

E-LEARNING PLATFORM AS A SPARK DURING COVID-19

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ABSTRACT: Covid19 as a global pandemic calls for social distancing. It forces people to sit inside, which leads to stress. So, to keep people focused and free from mental stress, e-learning has played an important role. Online learning is the best solution during the epidemic. Teachers can use the virtual classroom to teach from home and use all the tools needed to make online lessons as effective as traditional lessons. Pandemics often force learners to stay in their homes for long periods, hampering the teaching process. This article highlights the benefits of e-learning in times of crisis like absences from work during pandemics. Therefore, highlights some e-learning tools and technologies that can provide continuity in learning. Some emerging approaches to e-learning in the government of India are presented. The pros and cons of the e-learning platform are also discussed. What learners and educators have to say about the online learning system during lockdown is wise.

KEYWORDS:E-

learning, online platforms, learners' and educators' perceptions

I. INTRODUCTION

Most governments around the world have temporarily closed educational institutions to control the spread of the covid-19 pandemic. With more and more states, provinces, and even entire countries closing their educational institutions, more than 91% of the students worldwide are not attending a school/college (UNESCO). Several other countries have implemented partial closures, affecting millions of additional learners. UNESCO supports countries in their efforts to mitigate the immediate impact of school closures, particularly for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged communities, and seeks to promote the continuity of education for all through distance learning. The world bank is also actively working with ministries of

education in 4,444 countries, helping them use educational technology to provide students with 4,444 remote learning opportunities, while 4,444 educational institutions are closed due to the covid-19 pandemic. "the current corona virus pandemic has resulted in unprecedented increase of 4,444 people,". Dr. Howard Taylor said. "school closures and strict confinement measures mean that more and more families rely on technology and digital solutions to allow their children to learn, be entertained and stay connected, but not all children "Don't have the knowledge, skills, and resources to support themselves. Stay safe online" (UNICEF). In this situation of the covid-19 pandemic, learning can now be done online and knowledge can be transferred virtually using various media. Online learning is the best solution during this crisis. E-learning is a learning environment that takes place over the internet. This is often called e-learning. Online educators fill the physical gaps in virtual classrooms by creating a supportive environment Students feel comfortable taking online courses (Joshua). It plays an important role in transforming our lives in a digital world by offering flexible locations, class schedules, and quality content. It allows humanity to evolve when it was physically isolated due to a pandemic. Online learning is advantageous because it is immediately accessible and offers flexible scheduling. In this system, learners use Internet technology to communicate virtually with their teachers and classmates via email, whatsapp, video conferencing, instant messaging, or using other tools. However, video conferencing can be used effectively for online learning, enhancing community-minded group collaboration among learners, and can to some extent replace face-to-face classroom learning. In the past, students from rural areas have missed out on many opportunities that their urban and suburban peers took for granted. Connecting these rural students via video conferencing for online

learning can dramatically improve the quality of their learning experience. This enabled rural/disadvantaged learners to access homeschooling/university and gave them access to specialists. Videoconferencing is a synchronous model of interactive transmission of voice, video, and data between two or more groups/people (wiesemas & wang, 2010). Videoconferencing is just one of the technology systems available for online learning. The value of e-learning is being recognized by more organizations because it is a cost-effective way to transport large numbers of people. Not only does this reduce costs, but it also increases performance, resulting in remarkable results.

During the covid-19 shutdown, online learning is encouraged for the following reasons:

- Ø staying home helps to gain knowledge and maintain social distancing.
- Ø due to social distancing, can minimize the outbreak of covid-19
- Ø it provides an effective learning environment.
- Ø it provides additional interactive support, allowing students to work with works 24/7 at their own pace.
- Ø it offers flexible scheduling.
- Ø it is available everywhere, students can take using their devices (phones, computers, tablets, etc.) as long as there is an internet connection.
- Ø manage student tracking and reporting in real-time.
- Ø enhance the image of the institution by providing technical solutions to real problems.

II. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the study are:

- To investigate the measures taken by the government of India to support the e-learning process during the covid-19 lockdown period.
- Highlight various online tools/platforms that educational institutions have adopted during the covid-19 pandemic.
- Highlight some of the strengths and weaknesses of e-learning and suggest improvements.
- Obtain feedback from learners and educators on online learning systems during the lockdown.

III. METHODOLOGY

Several journals and electronic content related to e-learning systems were studied to identify issues

related to e-learning systems, especially during the pandemic. Measures were taken by the government. Information on support for the e-learning process in India during covid-19 lockdown is collected from the website. The author conducted online consultation sessions with new learners from January 2020 from different learner support centers (LSC) at Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) regional center in Bhubaneswar during the closure of

in India and organized an initial online training. The views/perspectives of LSC learners and educators at IGNOU regional center, Bhubaneswar were collected during online counseling sessions and online induction sessions using zoom video conferencing software/ google meet.

Data collected will be analyzed to examine the strengths and weaknesses of online learning systems during the lockdown and suggest better ways to make them effective for learners. E-learning initiatives in India during lockdown since countries around the world were quarantined due to the covid-19 outbreak, educational institutions are no exception. During the outbreak of covid-19 in the country, many sectors of the country were facing a major crisis, but the most affected sector was the education sector because most of the examinations in the period of final evaluation have been canceled. Students and teachers struggle to get an uninterrupted and seamless quality internet connection. At the same time, the state must not jeopardize the academic progress to which the 4,444 students aspire. Therefore, educational institutions must adopt smart solutions to overcome the endemic crises by adopting an online education model. Many Indian state governments are also exploring e-learning platforms to access online educational resources during the ongoing lockdown. They are looking for ways to help students continue their education during the nationwide lockdown due to covid-19. The aim is to effectively pursue the academic cycles of students without the reductions affecting their learning. They anticipate that will provide students with audio and video content and self-assessment exercises. They can organize special doubt clarification sessions for students on important topics. The people of India must continue to work together to fight against covid-19 and make effective use of information and communication technology (ICT) in the current situation by embracing information and communication technology. Communication (ICT) to teach the learning process and contribute to intellectuals the wealth of their time the nation. The online course is promoted by the university grants

committee (UGC) in universities during the shutdown period to ensure that students do not miss this time. Speaking to the media on April 13, 2020 (dd news), the UGC president said UGC had formed two committees to facilitate online learning during the covid-19 lockdown. One of the committees is responsible for exams and the school calendar, while the second committee, will be responsible for students, teachers, and the education system. On the advice of the committee and in consultation with the ministry of human resources development (MHRD), the UGC may soon issue academic guidelines. UGC recommends that all higher education institutions take precautions to practice social distancing, stay in, limit accommodations/residences, and learn effectively online in non-fiction courses dated April 11, 2020, up to times of use. Lockdown period for covid-19. These resources exist in the form of digital platforms accessible to university teachers, students, and researchers to deepen their knowledge. To ensure that education is not interrupted and that students can fully attend classes as before, MHRD recommends students use online learning platforms to continue their studies. The e-learning platform not only helps students gain full access to learning materials, but also allowing them to deliver lessons online and interact with teachers like in a physical classroom.

A. They are categorized by distance learning needs, but most of them offer features in more than one category

- Brooking institution – A catalog of nearly 3,000 educational innovations. Not all of them are distance learning solutions, but many of them offer digital educational content.
- Common sense education – tips and tools to support school closures and the transition to online and home-based learning.
- Commonwealth of learning – a list of resources for policymakers, school and college administrators, teachers, parents, and learners that will help students learn during the closure of educational institutions.
- Education nation – the Nordic countries have made their free learning solutions worldwide to support teachers and students during school closures.
- Ed surge – a community listing of educational technology products, including many distance learning resources for students, teachers, and schools, from elementary to post-secondary.

- Global education business alliance - list of online learning platforms, information sharing platforms, and communication platforms.
- Keep learning - a comprehensive collection of free tools, strategies, tips, and best practices for teaching online from the American alliance of educational organizations. Includes descriptions of over 600 digital learning solutions.
- UNCHR – A long list of over 600 distance learning solutions from the UN refugee agency.

B. Free online platforms that support live video communication there are many live video communication platforms on the web, but below is a list of some free online platforms that can be used by learners in all categories:

- Zoom - cloud for video and audio platform for meetings, collaboration, chat, and webinars.
- Google meet - video calls integrated with other google g-suite tools. Video meeting recording, screen sharing, joining calls using google calendar.
- Skype – video and audio calls with call, chat, and collaboration.
- Facebook live - ideal for businesses, influence r, or individuals who want to broadcast a demo, video, or showcase their company culture while broadcasting live, allowing Facebook followers to post comments and chat live, video schedule a time to get excited.
- you Tube live - is a platform for showcasing products through real-time interaction, hosts educational sessions with screen sharing to learn more about your audience, or use a whiteboard with location tags and advanced scheduling features.
- Uber conference - unlimited video and audio calling with calls, chat, and collaboration features · free conference is ideal for small teams or meetings, features include screen sharing, document sharing, text sharing, and more again.
- Ding Talk – communication platform supporting video conferencing, task and calendar management, attendance tracking, and instant messaging.
- Lark – A collaborative suite of connected tools including chat, calendar, authoring, and cloud storage, available in Japanese, Korean, Italian, and English.

- Teams – chat, meeting, calling, and collaboration features built into Microsoft office software.
- TrueConf online HD video and collaboration tools (screen sharing, remote computer control, call recording, file transfer, and shared virtual whiteboard).
- Slack video calling - ideal for teams looking for an add-on video calling solution for small teams, features include personal calling and messaging services.
- Life size go - unlimited meeting time, preferably group conversations

C. Benefits of online learning during lockdown

- Online learning encourages more efficient use of time and protects individuals from pandemic situations such as the spread of covid-19.
 - It has more access to specialists/experts (national and international), and learners have 24/7 access at their own pace and time. This allows the geographic range to reach even rural or remote areas.
 - It is an affordable, cost-effective technology that improves communications between teachers and students. A single educator can teach multiple virtual classes simultaneously, reducing travel to multiple locations. It can accommodate more than learners at a time.
 - Online course/meeting sessions can be saved on the site for future reference, eg. Lecture notes can be stored and distributed via the network for student reference. Digital course/session recordings can be downloaded from the website for later viewing.
 - To administer the exam, institutions may consider using online exam software which can assist with online exam administration. This will prevent the 4,444 institutions from facing delays in their annual academic calendar due to the reduction.
 - Very useful for some emergency services such as police, doctors, and nurses. Those who cannot devote specific time to study during confinement can use the online survey and follow their training.
 - Useful for women and learners with physical disabilities who can learn at home.
- more time on virtual platforms can make children vulnerable to online sexual exploitation.
 - Learners from low-income households and disadvantaged groups are most likely to suffer during online learning as they may not be able to afford high-speed internet connections and the necessary technical equipment. This widens the gap between privileged and disadvantaged learners.
 - This can make some students at home lazy and lack self-discipline.
 - Loss of the atmosphere of face-to-face meetings. Interpersonal relations between teachers and pupils or between pupils are hindered.
 - Personal data security can be compromised as digital devices can be hacked without the latest software updates and anti-virus programs. Learners' perceptions of online learning during the lockdown.
 - Happy to use the time to take online courses during lockdown initially struggled to take online courses but then got to know each other.
 - Feeling alone and unable to share feelings with peers. Audio/video poor quality was observed in some locations due to poor network.
 - Certain emergency services such as the police, doctors, and nurses, who did not have much time for online class exchanges, used online class registration to allow them to continue learning during the city shutdown, and expressed his satisfaction.
 - Request for delivery of practice-based courses through virtual labs.
 - Require all online course recordings to be uploaded to the website for future reference by learners and educators upon request.
 - With online course/meeting recordings, learners can review concepts, clarify their doubts again and gain a better understanding of the subjects.
 - Online education should be conducted in the local/regional language so that everyone can communicate comfortably.
 - Increased technical skills required due to online study programs and online exam requests during the lockdown.
 - Online learning is perceived as less efficient, less systematic, and less organized than traditional education systems. Therefore, face-to-face teaching of the same classes can take place again after quarantine ends

D. Disadvantages of online learning during lockdown

- Not all children have the knowledge, skills, and resources to stay safe online. Spending

- Very effective for women and physically disabled learners who can learn from home.
- Did not receive advance information about scheduling an online course or registration meeting, and was unable to attend.
- You are not satisfied because you do not need technical knowledge to use online and you cannot afford the high-speed internet technology equipment required for online.

E. Educator perspectives on online learning during lockdown

- Glad to have taken advantage of the time to host online classes during the lockdown. At first, the online course was very difficult, but later I got to know it, and the course went well. To ensure prior knowledge of class schedules or online orientation meetings, will help educators better prepare teaching materials to effectively deliver online orientation classes/meetings.
- All course recordings online should be uploaded to the website for future reference by learners and educators upon request.
- Due to unexpectedly announced cuts, most institutions have been unable to determine the remuneration of teachers of online courses. Accordingly, the financial aspects of compensation and fees for internet data plans should be clarified by the sponsoring institution.
- As learners are dispersed in different locations during online classes, it becomes difficult for educators to monitor their activities in real time.
- They also had difficulty concentrating on the subject in online courses.
- Low learner participation and interaction observed in online courses. Sometimes poor video and audio quality can interfere with the smooth running of an online course.

F. Some useful steps to help e-learning run smoothly are suggested below:

1. Ensure that online platforms have enhanced security measures in place, in particular tools for virtual learning. These devices must have the latest software updates and anti-virus programs, otherwise, the security of personal data may be compromised as people can hack digital devices.

2. High-speed internet connectivity should be provided to improve accessibility for all, including learners from disadvantaged groups and low-income families.
3. Everyone should follow the new guidelines issued by UNICEF and its partners to keep children safe during online classes.
4. When conducting online courses, schools should monitor children's good online behavior.
5. Parents should ensure that their children's devices have the latest software updates and anti-virus programs. They must work with the children to create rules about how, when, and where the internet is used. They should also discuss with their children how and with whom they communicate online.
6. Social media platforms should improve online platforms with more security measures, especially when using virtual learning tools.
7. The government should take the necessary steps to train all education actors on the e-learning platform to deal with the containment crisis during a possible pandemic. The government should raise awareness of online education for children through safety measures and take steps to increase cybersecurity awareness.
8. Online learning is not affordable for everyone, including the poor and disadvantaged societies. Therefore, government/educational institutions should take necessary measures to minimize the gap between privileged students and disadvantaged students.
9. Before joining an online course, learners and educators should be familiar with web interactions such as email, message boards, and chat rooms.
10. Governments/educational institutions should adopt a policy of providing free Internet access and free digital devices to all learners to encourage online learning, as people themselves will engage during containment and will protect people from the pandemic.

IV. CONCLUSION

E-learning is the most common method of distance education today. During the covid-19 lockdown, e-

learning is the best platform to keep learners/educators engaged and safe by maintaining social distancing. The Indian government has launched different e-learning platforms to continue educational activities during the lockdown, which has also been endorsed by UNESCO and the world bank. Online learning methods use various internet applications to distribute classroom materials and help learners and educators communicate with each other. By utilizing the various technologies available for online learning, educators can provide a more interactive distance learning experience by providing real-time synchronous video conferencing. Online learning is seen as the learning process of the future, and the platform has the potential to revolutionize pedagogy in the modern world. However, the necessary steps must be taken to train all education actors on the online learning platform. Government/educational institutions should adopt policies to provide free internet access and free digital devices to all learners to encourage online learning so that people are engaged during the lockdown and stay connected during the spread of the pandemic. Due to the covid-19 outbreak, online learning is the best way to learn during this time of lockdown, can conduct further in-depth statistical research on the impact of e-learning during the lockdown.

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