/>):

One of the students (anonymous) from North Eastern Regional Institute of Science and Technology gave the feedback “Basically I don't see much of a difference between regular classes and online learning. I look at online learning as a new way of the 21st century NPTEL courses that enhance learning through technology. The Discussion forum has been a great help as most questions that I had already been discussed there.”

Another student (anonymous) Met Bhujbal Knowledge City Institute of Engineering, Nagpur, Maharashtra gave the feedback as “NPTEL seamlessly helping students and teachers to improve their knowledge with quality educational content. NPTEL imparted sanctity in education by offering education to all without the geographical barriers.”

These feedbacks obtained at the e-learning platforms are the significant indicators of the quality impact of e-learning on education, and the trend of these kind of impact can be seen more aptly in this post pandemic situation.

4. SOCIAL IMPACTS OF E-LEARNING

Access to e-learning may have a substantial effect on different members of society. Beyond the effects on graduates' sources of income and employment, enhanced skills Other benefits of education include better health and affluence, especially for women and girls. Social Impacts of E-learning briefly discusses the effects of education before focusing more intently on the interaction between e-learning and society, specifically how the social environment like pandemic situation, lockdown etc., might impair an educational program's ability to provide its full potential to all students. E-learning programmes can be accessed and used by people from many walks of life, including those who speak different languages, reside in remote areas. Improved health or prevention measures during the pandemic had been greatly influenced by e-learning measures. E learning made it possible to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and Sustainable Development Goals throughout the globe with great ease and comfortability. It was also seen that the World Health Organisation organising various educational and prevention programs through electronic learning mode throughout the globe, had a great impact on society. Girls' education for over six years or more, as mandated by UNICEF, 2011, "has proved dramatic, consistent and quality prenatal care, postnatal care, and childbirth survival rates, reducing infant mortality rates. Girls with greater education have higher self-esteem, are more likely to avoid contracting HIV, engaging in violence or being exploited, and are more likely to teach their families and communities how to maintain excellent hygiene. Additionally, a mother with education is more likely to send her kids to school. Additional effects of post-primary education have been the reduction of poverty, the postponement of girl marriage, and the consolidation of authority. E-learning has enhanced the lifelong learning opportunities of everybody irrespective of gender, ability, caste, creed and religious background.

Various research findings narrating lack of ICT in educational infrastructure has created a great digital divide amongst the rural and urban part of the nation, rich, middle class and poor section of the society. In this type of situation, e-Learning has the great potential of transformation. The adoption and adaptation of technology and e-learning, as well as the degree to which they genuinely enhance learning, can be significantly influenced by culture. The ability of e-learning to revolutionise education frequently conflicts with educationalists' preference for traditional methods of instruction that have little impact on classroom life.

Teachers frequently employ e-learning features in culturally accustomed ways, which may reduce their effectiveness. Language can have an impact on e-learning programmes in general and learning software in particular. Learning resources and the Internet are in a common language that many students and teachers struggle with. For instance, kids in India go from studying in their different mother tongues in primary school to English as their preferred language in secondary school. In primary school, English language classes were frequently taken by the children, but many are not well-versed enough to learn in an English-only setting. The majority of software and educational resources are written in English, which is also the language that is utilised the most on the Internet. Teachers and students with inadequate English proficiency may be discriminated against. Thus, before e-potential Learning's can be realised, it may be necessary to become adept at reading a second language. To overcome the language barrier, e-learning and the Internet can also be effective motivators for students to learn English and other foreign languages that are often used online.

5. CONCLUSIONS

It's quite evident that education plays a significant role in the advancement of society and economic infrastructure of society. E-learning in schools and universities is developing quickly. E-learning courses are now being taught in a lot of institutions and universities. Present study tries to highlight the impact of e-learning and provide key strategies for incorporating fresh and ongoing e-learning initiatives. The creation and management of the learning environment depends on the teacher. Teachers would need to embrace new strategies and innovations for the learners to have a successful online learning experience. These changes could have an impact on how you teach, and you'll need a new set of skills and aptitudes to get ready for an e-learning environment. Additional strategic planning is needed before e-learning may be implemented in a professional setting. Technology-based educational reform necessitates the adoption of efficient implementation and maintenance strategies like proper fund allocation and policy framework for guiding e-learning. Any strategy that includes change and alters the way people operate can help the building of a healthy and inclusive society providing equitable opportunity to all. This study has clearly narrated the positives and limitations of e-learning with respect to the educational, social and economic aspects of society, and also explained how e-learning has improved the educational quality for the benefit of the society and at large the nation.

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