Perception of online learning in India during Covid-19

Renu Verma[1], Ashi Madhariya[1]

[1]Renu Verma,Assistant professor-Dr. K.C.B Govt. PG College, Bhilai-3, Durg
[1]Ashi Madhariya, MBA- SCMHRD, Pune

---***---

Abstract -The working of the world has been disheveled by Covid-19. The pandemic disease has not only caused deaths but have disrupted entire functioning of the world. In this purview, Indian education system is no different. Complete education methodology has been afflicted. This research aims to use quantitative data analysis and record stakeholder's perception in this unforeseen circumstance further narrowing down to document the experience towards online learning. Online learning is the 'new-normal' and this is going to be the biggest transition in the education system where all the stakeholders must bear and work with changes. This research will enable the policy makers and institutional authorities to formulate any regulations in near future that will prepare pupils, teachers and other employees of education system to act accordingly.

Key Words:Disheveled, Education methodology, Online learning, new-normal.

1.INTRODUCTION

Covid-19, a pandemic disease; so infectious that it has covered the entire world touched. This disease has caused sufferings and deaths among the humankind and still it can't be contained due to lack of a successful vaccine. This contagious disease has caused the entire world to a standstill. Trade and commerce ceased, closure of all public places including all the educational institutes are among the major impacts of the disease.

India started suffering from this disease in the initial days of march,2020. Government taking huge initiatives to contain the spread by imposing complete national lockdown from 25th March,2020 for 21 days. After this, the lockdown was implemented in various phases in various places according to the situation. Lockdown and unlock are among the major steps taken by central and state government to ease the country. These steps have caused serious ramifications to the economic condition of the country, GDP rate has decremented with complete turmoil in the economy.

The traditional system of educational institutes encompasses classes, tests, competitions, exams along with various other extra-curricular activities. These activities form an important part of all institutes, developing the overall personality of both students and teachers.

Public and private educational institutes are the major bifurcations with different level of facilities. Private institutes spend a substantial amount in running their business whereas public institutes depend on government for the pool of funds. Funds and investments are the major factors for the development of any institute and facilities are given according to that. Government schools form an integral part of the rural India, in this aspect, the government owned institutes should be effectively trained to propagate the online practices among all teachers and students.

India faces a transition from traditional learning to online learning methodologies. This pedagogical shift requires the cooperation among the students and teachers for advancement in mental level. This cooperation will go hand in hand to operate efficiently in the difficult circumstances[1].

E-education/Online learning blended with traditional learning is a technique touching everyone's life in some or the other way[2] but if it's only online, a void would be created, and quality would be affected. Quality cannot be compromised in this field, it's an important factor to be considered among all the stakeholders[3]. Online techniques of learning are prevalent in such circumstances. This closure of traditional learning has led the way for e-education. Any unfortunate occasion may lead to closure of educational institutes; for instance, Covid-19 has left the institutes closed for indefinite time. This circumstance requires the usage of Massive Open Online course (MOOC). These are the online courses which can accessed at any part of world in large numbers. These courses have become need of the hour for any unfortunate condition[4]. Virtual classes and courses will help the students to excel in a topic by vivid descriptions.

From the works of many researchers, online education has many advantages. Advantages of Online learning[5]:

- Skills upliftment
- Expertise in the interests
- Flexible management of time
- Participation in Online forums
- Adoption of new technologies
- Profitable for professional life
- Work from remote location

These are some of the profound advantages of E-education.Online and distant learning is an important component in the education system. People can follow the educational norms from a distant or remote location with the help of internet. Online classes, online courses, e-quizzes, exams etc. are accessible from any place in the presence of internet[6]

2. FINDINGS AND ANALYSIS

Technology plays a major role in the educational institutes; it escalates the knowledge attained by any student. It is found to have many positive impacts being it smart classes, vivid picturization etc. [7]. With the help of technology, e-learning has penetrated the Indian education system. The usage of internet has exponentially increased in the past years, almost everyone has an access to a smart phone which enables easy association, communication and collaboration with the outside world, this potential is now being harnessed in Online education[8].Also, social media plays a big role in online learning, the communication of schedules, collaboration with educational resources and other dedicated materials require an efficient usage of social media. Every respondent is familiar with the usage of smartphone.

Quantitative methodology has been used for this research. List of questions depicting the perception of the stakeholders were listed out and shared among a considerable number of students and teachers. Questionnaire was prepared with deep understanding about paradigm shift taking place in the Indian education system from traditional learning to online learning. These questionnaires were sent out to the respondents via email.

In total, total 275 responses were recorded. 59 teachers and 216 students shared their experiences based on the questionnaire. Their responses were recorded, analyzed with the help of graphs and theories.

Perception of Teachers:

Ease of prepping the online materials: 51% of teachers found it easy to prepare the materials and teach online. The other 49% showed certain resistance towards it due to the lack of technological knowledge.

Methods used by teachers for teaching: Microsoft suites listed at the top with google meet as the second preferred option for virtual classes. There is a vast pool of online resources and tools which can be utilized by the teachers to enhance the quality of education[9].

These were the questions based only for teachers to get a better understanding. Other questionnaires were common to all 275 respondents.

Perception of all 275 respondents:

For 222 of the respondents,online education was taking places from the remote locations. 189 respondents had proper access to internet whereas 86 respondents found it difficult to have a good access to internet. Internet is one of the major barrier towards online education.
Some prominent ways adopted by respondents for e-learning were: google meet, zoom, emails, whatsapp and online courses.

172 respondents owned a laptop and 103 didn't with mobile data and WIFI as the major source of internet. These were the major sources recorded in the path of online education.

Respondents found sitting for long period of time as a challenge in online education. Some complained it being the cause for headaches and eye problems. Concentration and physical health are the major factors being afflicted due to online education.

Challenges faced by the respondents:
- No physical interaction
- Sitting in a place for long hours
- Technical issues
- Lack of proper discussions
- Doubt clearing sessions
- Incessant internet connection

These were the major challenges faced by the respondents, some of their data is shared as following.
Respondent:*"Online Education is good. But Sitting in a virtual classroom, A Teacher can't make out which student if his or her is little weak in understanding. All students do not have the same level of perception."*
Respondent:*"it affects the most because we have to sit for very long time with mobile phones or laptop"*
Respondent:*"But in India many villages have very poor internet connection, lack of ICT facilities and poor English knowledge or communicative English, that's whyclassroom teaching is best in this scenario."*
Long siting hours made people lose their concentration and secondly proper internet connection being the impediment towards smooth processes. The respondents from remote places such as villages found it cumbersome to get used to such ways of learning in absence of proper connection. Apart from the barriers encountered, there are some advantages reaped.

Advantages of the e-learning:
- Distant learning
- Sit in home and work
- Ease of sharing materials
- Saving the commutation charges
- Flexibility in work hours
- Reaching masses in seconds

Respondent *: "Due to covid-19 teachers and students both learn new methods of learning. These methods have manifold advantages over traditional teaching like pausing the lecture, repeat the part of lecture where doubts arises. Certainly, in future the online system supplement traditional teaching in a big way."*
The above given data is the precepted advantages by the respondents. The ease of working is a major advantage perceived. Respondents were asked about the scope of e-learning in future, they were optimistic about its usage and potential. 75%(206) of respondents are ready for the long term usage of online education in future. Some of the instances from the respondents are following as such.
Respondent : *"Online system is the demand of the time . As the technology is changing very fast it is compulsory for us to change according to the time . It should not be adopted forcefully but by the willingness of teachers and of course of the students. The pandemic is the matter of time , once it passes away we must keep online education system in our regular practice."*

Respondent *: "I believe that irrespective of the pandemic one should embrace e-learning since it is less time consuming, uses less resources and is relatively cheaper compared to traditional classroom learning."*

Respondent *: "Surely Online learning will become an important part of Indian education system in future because it is a more accessible, flexible and efficient method of training that people of all ages can benefit from."*

Respondent *: "Indeed! Virtual learning has become a reality today. Online courses were taken as extra curriculum before the pandemic but in the present time it has become a necessity to keep growing and learning from the sources available. It has kept individual to be productive in such hard times. With prestigious universities providing online courses and certification, online learning has helped to increase students morale."*

Respondent *: "Online learning will be a new innovation in education system as it will decrease the documentation and expenses. It will help both teachers and students to enhance their growth in technology."*

There is lot of positivity among the respondents for the future usage of e-learning. They have adapted themselves according to the change and are ready for such flexibility in future. Online learning prepares the student for the professional life, it helps to imbibe various computer technologies and to assimilate the usage of online resources[10]. This has made the stakeholders very optimistic, willing to learn and participate.

3. CONCLUSIONS

From the in-depth research on this thesis, there are certain interventions suggested as following:

- Institutes should have a deep understanding about the way of teaching involved.
- There should be arranged webinars for the teachers to make them comprehend various tools and technicalities.
- Students, who are not known about such e-learning methods should be taught beforehand about the nuances involved.
- Some financial help towards the needy should be made to help them with proper internet connections.
- Institutes to have flexible online timings for the teachers and students to avoid any strains and pressures.
- Teachers should be trained with proper assessment techniques[11]
- The positive usage of smart phones should be highlighted. Useful apps advancing the pupil's knowledge should be shared by the teachers. This will help to reap out the benefits from a smart phone[12].
- Institutional authorities should mandate the usage of e-learning in future in order to bring out the students ready for global professionalism. Today's world is driven by technology, any professional who wishes to excel needs to adapt oneself with the technological advancements[13].

- An extra effort should be provided in the concerned zone of government owned institutions.

These are some of the policy interventions which can be assimilated by the institutional authorities and policy makers before formulating any law. These suggestions are based on the mass responses and will prove to be beneficial in the coming future.

Online education has penetrated the education system and will last forever with several modifications.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

REFERENCES

[1] D. Vavpotič, B. Žvanut and I. Trobec, "A Comparative Evaluation of E-learning and Traditional Pedagogical Process Elements," *Educational Technology & Society,* 2013.

[2] Z. Zakariah, N. Alias, M. Norafizal, A. Aziz and N. Z. Ismaila, "E-Learning Awareness in a Higher Learning Institution in Malaysia," in *The 3rd International Conference on e-Learning*, Bandung, Indonesia, 2011.

[3] P. Kumar, A. Kumar, S. Palvia and S. Verma, "Online business education research: Systematic analysis and a conceptual model," *The International Journal of Management Education,* 2018.

[4] J. M. Weinhardta and T. Sitzmannb, "Revolutionizing training and education? Three questions regarding massive open online courses (MOOCs)," *Human Resource Management Review,* 2018.

[5] T. Kumari, T. Hemalatha, M. S. Ali and R. Naresh, "Survey on Impact and Learning's of the Online Courses on the Present Era," 2020.

[6] O. T. Arulogun, O. N. Akande, A. T. Akindele and T. A. Badmus, "Survey dataset on open and distance learning students' intention to use social media and emerging technologies for online facilitation," *Data in Brief ,* 2020.

[7] G. Naik, C. Chitre, M. Bhalla and J. Rajan, "Impact of use of technology on student learning outcomes: Evidence from a large-scale experiment in India," *World Development,* 2019.

[8] R. Panigrahi, P. Srivastava Ranjan and D. Sharma, "Online learning: Adoption, continuance, and learning outcome—A review of literature," *International Journal of Information Management ,* 2018.

[9] R. L. Humphrey and D. F. Beard, "Faculty perceptions of online homework software in accounting education," *J. of Acc. Ed.,* 2014.

[10] S. Aydin, Y. Akkan, E. Arpaz and B. Koparan, "Online learning in vocational school: focus on students' perceptions," *Procedia - Social and Behavioral Sciences,* 2014.

[11] L. Eyal, "Digital Assessment Literacy — the Core Role of the Teacher in a Digital Environment," *Educational Technology & Society,* 2012.

[12] T. M. Mercadal, "Social Media in Learning".*Research Starters.*

[13] M. McMahon, "Social Aspects of Technology in Education," *Society & Technology,* 2014.