INTERNET-BASED TEACHING IN HIGHER EDUCATION DURING COVID 19 PANDEMIC IN INDIA

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Abstract

Countries worldwide are starting to see how important their educational institutions are to their overall economic success. One of the best things about a country is its educational system. Developing countries are known for not having many people who have been educated. India's education industry has grown steadily since the country became independent. Even though India's higher education system faces many problems, the country also has many chances to fix these problems and improve the system. India is desperately in need of people who are very well-educated and skilled. They can help the country's economy move forward. When it comes to setting up online programmes in India's higher education system, many things need to be done. The rise of online learning is changing everything about how people learn and teach in higher education. People from all over the world have realised that their current way of life is not working. This is because of Covid-19. There are a lot of industries, including education, that needs to be changed in a big way. Indian schools and other institutions have been closed since mid-March 2020 because of the spread of Covid-19. Students, parents and teachers' lives have been turned upside down by an emergency lockdown that was put in place as a precaution. To avoid the impending disaster, schools started to offer online courses. Due to a sudden change in teaching and learning, we have had new problems and opportunities. There are more benefits and challenges to online teaching that can be learned about in the study. The good and bad things about the epidemic are mixed. Online training brings up many problems that need to be fixed right away. It is no longer possible for education to stay the same as the epidemic grows more unpredictable, complex, and unique. This is because online teaching can be unpredictable and complicated, which raises both the strengths and weaknesses of this study.

Keywords: higher education, reforming the education system, covid-19, online learning, content sharing.

Introduction

It has shocked people all over the world that Covid-19 has spread. A lot of stress is put on students and schools. Exams have been postponed and schools and other places have been closed. The admission process for the new school year has much confusion because virtual classrooms are becoming more common, which makes it hard to understand. According to UNESCO, there are 320 million students in Indian schools and universities who have been affected by this. Pandemic forced the world to think about dealing with the "new normal."

Online learning in India is used to supplement classroom instruction, not as a replacement for it. Another big change in schooling happened after the new corona virus was found in people. Long-term restrictions on student movement made it more difficult to teach in the classroom. Online learning was a must to keep education going. All the people in the area when this earthquake happened had new worries and problems to deal with. This report focuses on what researchers thought about and dealt with when running online sessions before and during the Covid 19 pandemic.

Objectives of the study

The objectives are as stated in the following:

1. To study the impact of Covid-19 on higher education
2. To determine internet-based teaching before and after Covid 19 pandemic
3. To find out growth drivers for online education and
4. To give suggestions for reforming the education system of higher education

Impact of COVID-19 on Higher Education

It does not just affect people's health when there are pandemics. They are also causing businesses to fall apart and shake them to their cores. It was hard for people to get to school because of the lockdown across the country and the rising health crisis, so the industry decided to start an educational revolution instead. It is a smart move by the universities to make the industry more digital to change its roots and keep growing even when things are bad. In this case, need is truly the mother of new ideas or new ways of doing things, as shown by the educational reforms in India under covid-19. As the disease spreads, technology moves the industry forward with new ideas and developments. This allows educational institutions to adopt online learning and create a virtual study culture.

When schools switched to online education, they ensured that students did not lose any time studying. At the same time, they could keep track of their progress and see how well they did. As a result of this experimentation and paradigm shift, India may be the first country to try new things with how they teach kids. We can help kids learn more creatively with the help of technology and a collaborative method. Students are not just motivated to learn because they are in a classroom anymore.

Colleges are using cutting-edge technology to help them remember course material. Besides this, AI-enabled learning is being used in conjunction with other collaborations to help the country imagine new educational futures based on changes. Students can watch videos and participate in online moot sessions while working with their mentors to learn more about environmental engineering and city planning. Students of medicine are welcome to participate in interactive sessions to discuss specific cases.

Teaching about the fourth industrial revolution is also being done in some schools. The goal is to get people studying and working in their fields of study and work to make a difference. Online education is becoming more popular worldwide instead of giving in to the circumstances.

Some students take advantage of virtual internships, which allow them to learn about their chosen professions on the job rather than in class. This is one way to stay focused during this economic downturn. It is good that schools teach students to look at the current situation and understand how important automation is. This will allow them to digitally change their fields soon and make them ready for any problems. Instead of making the person feel scared, this method will make them feel more confident.

Other than the standard curriculum, institutions teach students a lot more than just what they need to learn. They're preparing their brains so that they can handle the problem well. Online support groups and emotional support from academics add to the system, not take away from it. People should tell the kids that it is normal to feel this way and that it's not a sign of weakness. A combination of the UGC's rules for providing psychological help to students and a rise in students' emotional intelligence will change how education works.

Even though the country embraces newer forms of education, this is still an issue. Only 45 million people in our country have access to the internet, which means that e-learning is still unavailable. As a result, online education is being slowed down by people who live in remote places and do not have access to the most up-to-date technology.

When using a virtual classroom, you need to use e-content and online study materials like practice sheets. Because India does not use digital platforms or online classrooms, there are not many places where people can get an education because of this. If the policy is in place, there is little doubt that students who are not as well-off as their peers will be hurt. Universities and the government in India are working together to find a solution to this issue.

The education industry has been getting ready to act and do something in these uncertain times. Education has grown and changed in the wake of the epidemic. They have also used new platforms and tactics they had not used before. Evolutionary theory has always said that the strongest people will win in a changing world. One way to get through these problems and the pandemic blues is to develop a whole new strategy and digitalise the whole company.

Internet-based teaching before and after Covid 19 pandemic

In 2020, a United Nations report will say that the Covid 19 virus has harmed education systems in 190 countries across seven continents. The rise of online education marked the start of a new era in which humans found new ways to learn.

Many schools have shut their doors due to the Covid 19 epidemic. Some have closed almost entirely (Huang, 2020). As Kim and Bonk (2006) say, new technology always changes how people learn online. Because of the pandemic, more and more schools rely on cutting-edge electronic resources to help students learn and teach. The subject of online education and learning is becoming more and more popular.

Because technology can be used to control many students worldwide, colleges and universities can save money by using it this way (Botham & Mason, 2007). One of the main benefits of online teaching and learning is that students can be involved and participate, access the most up-to-date information, share content, and communicate with a large group. The internet can be used to teach and learn (Mathew & Ebelelloanya, 2016). Many things can be done to make higher education better with the help of technology such as: With the help of digital technology, educational methods, materials, and evaluations could all be changed in a big way (West, 2012).

Trying to learn online from a traditional education point of view can be difficult in the wake of the COVID-19 outbreak. Everybody, from students to teachers to parents, is having difficulties trying to learn something new online (Li & Lalani, 2020). Before the outbreak, African students did not have much access to and money for technology that could be used for online teaching and learning (Mathew and Ebelelloanya, 2016).

Indonesian online teachers must deal with an untrustworthy government, a difficult educational environment, and students' fears about their stolen data (Simamora, 2020). You cannot use online learning programmes if you live in India's rural areas because there is no internet access there (Muthuprasad et al., 2021).

Malaysia's students and teachers are still not ready (Yusuf & Jihan, 2020). There is no need for a person to be there, saving time, money, and energy. It also allows for more flexibility regarding when and where communication takes place (Arkorful & Abaidoo, 2015).

This is a great idea for a distance-learning course. They can still do their work even if they live in faraway places (Sun & Chen 2016). online courses take a lot more time to teach than in person (Keengwe & Kidd, 2010).

People are more likely to get sexually harassed and abused when they get their education through the internet now, says Mukherjee (2021). Anybody who knows how to hack can stop an online meeting or presentation at any time, even if they do not have the know-how. Less connection between students and their social networks and their professors can be found when people learn online (Arkorful & Abaidoo, 2015).

Researchers found that online teachers in India lacked self-efficacy compared to teachers in other countries, according to Pierce-(2018) Friedman. Mobile data services may not be available for some people because of where they live or how much money they earn. In the same way, it is not possible to teach something on the internet without having any information about it. Some places, even cities, have a wide range of electricity reliability, especially in the world's farthest reaches.

To make things even worse, the people of India cannot get internet education. A high-end smartphone is out of reach for many people who do not have a lot to spend. In some homes, there may only be one smartphone, which means it may not be possible for everyone to get online education at the same time (Mukherjee, 2021).

Darji says that in India's online classrooms, teachers' and students' home environments affect, which is true (2020). Online education's quality cannot be judged in any meaningful way. Online teachers are not getting enough training on how to evaluate their knowledge and skills, so they do not know how to do it well (Darji, 2020).

Growth drivers for Online education

This umbrella term covers many different things, like video conferencing and online learning. As a result, these technologies are used in the classroom to help students learn and improve their classrooms (D. Amutha, 2020).

Higher education in India has grown a lot since the country became independent, but not everyone has the same opportunities. Many people cannot read or write, and many kids do not get any formal education at all. However, even though India has many problems with its higher education, it is important to address them and strengthen higher education.

The use of technology in education can help students learn more advanced skills, like how to work together across time and space and talk about real-world problems. It helps the student better understand the world around him or her. People who work with ICT can be trained to meet the information society and the global economy (D. Amutha, 2014).

With its strong information infrastructure and advanced information and communication technology (ICTs), India has also emerged as a major player in the digital library space.

The National Digital Library of India, the country's first fully digital library, is currently under construction. This project has taken a lot of time and effort to complete (NDLI). Some of the best minds in higher education are working on these services and many others. In India, you are among the first to take advantage of the convenience of using a public digital library. More people can take MOOCs thanks to the government's help.

Students who cannot attend class in person can still benefit from online learning. The new programme SWAYAM provides students in rural and underserved areas access to the best colleges in America. This improves the quality of higher education in the country. Things like accessibility and equity, quality standards, relevance, infrastructure, and responsiveness must be revisited. E-content should be accessible to people from a wide range of backgrounds.

Suggestions for Reforming the Education System of Higher Education

Here are some ideas for improving India's university system through an online programme.

- As for the economy, it can influence everything, even schooling! If a pandemic happens, some people are unsure where they will go next. As unemployment rises and families' budgets get tighter, India will have a hard time paying for school fees, which will make it hard for the country to pay. Public institutions could also get less money from the government. Even though the pandemic may change prices and start new programmes, it could also make programmes more efficient and cut costs.

- Before the pandemic, Indian academia needed a new way of thinking about how things should be done. There is a chance to change the way education works.

- Many new trends are taking off worldwide, but digital learning is always at the top. Effective pedagogy will be multidisciplinary and modular, encouraging transferable skills and allowing for individualised instruction. After a pandemic, we may see a mix of online and traditional face-to-face education, backed by established academic institutions and the education technology industry, to help people learn.

- A temporary hold may be put on students moving around and getting real-world experience in ways like exchange programmes and internships, attending conferences, and more. Innovations in teaching, learning, and research call for new ways of working together. People who go to school in these hard times could learn more about other places around the world if they had the chance to go to schools worldwide.

- Indian education must be changed from the primary level to the post-secondary level to be globally relevant and competitive. People who go to college or university need to improve their quality and reputation. Colleges and universities need to have a strong infrastructure to attract students.

Conclusion

This study's benefits and drawbacks of online teaching are better known. This article talks about the good and bad things about online schooling. The pandemic has both good things and bad things. Many things need to be done right away regarding online training. It is no longer possible for education to stay the same when the epidemic grows unpredictable, complex and unique. An increase in the study's strengths and weaknesses can be attributed to online instruction being used in schools.

When a child grows up and learns, the educational process involves everyone. Students who are learning online face various challenges, and they must learn how to deal with them. The theory of cognitive flexibility supports the use of instructional recommendations for future students' progress. Students in online courses should be studied more thoroughly, no matter what the study says. In addition, surveys conducted by people who have tried online education can serve as a starting point for more in-depth studies.

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