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## TRANSITIONING TO ONLINE TEACHING LEARNING DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

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**Abstract:** This study is based on the current scenario of education system in the contest of pandemic affected by COVID-19. The worldwide health emergency situation has caused the confinement of people and with it, closures of schools, institutions and other learning centers have impacted more than 94% of the world's student population faced with this situation, teachers have to adopt wobbly pace not only to new – age learning, but there still lies an obstacle in achieving entire success as only 45 crore people of our total population of the country have access to the internet e-learning. The purpose of this study is to offer a proposal that optimizes the way of learning and teaching in the current context of a pandemic through the use of digital learning under the traditional classroom teaching model to a new era of digital model. Numerous advanced educational and technical institutions in India are equipped with digital facilities right now to cope up with sudden change from traditional education setup to the online education system.

**Keywords:** - Learning, Digital Platform, Teaching, Internet Use, Impact, AISHE, ICT.

**Introduction:** The current scenario under the global outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic is causing a series of transformations in different spheres of political, social and economic life. The Govt. around the world have launched emergency policy initiatives to diminish the impact of closure of educational institutions particularly for more vulnerable teaching activities through the use of different digital modes of learning.<sup>[1]</sup> This study focused on the consequences of the pandemic in the field of education. According to the survey report of the AISHE (All India Survey on Higher Education) was observed that there are 993 universities, 39931 colleges and 10725 standalone institutions.<sup>[2]</sup> In which total enrollment in higher education has been estimated to be 37.4 million with 19.2 million male and 18.2 million female. Specially in the education, the scenario of teaching changes from face-to-face teaching to online teaching and how the education professionals must face adaptation to the new mode context through the online modality, consequently, education professionals are carrying out a process of assimilation towards new circumstances with a few difficulties, causing situation of high level of stress, on the other hand students are also facing problem as each student has not well equipped with high speed internet and digital gadgets and are along these lines of suffer, the people residing in the rural area are still very much deprived of the technologies and therefore hampering the cause of online education.

### Objective of the Study

This study addresses to solve the above said problems of teaching and learning, through a series of guidelines:

- Significant scarcity in digital competence and knowledge of the use of digital classroom.
- Challenges in teaching and learning.
- To enlist positive and negative influence of COVID-19 on education.
- Govt. Initiatives in remote areas through digital platform.

### Methodology

In present study information are collected from various surveys carried out by authentic national and international agencies on COVID-19 Pandemic. In this context various e-journals and websites are also referred.<sup>[3, 4]</sup>

**1. Significant Scarcity in digital competence and knowledge of use of digital classroom:** This study is based on the worth of attention deficit in digital competence and digital classroom. Lockdown and social distancing measures due to pandemic COVID-19 have led to closure of schools, and other education centers and the necessary adaptation of online teaching. There is an alteration in the way of educators deliver quality education through various online platforms. The education system and educators have adopted 'Education in Emergency' through various online platforms and are forced to adopt a digital system as they are not prepared for it. Digital learning or e-learning methods have played a vital role during this pandemic, helping schools and universities to facilitate student learning during the closure of school and training center or universities. This new education method requires the taking of a series of measures, and the use of suitable and relevant measures for online education depend on the expertise and exposure to information and communication technology (ICT) for both educators and the students. Some of the online applications such as Google meet, zoom, Microsoft team which allow the educators to create study materials and training programs. The flipped classroom is also a teaching strategy for providing learning resources such as YouTube links, recorded lectures before the class. These virtual classroom platform techniques have a dual purpose to apparent the need of training in the educational use of the ICT of education professionals and to optimize the use of digital platforms.



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2. **Challenges in Teaching and Learning:** With the availability of a number of platforms and online educational tools, the user's educators and learners face some of the challenges which are highlighted in this study. <sup>[5,6]</sup>

- **Encouragement of personalized learning:** The lack of resources of gadgets for digital learning, which leads to difficult impediment to overcome to access learning from digital platform. In many developing countries, the economically backward students are unable to afford online tools and lack of guidance, especially for young learners, is another challenge, as both parents are working.
- **Technology Dependent Teaching:** COVID-19 has accelerated adoption of digital technologies to deliver education. The online teaching is to provide support to the students through online modes. For this online mode teaching various platforms available like YouTube, Google meet, zoom etc. to provide support services to the students. With the help of digital platform sharing important documents and interacts with students for virtual projects and their reports for advancement of students' studies and better use of technology with online classes students may experience challenges increased fatigue, headaches, lack of motivation.
- **Change in Assessment System:** Due to outbreak of pandemic the external assessments have been postponed and all the internal assessment have been cancelled. This made a negative impact on students learning. Various education regulatory bodies have been managing the internal assessment using various digital platforms through online but the external assessment to be postponed due to physical distancing and various safety issues. The negative impact has created anxiety among students as they do not get better marks as they prepared the syllabus throughout the year for getting good grades certificate to apply for the forth coming academic year in the other countries due to lockdown.
- **Teaching-Learning on Blended mode:** A teaching and learning approach that combines face-to-face learning methods with digital classroom activities to deliver learning material. In a blended learning environment, both the teacher and the students should be located physically in the same space. A blended learning mode provides flexibilities in various aspects. Blended mode learning may also call hybrid learning in which 60 to 70 percent course contents delivered online mode with some face – to face interaction, so the blended mode combines the digital platform with traditional teaching. It is also referred to as reverse teaching, flip teaching, backwards classroom or reverse instructions.
- **Increase in Unemployment Rate:** The COVID -19 crises in India has triggered a fresh wave of unemployment in the country. The unemployment rate has increased sharply due to many entrance exams for job recruitments got cancelled which created negative impact and increased unemployment rate. The Indians who have been doing their jobs in abroad became upset of their job withdrawal also. The final year students or pass out students may not get their jobs due to various restrictions caused by COVID-19. All the above said facts keep on view towards increase in unemployment rate and the anxiety gradually increasing in students and others and also people struggle for food.

3. **To enlist Positive and Negative Impact of COVID-19 on Education:**<sup>[7]</sup>

- **Positive Influence:** Though the outbreak of COVID-19 Pandemic has influenced on education system and creates many challenges. However, by analyzing these challenges one can clearly pointed that some of the affected parts by the COVID-19 can be somehow improved or refined in right direction. During study, one point that comes into mind is integration of technologies into education system. Education and technologies always come together, but in this pandemic time it took new way. The following points may be considered as the positive influences:
  - Commercialization of education has provided a chance for students to know about the developments taking place in the world around them and encourage them to get more opportunities for increasing the competitive advantages.
  - To improve personal development themselves towards the experiments of the market and the companies they seek to work.
  - Improvement in quality education of the students to recognize themselves as build for potential job for the future and the competitive exams.
  - Developments of teachers and educators, it is expected from the teachers and the educators to develop themselves with the level of perfection and demanded as per the expectations of the students and parents towards the transformation of their dreams into reality so that they will be able to transform the students as per the present demand of industry.
  - In digital learning, students need not to make or collect hard copies of study material and hence all students used soft copy for references.
- **Negative Influence:** Education sector has affected due to outbreak of COVID-19. Due to this many negative influences on the education as follows:
  - Due to lack of social interaction online classes can cause students and educators in social isolation, due to this social isolation can increase stress and anxiety.
  - Necessary communication and interaction skills not to be developed in students.
  - Due to lockdown replacing of offline classes with online classes can negatively influence on the health of learners.
  - The practical classes are suffered only online view of practical classes due to this practical knowledge be not improved.



- Due to COVID-19 shifted classes offline to online without any curriculum designed such a format has created the risk of most of the students becoming passive learners and they look to be losing interest in studies.
  - It is also to analyze that many of the parents have felt unsupported with their ward education and wellbeing needs and therefore unable to continue to educate their ward due to lack of money.
  - Due to pandemic, students who already enrolled or want to enroll in many universities abroad, are now leaving those countries and if the situation persists in long run there will be a huge decline in the demand of international education.
4. **Govt. Initiative in remote area through digital platform:** Due to pandemic, where the closure of schools and students suffers from studies, the Government takes initiatives for students through digital platform of mostly free of cost learning like DIKSHA, SwayamPrabha Channel, ShikshaVani, E- Pathshala etc. (DSEL, MHRD, and Govt. of India).<sup>[8,9,10]</sup> These initiatives cover educational requirements of students and this comprehensive initiative called PM Evidya was announced on May 17, 2020 which aims to equitable multi-mode access to education by digital platform. A summary of digital platform initiatives is as follows:
- **DIKSHA:** (<http://diksha.gov.in>) 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. It designed as per the curriculum of various programs can be easily to access by learners and teachers. DIKSHA is the one nation, one digital platform for the school education in India.
  - **SwayamPrabha TV Channel:** SwayamPrabha TV channels are for those who do not access to the internet. 32 channels are devoted to telecast high quality education programs by MHRD. Every day, there will be new contents which would be repeated many times in a day and allowing the students to choose the time of their convenience. The contents are provided by NPTEL, IITs, and UGC etc.
  - **For The Differentially-abled:** One DTH Channel is being operated specially for hearing impaired students in sign language. For visually and hearing-impaired students, study material has been developed in digitally accessible information system (DAISY) and in sign language.
  - **SWAYAM:** SWAYAM (Study Webs of Active Learning for Young Aspiring Minds) platforms are designed for providing quality education to graduates, undergraduates and post graduates. This portal offers downloadable study material, video lectures and online tests over 1600 courses. After completion of course students can get a certificate.
  - **E-PG Pathshala:** e-PG Pathshala is an online portal (<http://epgp.inflibnet.ac.in>) for postgraduate courses under initiative 700 e-books in over 68 postgraduate courses available for students. On this portal video lectures, PDF, tutorials etc. are available.
  - **National Digital Library of India (NDLI):** (<http://ndl.iitkgp.ac.in>) This online portal provides a wide range of learning materials which is available in more than 70 Indian Languages including e books, videos, manuscripts, documents and many more. This portal designed for all age's students, teachers, researchers and other uses.
  - **Virtual Labs:** The main aim is to provide remote access to virtual laboratories for students of science and technology. This consortium is conducted by IIT Delhi and has around 12 participating institutes. The projects consist of more than 70 web experiments and lab facilities under the supervision of experienced faculties.
  - **Enhancement in Learning with Improvement in Skills (ELIS):** ELIS (<http://free.aicte-india.org>) portal has designed by AICTE for students. In this portal 18 leading Ed-tech companies with 26 different courses. ELIS portal has been created to enhance not all the subject contents but also aims to develop valuable skill sets as per the actual work environment.
  - **National Repository of Open Education Resources (NROER):** The NROER (<http://nroer.gov.in>) initiative by MHRD. A wide range of e-libraries, e-books, e-courses available on this portal. Students registered on this portal and also get participated in various online events and time-based education.

### Suggestion

- During pandemic, online classroom requires teachers to adopt certain instructional strategies such as pre and post class activities using Learning Management System (LMS) to ensure active student engagement.
- Teachers need to use online pedagogies such as Team Based Learning (TBL), discussion forums and use of Open Education Resources (OERs) including SWAYAM and NPTEL courses to make classes more engaging.
- For online classes, teachers are required to put in significant amount of effort in preparation of creative presentations and innovative in class activities.
- Innovations also will be required in designing structured evaluation tools with more emphasis on continuous evaluation. More stress perhaps will be required in formative evaluation and less on summative evaluation.
- Substantial investment will be required by education department for technology upgrade, online delivery platforms, redesigning classrooms and lecture theatres to make online delivery sessions more interactive. There will be requirement to equip them with recording devices for providing access of these sessions to students later.



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- The Government can empower institutes in the form of grants, so they are able to provide a seamless learning experience to students.

## Conclusion

This study has outlined many impacts of COVID-19 on education. COVID-19 impact on the education sector has left them in a tough situation as economics continue to be under lockdown. For managing the learning environment, reaching out to each student and developing a safe learning environment are some of the challenges in all levels. As we do not predict how long the pandemic environment will continue, a digital transformation in education has been linking the gap by providing the remote learning, irrespective of traditional education. Educators and professional development programs now should embed these tools and resources into their practices. Working in alliance with researches, families and institutions and initiatives by Government to break these boundary walls of traditional classrooms can eliminate inefficiencies. As the digital platform does not ensure equity and accessibility in learning as face-to-face learning, but with the use of digital resources that can set them on a path to obtain expertise incredible a generation ago. The future of online education looks promising, although we do have a long way to go.

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