An Overview of Online Education in Present Context

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Abstract
During Covid-19 epidemic situation, The Government has either postponed or cancelled the educational activities in all schools, colleges, Universities, and Educational Institutions. Face to face or classroom teaching has been transformed into online teaching. Teachers and students faced many difficulties in shifting from classroom teaching to online teaching.

This study attempts to overview the challenges and obstacles faced by teachers and students and the solutions adopted to deal with them.

Keywords
Online teaching, face to face teaching, classroom teaching, online education.

I. Introduction
Education in Schools/Colleges was based on face to face teaching in the classroom in which the teachers directly interacted with the students. The whiteboard/blackboard was used for the teaching and knowledge of some subjects was imparted through the presentation. Textbooks were available for all subjects. Students' assessment and performance can also be easily and effectively achieved in traditional classroom teaching. It was easy to get an education in all the subjects. It was accessible to all sections of society & all regions i.e. urban, semi-urban, and rural.

During this pandemic condition (COVID -19), Education was shifted from face to face teaching in online teaching in all schools and colleges across India. Education is available only through online and digital mediums. Smart phones, computers, Internet facilities is required for an online medium which are difficult to arrange for all levels of society, especially for lower-class students. It seems to be difficult for all classes of society to get an education through the digital medium. In this review, the author will highlight the potential impact on online education

II. Review

A. Challenges
Internet access is a challenge, especially for students and teachers in small towns and rural areas.

This situation is more difficult for those students who do not have access to computers or smart phones and Internet facilities at home.

Working at home is going to be a difficult task also for teachers [1]. Many schools/colleges do not have enough infrastructure or resources to facilitate online teaching with immediate effect.

The Teachers who are not familiar with this technology, for the learning or adapt it in a short period is coming as a challenge. The same situation also arises for students, they are facing difficulty in learning the technology, due to which they are not able to get the facility of online classes, online materials. Teachers need technical training for online teaching but suddenly they couldn't get the training and they had to adopt online medium without proper technical knowledge/training.

It is also difficult to teach practical and labs, music, and art courses online because there are not enough platforms for these subjects. What will happen to those students whose courses can't be taught online? It is impacting the studies of all these students.

Textbooks are not available in online teaching. There is a challenge for teachers to prepare online material and complete the syllabus.

The transition from classroom/face to face teaching to online teaching has a serious impact on students' assessment and evaluation. Applying assessments online on those courses designed for face-to-face learning is a challenging task.

Lab tests, practicals, and performance tests are not possible to conduct online

Online education requires proper training, resources, and attention.

Yes, this is a challenge but if we try together then we get a solution to this problem.

B. Some solutions/Recommendations for online teaching
Educations Institutions, social institutions, NGOs, and the government should provide smart phones or computers and Internet packs to poor students. Educational Institutions should also provide resources to those teachers who don't have proper resources so that they can provide better education to students.

The Government should create an alternative education board to deal with these problems so that the students can get an education.

Teachers adapt many online mediums for effective online teaching.

They used different modes of the digital platform for online classes. WhatsApp, YouTube videos, Video Conferencing, etc.

Through WhatsApp, teachers can communicate with students, send messages, videos, and share the teaching materials.

YouTube allows schools and colleges to access educational content. YouTube as a virtual library for students to understand the difficult and complex topics. YouTube videos proved very helpful to understand the topics of different subjects easily.

Teachers have tried their best and prepared online material in an easy form so that the students can learn easily. Students should be

provided with effective material or lessons on every topic. Google Classroom was used for preparing online materials, assignments, Questions –answers. Google classroom medium proved quite effective for sharing files and e-contents between teachers and students.

Google meet platform/Zoom video conferencing platform is an interactive platform for conducting online classes. Through these platforms, teachers interact with students directly communicate with them & listen to their problems and solve the problems. The video conferencing platform has been largely proven as an alternative to classroom teaching. Students discuss their problems, clear the doubts on any topic.

Through all these digital mediums, the teachers have tried their best to provide education to all students so that they didn't remain backward in the field of education.

Teachers have to change the assessment types to fit online mode and ensure online progress monitoring. Teachers set the quizzes and tests composed of multiple-choice or short answer questions on a timely basis.

Teachers also have taken online tests, quizzes provided to students through Google classroom, and based on that they were observed the students' performance.

C. Support Services from the Universities/Government

The Government and Universities have set up many digital libraries, e-books, digital videos for providing e-resources to students and teachers.

Government initiative National digital library provides e-content on every subject through a single window .E-books are available on the internet so students can search & get information at any time & anywhere.

Government initiative SWAYAM digital platform introduced. E-materials on different subjects are available on this platform. It is very effective and helpful for students and teachers.

III. Conclusion

Online teaching can be a great opportunity in this current situation. Students are young and energetic, and they are capable of learning through the online platform. Teachers can motivate the younger minds and draw them into active participation. Teachers should embrace technology and pay careful attention to student experiences to make learning rich and effective. Authorities should take the responsibility for proper technical training and support for teachers and students.

References

[1] Pradeep Sahu.,"Closure of Universities Due to Corona virus Disease 2019 (COVID-19): Impact on Education and Mental Health of Students and Academic Staff", Cureus. 2020 Apr; 12(4).