

Online learning and its uses during the period of Pandemic (COVID-19): An interlink

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ABSTRACT:

The new corona virus, now known as Covid-19, was first encountered in November 2019, in Wuhan City, China. The virus can cause pneumonia-like symptoms. Those who have fallen ill are reported to suffer coughs, fever and breathing difficulties. In severe cases there can be organ failure. As this is viral pneumonia, antibiotics are of no use. The antiviral drugs we have against flu will not work. The name Covid-19 was announced on 11 February by the World Health Organization. The director general, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, said: “We had to find a name that did not refer to a geographical location, an animal, an individual or group of people, and which is also pronounceable and related to the disease. Due to non invention of vaccine regarding COVID-19, first time the WHO suggested to lockdown the whole country of the world as per their spread of disease. A lockdown is an emergency protocol that usually prevents people or information from leaving an area. The protocol can usually only be initiated by someone in a position of authority. Lockdowns can also be used to protect people inside a facility from a threat or other external event. During the period lockdown all the educational, business and other institutions are locked as well as peoples are compelled to stay at home for certain period. In these periods, the online learning and uses has become a helpful tool for the people. Because from home a teacher is able to teach the students through digital class such as Google classroom, whatsapp, email, preparing lecture with ‘YOUTUBE’, Mobile, TV recharge, money transfer, bill payment etc.

Key Words: *Online learning, Lockdown, COVID-19, Pandemic, WHO, Google classroom etc.*

1. Introduction

1.1 Necessity of the study

Online learning not only trains the workers of the future, it can also provide a career path for someone employed, who needs to learn new skills. Employers should recommend online courses that will help with career advancement and, if possible, offer tuition re-imburement.

Some say that wisdom comes with age while others insist that it comes from learning. Nowadays, thanks to the internet, learning is open to all. Hence, people in the countries where traditional learning is facing various obstacles can take advantage of online courses. So far, e-learning has been effective to the people that understood its value. It

offers the chance to have great results for lower costs and sometimes for no costs at all. Despite these, online learning has many other advantages. Education may have several purposes, and online courses help to fulfil it. Some even say that e-learning can revolutionize education as it provides new opportunities for traditional learning. Taking online classes has a lot of advantages and below is some of the most important.

The Corona virus (COVID19) is preventing students and staff from meeting face-to-face, learning institutions is developing alternative educational delivery methods to move the classroom online. The following learning institutions are developing instructional continuity plans. Well-planned online learning experiences are meaningfully different from courses offered online in response to a crisis or disaster. Colleges and universities working to maintain instruction during the COVID-19 pandemic should understand those differences when evaluating this emergency remote teaching.

1.2 Objectives of the study

- To study the importance of online learning
- To study an interlink between online learning and pandemic
- To study the Covid-19 and its consequences

1.3 Research Questions

- Online learning is useful in lockdown
- Positive impacts of online learning during lockdown
- Covid-19 creates negative impacts on economy

2. Review of related Literature

Distance education is a way of learning where the students or working professionals can learn the courses remotely through online access and interact with faculty via online classroom. It helps students to interact with their mentors or tutors directly through chat, e-mail or phone call. According to a report released by All India Survey on Higher Education 2014-2015 by Ministry of Human Resource Development the total enrollment of students for Distance education constitute of 11.7 percent out of which 46percent are female students. Availability of broadband and hi-speed internet along with low cost computers to tier 2 and tier 3 cities has made learning seamless without any glitches. Nowadays technology has become integral part of classroom based teachings. Today in many schools, colleges and universities in India instead of blackboard projector screens are used for teachings. Hand writings of teachers are replaced by power point presentation. Student experience a different kind of set up in today's technology based classroom.

Many colleges and universities in India are integrating online Learning Management System or LMS platform into their web portal. Students can remotely login to access course material and also attend live classes with teachers. Pre-recorded lectures, videos can be uploaded on the LMS platform making it easy for students to go through it multiple times. According to a report released by Counterpoint Research, India has become the second biggest smart phone market in the world after China with more than 220 million active users. This presents a huge opportunity for delivering e-learning content through mobile apps. Today educational mobile apps are available on popular platforms like Android and iOS. There are apps available for grammar, physics, chemistry, mathematics and so on. With the prices of tablets and smart phone coming down people from villages and remote areas can also make use of this apps to learn and update their skills. There are also certain websites like Khan Academy and various YouTube channels that offer video lectures by eminent scholars and teachers in various subjects.

3. Method

3.1 Data: To provide final shape of the present study researcher has used secondary data.

3.2 Sample: As a sample, author has used observation as well as analytical method.

4. Analysis of the study

Today online learning, also called as e-learning, is a new form of education. It is a distance learning education system where the revolutionary Internet technology is used to facilitate teacher to educate the interested students. They manage student-teacher interactions and deliver course materials online. The students don't need to travel for their education; only logging on to their system gives them enough reasons to study. It sounds great and that's why most of the students who can't opt for regular courses choose online college education. Online degree courses are designed with the sole aim of providing good education to the candidates. The method of providing education online is a well structured and highly professional system which is delivered through the new age devices. In this technology age everything is easily accessible via the internet. The online college uses different mediums such as message boards, email, chat rooms, desktop video and audio, computer conferencing, or multimedia technologies. With that, the students also get text content and live lectures, which are designed keeping the course curriculum in mind. Online learning is an interesting way of education and to make it more appealing to the students; the educationists try to bring new methods from time to time. Delivery methods for online courses may vary from college to college and of course depending on the type of degree

programs. But one thing is definitely common in all the online degree programs - The online colleges employ a form of Internet technology for delivering instructional course materials. Methods adopted by the institutions can be synchronous or asynchronous. One which is more easily adaptable is the asynchronous method; the reason is the flexibility it offers. In synchronous delivery method, there is a need of real time interaction between the learners and teachers, which is not at all required in asynchronous method. In asynchronous method, the students are free to take their course work at their convenience, without any need to come for real time lectures. Depending on your need, you can choose the type of online degree program. Remember one thing - You have to choose a reliable university with proper affiliation. There are many fake education institutions world over who are working with the sole purpose of making people through wrong means. Beware of such online colleges! If you really want to take up a good online college course, research thoroughly! You will surely get the online degree program of your choice. The 21-day lockdown across the State and educational institutions remaining closed to combat the spread of the COVID-19; students have remained confined to homes. However, one can make the best of use of this lockdown by engaging in online learning. There are several Information and Communications Technology initiatives of the Ministry of Human Resource Development, University Grants Commission and its Inter-University Centres-Information and Library Network and Consortium for Educational Communication in the form of digital platforms. These can be accessed by the students, researchers and teachers of the universities and colleges for broadening their horizons. While the online learning on some website comes at a cost, these following initiatives are for free. The long lockdown for the COVID-19 pandemic has closed schools, colleges and other educational institutions and ushered in the citywide classroom: tens of thousands of students in cities and towns are glued to computers and Smartphone screens as teachers take to online apps for lectures, tutorials and assessments. **Business Today** reached out to two eminent economists with decades of experience in dealing with the Indian economy, Pronab Sen. and C Rangarajan, to find out how the lockdown would impact the economy and to what extent. Here is how the lockdown would impact the economy. Economists Pronnab Sen, said that, "At the moment, it is a supply-side problem. Both production and distribution of non-essentials have come to a halt. This affects at least 55percent of the economy for three weeks or about Rs 2 lakh crore. It may even be larger due to previous partial lockdowns by various state governments. "Now, after the lockdown is lifted, there will quite possibly be an increase in sales which will be met through existing inventories. This does not, however, add to the GDP (as these goods and services had already been produced and accounted for). It may take a few more months for the final production and sales to resume. "In the interim, between now and full production resuming, a large number of people would have been unemployed and not earned any income. As a result, in the second round, demand-side will become a serious constraint." Another economist of India named Rangarajan said that, "The impact of lockdown will be felt through several channels, weakening of domestic demand, disruption in supply chain and disruption in financial market. All of this would result in declining

production and retrenchment of employees."Professor Sen. said that, "In financial year 20, we would be lucky if the growth rate is **3.5 percent** for full fiscal year. It would be a very different scenario for fiscal year 21. In the first half, we would be lucky if the growth rate is zero. In the second half, the growth could revive by as much as 7percent, taking the average growth for the year to 3.5percent". Again Rangarajan is more optimistic and said that "The growth rate in financial year 20 may **decline by 0.5 percent** and the growth rate will be negative for the financial year 2021.

5. Conclusions and policy prescriptions

From the above discussions we have come understand that online learning and its uses is growing day by day all over the world at present. Online learning has created safe time and money both as well. Many institutions such as school, colleges, Universities and other public and private institutions during the period of pandemic-Covid-19 period. In this period, though school , colleges and universities are compel to stop their regular normal classes but through using modern technologies such as Google classroom, whatsapp, video conferencing through Zoom us apps, video calling, YouTube teachers are providing reading materials to the students. Many private finance companies are doing their financial transactions through onlin. Though banks are open with limited staffs for banking transactions, yet most of the people are transferred their money to the beneficiaries through mobile is banking and internet banking apps. It is also noted that the lockdown has created negative impacts both demand side and supply sides economy. According to some economists, in India if the growth rate is 3.5 percent in the financial year 2020, then it will be lucky for a country and it will turn 7 percent growth rate in the financial year 2021taking 3.5 percent average growth rate. Otherwise it will turn 0.5 percent to -0.5 percent for the financial year 2020-2021.

5.1 Policy prescriptions

- To prevent the Covid-19 and reduce lockdown period, people of the country should obey the government's rules and regulations which are instructed by both central and state governments.
- Awareness and consciousness should be increased among the common people.
- Mentality of politics during the period of lockdown should be avoided by the political party members.
- By observing situation of their locality, the local self governments should permit essential productive industries as well as agro based industries through maintain the social distance as well as physical distancing.

- Strict discipline should be maintained by the each and every district administration of the country.

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