

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES OF ONLINE LEARNING IN INDIA

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ABSTRACT

Education is critical for the financial advancement of any country. It assumes an exceptionally vital part in the monetary and social advancement of a country. It advances the usefulness and innovativeness of human resources and makes ready for a business venture and mechanical turn of events. Nations that have utilized human resources to upgrade the utilization of actual capital have accomplished quicker development. Computerized schooling in India was constantly seen as a material advantageous to study hall education.

Notwithstanding, the episode of the novel Covid disease has changed the situation of instruction inside and out. The delayed lockdown disrupted the understudy's educational learning activity. A significant part of educational foundations was transferred online to ensure learning coherence. The COVID-19 epidemic has had a devastating impact on all areas of society. It has caused enormous disruption in the educational structure, as governments worldwide have temporarily closed educational institutions to prevent the spread of the Covid. Up close and personal classes have been discontinued and relocated online, resulting in the rise of internet learning, which has enabled students to continue their education. It then discusses significant issues raised by the widespread acceptance of web-based learning amid the epidemic, followed by a discussion of ideas proposed by many specialists to improve the adequacy of online learning. Certain factors, such as insufficient computing foundation, validity, and language used in internet-based training, impede development. With the increase in the number of web users in India, the article also explores future opportunities in education. A sample of 189 respondents was collected through a "standard questionnaire," created on a five-point interval scale.

KEYWORDS: - COVID-19, Online learning, Lockdown, Teachers, Opportunities, Challenges.

INTRODUCTION

The development of innovation has changed pretty much every circle of life. Innovation has additionally affected the course of schooling. Up-close and personal schooling has encountered a striking change over ten years. Even though eye-to-eye schooling is as yet thought to be the standard, acknowledgment of online courses is expanding in executives and designing. A portion of the purposes behind the dramatic development of online training is that it is the moment, on the web, anyplace available, self-propelled, and the go. The year 2020 started on an unpleasant note, with the outbreak of Coronavirus, initially discovered in the city of China. The disease spread across the globe and was declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization on January 30th, 2020. The pandemic affected each area of the general public viz. Exchange, training, shipping, automobile, and others, the Government of India requested complete conclusions of Organizations and instructive establishments to contain the infection of March 15th, 2020. The conclusion of instructive foundations drives the understudies and their folks into a condition of perplexity affecting the last appraisals(Jena, 2019). The understudy assessment and understudy well-being are two significant places of thought. To guarantee understudy well-being and continuous training, Institutions decided on the internet showing utilizing different stages accessible like Zoom, Microsoft groups, WebEx, Google homeroom, and others; online schooling, even though existed since 2014 but became noticeable and the primary method of conveying instruction after the repercussions of Covid 19(Jena, 2020). As a non-industrial nation, India has seen modern technology being bound to metropolitan and metropolitan regions. Still, under the grasp of poverty, Provincial India comes up short on the essential computerized stage for continuing schooling. Nonetheless, every test carries a chance to change the state of affairs and have an effect. This paper concentrates on the difficulties and openings of the local understudy from essential to post-doctoral level, showing clique and the guardians the same.

Because of this change, there is a conflict among certain intelligent people about whether educators can supplant the PCs. In any case, defenders of the instructors' significance are extensively high than the advocates of the innovation in itself. It is generally agreed that educators can improve their teaching practices by utilizing Information and Communication Technology(Singh, 2016). The educator's job in the whole instructing learning measure cannot be sabotaged. The distance learning framework will have a total distance learning, or it has a mix

of both the distance learning and customary study hall concentrates on, which is called mixed. Individuals who think it is hard to go to the standard classes because of the absence of time, reluctance to go to the regular classes, and so forth can put it all on the line. The quality presented by these instructive organizations has made these establishments develop quickly (Aboagye et al., 2021).

Distance Education Accrediting Commission which has the sole capacity of credit quality instructive foundations. Distance schooling authorizing commission has been established to advance and look at the nature of training and the moral practices to be trailed by the distance learning framework. It additionally guarantees the formal requirement of schooling. Due to the emergency like pandemics have been a great test to separate learning, and it attempts to conquer the circumstance to give a wide variety of freedoms to individuals in distance learning courses (Aithal&Aithal, 2019). The pandemic has radically influenced the teachers, students, and establishments as advanced education foundations have been diverted. On the web or advanced learning platform will be helpful in the current situation.

Varieties of web-based learning

“As online learning and related mechanical instruments advance, a few phrasings associated with web-based learning are used. They combine e-learning, internet learning, distant learning, blended learning, and half-breed learning. Each of these phrases implies the demonstration of employing innovation in learning. However, how understudies participate in that contact is insignificantly different (Al-Fraihat et al., 2020)”. We evaluated some essential works to determine their definitions, attributes, and differences while recognizing these phrasings. Web-based learning (often used interchangeably with e-learning) is a form of remote education that incorporates innovation as the learning system's middle person. Teaching is entirely communicated through the web (Nicola et al., 2020).

Considering individual instructive organizations/educators, understudies may need to go to routinely planned internet-based talks/introductions and conversations. Also, understudies, as a rule, access learning materials on the web, like recorded talks/introductions, understanding records, exercises, tasks, and others through the given stage. With web-based learning, understudies present their works and get criticism on the web. As indicated by web-based

learning includes a learning climate that exists on the web, while mixed learning is a combination of both up close and personal learning and web-based learning (Pani et al., 2015)

The job of teachers in the innovative world

There is exceptionally simple admittance to data with innovation in the current situation. The instructor here assumes the job of facilitator and guide to working with understudies with the correct methodology of overseeing plentiful data to their ideal advantage and taking ideal choices in this innovatively complicated world (Kebritchi et al., 2017). In the technically knowledgeable society, instructors' job turns out to be highly fundamental as they cause understudies to figure out how to assess the bountiful data accessible, to distinguish realities from promulgation, to comprehend the genuine moral, lawful and moral issues as for the entrance and utilization of data, to make importance from the information. This load of inquiries sees instruction in the more extensive setting of the present society. Subsequently, it makes understudies equipped for tackling this present reality of current issues and get ready for an eventual fate of questions (Dhawan, 2020).

Empower understudies to realize how to realize than what to realize. The instructor in this e-learning period plays a unique job, starting as a facilitator and an aide working with them to pick either good or bad data and empower them to pick the best and most suitable substance among the bountiful data accessible with innovation (Park& Shea, 2020). "With the beginning and expansion of Information and Communication Technology (ICT), there is a developing interest that it be remembered for school instruction. It has become to a greater degree a style proclamation to have PCs or media in schools, the outcome being that notwithstanding its capability to make getting the hang of freeing, its execution is regularly not more than corrective. It is additionally frequently promoted as a panacea for the deficiency of educators. These are hindering the learning of the youngster (Chea,2020).

Difficulties for Teachers

To control the spread of the Pandemic COVID-19 (Yan, 2020). An expanded number of lockdown circumstances have subsequently prompted 72% of the understudy's populace overall ongoing to schools or universities (UNESCO). Numerous other extra students have also been

affected because of confined terminations executed by different countries. The chart beneath shows the number of understudies affected due to widespread closures. At this point on the web or web mode has acquired more fame than the traditional eye-to-eye method of instruction(Zhao, 2020). Then again, the prevalence of the web-based mode has thought of many difficulties for all partners and especially educators whose onus to convey forward the showing learning measure with no disturbance needs attention (Sikandar, 2019).

Parents meddling the classes and "remarking on the nature of internet instructing" has made educating troublesome. Harder is to keep up with discipline among understudies as they make a move to submit mischiefs, frequently excuse themselves from going to classes by accusing helpless web network. Instructors, regardless of whether in government or private arrangements, had their arrangement of difficulties (Moubayed, 2018). Instructors of tuition based schools were more bothered by web-based tormenting by understudies and interruption by guardians or family members though government teachers had a more challenging test of bestowing classes to understudies having a place with monetarily more fragile segments which did not possess a cell phone or a fundamental versatile (McCROSKEY, 2005)

Difficulties related to internet learning

The COVID-19 pandemic has constrained the closure of numerous proactive tasks worldwide, including instructive exercises. The present circumstance leaves instructive foundations no decision except to relocate to internet learning (Rosalina et al., 2020). Although internet learning is certifiably not a clever wonder, this abrupt change into web-based learning has presented significant difficulties for instructive exercises universally, and especially in light asset conditions like Cambodia, where instructive establishments, educators, and understudies are for the most part not prepared for this surprising interruption to conventional instructing and learning strategies (Baytiyeh, 2018).

A new report calls attention to a few substantial difficulties brought about by the sudden computerized change of educational tasks during the COVID-19 pandemic. Critical difficulties are identified with the mechanical framework and computerized skill, financial elements (instructive disparity), appraisal and oversight, weighty responsibility, and similarity (a few subjects, for example, sports sciences, require actual communications) (Brianna et al., 2019).

“Because web-based learning relies entirely on mechanical gadgets and the internet, it is unmistakable that innovation is the most difficult challenge to internet learning if those associated with the most common way of instructing and learning are not carefully capable due to freshness or inadequate preparation. Typical mechanical concerns include a lack of knowledge of the best way to use apps, a shaky/slow web association, obsolete specialized gadgets, and conflicting programs”.

In Cambodia, for example, instructors and students, particularly in rural areas, lack reliable internet connectivity and are unprepared to use emerging technology, making internet learning a difficult, if not unpleasant, experience for some (Singh & Thurman, 2019). Regardless of the Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sport's (MoEYS) efforts to provide web-based learning opportunities by disseminating video examples through TV and other internet-based stages, for example, the MoEYS Facebook page, YouTube channel, and e-learning site, the number of understudies who have approached web-based learning remains low (UNESCO, 2020). With web-based learning taking the place of physical classrooms amid the COVID-19 issue, some understudies, especially Cambodian understudies, are helpless to avoid falling behind in their studies or experiencing additional challenges because of their socio-economic situation (Tull et al., 2017). Students from low-income families cannot afford broadband access and appropriate equipment like PCs/workstations or tablets to aid their web-based learning. They use cell phones to access illustrations and learning materials, complete assignments and take tests, all else being equal.

The following test was to direct assessments. It was hard to direct the assessments in the long stretch of May/June 2020, considering the arising COVID-19 pandemic circumstance. One more test to direct an internet-based assessment was that all understudies were not associated with online mode. Many colleges worldwide have led assessments by giving different choices, for example, on the web, disconnected, mixed, or other elective types of assessments. Considering this, the University Grant Commission ordered a direct of definite year assessment of undergrad and postgraduate understudies across the colleges and schools in India. The deliberate or obligatory social distance limitations are by and by worldwide. It will assist with confining the tainted people not to surpass the limit of the well-being framework in the nation and will likewise broaden the term of the pandemic (Romania, Kuntum Annisa, 2019).

Opportunities

The chances that are accessible to the advanced education establishments of created nations are because of accessibility of assets like innovation foundation like, PCs, power, web, and so on the accomplishment of execution of the internet learning relies upon the drawn-out help from top administration, monetary help, personnel contribution, specialized expertise, and innovation support. There are immense freedoms for e-learning in created nations since they use them in all instruction degrees (Lapada et al., 2020).

English instructive Communication and innovation organization (BECTA) stretches out its help to every one of the instructive foundations, which opens the wide chances for advancement, exploration, and improvement in ICT procedures advancements and information move facilitators. It does not benefit just the clients or students but also the instructive foundations and numerous partners. The Australian government gives opportunity by making the data economy through which many of them have benefited either straightforwardly or by implication, which helped increase the expectation of living and meet the worldwide intensity. To cop up with significant and proficient positions: If the work is essential to the individual and needs to proceed with the advanced education without compromising the calling, it is a simple errand for distance learning (Affouneh et al., 2020).

Monetarily great: As financial cost is highly less when contrasted with the formal ordinary class framework, it will empower the understudies to do their higher investigations at an exceptionally lower expense which is reasonable. Self-acquiring and improvement of abilities: The understudy will manage their job independently without relying a lot upon others, which will make them foster their expertise inside their own space. The flexible arrangement of distance learning will likewise empower the people to take on abrupt, surprising circumstances—no age limitation in distance schooling In distance taking in framework selected from any spot and any foundation.

Objectives

1. To identify the challenges of online learning in India.
2. To know about the opportunities of online learning.

Methodology

The study is empirical. One hundred eighty-nine (189) respondents participated in the study. The data was collected from them through a structured questionnaire. Mean, and t-test application was made to identify the results. The method of sampling was convenience sampling.

Finding of the study

Table 1 displays the gender, where the male respondent is 58.73%, and the female respondent is 41.27%. The respondents' ages were as follows: those between ages of 16 and 20 years are 33.33 %, between 20 and 25 years are 31.22 %, and ages 25 and above are 35.45 %. Looking at the Educational level, High school & Intermediate are 38.62%, Graduation & Post graduation are 29.10%, and Higher education is 32.28%.

Table1 Respondent’s Details

Variables	Number of respondents	%age
Gender		
Male	111	58.73%
Female	78	41.27%
Total	189	100%
Age		
16 to 20 years	63	33.33%
20 to 25 years	59	31.22%
25 years & above	67	35.45%
Total	189	100%
Educational level		
High school & Intermediate	73	38.62%
Graduation & Post graduation	55	29.10%
Higher education	61	32.28%

Total	189	100%
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Table2 Challenges and Opportunities of Online Learning

Sr. No.	Statements	Mean Value	t-Value	Significance
Challenges				
1.	Lack of technology & software required for online learning	4.11	16.59	0.000
2.	Inaccessibility of audio/video material, PDF, PowerPoint.	4.39	17.22	0.000
3.	Problems related to internet connectivity	4.33	18.60	0.000
4.	Lack of interaction between teacher and student	4.30	17.32	0.000
5.	E-learning software is complicated to use	4.19	14.34	0.000
Opportunities				
6.	E-learning system has helped in continuing the studies even during a pandemic	4.16	17.33	0.000
7.	E-learning has made students learn more about the technology	4.12	13.88	0.000
8.	E-learning has made students continue their studies even in remote areas	3.88	12.31	0.000
9.	E-learning has reduced the operational costs of teaching	4.10	14.65	0.000
10.	E-learning has removed the barrier of age and background; anyone from anywhere can attend the online courses	4.24	14.94	0.000

Table 2 displays the Mean values for the statement concerning the “Challenges and Opportunities of Online Learning in India,” Looking at the challenges of Online learning, the

highest mean score of 4.39 is for the statement "Inaccessibility of audio/video material, PDF, PowerPoint." The second highest mean value of 4.33 is about the "Problems related to internet connectivity," "Lack of interaction between teacher and student" is also a significant challenge faced in online learning and have scored a mean value of 4.30. Other challenges like "E-learning software are complicated to use" and "Lack of technology & software required for online learning" mean a score of 4.19 and 4.11, respectively. Looking at the opportunities of online learning, mean score of 4.24 is the highest for the statement "E-learning has removed the barrier of age and background, anyone from anywhere can attend the online courses," "E-learning system has helped in continuing the studies even during a pandemic" has the mean value of 4.16. Students have learned about the technology, shown in the statement "E-learning has made students learn more about the technology," with a mean score of 4.12. The last statements of opportunities are "E-learning has reduced the operational costs of teaching" and "E-learning has made students continue their studies even in remote areas" the mean score for these statements are 4.10 and 3.88, respectively. The T-value of all statements in the context of Challenges and Opportunities of Online Learning in India is significant because t-value statements are positive, and the significance value is also less than 0.05.

Conclusion

Online education can change the entire future training situation if it may be carried out in cooperation with industry, colleges, and government. Uncommon shifts in direction educational programs are needed to overcome any barrier, so understudies are industry prepared in the wake of dropping. Instruction measures should be changed by making it more viable with the utilization of innovation. Likewise, the course ought to be planned in various languages to build their compass and more freedoms for the youth of rustic India. Developments are needed to plan approaches to build the social abilities of online students. However, challenges have been made for the schooling framework because of the flare-up of COVID-19.

Nevertheless, numerous instructive establishments have investigated massive better freedoms for getting new information and utilizing various innovations. Educators can give a better intelligent distance learning experience by utilizing fluctuated innovations. Even in an emergency, educators are addressing the problems caused by the pandemic and successfully providing assistance administrations for the benefit of students. They do, however, need assistance from the

government and educational institutions, which must adopt special measures to ensure that progress in learning is maintained throughout the lockdown. Application of Mean and T-test has been made to find out the outcome of the research; all the statements are found to be significant as the significant values for all statements are less than 0.05.

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