Repercussions of Lockdown due to Pandemic on Faculties in Academic Institutions

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ABSTRACT

The whole educational system has been collapsed during the lockdown period of the novel coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) not only in India but across the globe.It has been a challenging period of time for all the people We cannot deny that fact that due to this Lockdown that is totally out of our control, everyone was undergone in their own way and the whole economy was disrupted. In such a crisis situation, where educational institutions across the country have been shut down to prevent the lives of our young assets i.e. Students, both teaching and learning have affected millions of students. As per the instructions of the Government, universities along with affiliated colleges have started offering online classes to students. The objective of this initiative of online classes is to ensure that students do not lose out on any teaching activities during the lockdown. The previous studies show mainly the problems of students but this paper examines the impact of lockdown on faculties in colleges, the challenges they are facing due to lock down, and the general merits and demerits of online teaching.

KEYWORDS: Faculties/ Teachers, Online Teaching, Lockdown, Colleges, Covid 19

INTRODUCTION

The COVID-19 pandemic situation has posed unprecedented challenges requiring teachers to adapt to teaching online. Until March 2020, the typical teaching situation at school and colleges was characterized by students who were adapted to learn in classrooms according to their milestones set through the syllabus and teachers who covered their subjects' standard content, frequently through chalk talk processes. Students were required to listen to their teachers, work individually or in groups, and primarily recreate knowledge in assessments.(McCabe and González-Flores 2017)Teachers had to change to online teaching, requiring them to use various digital tools and resources to solve problems and implement a new glide path to teaching and learning (Eickelmann and Gerick 2020). The COVID-19 situation requires not only knowledge and skills but also credibility regarding success in online teaching.

Online teaching is not a new concept, it is in existence for the last decade around the world in this digital era. Various teachers and professionals are working on online teaching on YouTube, and other social media platforms sithence The novelty about online teaching and the intellect for conducting this research was online teaching during lockdown in the country due to corona virus pandemic. . The studies of students are hampered and their future seems to be in danger as no hope was there to come everything at place so far. Therefore, to avoid this situation various universities and colleges have decided to teach the students online through different available social media apps. Online teaching has taken a trendy flinch during lockdown as there is no other option to teach students and complete their syllabus. Not only this, the online teaching has also been initiated to make the students busy during quarantine and to keep their minds at ease by providing different assignments.

METHODOLOGY:
Sample Size- 25 teachers

Type of Research- Qualitative and Descriptive

Sources of Data: Semi-structured in-depth interviews were conducted among teachers to collect data regarding the problems faced by them during online teaching and assessment.
 Secondary data was also used to conduct this study. The data was collected from various Newspapers, Journals, Review Articles on Lockdown, and Online Teaching from teachers and students.

OBJECTIVES:
- To identify the pros and cons of online teaching.
- To examine the impact of online teaching on mental health of college faculties.
- To identify the issues confronted by teachers during online teaching and assessment.

INITIATIVES TAKEN FOR ONLINE LEARNING IN INDIA DURING LOCKDOWN
Following is the list of some of the digital initiatives of MHRD & UGC along with their access links for school students as well as UG and PG students:
- **SWAYAMPRABHA**: It is a group of 32 DTH channels providing high quality educational curriculum-based course contents covering diverse disciplines such as arts, science, commerce, performing arts, social sciences and humanities subjects, engineering, technology, law, medicine, agriculture etc to all teachers, students and citizens across the country interested in lifelong learning.
- **CEC-UGC YouTube channel**: provides access to unlimited educational curriculum-based lectures absolutely free.
- **e-PG Pathshala:** hosts high quality, curriculum-based, interactive e-content containing 23,000 modules (e-text and video) in 70 Post Graduate disciplines of social sciences, arts, fine arts and humanities, natural & mathematical sciences.
- **National Digital Library:** is a digital repository of a vast amount of academic content in different formats and provides interface support for leading Indian languages for all academic levels including researchers and life-long learners.
- **Vidwan:** is a database of experts that provides information about experts to peers, prospective collaborators, funding agencies, policymakers and research scholars in the country**.**

ONLINE PLATFORM AVAILABLE FOR AUDIO AND VIDEO LEARNING
To enable online communications, there are many online platforms available but some of the free live audio-video communication media which was a helping hand as well as accessible during this virtual mode of learning are:
- Zoom
- Webex
- Skype
- Facebook live
- Google Meet

- TrueConf Call
- YouTube Live
- Life size Go

PROS OF ONLINE TEACHING:

1. Foster Efficiency

Online learning offers teachers an efficient way to deliver lessons to students. Online learning has a number of techniques as videos, PDFs and teachers can use all these tools as part of their lesson plans. By broadening the lesson plan beyond traditional textbooks to include online resources, teachers are able to become more efficient pedagogues.

2. Accessibility Of Time And Place

The very positive aspect of online education is that it allows students to attend classes from any location of their choice. It also allows study to reach out to a more comprehensive network of students, instead of being restricted by geographical boundaries. Additionally, online lectures can be recorded and shared for future reference. This allows students to access the learning material at a time of their comfort.

3. Affordability

Online education is far more affordable as compared to physical learning. This is because online learning eliminates the cost points of student transportation, student meals, and most importantly, infrastructure. Additionally, all the course or study materials are available online, thus creating a paperless learning environment that is more affordable, while also being beneficial to the environment.

4. Suits A Variety Of Learning Styles

Every student has a different learning journey and a different learning style. Some students are visual learners, while some students prefer to learn through audio. Similarly, some students thrive in the classroom, and other students are solo learners who get distracted by large groups.
The online learning system, with its range of options and resources, can be customized in many ways. It is the best way to create a perfect learning environment suited to the needs of each student.

CONS OF ONLINE TEACHING:

1. Low-Class Participation:

Students make so many unreasonable excuses during lectures and they do not show their interests and hence do not participate in classroom activities. They tend to cheat also during examinations.

2. Problem for a technology challenged person:

Online learning requires teachers to have a basic understanding of using digital forms of learning. Very often, teachers have a very basic understanding of technology. Sometimes, they don't even

have the necessary resources and tools to conduct online classes and same goes with the students who are from backward areas are not tech-savvy and find it difficult to access the online platforms. As online learning is fully supported by Internet Connections and gadgets to run them. Many students and teachers were not able to get the high speed internet connections to proceed with the lectures.

In tech in particular, everyone is so serious all the time and has these grand visions.— Evan Spiegel

3.   Lack of Motivation:

Due to this pandemic our economy was undoubtedly shattered which affects the lives of common people. As the teachers would not get their full remuneration till now in some colleges , this will give them mental and financial burden so they do not feel motivated enough and doesn't thrive their best efforts in teaching.

4.   Lack of learning Classroom Environment:

The tradition of a face-to-face meeting is lost and so as their interest of learning gets affected. Interpersonal relationship between not only students and teachers or between students may hamper but also their studies.They often feel the sense of isolation.

FINDINGS:

Online classes And mental Health of Teachers:
The online teaching process has left teachers overworked and hence they tend to break out with mental pressure. The work becomes difficult when the direct contact was replaced by an online relationship, and many other factors should be considered. Teachers, in general, are not trained for e-learning programs and activities, mainly when parents are not prepared for the distance and homeschooling . So teachers experience confusion and stress because they are often unsure of their obligations and how to maintain connections with students to support learning. Despite governments' efforts to provide training and resources to support teachers in adapting to this new learning environment, turning from face-to-face to virtual classroom in such a short time has been a challenge as only a few teachers have command on this digital skills. Some teachers have spoken about their mental trauma. Many female teachers are extremely conscious about what they are wear and how they are sit in front of the screen as the students often give unusual gestures and use offensive language . Therefore, in such unprecedented times, it is normal for teachers to experience higher levels of stress and anxiety. Teachers need, indeed, socio-emotional support to face the extra pressure being put on them to deliver learning in a time of crisis.

ISSUES DURING ONLINE TEACHING
The sudden shift to e-learning has been stressful for both teachers and students. However, there is no doubt that the new equilibrium of learning will transform the education sector.For teachers, their online battles with learning and unruly students could leave impressions that last beyond the

immediate concerns of the lockdown. After having an in-depth interview from faculties from different colleges the major issues that they had to confronted with were summarised as below:

MAJOR ISSUES DURING ONLINE TEACHING DURING LOCKDOWN TO TEACHERS

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⇒LACK OF TECHNICAL SUPPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE
⇒LACK OF TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE
⇒NON-PAYMENT OF SALARY
⇒LACK OF ATTENTION OF STUDENTS
⇒UNSUPPORTIVE ATTITUDE OF PARENTS TOWARDS ONLINE TEACHING

SUMMARY:

The situation of lockdown has led to major problems in teachers' lives, as witnessed by the pressure that online educational methods have placed on them: many hours of work and difficulties due to the lack of physical contact or due to the obstacles created on combining personal life with family. Obviously, we will have to learn from this experience in several ways. On the one hand, it is essential to study which digital competencies both teachers and students have, as well as parents, since in the vast majority of cases, they have had to act as a linkage to facilitate the teaching–learning process of their children. As classrooms have made a digital switch, there needs to be dignity and protocol outlined for the new medium. In previous studies, the paradigm focus was merely on students difficulties regarding online teaching but we cannot deny the fact that the impact on teachers due to the transformation is also equally noticeable and they are still trying to cope up with this new digital environment and trying to impart their knowledge to the students in a best possible manner that they can.

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