

## **Covid 19 and Online Education** **“Teaching is a human endeavor”**

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### **ABSTRACT**

COVID-19 is a disease caused by a new strain of Coronavirus. Symptoms can include fever, cough and shortness of breath. In more severe cases, infection can cause pneumonia or breathing difficulties. More rarely, the disease may be fatal. The virus is transmitted through direct contact with respiratory droplets of an infected person. Individuals may also be infected from and touching surfaces contaminated with the virus and touching their face.

We are learning more about how COVID-19 affects people each day. Older people, and other people with chronic medical conditions, such as diabetes and cardiopathy, appear to be in more danger of developing severe symptoms. Today, children and youngsters are global citizens, powerful agents of change and therefore the next generation of caregivers, scientists, and doctors. The worldwide impact of Coronavirus is immense as educational institutes everywhere the globe – from Harvard to the IITs – are closed. Covid-19 has thrown education all over the world in a loop. A big challenge is that COVID-19 is highly contagious, so teachers cannot meet with students, and parents are caring for children at home. This paper is an endeavour to put forward the constraints of E-learning in Children.

Schools across the globe have already been closed in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic. As a result, teachers are suddenly faced with the challenge of how to continue their students' education. It's important to notice that there is no one size fits all when it comes to learning. Different groups have different priorities and therefore the resources that ought to be used are context-dependent. One amongst the most important concerns for teachers is how they are going to still engage students and keep an eye on their progress from afar. However, screen time for the entire length of the school day is neither stimulating nor healthy. In the case of younger children, World Health Organization guidance says those aged 3-4 should only spend a maximum of an hour at a time in front of a screen. With this increased focus on digital learning, more young people will be accessing content online. Therefore, the biggest priority for both teachers and parents is keeping students safe. Online platforms should include multiple options for meeting practical teaching needs, such as synchronized video and voice for group learning and classroom interactions. However, in poorer or more rural areas, this has been limited by the technological facilities or even the cost of electricity. It is the time to rethink how education can be effective for students' overall cognitive and non cognitive development with e-learning. There are challenges in teachers interacting with students through online education, as only a few teachers take students' feelings and interests into consideration.

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### **I. INTRODUCTION**

COVID-19 is a pandemic disease which is caused by a new strain of Coronavirus. Symptoms of the disease are fever, cough and shortness of breath. Severe infection can cause pneumonia or breathing difficulties. More rarely, the disease may be fatal. The virus is transmitted through direct contact with respiratory droplets of an infected person. Individuals can also get infection by touching surfaces contaminated with the virus and then touching the face with hands.

COVID-19 pandemic is the worldwide health crisis of our time and the greatest challenge we have faced since World War Two. The virus has spread to many continents. Cases are rising daily in Asia, Africa, America and Europe. Because this disease is mostly spreading from people who don't appear to be ill, the virus may be harder to control than influenza, the cause of most pandemics in recent history, according to the report from the Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy at the University of Minnesota.

**Impact**

The pandemic is moving like a wave. Countries are struggling to slow the spread of the virus by testing and treating patients, carrying out contact tracing, limiting travel, quarantining citizens, and cancelling large gatherings such as sporting events, concerts, schools, colleges and Universities.

To cope with Covid-19 our government is taking innumerable measures to ensure that services are being delivered to whatever extent possible. Professionals across industries are doing their work from home only as it has been an easier transition. What is missing in this transition is face to face, personal communication which will get restored as and when things are back to normal. We are learning more about how COVID-19 affects people each day. Older people, and other people with chronic medical conditions, such as diabetes and cardiopathy, appear to be in more danger of developing severe symptoms. Today, children and youngsters are global citizens, powerful agents of change and therefore the next generation of caregivers, scientists, and doctors. The worldwide impact of Coronavirus is immense as educational institutes everywhere the globe – from Harvard to the IITs – are closed. As far as students are concerned, they have to make far bigger adjustments because earlier learning has always been in classrooms which at present is not possible. Besides many of them may not be that well equipped with technology tools to avail of remote learning. Now is the time when Digital India vision of the government is emerging as a vital instrument for solving the present crisis due to Covid-19.

**Dependence on IT**

The lockdown in India has accelerated the adoption of digital technology. Business houses, educational institutes, analytics, computer, data management methods and online education solutions have been forced to work in collaboration to improve the quality and delivery time to handle such situations. This is the time to experiment and deploy new tools to make education delivery meaningful to students who can't go to campuses. It is a documented fact that use of technology in education is leading to different concepts with in the system just like the move from teacher-centric education to student-centric education. The virtual classrooms and various online tools today make the engagement between the teacher and students as close to a real, in classroom type experience, as possible. These tools can also make the teachers and parent meetings as well as staff/management meetings more time and cost effective.

The use of technology in teaching will lead to a new era wherein the best of faculty will be available from across the globe to students. The quality of Education will be gauged not just by the quality of faculty but also by the quality of IT infrastructure and familiarisation of the faculty with digital teaching technologies.

The physical infrastructure of educational institutions will have less impact on the standard of education and thus directly on the value of education. Review meetings, parent-teacher meetings, subject conferences will be location agnostic. Covid-19 has accelerated the adoption of technology to deliver education to the students.

While the land is fertile for habits to vary, the new digital landscape has its unsolved problems, and hence it is where it is. The long term and sustainable triumph of this tectonic shift will depend on several major elements of online learning like:

- Online learning is NOT a library of video lectures and e-books that converts class-notes into PDFs. Creating high quality digitized learning content must be contextualized and 'byte-sized' to make learning interesting and engaging.
- Subject matter covered in classroom is to be delivered online, but with technology because the intermediary. Blind replication of an equivalent may be a bad idea; it requires an excellent deal of understanding & application of learning science and digital pedagogy.
- Classrooms have typically diverse learner groups. In classical pedagogy, the simplest of teachers and material experts derive a content-context cluster as a mean of the class' collective ability and prior knowledge. Then the teaching-learning transaction is crafted consistent with that constructed mean. This may not and can't add online learning. Institutions got to spend the maximum amount time on the context for the various learner profiles, as on the content, and weave it into the program design.
- 'Learning' is about gradually inducing changes in learner's actions and behavior. The training process, in incremental steps, induces change in thinking and mental models of the learner through deep understanding and conceptual strengthening. Teaching faculty must be trained and oriented for online teaching-learning mode. While they might be content experts or great classroom teachers, they have to give equal importance to 'learning sciences in digital media'.
- Of course, even in the post COVID-19 era, offline or conventional education models will not become obsolete. They will survive. However, blended learning (a combination of classroom and online modes) will be the norm. Institutions and teachers will blend the two judiciously according to the context and the content.

### **Advantage of online learning**

**The only option:** There is no question that online learning (e-learning) is a growing trend particularly in this new normal. In this new normal teaching through online modes is the only option available to make the best usage of time when one and all are locked down in their respective houses. Students have been in their homes since 21<sup>st</sup> March 2020 and its been almost two and a half months and this lockdown may be continued till the end of June 2020 so educating them through online modes will make them connected to their teachers and studies. An age old saying that an empty mind is devil's workshop is true that's why online education in present situation make the students especially school going children engrossed in their studies.

### **Disadvantages of online learning**

- It takes self-discipline: While experience has shown that online students are forced to become more self-disciplined, people who remain unengaged might be a challenge as their activities can't be monitored in school.
- Plagiarism: Keeping in mind that your students are employing a computer and not being monitored in the least times, they might potentially plagiarize essays and other assignments.
- Isolation: Since students don't need to be physically present during a classroom, it'd be harder (or nearly impossible) for them to urge in-tuned with other learners.
- Moral values and socialization: sitting at home and learn things via online modes will make the students self-centred. The moral values which after family only schools can teach will disappear. The socialization process, sharing and caring, co-ordination, co-operation, team spirit etc. which are very important for holistic development of children will not be there in online modes.
- High IQ, low EQ: children might learn a lot through online modes and thus sharpen their mind but it will only increase their intelligent quotient but not their emotional quotient which can only be taught by learning in actual classrooms and nor virtual classrooms.

## **II. CONCLUSION**

As Schools across the globe have already been closed in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic, teachers are suddenly faced with the challenge of how to continue their students' education. It's important to notice that there is no one size fits all when it comes to learning. Different groups have different priorities and therefore the resources that ought to be used are context-dependent. One amongst the most important concerns for teachers is how they are going to still engage students and keep an eye on their progress from afar. However, screen time for the entire length of the school day is neither stimulating nor healthy. In the case of younger children, World Health Organization guidance says those aged 3-4 should only spend a maximum of an hour at a time in front of a screen. With this increased focus on digital learning, more young people will be accessing content online. Therefore, the biggest priority for both teachers and parents is keeping students safe. Online platforms should include multiple options for meeting practical teaching needs, such as synchronized video and voice for group learning and classroom interactions. However, in poorer or more rural areas, this has been limited by the technological facilities or even the cost of electricity. It is the time to rethink how education can be effective for students' overall cognitive and non cognitive development with e-learning. There are challenges in teachers interacting with students through online education, as only a few teachers take students' feelings and interests into consideration.

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