

The Rise Of E-Learning During Covid-19 Pandemic: The Catalyst In Triggering Education

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ABSTRACT

Education—the gateway of knowledge— through which the society is imparted with knowledge, culture, norms, values, etc. The personal life of the individuals is shaped and improved with the help of education—which is considered a fundamental human right. The COVID-19 pandemic situation has brought so many changes in various fields of the nation. The field of education is no longer an exception. The educational system of India is facing the largest disruption these days. Shutting down of schools, colleges, other learning areas are a mere thread to the society. The field of education has experienced a paradigm shift during the days of pandemic situations. The method of education, delivery of content, evaluation, interaction, and so on have been facing many new challenges in the pandemic situation. Both the educators and the educational system are facing new challenges and they try to adopt new methodologies—in fact for which they are not primed off. E-learning evolved as a boon in the field of education during this pandemic situation. Thus online platform tries to give solution to this booming issues during the pandemic COVID-19 in the field of educational sectors— wherein the education has become a crisis for the entire nation due to the unexpected outcome of the novel coronavirus.

KEYWORDS: Education, pandemic, educational tools, online mode, paradigm change.

INTRODUCTION

Change is inevitable in the life of humans. The COVID-19 pandemic situation has proved it yet another time. Educational institutions and educators all around the world are facing so many defies to cope with the new challenges in the field of education. GhadaRefaat El Said (2021, P. 1) states the present situation so aptly in his research article in the following words,

COVID-19 has dramatically reshaped the way global education is delivered. Millions of learners were affected by educational institution closures due to the pandemic, which resulted in the largest online movement in the history of education. With this sudden shift away from classrooms in many parts of the globe, universities had to rapidly shift to virtual and digital strategies. Many believe that the adoption of online distance learning will persist after pandemic. A new hybrid model of education is expected to emerge, and, given the digital divide, new shifts

in education approaches could widen equality gaps.

The COVID-19 pandemic situation has triggered many new changes in the educational field and the fact is that this situation acts as a catalyst in triggering new changes around the world. The distinctive rise of e-learning platforms has made education possible during the time of the pandemic. Valentina Arkorful and Nelly Abaidoo (2014, p. 398) quoted in Abbad and others in defining e-learning as,

E-learning refers to the use of information and communication technologies to enable the access to online learning/teaching resources. In its broadest sense, Abbad et al (2009), defined Elearning to mean any learning that is enabled electronically. They however narrowed this definition down to mean learning that is empowered by the use of digital technologies.

OBJECTIVES

- To understand the need for education
- To realize the necessity of online education
- To understand e-learning as an effective tool in the field of education
- To gain new aspiration towards technology-based education
- To think the innovative method of blended learning

ANALYSIS

Technology plays a major role in all the fields of human life. The field of education is not an exception. Ibrahim (2018, p. 74) avers rightly in his research article as “Over the past few decades, there have been a tremendous increase in technology advancement and the significance of this in the field of education cannot be overemphasised” Technology has an immense role especially in this twenty-first century in facet of human activities. Integration of new technology in the field of education is the need of the hour. During the lockdown period of pandemic situations, technology plays an imperative role in imparting education. Study from home, work from home are all made possible because of technological development.

The process of education is made easier and possible because of technology. Valentina Arkorful and Nelly Abaidoo (2014, p. 400) quoted in (Wang et al. 2007) in defining the use of e-learning in education in their research article as, “The development of multimedia and information technologies, as well as the use internet as a new technique of teaching, has made radical changes in the traditional process of teaching”. The inclusion of technology in education has become a wise act today, especially in the pandemic period. However, the implementation or blending of technology with education is not an easy and smooth process. There may be so many issues that have to be resolved for betterment in all the fields. E-learning is considered as the need of the hour during this pandemic situation. Though many schools and higher education sectors have been affected because of the COVID-19 pandemic situation, the educational sector managed its functioning through the online mode of delivery very effectively. The novel coronavirus effect during this pandemic situation has transformed the teaching-learning process from the conventional method to the online medium completely.

The acquisition of knowledge through electronically enabled learning is considered to be e-learning. Mesrar Sara, M’Rabet Rachid (2018, p. 83) state their view on the importance of e-learning in the following words, Learning is no more restricted in four wall classrooms, or it stops after graduation. The world is evolving every second. Technologies have helped this intelligent interconnection around the globe. Everyone is contributing and everyone is heard everywhere. E-learning (electronic learning) which meaning is not precisely assessed among researchers and practitioners, which refers basically to getting access to education using technology and internet, its advantages differ from developed to developing countries, it represents basically a strategic tool for continuous and ongoing education.

During the pandemic situation, this e-learning strategy has replaced the traditional teaching methodology in the field of education. Though online education has replaced the traditional method of teaching experience, it aids for the progression of mankind by opening the passage for progression of education, which otherwise would have faced terrible results. Obtaining knowledge is the only way for the progression of mankind. Through education and its continuous process of acquisition, the knowledge of the country is passed from one generation to another generation. Empowerment of individuals, society, and country is possible through education. The nation which is in the bottom line of the pyramid of growth can stand by its own or may raise in its stand with the help of education.

M.S.S. Razeeth and etal (2019, p. 213) put forth their opinion on the importance and the need of e-learning in the following words is worth mentioning,

Learning is the active process of obtaining knowledge or abilities through studies, experience or being educated.

With the expansion in innovation, e-learning has been coupled with course modules due to its vital support to the learners / end users at any time. The e-learning has become more popular with the increasing number of smart devices apart from desktops and laptops along with rise of internet providers.

Some of the benefits of online education include:

Class flexibility is considered a great benefit and advantage in e-learning. The strict schedule which is involved in traditional classroom settings can be made flexible in online learning. Al Rawashdeh, A. Z., et al., (2021, p. 107) quoted in (Songkram et al., 2015) regarding the concept of flexibility in e-learning is worth referring here, Flexibility is another major advantage of e-learning as it provides learners the benefit to take classes anywhere and anytime. Furthermore, e-learning catersto different types and varieties of learning approaches by utilizing much interactive content available on the internet.

Self-motivationand self-discipline are also considered to be the most essential factors in regards to online education. Inorder to complete the required task in online education, self-motivation is an inevitable factor of consideration.

The concept of e-learning has changed the entire concept of traditional learning methodology. The succinct understanding of e-learning is the education via electronic medium—the method of teaching via technology. Many psychologists believe that teaching through the audio-visual method createsa greater impact on the process of teaching and learning. This is made possible through the electronic methodology of learning. E-learning has brought a new revolution in the field of educational sectors. Education is made easy and possible in all difficult times of the nation—the typical example of such a scenario is education which is made possible during pandemic COVID-19. Gaining digital knowledge and independent learning is promoted through e-learning methods.

Through the online platform, educators all over the world have adopted various new methodologies of the teaching process. They could reach their student community through various platforms. They adopted a more efficient and effective way of teaching by collaborating various teaching tools and methods. They tried to integrate traditional teaching with technology in imparting knowledge during this pandemic. The utter disruption of the educational system during the spread of the novel coronavirus has resulted in the implementation of technology in education in all corners of the world. In addition to the COVID-19 pandemic situation, there could be many other factors that hindered this progressive change in the field of education.

The factors responsible for making e-learning possible are:

- Inclusion of excitement tools in the process of learning
- The cost-effective way to induce new changes
- The curiosity of learning tools used in the imparting knowledge
- Massive Scope for improvement with a high degree of confidence
- Introduction of numerous free courses by various educational forums across the nation
- Availability of Online tutoring system
- Flexibility and the convenience offered in the learning process
- The new innovative concept of blended learning in the field of education
- Looked like a step towards positivity for further enhancement
- Acceptance of change in life.

Than ever before, the recent pandemic COVID-19 situation has shifted students out of schools and the physical classroom atmosphere of learning has become a very big question. This situation, on the whole, triggered many new changes in the field of education. E-learning has gained more popularity among the masses than ever before in these recent days of the pandemic. In order to keep up with the changes, many schools and other educational institutions have adopted e-learning methodology in imparting education during this COVID-19 pandemic situation. The sudden and temporary shift during the situation of crisis from traditional to online education can be made effective through well-planned methodology in imparting education. This situation has affected the well beings of both the educators as well as students in varied measures. They are affected emotionally as well as psychologically across the nation. Further, they undergo a greater level of stress factors, anxiety, tension, worries, etc., which in turn affects physical and mental stability. But inorder to overcome this sudden change in the field of education, all the educational institutions, as well as the educators, are striving hard in maintaining the standards of the teaching-learning process, and also they evolve themselves with the help of technology in maintaining the interest among the students towards education. Every day they try to explore more and more advancement in the

field of education with many innovative ideas in order to meet the standard of educational objectives and outcomes. In addition, they also try to promote interest among the student community during this pandemic situation by exploring technology and by integrating it with theoretical knowledge.

CONCLUSION

Thus e-learning platforms may open a wider door to explore many new opportunities in the future days. Technology-based e-learning promotes better education and regulates the courses of various institutions progressively during this pandemic period. This in turn reflects the importance and need of disseminating knowledge across boundaries of the nation. It has become the most effective tool in transferring the knowledge during this pandemic COVID-19 situation and trying to surpass the conventional teaching methodologies. Hence it is emerging as a potential platform during this emergency period with numerous delivery methods for varied learners in comparison with the traditional and conventional learning atmosphere. Further, it can provide varied learning experiences through animations, sounds, and videos and tries to impart education with high academic performances amongst the student community. The distinctive rise of learning via electronic mode has replaced and changed the educational system dramatically especially during this COVID-19 pandemic situation and tries to impart indirectly, the importance and the need for adaptability as a key factor in the life cycle of the human being in this unpredictable world situation. Many research has proved that online teaching increases memory retention amongst the learners' community. The persistent effort by both the educators as well as the learners in adopting the right technology may enhance and further accelerate the process of teaching in the years to come. Thus with the outbreak of COVID-19 in recent days, online education has become an integral part of the educational sector. This change has become the new normal in most parts of the world. Online education is used as a catalyst by many educational experts in order to trigger the process of teaching and learning.

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