Research Paper

Advantages, Disadvantage And Suggestions Of Online Learning

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ABSTRACT:-

Educational institutions like schools, colleges, and universities in India are currently using traditional methods of learning, they follow the method of offline lectures in a classroom. Although many of the institutions have also started blended learning which include both offline and online, But still a lot of them are following old procedures. In 2019, a deadly disease called Covid-19 caused by a Virus shook the entire world by its effects. All educational activities suddenly stopped in India and learners were not able to move schools and colleges because all institutions were closed by the government because of the Covid-19. Sudden detonation of this virus taught us that change is mandatory.Covid-19 impetus the world of education to grow the platforms of online learning, which we did not use before on a grand scale. Education system's traditional mode of teaching challenged by the Covid-19 and forced educators to shift to an online method of teaching from offline. Many educational institutions that were earlier reluctant to change their traditional approach of teaching had no option instead of shifting entirely overnight from traditional method to online teaching–learning method.

This paper includes the overview of Covid-19, its impact on education, advantage and disadvantage of online learning and the Indian government's initiative regarding online learning. This Research paper also discusses about growth of EdTech startups during lockdown in the country by government because of deadly Covid-19 virus and also includes suggestions for educational institutions of how to deal with the challenges related to online learning.

KEYWORDS: - *Online learning, Covid-19, Educational Institutions, E-Learning, Online classes, Advantages of online learning, Disadvantages of online learning.*

I. INTRODUCTION:-

COVID-19 has changed the lifestyles of people around the world, in the covid-19 pandemic people are advised to keep their distance and limit travel as often as possible, and these security measures apply to education as well. In INDIA, all educational institutes like schools, colleges, universities are closed until Jan 31, 2022. The state government has recommended distance learning and additional learning materials via an online system. Online education has been implemented in certain institutions depending on their status.

COVID-19, a public health crisis of worldwide importance, was announced by the World Health Organization (WHO) in January 2020 as a new corona virus disease outbreak and was reported as a pandemic in March 2020. **[1]**

COVID -19 is a continuous pandemic that started in December 2019 in Wuhan, China and was declared a pandemic by WHO on March 11, 2020. As of January 29, 2022 more than 371,555,249 cases were reported and more than 140 countries were affected. 5,670,952 people have died and more than 293,327,733 people recovered from the disease. Strong measures are taken to reduce the pandemic effect, personal precautions like: use face masks, hand hygiene and self-quarantine; environmental measures: such as surface cleaning and community action.

The pandemic of COVID-19 caused several schools and colleges to remain temporarily closed. Face-to-face education has ended by numerous schools, universities, and colleges. This will have negative impacts on educational activities, as social distance is crucial at this stage. Educational agencies are trying to find alternatives ways to manage this difficult circumstance. **[2]**

Online -learning is described as learning experiences using various electronic devices (e.g. computers, laptops, Smartphone's, etc.) with internet availability in synchronous or asynchronous environmental conditions.

Online learning could be a platform that makes the process of education more student-centered, creative, and flexible. **[3]**

The aim of this study is to focus on the online learning during COVID-19 and its impact on the learners. For social distancing, the closure of schools and colleges and canceling large gatherings and participation in public events. Another major impact of disease outbreaks is the cancellation of major events in the film, sports and other industries.

As with most teaching methods, e-learning also has its own set of positives and negatives. Decoding and understanding these positives and negatives will help institutes in creating strategies for more efficient delivery of the lessons, ensuring an uninterrupted learning journey for the students.

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES:-
1. To explore the impact of Covid-19 pandemic on learners.
2. To examine the advantages and disadvantages of online learning.

RESEARCH QUESTIIONS:-
1. What are advantages and disadvantages of online learning in educational institutions?
2. What are the government's responses to online learning?

METHODOLOGY: - The data for the present study on covid-19 impact on education is collected mainly through secondary sources in this research paper. The data collected with a view to identify and analysis the covid-19 impact on education in India. This research paper does not analyze the pandemic's whole effect and government response in depth: instead it looks at some advantages, disadvantages and Indian government's initiative regarding online learning in both diverse and complex.

GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSES TO ONLINE LEARNING:-
The centre and state governments are trying to reduce the negative impact of COVID-19 pandemic on the education sector by their policies and promoting digital learning. Teachers and parents also worked hard to adopt the changing nature of their role and come together to support children's learning. India's education sector saw a surge in solutions to support learners during the COVID-19 period. The Ministry of Education is also trying their best to create a repository of learning content and implementing educational technological interventions to increase access to digital learning.

Closures of educational institutions affected millions of learners. The transition from offline to online learning throws light on the vast inequalities within the education system between and within states. Inequalities also seen

in the learning outcomes, capacity of teachers and in digital and other infrastructure required in online learning provided by the government. Although a lot of digital content has been generated and transmitted by the government to help learners to learn continuously from home. Some of the government's e-learning platforms are given below –

Diksha portal:- DIKSHA (Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing) is a national platform for school education, an initiative of National Council for Education Research and Training (NCERT), Ministry of Education. **[4]** It contains Online-Learning content for students, teachers, and parents, including video lectures, worksheets, NCERT textbooks and assessments for students. Content on this website has been created by more than 250 teachers of multiple languages. The app has more than 80,000 e-books from class 1 to 12 and also available on mobile and offline to use.

E-Pathshala:- The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) is an autonomous organization set up in 1961 by the Government of India to assist and advise the Central and State Governments on policies and programmes for qualitative improvement in school education. The major objectives of NCERT and its constituent units are to: undertake, promote and coordinate research in areas related to school education; prepare and publish model textbooks, supplementary material, newsletters, journals and develops educational kits, multimedia digital materials, etc. **[5]**

E-Pathshala is an Online-Learning app provided by NCERT in multiple languages for classes 1 to 12. The app houses books, videos, audio, etc. aimed at students, educators and parents in multiple languages including Hindi, Urdu, and English. NCERT has deployed 1886 audios, 2000 videos, 696 e-Books and 504 Flip Books In this web portal for classes 1 to 12.

National Repository of Open Educational Resources (NROER):- This portal provides a host of resources for both students and teachers including books and videos including a host of STEM-based games in multiple languages. Content on this portal is basically for class 1st to 12th, including aligned resources for teachers. It has a total of 14527 files documents, interactive, audios, images and videos.

Swayam:- SWAYAM is a programme initiated by Government of India and designed to achieve the three cardinal principle of Educational Policy viz., access, equity and quality. The objective of the effort is to take the best teaching learning resources to all, including the most disadvantaged. SWYAM seeks to bridge the digital divide for students who hitherto remained untouched by the digital revolution and have not been able to join the mainstream of the knowledge economy. **[6]**

Swayam is the national online education platform for both schools and higher education in all subjects including humanities, engineering, law and management courses.

Swayam Prabha:- The SWAYAM PRABHA is a group of 22 DTH channels devoted to telecasting of high-quality educational programmes on 24X7 basis using the GSAT-15 satellite. Every day, there will be new content for at least (4) hours which would be repeated 5 more times in a day, allowing the students to choose the time of their convenience. The channels are uplinked from BISAG-N, Gandhinagar. The contents are provided by NPTEL, IITs, UGC, CEC, IGNOU. The INFLIBNET Centre maintains the web portal. **[7]**

e-PG Pathshala:- e-PG Pathshala is an initiative of the MHRD under its National Mission on Education through ICT (NME-ICT) being executed by the UGC. The content and its quality being the key component of education system, high quality, curriculum-based, interactive e-content in 70 subjects across all disciplines of social sciences, arts, fine arts and humanities, natural & mathematical sciences, linguistics and languages have been developed by the subject experts working in Indian universities and other R & D institutes across the country. Every subject had a team of principal investigator, paper coordinators, content writers, content reviewers, Language editors and multimedia team. **[8]**

e-PG Pathshala is for postgraduate students. During the lockdown period students can access this platform for ebooks, online courses and study materials. The important thing is that the students can access these facilities without having internet.

II. RESULT & DISCUSSION

THE ADVANTAGES OF E-LEARNING:-

Students identify some of the advantages of distance/online learning. A comfortable educational environment is the most common identified advantage of online learning. Students can study and listen to lectures at home, they are not limited by the place, they can listen anytime anywhere, and they are not limited by time or space into a comfortable educational environment. Time utilization is another advantage. Students do not have to spend time on traveling. Their travel time is saved, the load of traveling time has been decreased. Smooth interaction is also an important advantage of online learning. They can speak comfortably over the chat and they can ask questions more freely to the teacher. Student feel like taking a one-on-one class and the interaction, they can ask questions more easily than offline classes.

1. Online learning is convenient.
2. Online learning is more flexible then offline.
3. Online learning is more affordable.
4. Online learning foster more interaction.
5. Online classes unlock more learning opportunities for students.
6. Online learning saves time and money, students can take classes anytime, anywhere.
7. Online learning saves traveling time and cost.
8. Online learning offers personalization.
9. Online learning is consistent.
10. Online learning leads to better retention.

DISADVANTAGES of E-LEARNING:-

The most frequent disadvantage in India and other under developing countries is network instability, and delays often occur, teachers' voices and teaching materials are not synchronous, they cannot take classes when strong mobile data is not available or Wi-Fi is not connected. The second most frequent disadvantage involved unilateral interaction. Interaction is not possible and the quality of the educational environment is poor,

Content is not conveyed accurately, direct interaction between teachers and students is not possible. Without interaction with students teachers making progress on their own is a common response.

1. Online student feedback is limited.
2. E-Learning can cause social Isolation.
3. Lack of communication skill development in online students.
4. E-Learning lacks face to face communication.
5. E-Learning is limited to certain disciplines.
6. Lack of communicational skill development in online students.
7. Online instructors tend to focus on theory rather than practice.
8. Online learning is inaccessible to the computer illiterate population.
9. Lack of accreditation and quality assurance in online education.
10. Cheating prevention during online assessments is complicated.

SATISFACTION WITH ONLINE LEARNING:-
       Satisfaction is a consideration or decision that provides a level of consumption against a particular feature of a product and service itself. **[9]** In addition, learning satisfaction represents the construct of student's attitude that measures affectively student's satisfactions that usually have positive experience towards online learning. Satisfaction is one of the important steps to determine the quality of an online learning. Meanwhile, student satisfaction also can be defined as student's perception towards learning experience which can be increased when learning is planned, and they are able to reflect learning and the provision of appropriate platforms for interaction and collaboration between teachers and students.

III.   SUGGESTIONS:-
1. India should use their full capacity and latest technology for development of education.
2. Internet connection is necessary in online learning so it should be free to use for all.
3. India must invest more and more on education.
4. The teachers should take training of accessing internet and electronic devices.
5. Check all technical requirements before getting online.
6. Online learners should set daily goals for studying.
7. Schedule regular study brakes between online classes.

IV.   CONCLUSION: -
       Online learning has arisen as an alternative to traditional learning method during the pandemic. In the past online learning was underutilized, especially in under developing countries. However, the current situation of the COVID-19 pandemic enforced the institutions of entire world to rely on it for education.

       In the current study, the majority of learners strongly agreed with the acceptance of e-learning. The highest challenge for accepting Online-learning is insufficient and unstable internet connectivity in India (mainly in rural area), computer labs inadequacy, lack of knowledge and devices like computer, laptops, and technical problems. This study highlights the challenges and factors which are affecting the acceptance of Online-learning as a tool for teaching and learning within educational institutions, in India and may lead to strategic development and implementation of Online-learning and view technology as a positive step towards evolution in the education sector and change.

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