

Scienchia



"Technology will never replace great teacher, but
technology in the hands of great teacher is transformational."

-George Couros

ADCBP Ashta

ONLINE DISTANCE EDUCATION

TECHNICAL
MAGAZINE

P.25
ACADEMIC YEAR 2020-21
ISSUE #1



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FROM PRINCIPAL DESK

"It is the supreme art of the teacher to awaken joy in creative expression and knowledge."

-Albert Einstein

It gives me immense pleasure to present the "Sciencia" Technical magazine issue of our institute for the academic year 2020-2021.

The COVID-19 pandemic has posed many challenges in the personal and professional lives of the public, at the same time has created the largest disruption of education systems in human history. Social distancing and restrictive movement policies have significantly disturbed traditional educational practices. There is a fear of losing 2020 academic year among students, parents and educators, to address this challenge it has become mandate to innovate and implement alternative educational system and assessment strategies. No doubt, it is equally important to take forward the concept of non-electronic teaching with the help of books, lectures and practical, but the importance and effectiveness of technology-based learning cannot be ignored completely. It has also been found that visuals, attract students' attention, are also retained by the brain for longer periods and moreover is the only alternate in present challenging scenario. With the availability of adequate online educational tools and platforms, the users—both educators and learners—face frequent glitches while using it or referring to these tools. Our institute technical magazine editorial team has taken up this theme to provide a comprehensive insight on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on online teaching and learning.

I congratulate to Mr. Swapnil S Patil Editor in chief and Mrs. Shailaja Desai Deputy Editor and all the authors for their contribution in making this magazine a thoughtful approach with valuable insights, suggestions for educators and learners challenges associated with online learning.

We welcome any suggestions and feedback for further improvement, I hope you all will enjoy reading this issue..... stay safe stay healthy.



Prof. Dr. Mahesh G. Saralaya
Executive Editor
"Sciencia" Technical Magazine



FROM EDITORIAL DESK

'Every experience, no matter how bad it seems, holds within it a blessing of some kind, the goal is to find it.'

- Buddha



Dear Readers,

Hope you and your family are safe and are following the social distancing norms. The Covid-19 Pandemic has brought us all in an unprecedented situation, and we have challenging and uncertain times ahead.

It is my pleasure to present the "Sciencia" Technical magazine issue of the year 2020-21. Every year we are coming up with insight on new theme. Each year our team of Magazine, photographers, designers and correspondents involved in addition to generating creative content. We are hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic and though our backs are to the walls, we have found ways to adapt. Writers have given great contribution to upgrade the quality and standards of magazine. Insight of articles apart from focusing on obstacles in online education writers have focused opportunities as well. In the end, technology will not replace teachers, that is the truth. Every article in our technical magazine aimed to focus on theme of present year i.e. "Online Distance Education".

In the spirit of continuous improvement, any constructive input on streamlining our processes is very welcome. So this year's issue is a compilation of fascination, education, experience, joy and more! We have a pleasure presenting this edition to you. We are pushing barriers and reaching greater heights with every edition. We wish to come back with a much more exciting and value-adding edition, next year. Till then, enjoy this reading.

Mr. Swapnil S. Patil

Editor in chief

"Sciencia" Technical Magazine



PANDEMIC'S IMPACT ON TEACHER'S, PARENT'S AND STUDENT'S ATTITUDE



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The closure of educational institutions in an effort to maintain social distancing as a preventive and precautionary measure against COVID-19, have all changed the mode of teaching from a conventional standard system to a virtual and online framework. The interaction between facilitator, learner and study material along with emotional and social support are essential ingredients for effective learning. According to students and previous studies, the attention span during online learning is shorter than face to face sessions. Due to lack of immediate feedback, teachers were unable to assess students' understanding during online lecturing. Some teachers also mentioned that during online study, students misbehaved and tried to access online resources during assessments.

The situation of lockdown has led to major problems in teachers' lives, as evidenced by the pressure that online educational methods have placed on them: many hours of work and difficulties due to the lack of physical contact or due to the obstacles created on combining personal life with family. Obviously, we will have to learn from this experience in several ways. On the one hand, it is essential to study which digital competences both teachers and students have, as well as parents, since in the vast majority of cases, they have had to act as a bridge to facilitate the teaching-learning process of their children. Other limitations could be those related to knowledge and skills, and teachers have mentioned that they might have to be trained in the didactic and instructional value that each resource and each strategy has, since there is not a direct translation from what is done in the classroom to what has to be done online.



Considering this difficult situation, it is also necessary to design better-structured teacher training plans, which do not generate an excessive workload, as it has been reflected in the results of this research. Obviously, no one was prepared to make the leap from classroom to online teaching from 1st day to another.

Parents expressed a greater appreciation for technology in education and its use by teachers. The life condition of families suddenly and deeply changed. In the home environment, the educational role of parents for children has become even much crucial than before. Children have only their parents around them, to provide support with homework when necessary and promote a positive development. Though quarantine means that time that can be shared with loved ones has increased, it also poses a major burden on parents' shoulders, as they are called to take an educational role while also trying to live their own lives and get on with their everyday job commitments. This situation has significantly increased the risk of experiencing stress and negative emotions in parents, with a potentially cascading effect on children's well being. A majority of parents found homeschooling "stressful and challenging" during the pandemic. Parents of children with Special Educational Needs (SEN) were most likely to experience difficulties in home-schooling. Some parents complained that schools expected too much work to be completed while, for others, their children's school appeared less engaged after an initial period of support.

Children are one of the prominent victims of the performed restricted quarantine strategies' effects, becoming vulnerable to various mental health problems. These extensive changes, such as school closure and continuous contact with family, have made substantial effects on their daily routines, including leisure time activities, sleep, and even social communications. Altering sleep pattern and less physical activity affect the children's physical and mental health itself, which may subsequently result in consequences such as gaining weight, home violence, post-traumatic psychological stress, decreased social contacts, and increased screen time. Based on the living area, students from rural areas preferred studying, while those from the cities preferred mobile and computer games as their primary activity.



There was also a significant difference between private and public school students in missing their teacher; those studying in public schools had missed their teacher more frequently. This is in contrast with the hypothesis that students who study in private schools may receive more attention and kindness from their educators than their families due to their socioeconomic status, as we see private school's stressful atmosphere put more pressure on students that might make them more reluctant to attend their school. It may also be attributed to their level of comfort and leisure tools provided in their home.

IMPACT OF ONLINE TEACHING IN EDUCATION ERA OF COVID

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Online education is need of the era as COVID-19 has resulted in schools shut all across the world. The current COVID-19 pandemic has changed not only the utilization of technology in education but the pedagogy strategies also.

The COVID-19 pandemic has become a global health issue and has a major impact on education. Distance education synonymously referred as distance learning, is the education of students who may not always be physically present at a school. Today, it usually involves online education. Online education is need of the era as COVID-19 has resulted in schools shut all across the world. Globally, children are out of the classroom due to pandemic. That being the reason education has changed dramatically, with the peculiar rise of e-learning, whereby teaching is undertaken from a distance; without physical contact and on digital platforms. Research put forward that online learning has been shown to increase retention of information, and take less time.

Students are not affected by school closures due to the pandemic as result of online distance education. With this sudden shift away from the classroom worldwide currently, some are wondering whether the adoption of online learning will continue to persist post-pandemic, and how such a shift would impact the worldwide education market. Even before COVID-19, there was already high growth and adoption in education but there has been a significant surge in usage of technology, language apps, virtual tutoring, video conferencing tools or online learning software.

In response to significant demand, many online learning platforms are offering free access to their services. While some believe that the unplanned and rapid move to online learning with no training, insufficient bandwidth, and little preparation and poor user experience will result in a damage to sustained growth, where as others believe that the hike of information technology in education will be further accelerated and that online education will eventually become an integral component of school education. However, there are challenges in online distance education like some students without reliable internet access and/or technology struggle to participate in digital classroom,hidden costs and misuse of technology. Now there is question that is learning online as effective as offline teaching? If we have access to the right technology, learning online can be more effective in a number of ways. Online distance education allows students to learn at their own pace, going back and re-reading, skipping, or accelerating through concepts as they choose.

Despite some challenges, students must adapt to the new learning methods of distance learning and should get blended with it. This current COVID-19 pandemic has changed not only the utilization of technology in education but the pedagogy strategies also.



NEWS INSIGHT

EDUCATION IN THE TIME OF PANDEMIC
2,751
 Total respondents

- Reasons related to Covid-19 were reported by 24% of those who left, alongside inability to pay school fees and being forced to take up work.
- Around 1 in 5 19-year-old students who were enrolled in education in 2020 were not engaged in any form of learning.
- Female students living in the poorest and most vulnerable households are at greater risk of their classes continuing to be suspended, and their families will be forced to seek alternative means of education.

BOOSTING CONNECTIVITY
GOVT'S STEPS TO IMPROVE ONLINE CLASSES

- Wi-Fi connectivity for 6 panchayats on pilot basis
- IT dept to provide Wi-Fi connectivity at remote panchayats
- Develop class videos for broadcast on local channels
- DIKSHA Platform for e-learning and online classes

Students have to walk to next village for connectivity

Distance learning works for JEE too

1,292 locations functioning
241 not functioning
1,533 extended GBBN locations at schools, colleges

Teach*Study*Webinar*Learn*Course*Online learning*Teach*Study*Webinar*Learn*Course

Welcome to your digital classroom

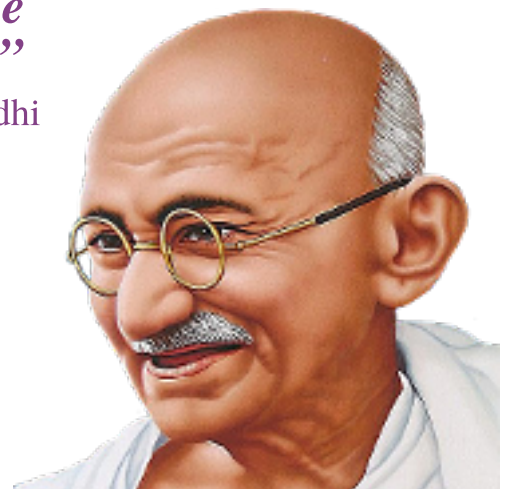
'social media speak'

3 tips to help navigate your classroom, from an ex-improv artist

Virtual learning can't succeed without digital skills training

“There is no school equal to a decent home and no teacher equal to a virtuous parent.”

Mahatma Gandhi



ONLINE EDUCATION PROS & CONS

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Online education is amenable instructional delivery process that includes any learning that takes place via the internet. Online learning enables educators to communicate with students who may not be capable of enrolling in a traditional classroom course and assists students who need to work on their own schedule and at their own speed.

Online education is an amenable instructional delivery process that includes any learning that takes place via the internet. Online learning enables educators to communicate with students who may not be capable of enrolling in a traditional classroom course and assists students who need to work on their own schedule and at their own speed.

Every discipline is registering a surge in the volume of distance learning and imparting of online degrees, with remarkable pace. Schools and institutions that offer online education are also growing in number. Students pursuing degrees through online methods must be scrupulous in ensuring their coursework is completed through a valued and credentialed university.

Online education is known to offer the benefit of synergy. Here, the format employed makes room for dynamic communications between students and the teachers. Through these communications, sources are shared, and an open-ended synergy evolves through a learning process. When each person bestows a view or opinion through discussions and comments on others' work course, it benefits the student to learn better. This unique advantage is manifested in a student-centered virtual learning environment that online learning format alone can contribute.

With online classes, we don't need to travel to a different city or commute long distances. We can stay where we are and keep our current job while we work toward improving our career with an online degree. Online education also helps digital nomads—someone who espouses a technology-enabled or location-independent lifestyle. We can watch lectures and complete our coursework wherever we are.

Whether we are a full-time or part-time online student, the online education experience provides a much more manageable schedule. Online education has gained much approval on account of its cheapness. Such is the fact that online courses are more affordable than those offered at schools or colleges. While studying in universities, we may have to spend some money such as transportation, lodging, and meals, online education may not require such expenses.

One of the important aspects of online learning is its inherent flexibility, however, there is a catch, and one has to be extremely self-motivated. The best online students develop various approaches for staying up to date on their coursework. Things like setting aside time every week to study and create a workspace with minimal distractions can help immensely.

Pros & Cons Online Education

Pros of Online Education

Online education enables us to learn from various mentors and teachers in different areas, increasing our knowledge and perspective. It reduces nervousness among students, as many are able to communicate more through online education than regular classes. One can learn from merely anyplace as long as they have an available internet device.

Online education usually is more affordable. Online education further happens to be comparatively cheaper in comparison to conventional educational approaches. Under traditional university programs, the students are required to compensate for transportation, textbooks, institutional facilities such as gyms, libraries, swimming pools, and other costs that expedite the cost of university education up. Online education, on its part, charges only for tuition and additional essential expenses. Virtual education thus offers both the wealthy and the poor an opportunity. Online education is flexible and adaptable since one can study at any time, even at midnight. It can help increase the grades of some people as compared to standard traditional education. Some people learn more through online education. There is considerably a large amount of educational information on the internet.

Cons of Online Education

The advantages that online education brings to students are immense and indisputable. Pursuing an online course is an excellent option in education, particularly when traditional learning situations have many obstacles, such as commuting or distance. However, as everything has two sides, online education also has some fundamental drawbacks that can be inconvenient.

Using the computer too much can make the students prone to plagiarism. It can also cause vision problems as we sit near the laptop almost the whole day. Online education may also hinder physical development. Online education can be quite complicated for a person to be accountable for their own learning without someone to drive them to do something.

Online education detaches you from your classmates. One might need to put in extra time in some cases to understand the learning process. It is easier to cheat in an online exam than when in a class and hence may not be advisable during exams. Online education also gives one a lot of autonomy which may be critical for our learning. There are a number of distractions on the internet through adverts, and this might interrupt our learning. Online education also has significantly less self-assessment.

BLENDED TEACHING LEARNING: EDUCATION 4.0 ON THE BACKDROP OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

With the advent of distant online learning and new education policy 2020, everyone who is associated with the higher education must buckle up to be a part of dynamic educational system. In education 4.0, the benefits of the online teaching-learning should be blended with the traditional teaching-learning, in order to provide 21st century skills to the learner.

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BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION

Unprecedented nationwide lockdown due to Covid 19 pandemic had pushed the education system into the less explored distant online mode of teaching learning. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 has heralded the transformation of Indian education system. The new NEP has made it clear that it is a high time to develop and implement the policies those will henceforth be referred as Education 4.0! The time has certainly arrived to accept that the learner is the main stakeholder and that all efforts must be converged to help them achieve their dreams and aspirations.

The pandemic has forced the world to constantly change the various domains of life. The education domain is no exemption. The evolution of the digital learning platforms has impacted the educational system tremendously and has eventually put the traditional system in the back seat. However, there are benefits of both technology and traditional learning methods. Hence, a novel combination of digital learning tools with traditional teaching gave birth to the term “Blended Learning” (BL). This article is a sincere attempt to familiarise the readers about Blended Learning.



Blended learning is a teaching and learning approach that combines face to-face classroom methods with computer mediated activities to deliver instruction. This pedagogical approach means a mixture of face-to-face and online activities. It is an integration of synchronous and asynchronous learning tools to provide an optimal possibility of effective learning processes. It includes a well-planned combination of meaningful tools of both the modes. The blend demands a careful consideration of several factors, mainly focussing on learning outcomes and the learner centred instructional environment. NEP2020 recommends for use of blended models of learning and emphasises that while promoting digital learning and education, the importance of face-to-face in-person learning is fully recognized.

SALIENT FEATURES AND BENEFITS

- Increased student engagement in learning.
- Enhanced teacher and student interaction.
- Responsibility for learning.
- Time management and flexibility
- Improved student learning outcomes
- Enhanced institutional reputation.
- More flexible teaching and learning environment
- More amenable for self and continuous learning
- Better opportunities for experiential learning

REVOLUTION IN THE ROLE OF TEACHERS

BL shifts the role of teachers from knowledge provider to a coach and mentor. This shift doesn't indicate that teachers will play a passive or less important role in learner's education. But on the contrary, with BL, teachers can have an even more profound influence and effect on learning. BL provides an appropriate balance between online instructions (interactive, tech-based learning, individualized pacing, and privacy that keep students continuously engaged and motivated) and teacher-led instruction (personalizes the learning experience and adds the human elements of encouragement, compassion, and caring guidance).

BL INSTRUCTIONAL MODELS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

·**Blended face-to-face class:** It is based in the classroom, although a significant amount of classroom time has been replaced by online activities. Online activities are used to supplement the in-person classes; readings, quizzes or other assessments are done online

at home. This model allows students and faculty to share more high-value instructional time.

·**Blended online class:** It is the inverse of the blended face-to-face class. The class is mostly conducted online, but there are some required in-person activities such as lectures or labs.

·**The flipped classroom:** It reverses the traditional class structure of listening to a lecture in class and completing homework activities at home. Students in flipped classes watch a short lecture video online and come into the classroom to complete activities such as group work, projects or other exercises.

·**The self-blend model:** Learners using this model are enrolled in a school but take online courses in addition to their traditional face-to-face courses. They are not directed by a faculty member and choose which courses they will take online and which they will take in person.

·**The blended MOOC:** The blended MOOC is a form of flipped classroom using in-person class meetings to supplement a massive open online course. Students access MOOC materials – perhaps from another institution or instructor if the course is openly accessible - outside of class and then come to a class meeting for discussions or in-class activities.



INSTRUCTIONAL ACTIVITIES TO PRACTICE BL

Online mode:

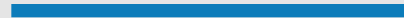
- Accessing e-Resources, mainly Open Educational Resources(consisting formats such as text, graphics, animations, simulations, gaming,interactive multimedia, etc.) uploaded on LMS by the instructor
- Accessing links, e-Resources, digital libraries, MOOC suggested by the instructor as well as explored individually or in groups.
- Attending online virtual sessions of the instructor
- Participating in the online workshops/webinars suggested by the instructor related to the curriculum
- Completing assignments and uploading on LMS / submitting to the instructor using ICT platforms
- Attempting online tests/quizzes
- Engaging into virtual labs, simulations, museums, etc.

Face-to-face (F2F) Mode:

- Attending instructor's lectures for introducing topics, understanding complex concepts, resolving queries based on self-learning or group-learning
- Participating in group activities in the classroom with peers, mainly for analysing and applying information sought through e-Resources,
- Borrowing and accessing books and periodicals from the library,
- Field visits, sports, etc.
- Face-to-face training, physical training, apprenticeships, internships, etc.
- Physical labs, hackathons, working in maker spaces, etc.
- Appearing for periodical assessments, summative tests on-campus, etc.

CONCLUSION

This new learning methodology permit students to become active learners who gain knowledge directly, lets them gain control over their learning and helps them develop self-reliance. It provides teachers with a fuller, more accurate picture of how each student is doing. BL yields more frequent and more personal teacher interaction with individual students; teachers have the opportunity to deepen and strengthen student/teacher relationships. In summary, BL combines the best aspects of online learning with the best aspects of direct instruction, helping teachers easily manage to do much more to meet student needs without adding to an already heavy workload.





Adaption of Education

"The shift to lifelong learning is absolutely essential. As the pace of technological change quickens, we need to be sure that employees are keeping up with the right skills to thrive in the Fourth Industrial Revolution. That applies to both technical and soft skills. There will be changes in both areas."

— Zvika Krieger,
Head of Technology Policy and Partnerships,
Center for the Fourth Industrial Revolution, World Economic Forum

ONLINE DISTANCE EDUCATION

It's a good idea to understand and realize that distance education might not be the best choice for every student, but understanding its advantages and disadvantages can help you to decide the distance learning is right for you pursuing a degree through it.



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Discover Everything You Need to Know Good and Bad about Online distance Education.

One of the most used terms after the pandemic is the “new normal.” The new normal in education is increased use of online learning tools. The COVID-19 pandemic has triggered. All around the world, educational institutions are adopting toward online learning platforms to continue the process of educating students. Today, digital learning has emerged as a necessary resource for students and schools all over the world. For many educational institutes, this is an entirely new way of education that they have to adopt. Online learning is now applicable not just to learn academics but it also extends to learning extracurricular activities for students as well. Recently the demand for online learning has risen significantly and it will continue in the future. Online learning also has its own set of positives and negatives.

To do or not to do that is the question that is in the mind of most students who are pursuing an education through distance learning. Over the years, distance education in various forms. Distance learning programs from open universities, online programs. Students often have apprehensions over opting for higher education via distance learning, as they lack clarity about the Advantages and disadvantages of this mode of education. It's a good idea to understand and realize that distance education might not be the best choice for every student, but understanding its advantages and disadvantages can help you to decide the distance learning is right for you pursuing a degree through it.

By understanding these will help institutes in creating strategies for delivering the lessons. Distance learning provides students who wish to have greater comfort and versatility in pursuing a course many more learning choices.

Advantages of distance learning

1.You can do a job along with studies: A major chunk of students who actually adopt for distance education are those who don't want to give up their jobs but want a higher education, too. Distance education comes as a blessing for such students. You can study on the weekends, when you're back from work or even in the middle of the night. You get to learn while you earn.

2.You can save money: For any given program, the fee of a distance education degree online may be much more affordable than the fee of a regular on-campus degree. Students who are looking for economically viable options can go for a distance learning program.

3.You can save time: There's no time wasted in going to and from college, no time wasted waiting for a bus or train. In a distance learning program, your classroom is right in your bedroom. The study material on your desk or the e-material on your computer. Students who don't have enough time can turn to distance education in homes with advanced technology.

4.You can learn at your own pace: Asking a question or revealing that you are unable to grasp a concept in class can be quite embarrassing for many students. Distance education help you if you are self-disciplined and self-motivated, the best benefit of distance education is that you can learn at your own space.

5.You can study any place and at any time: Except in scenarios where you have to attend an online tutorial at a given time or a lecture through video conferencing, you can pretty much study whenever you want. You need not be stuck in a classroom, but can go study in your garden, living room couch or in the own bed. Whenever you want in a morning or a night.

6.Improved Student Attendance: Since online classes can be taken from home or location of choice, there are fewer chances of students missing out of lessons.

7.Suits A Variety Of Learning Styles: Every student has a different learning strategies and a different style. Some students are visual learners while some students prefer to learn through audio. Similarly, some students thrive in the classroom and other students are solo learners who get distracted by large groups. The online learning system has lot of options and resources. It is the best way to create a perfect learning environment suited to the needs of each student.

Disadvantages of distance learning

A factor that's advantageous for one student might prove to be a drawback for another. Here are some disadvantages of distance learning.

1.Chances of distraction high: With no faculty around for face-to-face interaction and no classmates who can help with constant reminders about pending assignments, the chances of getting distracted and losing track of deadlines. You need to keep yourself motivated and focused if you want to successfully complete your distance learning course. Distance education is not a good idea if you tend to postpone and can't stick to deadlines.

2.Hidden costs: Although the cost of a distance education program is usually cheaper than a regular program but there can be hidden costs involved for example initial expenses like installing a computer and getting a reliable Internet connection. You may need to buy additional resources such as a printer, a web camera, and maintenance and electricity costs.

3.Complicated technology: Over dependence on technology can be a major drawback in distance learning education, especially when the learning takes place in an online environment. Any malfunctioning software or hardware can bring an ongoing class to a interrupt the learning process. Similarly, if a student is not computer and technology users his learning experience can be dissatisfactory.

4.Quality of faculty compromised: In online distant education it is often plagued by lack of enough good quality faculty members. In other cases, even if the instructor is good, he or she may not be comfortable with teaching in an online environment. Sometimes the technology might not do full justice to the delivery and design of the course. Online learning requires teachers to have a basic understanding of using digital forms of learning.

5.Questionable credibility of degrees: Even though distance and online education is starting to get recognition, there are still a lot of fraudulent and non-accredited degrees being offered.

6.Inability to Focus on Screens: For many students, one of the biggest challenges of online learning is the struggle with focusing on the screen for long periods of time. With online learning, there is also a greater chance for students to be easily distracted by social media or other sites. Sometimes students also develop bad posture and other physical problems due to staying hunched in front of a screen.



LIBRARY & ONLINE EDUCATION



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Librarian

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Academic libraries, established in colleges and universities, are the core sources of information for students, researchers and teachers. The information seekers belonging to any discipline of education rely on libraries to obtain the most appropriate and most reliable sources of information. Libraries preserve huge number books and journals to satisfy the information needs of the users. Besides, books and journals, there are other periodicals, reports, dissertations which attract particular information seekers.

According to UNESCO, since the outbreak of COVID-19 began, 137 Cr students in 138 countries all around the world have been affected by the closure of schools and universities. Nearly 6.02 Cr school teachers and university lecturers are no longer going to the classroom. The online learning has proved to be a saviour in these times. Online learning offers teachers an efficient way to deliver lessons to students. Online learning has a number of tools such as videos, PDFs, podcasts, and teachers can use all these tools as part of their lesson plans.

By extending the lesson plan beyond traditional textbooks to include online resources, teachers are able to become more efficient educators.

Every student has a different learning journey and a different learning style. Some students are visual learners, while some students prefer to learn through audio. Similarly, some students thrive in the classroom, and other students are solo learners who get distracted by large groups.

The online learning system, with its range of options and resources, can be personalized in many ways. It is the best way to create a perfect learning environment suited to the needs of each student.

The advantages that online education brings to students are immense and indisputable. Pursuing an online course is an excellent option in education, particularly when traditional learning situations have many obstacles, such as commuting or distance. However, as everything has two sides, online education also has some fundamental drawbacks that can be inconvenient.

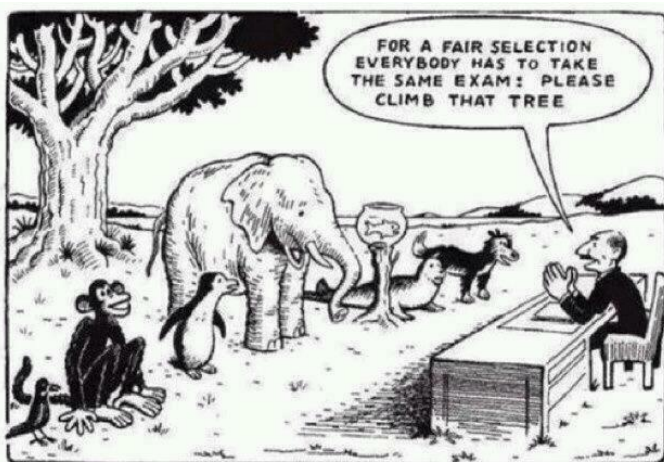
Another key challenge of online classes is internet connectivity. While internet penetration has grown in leaps and bounds over the past few years, in smaller towns and villages, a consistent connection with decent speed is a problem. Without a consistent internet connection for students or teachers, there can be a lack of continuity in learning for the child. This is detrimental to the education process. Having said that, going forward, online learning will be key part of education. Cutting-edge technologies like artificial intelligence (AI) could open new possibilities for innovative and personalized approaches catering to different learning abilities. Online education opens up a lot of possibilities for students and teachers alike. Yet, it may also widen the inequalities in the socio-economic fabric of India. Will there be developments in online education which will make it accessible and beneficial for all social groups? Will online learning replace the physical learning? Or will there be a hybrid model? We will leave it here for you to think.

When all public places were announced to be closed for the indefinite time, the libraries were also shut down in haste. As the library employees had no prior intimation about the temporary but immediate shut down, no plans could be made for meeting the challenges of the times. The books had been issued to the users for definite time, but now those books could not be returned. There were books, periodicals and other items which were yet to be placed appropriately. Now, due to the unannounced and indefinite shut down, the cleanliness and maintenance of hygiene of the libraries was not possible. More worryingly, the needs of the users or the information seekers could not be fulfilled, which further meant that libraries could be perceived as non-existent during the times of pandemic. Till date, it has been a huge challenge for the librarians and other library staff to maintain the relevance of libraries during these times of crisis.

During the situations of crisis, libraries should be endeavoured to provide the consistent services to the clients or users, without any fluctuations or delays. The teachers, students and especially researchers should be provided maximum support so that they can accomplish their assignments without any hindrances.



Expectations and Reality of Online Education

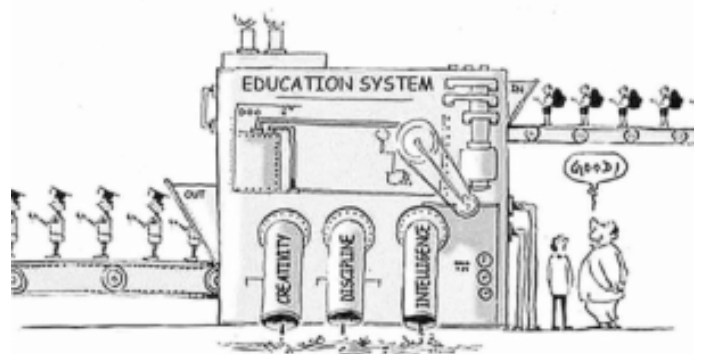


Our Education System

"Everybody is a genius. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid."

- Albert Einstein

THE REAL PROBLEM WITH OUR EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM



IS THAT IT TESTS MEMORIZATION SKILLS, NOT LEARNING OR INTELLIGENCE.

ONLINE EDUCATION



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"Online education system is trashing the imagination powers of youngsters and habiting them to get the effortless knowledge...."

I still remember that day, that month and that year 18th March 2020 when the supreme government declared the first lock-down and we all were locked up in our own homes. Thereafter the things got worse and till date we still are locked up. This sudden change forced us (students) to shift our mode of acknowledgment from books to mobile/pc. According to the world Economic Forum, "1.2 billion children in 186 countries affected by school closures due to the pandemic in year 2020". It is not that we were unaware with this online mode of education but we neither utterly familiar with this mode nor ever thought that we have to assimilate this mode forever.

In this distance education fortunately or unfortunately "Google" has become godfather of the students. Firstly we use these kinda search engines to just surf or mainly to trace the desired locations, especially for me I do use it to enhance my research perspectives, but now (mainly undergraduates) use these engines to search for a e-books which will help them to get at least the basic knowledge of the subject which has been taught by the teachers, isn't it a worse situation? The multitudinous school going students are quite fortunate as they can access to numerous ways of online education system viz tabs, laptops, etc.

Having specific books and easy to access it through the local shops they are facing less losses in our comparison.

According to me, "Online education system is trashing the imagination powers of youngsters and habiting them to get the effortless knowledge." I know, we can't change this pandemic situation and I also agree that this online distance education has become boon for all of us as it has avoided the termination of knowledge transfer but, making it a permanent mode is dangerous. The bane of this education system will show its colours in this present scenario but will definitely going to harm in the future because many of us might be knowledgeable, might be wealthy but will be museum of diseases mainly the eye and brain. Sarcastically, the value of stakes of zoom, teams, etc have touched the peaks. I don't want to comment on the politics behind the schools and college fees but now I wish to comment on the unemployment that many of us might face in this upcoming years, because the collateral damage that have been faced by the companies are uncountable.

Dubai-based CEO of Triburg wrote, “In my 48 years of working life, I have never seen such a difficult situation....” One article says that, “Companies will move more to hire freelancers and contractual workforce to carry out more and more jobs they need “.Job titles will perish and real value will be demanded at every level. Many of the companies are not in the state to invest their time and money in training the fresher’s. We have to get update with each and every thing and have to gain the practical knowledge at our own. In this online education system, the marks have become worthless due to bevy of toppers due to “Google baba zindabad!”. Henceforth, our marks will not be the supreme judging criterion but our practical knowledge, our well developed skills, etc will be our savior to stick in this employment process and avoid one more number in this gangs of unemployers.

At the end I wish to conclude by awaking the youngsters that do not remain in the mirage of marks. You will soon perish and will be kicked off from this competition if you failed to upraise your skills, vocabulary, professionalism, etc. I hope we will soon experience our regular mode of education and may avoid the damages of online distance education.





Online distance education is also known as E-Learning or distance education. Nowadays, we all are suffering from Covid-19 pandemic. This online distance education is most important in this dangerous covid pandemic.

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In online distance education, students and teachers are not present physically in colleges or schools. So, in that no there is face to face teaching occur. This online distance education done with the help of various software's and internet. In that mostly preferred apps are zoom, google meet, Microsoft teams etc. Before this covid pandemic, full time workers, non residential, military persons means who are not able to attend the lectures in classrooms they are used this online education.

But now days it is essential for all students. Because nowadays no one is able to attend the lectures in classroom physically. Internet is the main medium for virtual learning. In that software's in online learning there are some tools such as text chat, raise hand, screen sharing, audio, video etc. This tools are helpful in student teacher interaction. In online education mobile, television, laptop, computer these are various gadgets are widely used in that.

Online teaching education have both sides that is advantages as well as disadvantages

Advantages

1. Online distance education saves time of traveling by bus or train. In that time is not wasted. Because our classroom is in our house. Study material i.e. notes, books, PDF are easily available for us. We can easily learn in our house.

2. It saves money for those students are staying in hostels they can save their hostel fees, mess fees and also who can daily up down from college to house or house to college they can save money due to online distance education. Some students are economically weak so they use online distance education. It is very helpful for them.

3.This education is most useful for students who doing job along with higher education.

4.Due to online teaching education, we can study everywhere we want and we can attend online lecture through video conferencing.

5.Their is no need to present in classroom. Also we can study according to our time that is at day or at night.

Disadvantages

1.Due to online distance education, their is no face to face communication and no faculty around us and also less interaction between teachers and students.

2.Some students are not able to understand some concepts from virtual learning this is main disadvantage of online distance education.

3.There are many disturbances or distractions occurs between virtual or online lectures.

4.In rural area or small villages, there is no proper internet connectivity.So, their is difficulty for students to attend lectures in that areas.

5.Also, some students are belonging to poor families.So they are unable to buy mobile. Therefore, they are detrived from this online distance education.

6.In online distance education, main important part for learning is presence of good internet connection. So some peoples are not afford to buy data pack monthly.

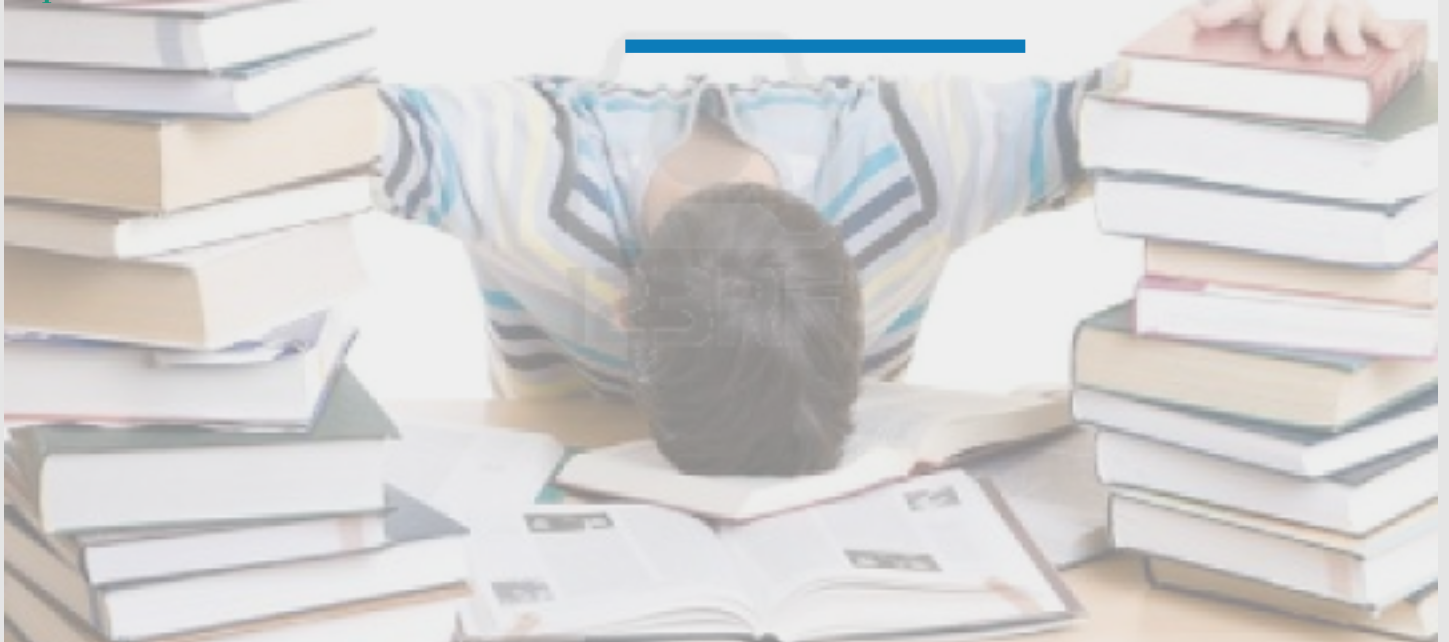
7.Also there are some online learning apps like Byjus, Vedantu, Unacademy . It have fees for learning. So there is hidden costs.

8.Also, we are not able to get practical knowledge. So, actual performing practical skills are not developed in students.

9.Due to this we can not enjoy school life or college life. We miss our classmates and friends.

According to my opinion,

Instead of advantages disadvantages are more. Due to this online distance education their is no interaction between teachers and students. But this online teaching education is more important and useful for us in this covid-19 situation to run education.



UNION MINISTRY OF EDUCATION SAYS

8/13/2021

Online classes helped students complete curriculum in a pandemic: Nishank - Times of India

Printed from

THE TIMES OF INDIA

Online classes helped students complete curriculum in a pandemic: Nishank

IANS | Dec 2, 2020, 12:25 PM IST



NEW DELHI: Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' on Tuesday said that amid the Covid-19 pandemic situation, online classes helped students complete their curriculum within time.

The Union Minister was attending the convocation of the Hemvati Nandan Bahuguna Garhwal University (HNBGU) through video conference.

Nishank said: "There is a lot of apprehension about the Covid-19 pandemic situation across the world once again but the government is fully prepared to fight against the pandemic. Braving the challenges, the university has managed to complete the syllabus of the students through online classes."

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Poor quality education is leading to poor learning outcomes in India, ultimately pushing children out of the education system and leaving them vulnerable to child labour, abuse and violence. Many classrooms continue to be characterized by teacher-centred rote learning, corporal punishment and discrimination.

Learning assessments show that many of those children who are in school are not learning the basics of literacy and numeracy or the additional knowledge and skills necessary for their all-round development as specified under the Right to Education Act.

Much remains to be done to ensure a child-friendly learning environment where all children benefit from gender-sensitive and inclusive classrooms, as well as the availability of improved water, sanitation and hygiene, and mid-day meal practices.

Every girl and boy in India has the fundamental right to quality education, an education one that helps them to acquire basic literacy and numeracy, enjoy learning without fear and feel valued and included irrespective of where they come from.

For the first time in 10 years, reading and arithmetic scores have improved in public funded schools at early grades (ASER 2016). In seven states (Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Punjab, Haryana, Telangana and Uttarakhand) reading level increased by 7 per cent at grade 3 level since 2014. This indicates that increase in learning is possible but takes time. Nevertheless, ASER 2018 showed that in grade 5 after more than four years of schooling, only half of all children could read a grade 2 level text fluently. The National Achievement Survey 2017 which was conducted for grades 3, 5 and 8 gave a similar picture with only 45.2 per cent of students achieving the targeted performance levels across all subjects and classes at the national level. States such as Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Bihar, Odisha and Andhra Pradesh with large populations of children from scheduled castes (SC), scheduled tribes (ST) and minority communities have the lowest scores. In the NAS 2017 girls scored slightly higher or as the same level as boys.

While governments both national and state have invested in large scale learning assessments, the challenge is in the use of assessment data for improving the delivery of education rather than letting it remain a simple data collection exercise. Successful performance in school is supported by a wide range of abilities, attitudes and socio-emotional competencies, beyond traditional literacy and numeracy skills - life skills significantly contribute to learning and are an aspect of quality education.

While there is an understanding around the importance of life skills , there is a possible lack of alignment between traditional curricula and a life-skills learning agenda and a lack of understanding of how these can be developed across the education continuum. The NEP brings this focus stressing the importance of leaning by doing.

Since March 2020, schools in India have been closed and learning has shifted to remote home-based learning for those who can access it. School closures will impact learning across the education system. Gains in enrollment, school completion, and learning must not get eroded due to the combination of schools being closed and socio-economic hardships related to Covid-19.

According to the World Bank, five months of school closures due to COVID-19 will result in an immediate loss of 0.6 years of schooling adjusted for quality, bringing the effective learning that a student can achieve down from 7.9 years to 7.3 years. During this period of school closure, efforts have been made by governments to ensure continuity of learning for children while they have been home. Digital tools including internet based high tech tools like apps and online learning classes, social media platforms, television and radio were used extensively. India is now looking at delivering education programmes differently and speedily to employ solutions, that accelerate impact and achieve scale across interventions targeted at children and adolescents. COVID-19 presents urgency as well as an incredible opportunity to act and transform the education system through technology using it as an important tool of capacity building, inclusiveness and quality learning, without replacing the essential role of teachers/facilitators. While technology is not a silver bullet to solve the problem of inequities in access and learning, it has huge potential for changing how teaching and learning is delivered in India, if employed in a systemic and inclusive way, empowering teachers, frontline workers, children and adolescents and increasing access to and quality of learning.

Currently around one-third of the 2.6 million secondary schools in India have ICT labs and a functional computer. Universal access to technology in homes is yet a dream in tribal belts, interior locations, rural areas, and amongst children with disabilities. Children with poor or no access to technology face most challenges in continuing to learn. There is disproportional access to the internet across state, further extending into the rural-urban schism, where 13 per cent people of over five years of age in rural areas can use the internet against 37 per cent in urban areas. Additionally, the digital dichotomy extends to the access to hardware and devices where the poorest students and marginalised communities, including girls, do not have access to smartphones, and even if they do, internet connectivity remains poor.

The main area of UNICEF engagement and support is elementary education especially early grades and the transition to secondary education. As schools remain closed and children learn remotely, UNICEF will engage with state government for expanding access to remote learning options. UNICEF will support the expanded use of technology and the use of online systems to improve governance in education, enhance capacity of teachers, teacher support systems, other education functionaries and participation of children for enhanced learning and skills development. But at the same time recognizing that quality learning requires quality teachers and teaching.

Implementation of the National Education Policy 2020 being a priority UNICEF will provide technical support at national and state level in the key areas related to curriculum revision, learning assessment and reporting, foundational learning, life skills and career guidance.

