

TOOLS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN EDUCATION SECTOR DURING COVID-19 CRISIS

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Abstract

The novel coronavirus originated in Wuhan city of china at the end of December 2019. It spreads to other parts in the china and rapidly it spread across the world. There is no vaccination and medicines to cure this disease. So, the only solution to stop the spread of novel coronavirus is social distancing. Hence Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 24th March 2020, announced 21 days lockdown period to control the spread of COVID-19. On 2nd June 2020 in India, there are 97,581 active cases. In the second week of March 2020, state government as a measure to control the spread of the novel corona virus began shutting down schools and colleges across the country. There is no certainty when they will reopen due to COVID – 19. This is very crucial time for the education sector because board examinations, schools, colleges and universities admissions, entrance test of various universities and competitive examinations are all held during this period. Teaching and assessment methodologies, was the first to be affected by these closures. The objective of this study is to ascertain the impact of COVID-19 on education system, to study the strategic tool for sustainable development in education sector during COVID-19 crisis and to ascertain the challenges faced by students towards online education.

INTRODUCTION

The novel coronavirus originated in Wuhan city of China at the end of December 2019. It spreads to other parts in china and rapidly it spread across the world. There is no vaccination and medicines to cure this disease. So, the only solution to stop the spread of novel coronavirus is social distancing. Hence Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 24th March 2020, announced 21 days lockdown period to control the spread of COVID-19. On 2nd June 2020 in India, there are 97,581 active cases. The first coronavirus case is detected on 30 January 2020 in Kerala state where a student came from Wuhan University. Due to the terrible spread of

coronavirus and an increase in death rates PM Modi extended the lockdown period. At last, the government decided to extend lockdown up to 30th May 2020, with some relaxations like allowing buses in green zones, given permission to e-commerce dealing with essential goods, etc.

The state governments across the country announced to close down all schools, colleges, and Universities to control the spread of novel Coronavirus. There is no idea when educational institutions will open. This is a vital period for the education sector because examinations, admissions, etc. take place during this time. So, educational institutions shifted from the traditional methods of teaching to e-teaching. To provide continuity of learning in government schools and colleges/universities they should adopt open-source learning Management software like Moodle, TalentLMS, Opigno, etc. to conduct online teaching by teachers. In India, the DIKSHA learning platform is implemented across the states. This DIKSHA app aids teachers to create a profile, training content, assignments, and announcements and associate with the teacher community. The private schools and colleges are also using online collaborative tools like GoToMeeting, ZOOM, Webinar apps, etc. for online teaching.

To break the important chain of transmission to reduce the spread of infectious disease the educational institutions are closed. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a growing number of universities have postponed or canceled all campus events such as Examinations, Workshops, Conferences, and other activities. Universities have moved various courses and programs from face-to-face to Online mode. Many Universities in India are replacing traditional exams with online assessment tools. This is a new area for both teachers and students.

OBJECTIVES

1. To Study the impact of COVID-19 on the education system.
2. To know about a strategic tool for sustainable development in the education sector during the COVID-19 crisis.
3. To ascertain the challenges faced by students towards online education.

IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON EDUCATION SYSTEM IN INDIA

In the second week of March 2020, state government as a measure to control the spread of the novel coronavirus began shutting down schools and colleges across the country. There is no certainty when they will reopen due to COVID – 19. This is a very crucial time for the

education sector because board examinations, schools, colleges, and universities admissions, entrance tests of various universities, and competitive examinations are all held during this period. Teaching and assessment methodologies, was the first to be affected by these closures. Especially in countries like India, the sudden shift to online learning where the backbone for online learning was not ready and the curriculum was not designed for such a format. Most of the students becoming passive learners and they seem to be losing interest due to the low level of attention span. Online education not only affects students but also teachers. Online learning is a special kind of methodology and not all teachers are good at it. Most of the teachers are just conducting lectures on video platforms such as Zoom, Canvas which may not be real online learning.

The lockdown has generated uncertainty over the exam cycle. Universities face impact in terms in terms of a slowdown of internships and placements. Technology may play an important role in the lockdown period, some private schools, colleges, and universities adopt online teaching methods. While low income private and government schools and colleges completely shut down. Another major impact on students is employment. Those students who have completed their graduation may have fear in their minds of getting jobs and withdrawal of job offers from the corporate sector due to the current situation. Another major impact on students especially from disadvantaged families is a lack of access to technology, low internet connectivity in rural areas is an obstacle to continued learning.

In the present situation, digital learning is more effective because it has no physical boundaries and it has more learning engagement experience rather than traditional learning. Digital learning is cost-effective and it provides a comfort zone to students to learn. In the case of India, students living in urban areas have the facilities to opt for digital education, however, rural area students are not financially strong to get the resources required for digital education and also, they do not have the required infrastructure for digital education. The Government of India due to lack of budget it is difficult for building the digital education infrastructure. Even if the digital infrastructure is built, the government should provide training for the teachers to use the digital system to provide uninterrupted and seamless education to the students.

TOOLS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN EDUCATIONAL SECTOR DURING COVID – 19 CRISES

Due to the COVID-19 crisis, a large number of sectors shifted to online including the education system, where various schools, colleges, and universities have shifted to online teaching across the world. In India to improve the quality of education, it is necessary to use technology in education. Online collaboration tools and virtual classrooms help to continue the education and build up the relationship between the teacher and students the same as the experience in classroom type. There are various online collaboration platforms for the sustainable development of online education. Some of them are here:

1. Google Classroom

Google Classroom was launched by Google on 12th August 2014 and it is developed for schools. Google Classroom is the trendiest tech tools nearly ten million teachers and students are using it. To maintain teacher and student communication the Google Classroom consolidates sheets, slides, docs, Gmail, and calendar into a coherence platform. The students can join in Google Classroom either by using invite to join a class by using private code or by using the school domain. The main features of Google Classroom are discussed below:

- Google's suite of productivity applications is used to store and grade assignments. It helps teachers to track the student's progress.
- Google Classroom affords to go through the paperless classroom.
- In Google Classroom the teachers can create a different unique class for every class.
- Another main feature in Google Classroom is it allows teachers to create announcements. Students respond to the announcements and also teacher responds back to them. Teachers have the option of adding a file, a link, or a YouTube video to an announcement.
- Google Classroom allows to archive courses at the end of the year. So that the teachers can organize their current classes.

2. Zoom Classroom

Zoom is established in 2011 and launched its software in 2013. Zoom is an American communications technology and it is a cloud-based peer-to-peer software platform. Zoom app is used for telecommuting, teleconferencing, social relations, and distance education. The usage of the Zoom app is increased during the COVID-19 Crisis. The main features in Zoom app are given below:

- In the Zoom app we can join from anywhere and from any device.
- It provides team chat for groups.
- Zoom provides extra features like access to webinars, phone, and chat.

- Zoom offers role-based user permission to meet securely.
- It offers HD video and audio calls.

3. Canvas Instructure

Another best online education tool is Canvas Instructure. Canvas Instructure provides an android app for both teachers and students. In canvas LMS (Learning Management System), teachers can create videos, stores, share, and communicates. One of the best options in Canvas is students can watch videos at any time. The significant features in Canvas Instructure is as below:

- In Canvas Instructure teachers can create separate classes for each class.
- It offers a discussion forum to communicate between teachers and students.
- An Instructor can create Assignments for students. Assignments include Quizzes, Discussions, and Assignment.
- Canvas Instructure offers Modules option. It is a tool that can unify all course content into structural components.
- In Canvas teachers can separate students into small collaboration teams.

4. Easy Class

Easy Class is a Free Learning Management System (LMS). It is a good platform for educators and students. Digital classes are created and control by teachers or professors. Students can join in a class by using an access code. The content created with the digital classes can be seen by only the class members who enrolled. The Easy Class team gets back to you if you have any queries within 24 hours. The basic features offered by Easy Class is as follows:

- In Easy Class teachers or professors can create digital classes, can store course materials online, can give the assignment, quiz, and online exams to students.
- It also offers an option to track student's grade results and also can provide feedback to all students in one place.
- Teachers have an option to delete class members and posts.
- The Chance for cyber-bullying is not possible in Easy Class because there is no private conversation between students.
- Easy Class does not entertain any advertisements.

5. Moodle

Moodle is an online Learning Management System (LMS) and it is free. In Moodle, teachers can create dynamic courses and own private websites at any time and at anywhere. Moodle is a user-friendly LMS and simple drag-and-drop functionality. Moodle is used for distance education, blended learning, and other e-learning projects in schools/colleges/universities and other sectors. The main features in Moodle are below:

- Moodle can easily customizable per user learning need and locality because it is available in 100 languages.
- We can use Moodle either for online courses broadly or for blended pedagogy.
- In Moodle, teachers can create a bulk courses and easy backup options.
- Moodle offers security and privacy.
- Moodle resources are easily obtainable to both ordinary users and advanced users for informative purpose and software development.

6. Blackboard Learn

Blackboard mobile app is another popular LMS developed by Blackboard Inc. It is a Virtual learning environment developed by CourseInfo LLC and Blackboard Inc jointly. One of the drawbacks in Blackboard Learn is the claim of faulty patent rights and it facing several legal issues. The students, teachers, and educational institutions have disclosed concerns about the loyalty of Blackboard. The following are the features in Blackboard learn app:

- The teachers can post articles, videos, assignments, etc.
- By using the learning modules option the professor can post different chapters for students to access.
- The teachers can assign quizzes and exams by using the assessment tab. The students access them via the Internet.
- Another feature of Blackboard learn is the assignment. The teacher can post assignments and students will submit it by using the internet.
- By using the Grade Book option, the teachers or professors can post grades for students to view on Blackboard.

7. Digital Class

It is a rapid developing online education platform in India. This app is a single platform for both teachers and students. Any Tutor likes teachers, Faculty, educational institutes, and online education providers. One of the highlights in this app is after simple verification the

tutor can place their own course with their brand name. The feature of the digital class is here:

- Digital class provides all types of online education so students no need to go anywhere.
- It offers different types of courses like spoken English, Accounts and Finance, Business Management, Dance & Music, and so on.

8. Hypersay

It is founded on 5th February 2015. Hypersay is a platform for live interactive presentations. Hypersay allows maximum of 20 participants per session and it is free. The popular features in Hypersay are given below:

- Hypersay supports live audio/video streaming for presenters with three options i.e., Audio only, Video Streaming, and can embed third party streams like Restream, YouTube, Vimeo, etc.
- In Hypersay one can create interactive slides by adding live quizzes, opinion scales, open questions, and interactive images.
- In Hypersay audience can connect to live presentations by using QR codes.
- Hypersay has features such as Documentation, In-person, Live online, Online tutorials, and webinars.

9. Edmode

Edmode is launched on 1st September 2008 by Nick Borg, Jeff O'Hara, and Crystal Hutter. Edmode offers communication, coaching, and collaboration to K-12 schools and teachers. Edmode is available in Arabic, English, Croatian, Spanish, Portuguese, German, Greek, French, Italian, Turkish, Dutch, Chinese, Swedish, and Indonesian. The features of Edmode is given below:

- Teachers can share content, assignments, and quizzes.
- Teachers can communicate with Students, Parents, and colleagues.
- Edmode is a teacher-centric, the students and parents can only join if invited by the teacher.
- Edmode is free to use and also it provides premium services.

10. BrainPop

BrainPop was founded on 31st December 1999 and these sites retained by FWD Media Inc. in New York City. The quality and robust support for teachers makes Brainpop popular. Due to COVID-19 Pandemic, it offered free access to teachers and schools. The main features in BrainPop offer is given below:

- For grades K-12 students BrainPop offers short animated movies with material and quizzes.
- It covers the subjects of English, Maths, Science, Social studies, Arts, Music, Engineering, and Technology.
- Teachers can track students' progress in BrainPop.
- BrainPop is available only by Subscription.

CHALLENGES FOR ONLINE LEARNING

One of the sectors that have been drastically affected by the COVID-19 lockdown is the education sector. Exams, results, and admissions are postponed due to COVID-19 Pandemic. Even though a lot of online collaboration tools are used to teach online classes to students but there are some challenges are faced due to online education are given below:

1. Lack of Infrastructure

In rural areas students are not able to connect with online education due to poor network connectivity. The students in rural areas are mostly poor. They do not have smartphones and laptops to learn online. On the other hand, private colleges and universities who have lots of money only offering online education and government and other private schools are totally shutdown.

2. Resistance to Change

Due to COVID-19 Pandemic, there is a sudden shift from traditional classes to online classes and face to face teacher training to virtual computer-based training. For students, it is a totally different environment. Their resistance to change does not allow them to adjust to online education, whereas it takes some time for them to familiar with computer-based education.

3. Lack of Computer Knowledge

Today one of the major challenges among students is lack of computer knowledge even though they are tech- savvy. Most of the students do not know how to operate Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint. At Present, technological efficiency is requisite to manage

their online classes, to submit assignments, etc. To participate in students without any huddles it is very significant to have knowledge in basic courses in computer literacy.

4. Time Management

For e-learners, time management is a challenging task because online classes require a lot of time and comprehensive work. A proper schedule plan helps e-learners to attend classes properly and they should set reminders for their courses and assignments so that they can attend all assignments and classes without fail.

5. Lack of Interest

Due to the COVID-19 crises, there is a shift to online education. The students are not showing interest in online education compared to the traditional mode of education. The main reason for the lack of interest is there is no face to face and classroom environment. Listening to online classes without any interactions and discussion it is more difficult for students which lack their interest in e-learning.

CONCLUSION

It is important to note that we are living in an ever-changing world that is ripe with new possibilities. During this uncertain crisis of COVID-19, there needs to compromise on the health or future of students. The competence to learn new technology whenever and wherever wish everyone outstanding opportunities for education than ever before. Evaluating both the opportunities and challenges of online education will facilitate being better prepared to face the challenges of working in this new environment as well as grasp the new opportunities that it has to offer. On the same hand, the government should take steps to develop proper infrastructure like broadband connectivity in rural areas so that all students are able to access online education without interruption.

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