



SHIFT IN COMMUNICATION METHODS
IN EDUCATION
DURING THE OCCURRENCE OF PANDEMIC COVID 19

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ABSTRACT

COVID-19 has impacted immensely to the education sector. Though it has created many challenges, various opportunities are also evolved. It is need of the hour for the educational institutions to strengthen their knowledge and Information Technology infrastructure to be ready for facing COVID-19 like situations. Even if the COVID-19 crisis stretches longer, there is an urgent need to take efforts on maximum utilization of online platforms so that students not only complete their degree in this academic year but also to get ready for the future digital oriented environment. The concept of “work from home” has greater relevance in such pandemic situation to reduce spread of COVID-19. As online practice is benefitting the students immensely, it should be continued after the lockdown.

Keywords: Corona virus 19, edutech, computer-savvy, on-line lectures, network, globalization,

Introduction

The outbreak of the deadly pandemic COVID 19 all over the world had crippled business and industrial as well as educational activities in many countries including India. Since these are organizational activities carried out in a collective manner, the close association among participants endangers the affliction of this pandemic. According to the preventive directions of the World Health Organization every person has to strictly observe three rules, namely (1) to maintain the inter-person distance of 6 feet, (2) to put mask covering mouth and nose, and (3) to wash hands every time with sanitizers. These basic conditions have outmoded the practice of teaching the batch of about 60 to 80 students in a closed class room. The disruptions due to the spread of the pandemic in school and college education system are as under:

- Educators cannot closely interact with their pupils,
- Students too cannot closely chat and play with their colloques,

- Occupancy of classrooms is substantially reduced, thereby teaching hours are distributed in different shifts,
- A ratio of student per teacher gets considerably reduced.
- The investments in computers and electric gadgets increased heavily,
- The cost of education rose excessively.

Mr. LavAgrawal (1) the erstwhile Secretary in the Ministry of Economic Affairs had reported to have said, “The impact of the deadly epidemic of COVID-19 on education pattern is indescribable because that has structurally disrupted the system and process of teaching and learning in at all the levels of education throughout the country. The efforts of the government are directed toward mitigation of loss of careers of millions of students”. It is a world-wide phenomenon”. The World Health Organization has warned the governments of the countries to take care of children attending the schools and colleges because their health and education are their sole responsibilities. Realizing the alarming situation, the following objectives are set out for the purpose of this study.

Objectives :

- 1) To understand the psychological impact of Covid 19 on teachers,
- 2) To critically analyze the traditional classroom and E- classroom teaching
- 3) To identify the impact of Covid 19 on education system
- 4) To analyze the new trends in education system
- 5) To understand the challenges and difficulties faced by educators.

Hypothesis

The hypotheses on the foundation of which the study stands are as under:

H1 : Traditional classroom teaching learning process is more effective than Online teaching learning process, and

H2 : Online teaching learning process is more effective than the traditional classroom teaching learning process

Survey

For the purpose of this study, data were collected through structured questionnaires administered to 200 respondents comprising teachers from different schools in the city; the data collected through questionnaire collated and examined by a team of research assistants from the computers receiving their replies in through e-mails .The survey has following limitations:

- (i) The teachers from rural areas could not respond despite repeated requests,
- (ii) Most of them expressed their problems of accessibility,
- (iii) Technical and network problems dissuaded them to respond within the dates;
- (iv) The teachers in urban schools have given the guarded replies.

The composition of respondents (Teachers) is shown below:

1. Secondary school teachers	63
2. Junior College teachers	59
3. College teachers	53
4. Post graduate teachers	45

However, the observations from the readings of their responses are summarized in the following lines.

Observations

[A] Analysis of Online teaching challenges faced by teachers

1. The first and foremost, majority of teachers belonging to all the four levels openly expressed their reservations regarding the feasibility and effectiveness of teaching because they could not see all the students at the same time;
2. Their communication was disturbed by a number of problems such as (i) alignment of the audio visual systems (ii) interruptions from students in receiving and listening, (iii) frequency and tone often being irregular and terminative; (iv) disturbances due to time differences; (v) absence of coordination between the teachers and students at distant locations.
3. The online method utterly fails to create learning and teaching ambience necessary for delivery of knowledge and cognizance by the students who are not able to concentrate due to a number of factors.
4. Teaching and learning are not mechanical processes. Had it been so, students could not have gone to schools and colleges and accepted the Great Google Guru.

Majority of responses received from under graduate & post graduate teachers having experience from 1yr to 26yr of their service. In this study we find that there is very less issue of internet connectivity but most of the respondent says that there is problem of physical and mental attendance of students. Majority of teacher is facing challenges during classroom teaching is how to engage student in activity, self-motivation of student, responses of student poor connectivity of internet some time. Even while assessing students' performance we find that most of student is not serious about online teaching. In this study 75% of teacher is in favour of class room teaching. Most of the respondents are in favour of Traditional Classroom teaching. Majority of teachers is strongly disagree that online classroom teaching is more effective than traditional classroom teaching. So most of the teacher is in favour and wants to start classroom teaching again. Despite all online teaching is need of time and student are taking benefit of modern teaching. Prof. S.S. Vaghul (2), remarked, "Deliverance of a teacher depends upon the interests, devotion and consequent continuous feedback from the students. He cannot be effective in communicating his views to the images of those on the monitor of computers".

[B] Online Learning challenges faced by students

The survey covered 225 students from different schools and colleges from the city with the following distribution:

1. Secondary school teachers	52
2. Junior College teachers	60
3. College teachers	68
4. Post graduate teachers	45

Their responses received through questionnaires were collate and classified according to their opinions expressed therein. Their observations are given herein below;

Observations

[1] Majority of the students, irrespective of their standards had expressed their reservations about the use of computers and internets. They experienced the incompatibility in adopting these modern techniques of on-line learning –teaching process. They with all earnestness were eager to switch over to this kind innovative process but the process is totally imperfect technically as well as materially.

[2] Their fundamental objection in utilization of on-line teaching was that learning and teaching require close human interactions and empathy which are totally absent in this process.

[3] Interruptions and interferences both technical and physical create many hindrances in communication and understanding. The close and appropriate coordination between the teacher and the students are almost missing. What the teacher tells and what they listen are totally incongruent.

[4] Most of the students are neither computer-savvy nor they technical friendly. For them, education is the matter of acceptance of all the basic components of learning such as the personality of teacher, his knowledge, delivery and attitude etc. These elements are absent in on-line system of learning.

[5] They question how many students in urban and rural schools and colleges can afford to possess the requisite gadgets for on-line education? This is the mockery of poor students. Nowadays adaptive learning is using Artificial intelligence to adjust the content according to individual needs. It helps in providing personalized courses to identify their weaknesses and strengths for better learning outcomes.

Many students are not well equipped with a high internet connection that is required for online learning. Due to this, they face problems in going live for virtual learning and other platforms that require internet connection. They face technical issues as they are not much aware of technology and computer applications. A slow and high internet connection can play an important role in how quickly you can attend the class and do not miss any live sessions. There is a possibility of poor connectivity if you find difficulty in downloading some information related to the subject, blurred videos, etc. Dr. Pradeep Sharma, Barkatulla University, Bhopal (3) was critical about technical imperfections in on-line communication in the course of delivering lectures for post-graduate students, He said, ‘Technical deficiencies and imperfections in connectivity simply make the mockery of education’.

Lack of computer education is a major concern in today’s world. There are many students who still cannot operate basic computers with MS word and PowerPoint. And whenever some technical issues emerge, they find it difficult to solve the problem in such a scenario. They face difficulties with live classes, usage of appropriate icons, MS office, communication-related apps and websites, browsing study materials, etc. Sometimes they do not know technology proficiency like login, live classes, creating and submitting work, communicating with teachers and friends.

Summary

The results show that COVID-19 has adverse effects on education including, learning disruptions, and decreased access to education and research facilities, Job losses and increased student debts. The study underscores the damaging effects of COVID-19 on education sector and the need for all educational institutions, educators, and learners to adopt technology, and improve their digital skills in line with the emerging global trends and realities in education.

The COVID-19 has resulted in closing of schools and colleges all over the world. Universally, over 1.2 billion children are out of the classroom. As a result, education has changed dramatically, with the distinctive rise of e-learning, whereby teaching is undertaken remotely and on digital platforms. Research suggests that online learning has been shown to increase retention of information, and take less time, meaning the changes coronavirus have caused might be here to stay, while countries are at different points in their COVID-19 infection rates. With this sudden shift away from the classroom in many parts of the globe, some are wondering whether the adoption of online learning will continue to persist post-pandemic, and how such a shift would impact the worldwide education market.

In many cases students find difficulty in managing their time with online learning. Online learning is completely new for them and requires intensive work. They need a scheduled planner to manage their time in an effective manner. Online learning provides flexible time unlike traditional classrooms. But some face difficulties in adjusting to the time required for

online learning. The time management is the most important factor in online learning. It needs time and effort for better learning outcomes. You should know the factors that can affect your timings during the learning process such as Avoid Distractions – Try to avoid distractions that can affect your learning. There are many platforms that can engage you for entertainment and communication. But make sure that you set time for breaks and focus on learning as scheduled to avoid missing live classes or sessions.

Students start losing hope once they find difficulty in online learning. It requires motivation to complete tasks and engage students with their learning. Lack of motivation is a common challenge for all students. They should show up for all the activities and learning during the sessions. Make sure that you log in every day, check for the status and appear in all the sessions and discussions.

Most of the students have learned in the physical classroom. Online learning can make you adapt to different styles of learning. There are some students who can adapt to these styles quickly but what about the students who need time? In such cases, they lack concentration, inability to understand the live classes, difficulty in creating projects and assignments using technology.

Students lack effective communication skills during online learning. Teachers give assignments for improving reading and writing skills but there is a possibility that they might not be able to write so convincingly that educators understand the concept behind their assignments. There are some students who feel shy to communicate with their teachers and friends due to the new model of learning. It might happen due to lack of interest, poor technological skills with apps and video calls or unable to express themselves via live chats, emails or text messages. Online learning enhances learning experience. It provides a platform for communication and interaction with others.

Online classes help teachers to provide reading material, assignments, communication via email, live chats or messages and delivering content by live sessions, presentations, recorded videos or lectures for the students. In spite of all these activities, still some students do not find engaging compared to a traditional one. Students find it difficult to communicate in person who struggles with understanding concepts. Many times these students do not even approach teachers to clear their doubts.

Every student needs feedback for their performance during the learning process so that they can improve their learning abilities. They are not only observed during the tests or exams but also for each assignment and project. Research reveals that the students hardly visit their assignments to check their suggestions and comments.

Summary

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