ONLINE TEACHING AND LEARNING - HIGH SCHOOL LEVEL

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The very old education system of India is Gurukulam, where the students live with Guru at Guru's residence and learn life education. Later it developed into class room teaching. As the time passed, the education system took different styles as and when science and technology developed. Teaching through postal, Teaching with different aids, Teaching with projectors with scanners are examples. Online education is the trend as the Government supports Digital transaction in each and every field.

When digital world expanded into the field of education, online teaching started to some level. During Corona Pandemic, the whole world stumbled to stand still at home, not only work but also Teaching – learning process of education came to ONLINE TEACHING.

In spite of difference in language, culture, diverse population in our country, ONLINE teaching-learning, online purchasing , work at home etc have gained a lot of popularity. The technological improvements and the changes in information technology lead to the growth of e-learning system.

INTRODUCTION:

Unity in diversity is the common slogan in India, as it has diversity in culture, heritage, language, food system, geographical phenomena, dressing styles, class of population and education system. Though development in educational field gradually upraised, some of the remote area students, the students below poverty line are even struggling to get the basic education. The International schools in India have unfulfilled dream of many people getting admission because of fee structure and high standard. Many colleges have international tie-ups under their Memorandum of Understanding and they send students to different country for study or for orientation programme. These variations in quality education due to reasons like social background, poverty, difference in standard of living, lack of teacher training programme etc. As India is the second most populated country, Indian education system is one of the largest education system in the world and holds key position in global education industry.

In some field of education, students who study in foreign countries, have to face qualifying examinations to equate their qualification with India. Normally, Computer is the costly item for many people in India. Most of the people even now go to Browsing centre for using computers. But the recent trend of everybody having android cell phones has turned the educational system upside as whole world's knowledge came to everybody's hand. During this time, most of the universities have shifted to online mode using Blackboard, or live / recorded programme through Google Meet, Microsoft Teams, Zoom or other online platforms. During COVID 19 pandemic, it also shot up, as the students were in compulsion to continue their study through ONLINE system.

Though people felt that there was no significant difference between online learning and face to face class as their academic year of the school system, which upgrades all students up to eighth standard. Later people realized that ONLINE teaching might be a substitute for time-being, but it cannot replace the traditional classroom. Some mediums (e.g., **videoconferencing or telephone**) have greater social presence than other mediums (e.g., e-mail), and media higher in social presence are more efficient for relational communication (i.e., building and maintaining interpersonal relationships), as they involve social / personal issues and thoughts

BACKGROUND

As we are aware that Internet is having plenty of knowledge, therefore it is for the betterment of students to open the ocean of knowledge. This can be possible only by the use ofInformation Technology (IT) and World Wide Web (WWW) as a medium of delivery.

e- Learning portals has a benefit of flexible place, time and medium of use. In a country like India, where basic or higher education is not possible due to many constrains like financial and social problems, Online education system helps people to access to world class education system. As India is the second largest populated country in world, there is a huge requirementof e-learning or online education system. With a view to complete the demand, India is a home of many E-Learning portals and WBEL system. Good bye teachers, class room and books, E-Learning is now a new trend in education system. E-Learning can be contemplated at two stages. 1st state is educator level where as 2nd stage is trainer level. Elementary and highereducation falls under 1st stage where as 2nd stage is used by companies and business to train and develop their workers or employees.

As students are in the position of compulsion of being at home not going to school, purchase of cell-phones, tablets, computers go high to continue their education. As far as India is concerned, there are many constrains ineducation system like population, income and social backwardness, student teacher ratio, WBEL prove to be the game changer. Web Based E-Learning portals are expected to grow much faster because it can be used with the help of basic electronic devices like computer, mobile phones, tablets, smart phone etc. WBEL provides live interactive classes, recorded videos and different modules as per the requirement of client and students. Through WBEL participant can ask any query and questions online and gets answers and interactions with other students online. In this research paper Web Based E-Learning (WBEL), E-Learning, Online Learning, Web Portal have been used interchangeably.

Understanding the situation of Covid-19 and changes in present scenario, Government has also started many courses through **SWAYAM** (Study Webs of Active-Learning for Young Aspiring Minds) **MOOC** (Massive Open Online Courses) for

school going students, the students who could not continue their education, **DIKSHA** (Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing) for teachers, **e-shodh sindhu, e-PG pathshala, swayam prabha, NPTEL (National Progamme on Technology Enhanced Learning)**

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

This article is based on the secondary data, collected from different sources such as reference books on e-Learning, Web Portals, Online Education. For this article, the secondary data is also collected from various magazines and journals which are connected to e-Learning, Web Portals, Online Education.

ABSTRACT: In India, closure of schools and colleges during the Covid -19, though the expensive nature of the technology, online learning has generated a surge in the demand for web based learning. As many conferences have to be done through zoom, google meet, Online education has quickly infiltrated into schools and colleges across the nation. This paper explores whether high school students could benefit from online courses and examines the potential challenges and drawbacks of online course work.

Web based teaching and learning environments can appear acutely distinctive from one another. There are three categories of online learning, as FULLY WEB BASED, BLENDED FORMAT, and TRADITIONAL COURSES USING WEB BASED SUPPLEMENTS.

Fully webbased courses are on the Internet with no face to face interaction. Blended courses consist of both web based and classroom sessions, with a varying degree of time allotted to the online and in class sessions, depending upon the nature of the class and discretion of the instructor. Traditional courses using web based supplements utilize online technology as supplemental material for traditional classroom study. It is critical to the understanding of online learning that there is not a single description that would encompass all assets of online learning environments. Web based learning environments are totally different as it is constrained in a room and has the advantage of self motivated students. Traditional class room teaching-learning has the advantage of activities, social presence of both teachers and learners and has the disadvantage that students have the diversity in listening.

ADVANTAGES :

The students who are self motivated have the ability of selection, the freedom of choosing the concepts with easy pick up with less time and deeply analyzing concepts with more pick up with more time. Self-motivated learners have a free choice to accomplish their learning goal. Learners who are able to use their self-regulated learning skills frequently utilized time management, reviewed material regularly, the mental action or process of acquiring knowledge and understanding through thought, experience, and the senses lead to the stage of own learning.

The benefit of flexibility in online courses is the learner can be at his own place and he could be in communication with the teachers though he is present at his own vest and his motivated and regulated mind utilizes the learning with free mind.

Online course as a prerequisite to the next higher standard, help the learners in not wasting the time schedule of education during the pandemic. The classes that high school students are enrolled in may be taught by either a professor on campus or the instruction may be deliveredby a secondary classroom educator . A study produced qualitative findings that emphasized the significance andappeal of flexibility and expanded opportunity to the students.

The competitive nature of education, particularly higher education or post-secondary education, demands more opportunities for students to explore future options such as courses in various degree programs, which needs the strong base of the educational concepts.

Schools are in a position to arrange more opportunities to the students in learning as well as they are beingfaced with a declining budget year after year. Machine guided instruction does not appear to be replacing face-to-face instruction, but it does seem to be a tool that instructors can utilize for rapid feedback and student tracking.

When the lock down process is on and the panic of virus spreading in gathering is there, the parents and the teachers are compelled to a situation not to waste the academic year of the children completely and their aim was that learning to some level is better than sitting idle/not learning. Online courses have the potential to open the pathways for more opportunities for students in "small, rural, or low socio-economic school to take courses that generally would not be offered. The barriers that have acted as hurdles in giving different tasks to the students, have been faced by the schools using google form, google data collection form etc.

So, the merits of online classes are:
(a) Cheaper than traditional
(b) Offer location independence
(c) Technological innovative
(d) Usage of power point presentation, web-portals.

DRAWBACKS

Even though online classes helped the students to continue their education during covid-19 pandemic period, it has its own drawbacks in India.

Students community connectivity with the teachers are totally disconnected in online classes whereas face to face classes has the benefit of it. Problems in Signal connectivity during the online courses for the remote area students is main drawback of this learning process. Students attention could not be monitored by the teachers as they could not watch the students continuously while teaching through online.

Students could not communicate freely with other students; interaction between student-student is atmost nil in this process. Students who prefer online classes only for content, is satisfied with the interaction between the instructor and not worried about interaction with other students.

In India, since it is in the stage of unimproved circumstances, Continuous engagement of teaching leads to Data consumption with network and battery consumption with cell, lap-top always hurdles to the students during online classes. Electricity availability in villages, remote areas create hurdles the students belonging to those areas.

Maintaining motivation in an online course is yet another challenge that online learners face. Students lacking self motivation have lower self-regulation tended to the lower result percentage. Apart from the learners with self aim, others are facing more difficulties as the teacher's individual attention is very less in online courses in the case of high school level students who are less than 14 years of age.   Online course work tends to be reading and writing intensive, deterring some learners.

The low reading abilities of the students lead to heavy and difficult to do the assignments. Students with easily diverted minds could not overcome the practice class room setting.

Students, who are in medium standard need the guidance at every step and because of the lack of self motivated behaviours, they always expect the spoon feeding of the whole definition, explanation, practice which are being given in face-to-face classes. A lack of face-to-face communication with the instructor restricts and minimizes feedback, leads to social isolation, and may result in a lack of motivation. In addition, a lack of focus is a detriment since it makes it more likely for students to dropout.

The demerits of online classes are :
- In person activities could not done.
- More time to fulfill your classroom requirements
- Problems regarding Signal connectivity
- In Some cases, more technological work limits learning opportunity.

Gifted Students

Gifted students are always have common things like always committed and takes responsibility.   Their negative circumstances like poverty, discrimination or cultural barriers could not stop them from their work.

Gifted students could benefit greatly from an online learning environment which providesfor more opportunities in areas of interest to the student and provided at a pace that is on track with their rate of learning. Their interest in various field with wide area of learning is met out by them as the vast updated knowledge in web portal is available and day to day increasing.

An increasing percentage of students with disabilities reveals the ever increasing need foralternatives to traditional school settings. Online courses present "workable alternatives to a variety of potential learners, including school-phobics, people in hospitals or at home due to illness and injury, dropouts who want to go back to school, expelled students, single parents, and students in other states or countries"

The availability of various facts and knowledge in website is a boon to the gifted students as they have it as they want but it is not so printed book facility because the availability of the book is not so always and not findable.

Like there are two sides to the same coin, online learning also has many advantages and disadvantages. While online classes did start as there was no other choice, their impact started creeping in gradually.

Children had difficulty to focus but various techniques helped in solving that issue. Today the magnanimity of technology is recognized by all age groups and not just the tech or business industry. Learning is a lifelong process of attaining success. Taking online classes was always for additional classes and courses. Online classes were flexible and were often taken along with a primary source of education. It is now the 'new normal' in every phase of education.

REASONS WHY ONLINE CLASSES ARE TRENDING :

1.   **Record Now. Refer Later.**

Online Classes can be recorded and referred later as the time permits. But face to face traditional classes, you have to remember the class otherwise you have to refer the notes you have taken during the class.

2.   **Cost-Effective for Schools and Colleges.**

Online classes are cheaper than the traditional classes as they have to maintain the physical location in it. No travel expenses for the students and teachers that some might not be able to afford. The cost of printing materials, paperback study materials and booking an instructor can be eliminated completely as everything is available online.

3.   **Embrace Technology like a professional!**

We know it was difficult for many teachers and students to adjust to technology. Eventually, everybody learnt and are now aware of the various things a laptop or a computer can do for you. The best part of online classes is you become Tech Savvy and there are ample things to learn.

From attending classes through video calls to recording those videos to many more such interesting things were learnt by many for the first time. From accessing study material to giving a test online, so much was taught through the online education concept.

It surely helped everyone grow their online skills but nothing is perfect. Online education came with a few difficulties as well.

4.   **The making of socially awkward people.**

No social interaction in this online teaching is a main problem. Not physically connecting to classmates or teachers can leave the kid unaware of the advantages of physically attending class. The students are becoming more comfortable in their cocoon. This could eventually lead to social awkwardness and a lack of the ability to interact with people in a normal way.

5.   **Budget concerns!**

The biggest disadvantage faced by the parents was the massive expense of buying laptops. Many not so well-to-do parents had to spend savings to buy laptops as it became mandatory for the students to be able to have classes with ease. It was definitely a hit on the budget!

6.   **Technical Issues At All Times.**

Internet issues, laptops not working and no electricity are just a few problems to name. These are some of the problems that students and teachers often face and are helpless. There are no such solutions for it. A hotspot is not strong enough while installing a generator is expensive so students did miss classes automatically.

7.   Attention Span Keeps Fluctuating!

You cannot deny the school students are capable of taking advantage of the whole situation and being less attentive during the class

CONCLUSION

By analyzing all these merits and demerits of online teaching-learning we can come to the conclusion that online classes are boon to the students who are self-motivated and self-directed towards the education.

As a high school teacher who lives in a village and work in a village high school, who took online classes to the high school students during pandemic, I can say, internet issues, electricity problems, laptop/cell not working issues are the main causes which made the process difficult.