

INNOVATIVE TEACHING AND LEARNING METHODS DURING THE POST-COVID

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ABSTRACT

Education plays a significant role in the development of any country. Building a strong economy is possible only with a good Education System. Education Sector is one of the major sectors which need to be given much priority. But during the last two years of pandemic situations, Education system is one of the major affected sectors both positively and negatively. According to the UNESCO Report, Covid-19 has affected nearly 68% of total world's student population as per the data taken during 1st week of June, 2020. Monitoring the wide spread of Covid-19 virus, Government of India has announced lockdown and extended up to June, 2020. In India, more than 32 crore learners stopped to move to educational institutions at various levels. Indian Educational System has stepped ahead and changed the teaching and learning pedagogy from traditional forms to online teaching and learning modes. The traditional face-to-face classroom teaching has transformed to online platforms using various Apps like Zoom, Google Classroom and YouTube recordings etc. Not only Teachers changed way of teaching, even students shifted to online self learning modes of education by using BYJU's, Vedantu and Unacademy etc. Despite of many challenges, the Educational Institutions reacted positively by launching of new modes of teaching and learning. New trends are emerged and the same may continue as we go ahead to a new tomorrow (Pravat Kumar Jena, 2020). In this context, an attempt made to present some of the online innovative teaching and learning ways and platforms of higher education in India.

KEY WORDS: Pandemic, Education, Online Teaching and Learning.

Introduction

Education is the most powerful weapon. It provides the pathways to reach one's destiny. Teaching and Learning has to move simultaneously to reach the desired destiny. But, the Education System throughout the world has drastically got affected due to the Covid-19 pandemic situations. Nearly 1.6 billion learners in more than 200 countries were affected due to the outbreak of this dangerous virus. Even Indian Education System is not exempted to face these challenges. Government of India has announced Janata curfew for a day as on 22 March, 2020. 1st phase of lockdown was announced on 25th March, 2020 for a period of 21 days and it has extended up to 30th June, 2020. The wide spread of Covid-19 virus and increased rate of affected cases and deaths in spite of cent percent efforts made from the Government side (in the forms of awareness creation among public) has extended the lockdown period and closing of educational institutions at all levels. Physical ways of Teaching and Learning is not possible in these situations. As we all knew that Necessity is the mother of Invention, these situations has paved an opportunity to the Teachers as well as Learners to shift from traditional offline mode of learning to web based learning using internet etc. E-Teaching and learning has boosted up due to availability of smart phones and internet in affordable cost. Teachers, students and learners are found comfortable in digital learning and more number of innovative Teaching and Learning Methods were adopted by them during the Post-Covid.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM:

The declaration of lockdown resulted in stagnation of Teaching and Learning process in physical mode. According to the UNESCO Report, Covid-19 has affected nearly 68% of the total world's student population (as per the data taken during the 1st week of June, 2020). Outbreak of Covid-19 has impacted about 1.2 billion students and youth across the globe (Pravat Kumar, 2020). In India, more than 32crore of students have been affected by the various restrictions like Janata curfew and nationwide lockdown implementation to restrict spread of Covid-19 virus. Continuation of Teaching and Learning in offline is break down. Teaching and Learning cannot be stopped at any point of life. By converting these situations as an opportunity to transform traditional Teaching and Learning to online mode of learning i.e. web based learning or e-learning. In this context there is a

need to have a glance of concentration towards Innovative Teaching and Learning methods during the Post-Covid.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE STUDY:

Education plays a very important role in the development of the country. If you want to destroy a Nation, no need to use any atom bombs, just simply spoil its education system; the country will be spoiled automatically. This shows how important the Education System is for any country. Unfortunately, Covid-19 has drastically affected all spheres of human life. Even with the announcement of lockdown, almost all educational institutions from bottom level to top level were very closed. Introduction of various online apps like Zoom platform, Google Meet etc. has paved new ways of Teaching through online and unacademy, BYJU's has paved new ways of Self Learning through online. In this context, tremendous change can be seen in the Education System in India. Transformation of Teaching and Learning from offline to online modes gave significant implication to concentrate towards Innovative Teaching and Learning Methods during the Post-Covid.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

The present study aimed at the following objectives:

- To study the impact of Covid-19 on Higher Education in India
- To enlighten the Innovative Teaching and Learning methods during the Post-Covid
- To enlist Post-Covid challenges of Higher Educational Institutions.

METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY:

The present study is a Concept paper to enlighten the Innovative Teaching and Learning methods during the Post-Covid. The paper is descriptive in nature. In order to accomplish the objectives of the present study, the data has been collected from secondary data sources. The secondary data sources are various research articles published in reputed Journals, magazines, web sources and Google search. The study aimed to study the impact of Covid-19, Innovative Teaching and Learning methods and present various challenges of Higher Educational Institutions in the Indian context.

IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON HIGHER EDUCATION IN INDIA:

Total Education System in the globe as well as in India severely got affected due to the pandemic Covid-19 situations. The Education System consists of three major components i.e. Teacher, Student/Learner and Evaluation. Significant effect can be seen on these three components due to Covid-19. The most impacted areas of Indian Higher Education are as follows:

- **Teachers:** Traditional offline mode of teaching is adopted in the Indian Education System. Due to the closure of all Educational Institutions, it is difficult to continue with the same mode of teaching. The physical presence in the institutions is not possible for teachers as well as students. Hence the alternative source to continue Teaching is through online mode. As they are quick adopters to change, started teaching using online platforms like Zoom, Google Meet, Microsoft Teams etc. They started updating themselves with attending many number of online Webinars, Conferences and Faculty Development Programs (FDPs) through online. Teachers are active participants to use Swayam app and NDLI sources.
- **Students:** Generally, it is observed that most of the Students use their mobile phones for watching movies, videos, playing games and time pass purpose while physical teaching days. But due to pandemic situations, students have transformed the way of usage of mobiles and other gadgets like Tablets, computers and PCs. They started attending classes online, taking notes through Google Classrooms, Moodle Platforms, submitted assignments and attending evaluation through online modes. A complete transformation of learning can be seen among students.
- **Researchers:** Researchers have found leisure time to spend exclusively for literature review and other basic elements. They could be able to enrich their knowledge with lots of new material using NDLI, Google Scholar, Shodhganga etc. Researchers found it difficult to take participation in physical mode to conduct interview or for data collection, at the same time they could be able to have ample time to prepare theoretical framework for their research and using Google links (questionnaire) they could be able to collect data through online.
- **Administration:** Apart from Teaching, Administration is one more important component in the Education System. They couldn't be able to fulfill the process of admission, collection fees, issue of certificates etc. works in physical ways. They too have implemented online modes of admission procedures, allotment of seats, collecting of admission and examination fees, issue of

8	Khan Academy			Skill Crush
9				Study.com
10				Creative Live
11				Edureka

(Source: <https://www.Vdocipher.com/blog/2020/02/education-apps-india-2020>)

These platforms also assist with managing and delivering learning resources and even a business model for online learning. Here are the leading online platforms;

- **Udemy:** Has **40 million students** and over 50,000 tutors.
- **LinkedIn Learning:** It has over **16,000 courses in 7 different languages** and has two subscription options. The monthly \$29.99, and an annual fee of \$239.88.
- **Coursera:** Has **23 million users** and partners with other learning institutions.
- **Skillshare:** This is a platform with around **4 million users** and about **24,000 courses**.
- **edX:** This learning platform has partnered with other learning institutions to offer more than **8,000 online courses**. (Source: 100+ Must Know Online Learning Statistics in 2022 By Krishna Rungta, Updated January 22, 2022)

CHALLENGES:

- Socio-economic conditions of student do not allow the student to afford for smart phones or gadgets like PCs, tabs and laptops etc. High speed Internet facilities are difficult to avail in rural areas.
- Students need to have more self centric learning. They have to encourage personalized way of learning through online.
- Lack of appropriate infrastructural facilities in rural and remote areas is one biggest challenge faced by the learners.

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS:

Education plays a significant role in the development of any country. Due to Covid-19 pandemic last three years got much affected throughout the globe. Higher Educational system in India has transformed from traditional teaching and learning to online teaching and learning. New pedagogies of teaching and learning initiated with the adoption of technology, affordable cost of internet and availability of low cost mobiles in the market. Even these facilities may not be affordable by the students in rural and remote areas. It need some more time to adequate with this techno savvy environment in rural and remote areas. To conclude, Transformation of Traditional to online Teaching and Learning has paved new pedagogies in Higher Education system in India. Blended Teaching and Learning methods are appropriate for near future.

Suggestions:

- **Free Internet and Gadgets for Learners:** Policy should be adopted by the Government to provide free internet and free digital gadgets to all the teachers and the learners (Pravat kumar, 2020). Even all the Higher Educational Institutions may provide facilities of free Wi-Fi connectivity open access to teachers as well as students/learners.
- **Setting Quality Standards and Quality Assurance Mechanism:** It has to concentrate on establishment of quality assurance mechanism and quality bench mark for online learning programmes.
- **Virtual Labs Facilitation:** Government has to support Higher Educational Institutions to strengthen their open access to educational resources. They have to strengthen resources to run educational activities through virtual mode.

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