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Online Higher Education- Facts and future in respect with National Education Policy-2020

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Abstract-

As like several teaching techniques, online learning also possesses its own strong points and weakness. Specially after the Covid-19 pandemic online learning has gain its importance on large scale. Studying and evaluating the positives and negatives of this new normal in education sector will help to formulate strategies for higher education in coming future. Detail study of online education with all its prospectus will surely help to design an uninterrupted learning journey for the students. In a post-pandemic world, alternative approaches to teaching and learning such as online learning are needed to complement traditional methods.

Introduction

"Online Education is like a rising tide, it's going to lift all boats"

- Anant Agarwal, Chief Open Education Officer of 2U/edX.

'New Normal' is the most frequently used term after pandemic. The major segment of this new normal in education is the increased use of online learning tools and techniques. The risk of Covid-19 pandemic has made it compulsory for entire education system to invent new ways of teaching learning in order to sustain even in lockdown era.

As per the information India's higher education system is the world's third largest in

terms of students, next to China and the United States. India's Higher Education sector has witnessed a tremendous increase in the number of Universities and University level Institutions & colleges after independence. The COVID-19 pandemic has severely affected the economic and educational health of India. The government and higher educational institutions quickly announced that online classes will be conducted by the institutions. Paradigm shift from traditional face to face teaching method to Online teaching poses technical difficulties that affects the efficacy of Teaching-Learning Process.

All around the world, educational institutions are looking toward online learning platforms to continue with the process of educating students. The new normal now is a transformed concept of education with online learning at the core of this transformation. Today, digital learning has emerged as a necessary resource for students and schools all over the world. For many educational institutes, this is an entirely new way of education that they have had to adopt. Online learning is now applicable not just to learn academics but it also extends to learning extracurricular activities for students as well. In recent months, the demand for online learning has risen significantly, and it will continue doing so in the future.

Research Methodology

Objectives

1. To study the state of online education in higher education
2. To evaluate the degree of ease following online education system
3. To discuss the issues and challenges important in successful implementation of online education.
4. To suggest effective remedial measures in implementing online education system

Type of research

The present research work is purely based on secondary data hence it is exploratory research in its own.

Source of data

Previous research papers published online related to the research topic. Reports published by various government and non-government bodies related to evaluation and accreditation of higher educational institutions. News articles published in reputed newspapers and periodicals etc.

Data Analysis

Just like all other teaching methods, online education also possesses its own set of positives and negatives. Detail discussion on positive and negative points of online education in higher education will help to make concrete opinion about the same. Such detail investigation further helps students as well as teachers to design suitable teaching methodology for higher education.

Advantages of Online Learning

1. Efficiency

Online teaching and learning process avails an opportunity to the teachers to take help of advanced technological tools like videos, PDF, Power Point Presentation to deliver their study contents in most effective manner. They can sought higher attention from their student by using such advance techniques in place of monotonous classroom teaching where there is very little scope of participative learning.

2. Operational freedom of Time and Place

Most important advantage of online education is that it provide operational freedom to students to attend classes from any location of their choice. It also makes possible for teachers to reach up to maximum students at the same time. Students can study recorded lectures and videos at their convenient time and duration.

3. Economic in Nature

There is no limitation for attending online lecture as it can be attended by a large number of students at a time using online techniques. The problem of providing physical support facility like seating arrangement for students, adequate light and ventilation arrange-

ments won't bother in case of online education system. Moreover, the study material prepared for online education is also available in soft copies. It can be distributed with minimum or no cost in multiple times which not only encourage green initiative but provide utmost efficiency for using the same.

4. Encourage students' participation and attentiveness

In online mode of education students can attend class from any location without dealing any geographical issue. In other word participation and attendance of large number of student can be achieved by using online education system.

5. Suitable for every student

All students are not equal in case of obtaining knowledge. Their learning capacity may vary in many senses. Some student can understand the concept by presentation while other can get that by teachers' explanation. Some may understand by graphical presentation while tabular method might be effective for others. All these tools and techniques are available in online education methods.

The online learning system, with its range of options and resources, can be personalized in many ways. It is the best way to create a perfect learning environment suited to the needs of each student.

Disadvantages of Online Learning

1. Inability to Concentrate on Screens

Traditional Indian education from schooling to higher education use to follow classroom teaching method. Online education is quite new phenomenon not only for students but for teachers too. For many students, one of the biggest challenges of online learning is inability to concentrate on the screen for long periods of time. Uncontrolled access to social media and other web resources is another hurdle disturbing teaching learning process.

2. Technological Glitches

Majority of the rural area in our country

still lack adequate technological infrastructure. Poor internet connectivity, low technical expertise with teachers as well as students users make online teaching method difficult for them. In absence of consistent internet connection for students or teachers, there can be a lack of continuity in learning for the student.

3. Sense of Isolation

Students can obtain pure knowledge and first-hand information in direct contact with their teachers and classmates. On the other hand in case of online class, there is very possibility of direct interactions between students and teachers. This problem generate a sense of isolation for the students. Even though online education provides an opportunity of direct interaction but virtual in nature which is not as effective as classroom teaching.

4. Less number of Trained Teachers

Online education method requires teachers who should have basic knowledge of computer. Majority of the teachers still follow traditional offline method of classroom teaching. Highly expert and experienced teachers can impart high level of knowledge to their students but through traditional way. They lack advance technical knowledge and unable to exploit the benefits of online teaching. In order to adopt online teaching method effectively it become compulsory to train all teachers prior which is again a challenging task. It also create additional burden on educational institution to invest in training teachers with the latest technology updates so that they can conduct their online classes seamlessly.

5. Excess Screen Time

Many parents are concerned about the health hazards of having their ward spend long hours staring at a screen. This increase screen time which is one of the biggest concerns and disadvantages of online learning. Sometimes students also develop bad posture and other physical problems due to staying hunched in front of a screen.

Findings

1. Acceptability for online education system is different in teachers as compare to students. Both have little bit different perception for the online learning.

2. The state of students & teachers interaction quit less while online learning as compare to classroom teaching.

3. Majority of survey conducted in this regard have stated that online learning is not as effective as offline or traditional learning. In other words Indian education system and its stakeholders have not completely accepted online education system.

4. Online learning requires utmost mental focus and concentration. Teachers also gave less preference to online learning because still they are of the opinion that offline or classroom study is suitable for proper knowledge.

5. Online education is most suitable option for extreme condition like lock down for uninterrupted study but not much effective like offline mode.

6. Imparting physical knowledge and skill effectively is highly possible in offline study method and not through online learning process.

Conclusion

It might be early to frame final comment on the state of online classes in higher education in our country and mention that online class is the only way of teaching learning process. One line class room can be a complimentary option but it should not be consider as perfect alternate for classroom teaching in higher education.

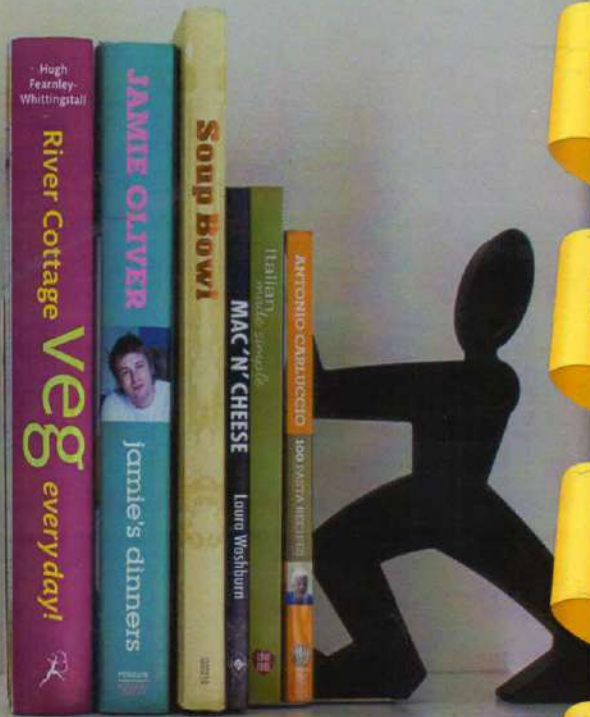
While online learning lack of infrastructure and hardware facilities pose high impact which is really a big issue in our country along with less technical knowledge and skill using computer. Online learning is not able to focus on serious learning as compare to traditional method or offline education system.

According to descriptive study, researcher found that the teacher or students have

totally different view about the online learning. Some study also express that, they don't feel attached with teaching process during online class and get distracted by many other factors. They expressed disagreement for continuation of online learning in future.

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