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Challenges faced by students and teachers in adapting online teaching-learning during corona virus lockdown

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Abstract

Around the world, the system of education has been severely impacted by the corona virus pandemic .It had imposed the world wide lockdown and lead to the shutdown of educational institutes and halted all the educational activities in India. Lockdown restrictions had lead all the educational institutions to opt for online learning which was the only source of education during pandemic but on the other hand both the stake holders had to face many challenges like physical distraction, lack of communication, technical issue, mental issue and wellbeing, lack of resources etc as it was the new experience and practice for both the learners and teachers. The goal of current study is to comprehend and investigate the difficulties that stakeholders encountered when adjusting to online instructions during the corona virus .It implies less engagement of learners and teachers in the teaching -learning process. This paper is based on examining of secondary sources of data like research papers, journals, websites etc.

Keywords: Challenges, teacher and student, online learning, Covid-19

Introduction

Corona Virus was originated in December 2019. It was later coded as COVID-19 by the WHO which stands for Corona Virus Disease 2019. The first case was reported from Wuhan China and after that, it spread in the whole province of China. During the month of March 2020, The World Health Organization (WHO) had announced the upsurge of Corona Virus Disease (COVID-19) which is caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus and it had affected the whole world (WHO, 2020) ^[9]. The SARS-CoV-2 has affected every aspect of human activities globally ranging from education, research, entertainment, transportation, worship, social gatherings/interactions, economy, politics etc. Just within few months of the upsurge of the pandemic, it has drastically changed the lifestyle of the entire world with billions of people being forced to stay at home, work and learn from home and the government imposed lockdown, avoiding face to face teaching learning and restricting immigrations. Gradually the situation of world was getting worse and challenging to bear as the cases of corona virus were breaking the record every day and the education sector remains one of the worst hit by pandemic outbreak (Onyema. *et al.*, 2020). Almost 4.5 million people were affected by the pandemic worldwide (WHO, 2020) ^[9].

Indian government had imposed a nation-wide Lockdown in order to stop the pandemic from spreading in the country (Gupta & Tiwari, 2020) ^[4]. Due to this lockdown around one third of the students were affected at that time by this Covid-19 and in India more than 32 crores of students were affected, among them about 14 crores of elementary and 13 crores of territory students were affected in India (UNESCO). Due to this situation all the education systems became closed including schools, colleges, universities and also all the classes and examinations were postponed. Pandemic has changed everything in education from primary to secondary (Jena. P.K, 2020) ^[10]. Covid-19 has shifted the offline education into online education which was very big challenge for both the stake holders. This sudden shift from classroom learning to e-learning has disrupted the lives of both the instructors and students. All the educational activities are being conducted through online like conduction of classes, examinations and School admissions as well. Thus this Covid-19 pandemic put forward various challenges as well as opportunities for all the education system to strengthen their technological infrastructure (Bansal. *et al*, 2021) ^[11].

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The transition from classroom to virtual learning creates tremendous pressure to all the learners and teachers of both developing and developed countries as they were not much aware of about technology and infrastructure before. This sudden shift towards online learning through online tools will be costly and time effective. The digital medium cannot put back the human interactions that schools provide for children's of different races and ethnicities. They act as a melting set of ideas and view point that serves to including the learning perspectives. However there should be a need of adequate technology training about the method of online classes and their implementation among teachers and students. (Ho, Chee and Ho, 2020) [5].



Fig 1: COVID-19

COVID-19 and challenges experienced by teachers and learners

Without education the development of any nation is impossible as it builds skills, habits, knowledge and thought of child. The outbreak break of the novel corona virus disease (COVID-19) has been classified by WHO as a public health emergency of international concern and the greatest disasters humankind has ever experienced (WHO, 2020) [9]. The pandemic has taught us that change is inevitable (Dar and Sakthivel, 2022) [3]. COVID-19 outbreak had effected every aspect of life including education. In order to stop the escalation of infection the government had decided to put Lockdown on global level as a precautionary measure. This lockdown has caused numerous changes in every industry including change in education system which has moved from the conventional approach to an online one. Because nearly all educational sector were shut down during this lockdown period. The COVID had shifted the mode of education process from conventional to digital in India from primary to tertiary level, which is new experience and practice for both the instructors and students. Learners and teachers were both involved in teaching and learning process during pandemic. The aim of this present study is to understand the Challenges/problems faced by stake holders in online teaching-learning during pandemic shutdown. As this transition had imposed several challenges in both the public as well as private institutions and on stake holders as well which includes an expected rise in dropouts, learning loses and increase in digital divide.

Physical Interaction

The first issue faced by the stakeholders was the unavailability of class room /face to face interaction. The teacher- student relationship is crucial for academic success. Due to e-learning the students showed lack of interest and

satisfaction. The teachers were not able to provide right amount of education due to disinterest and indiscipline, students cannot understand everything in these classes, so they fail in their academics which might otherwise have been easy in traditional classroom setting. In physical classroom setting teachers have the greater independence and receive feedback immediately without any disturbance and excuse.

Technical Constraint

Another problem faced by both the learners and teachers is technical problem. The technical support found to be very important influential factor when it comes to the satisfaction with online learning. Both stakeholders did not have right amount of knowledge about the use of devices and apps required for the conduction of online classes .Many learners were failed of education. Both the teachers and learners were faced the technical issues like poor internet connectivity, broadband issues, power cut, poor audio and video quality, lack of gadgets, lack of computer skills etc. Cost of gadgets used for virtual classes is the another factor as everyone cannot afford that.

Mental health and well-being

Stress and many other mental health issues are normal when we are facing any uncertainty. During pandemic both the stake holders suffered from various kinds of disorders with the prolonged use of electronic device and also due to the fear of uncertainly caused by virus. The study showed that this out break led to substantial increase in depression, physiological, distress, anxiety, anger, sense of loneliness, boredom, mental health illness etc.

Learning Environment

The learning environment means the family background of the child, which includes all the human and material resources in home. The occupation of the parents, family status and the social behaviour of family creates a major role in student's education. During lockdown period all the people were at home and the brassy environment emanated internally or externally from neighbour and neighbourhood around the both stake holders which became a major cause of the distraction during online teaching -learning. Most of the students belongs to the poor community and didn't have enough space in their homes so that they can study apart from other family members.

Conclusion

During the period of COVID-19 lockdown the lives of the people got affected due to the shutdown and the whole education system got disrupted and forced the educators to switch from the conventional teaching-learning method to E-learning. This rapid conversion to e-learning mode imposed unique number of challenges/problems in smoothly maintaining the process of digital teaching- learning. During pandemic e-learning had become an immediate solution to cope with the disruption in education system. This study has found that during online education both the stake holders have faced various challenges which are lack of proper communication between students and teachers, technical issue which includes lack of knowledge about use of technology and conduct of online classes, lack of gadgets, lack of motivation ,Lack of computer knowledge, Distractive issues, lack of traditional interaction between learners and teachers and also the health issues due to the constant use of screen in online education .Online teaching learning can't replace the

conventional method of education but at the time of pandemic like situations online learning will be more effective.

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