The Impact and Issues of Online Teaching-Learning Program: An Analysis

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ABSTRACT

Online teaching is not an option today rather than it’s a need of a time. After the COVID-19 outbreak we had noticed that the stream of online teaching-learning process is on fire. It drastically brought a change nearly in every section of the academics. The change in the medium of instruction and use of high-end technology for teaching and learning resulted in the advancement of the whole academic environment. As India and other third world nations, mostly are developing countries so it must check that which factor is more important, whether the development of Information and Communication Technology in education or limitations of the same. This paper deals with the impact of online medium of teaching and learning as well as deals with the main issues which are culminated due to this medium.

Keywords: Online, Learning, Teaching, Education, Technology

1. Introduction and Background

The world is in 21st century and this is the age of artificial intelligence. Today world is continuously transforming with the help of latest technologies. These technologies are not only changing the military, industries but also changing the day-to-day life of common man. The dual use of technologies helps in both the ways whether to destroy your enemy or to have some peaceful work for the society. Education sector is one of them where we see a drastic change from last few decades. Transforming technologies increased the innovation and creativity within the academics. Today we have wide range of electronic devices such as mobile phones, computer, laptops, tablets etc. with the help of which anyone can get the information just in a fraction of second by using internet.

Online education is defined as a form of distance education that uses computers and the Internet as the delivery mechanism, with at least 80% of the course content delivered online (Allen & Seaman, 2008). In online teaching, data and information is provided in the form of audio-visual, graphical representation, live lectures etc. in order to build knowledge for the individual. It not only expands the aura of teacher and learner but also provide the digital literacy to the people, which can help them to survive in this technological complex world. If we see the historical data then there were various ways to provide distance education in form of radio, television, telegram etc. but real online education was started by University of Illinois by creating an intranet for its students in year 1960 with the help of computer program named PLATO (Programming Logic for Automatic Teaching Operations) (Huber, 1960). PLATO was operated on thousands of terminals around the globe and many modern concepts in multi-user computing were originally developed on PLATO, including forums, message boards, online testing, e-mails, chat rooms, instant messaging, remote screen sharing and even multiplayer video games.

Similarly, in 1985 first accredited online graduate program was offered by Nova Southeastern University (Nova South Eastern University, 2019) and in 1989 University of Phoenix launched its online degree program (Ferrer, 2019). Google search engine was developed in 1998 and this development changes the whole course of internet. Today if you don’t know something, just search it...
on Google and the information will be there just on your machine. In 2001 Jimmy Wales launched Wikipedia which is also called E-Encyclopedia, where you can get any information related to most of the things in the world. 2005 was the year when YouTube was developed and this change the whole scenario as now you can get information in form of video (Graham, 2005). Today every important organization related to government, news media, academics institution, various non-governmental organization etc. are having a YouTube channels from where they are continuously providing information to the people.

The chronology of online education clearly defines that it slowly but gradually emerged as an option for those students who want to study but due to some reasons not able to join the traditional way of learning, in that case online education play an important role in providing education. Online teaching and learning can never replace the traditional way of learning but it is definitely changing the perception of this world.

2. Need of study

Today world is battling a menace that shook the entire human race on this earth in form of the Covid-19 pandemic. In such a situation, the whole world is going through a recession in which educational institutions have also been affected to a great extent. In this disaster, the whole world needed a new education system so that the teaching-learning process could run smoothly. This was accomplished with the help of science and technology, in which artificial intelligence also had a big hand. The widespread use of technology and research in the education sector changed the entire learning environment. But due to this sudden change, many problems were also culminated in form of agitation faced by the large group of teachers, parents, and students, who were not very well aware of this modern technology and the online method of learning, which was implemented in the education system for the teaching process. So there was a need to assess the impact and issues of the online teaching-learning process..

3. Method of Study

The methodological framework of this study was typically a qualitative research. The benefits of using this method were that it enables the vast critical analysis of historical documents which were in form of news, articles, and series of events.

4. Impact and Issues

Today’s generation is so tech-savvy that students are continuously upgrading their knowledge with the help of technology. According to the various researches it indicates that if online education implements properly with traditional way of learning, then it will definitely enhance the efficiency of present education. As data are easily available on internet so teachers can play an important role in teaching to the students and in managing the abundant data so that they can use it efficiently. Actually, teachers play an important role in form of guide, who can make their student to understand, to differentiate between the right and wrong information and also to choose the best and appropriate content available with the help of technology.

The ascent of e-learning innovation utilized by advanced education organizations and can be ascribed to globalization, where we can see the integration of cultures, products and perspectives (Raghuaram, 2012). The rapid pace of advancement of e-learning technology attributes to the expansion of various hardware and software technology. The hardware and software companies are continuously working on their products so as to make an edge over rival companies and this leads to the furtherance of e-learning technologies. Now, teachers may need to rethink their basic tenets of education, redesign the methodology used in the teaching-learning processes and form a new and a creative way of learning with the use of upgraded technology. Use of e-learning instills the confidence among learners and teachers and also empowers them to learn in an efficient and effective manner (Singh, 2016).

Apart from positive points, there are many challenges which are being faced in academics regarding the e-learning process. There are certain points which are as follows regarding the challenges of online teaching and learning:

**Digital Literacy**

There is a big generation gap between the teachers and students, one is technological migrant(teacher) other is native(student). Means, the lecturer in higher education still learning the new technologies example computer, mobile phones, gadgets related to data transmission etc. on the other hand, students are living in that environment since their childhood, and that is why there is a big difference in technical understanding between the two. Secondly, the challenge which is mostly faced by teachers are English. All the technologies related to online teaching are using English as main mode of language and this is one of the major issues to the people who are using their native languages while teaching-learning process and English language is very new to them.
**Multi-Cultural Environment**

In online teaching, it is a multi-cultural platform where we can see the people coming from different culture and joining a web talk. This is a very complex situation when one has to deliver a lecture because everybody has different learning style depends upon the type and style of education prevailing in the respective state. To achieve a best result, one should understand the student’s style of learning. Some student prefer writing, some recite it by listening the lectures and some by using audio-video. So, there may be various ways by which a student may able to understand the concept. This is a very unclear situation for teachers and students before going for an online lecture.

**Technological Challenges**

When we are talking about web classes then it must be assumed that we are either using computer or mobile phones with having proper internet connection but what about those people who are living in remote areas where even electricity is not in a proper way or the areas having minimum range of network. Secondly if everything is working properly and at the same time software issues will take place or the software is not fulfilling the basic minimum requirements or the customizations, then the whole process will be stopped. Then at that time instructor needs a proper technical assistance to solve the problem. Thirdly, it is related to the technical training of instructor so as to make them familiar with new technologies and also trained them to use those technologies properly. There are various issues related to inadequate training, training style and deficient way of training, related to the creating of a material according to pedagogical requirement.

**Pedagogical Challenges**

Pedagogy is the cornerstone to any e-learning process as it will provides the right pathway on which teacher can move ahead to deliver the useful information to their students properly. Pedagogy requires the teacher to understand the student learning style and according to that teacher will design the course material and instruct students appropriately. There are four distinct learning style as described by Bard and Buchanan, they are imaginative, common sense, analytic and dynamic. The dilemma to instructor is how to identify and understand the learning style of online student, when they cannot be visualized. E-learning pedagogy must contain following aspects (Nurul, Martin, & Frances, 2015):

- Content: a quality material in form of learning objects
- Storing: Material can be stored so as to retrieve any time.
- Availability: It can easily available to students when it required.
- Student support: Proper feedback system should be there so as to track the loop holes and also used to check the cons.
- Assessment: Test system must be there in form of MCQs, essays, assignments etc. so as to check the progress of students.

5. Conclusions

This is a 21st century, which is bursting with modern technologies and more advance technologies yet to come. These technologies are drastically changing our education system and now it becomes the integral part of our lives. The online teaching transforms the pedagogy, methodology and the curriculum of education system (Dehler & DeSimone, 2000). The role of online education in changing the picture of distance and higher education system through out the world is incomparable. In the words of John Sner, "Instruction has been, is being, and will keep on being cyberized". He characterizes "cyberize" as "adjusting to computerized innovation or culture. Sener contends that, the primary time of online teaching has been devoted to giving access, while the subsequent time can possibly improve the nature of instruction overall, not simply the online teachings. It isn't tied in with changing the information being passed on, yet simply moving the manner in which it is "transmitted, safeguarded, and created" (Kentnor, 2015).

The teachers first of all have to show their interest in new technologies related to online teaching. They also have to participate in all seminars, symposiums and workshops related to online education system organized by universities, colleges, and by government. Teachers must have to explore not only the technologies but also themselves, so that they can perform in an innovative, clarified and polished manner. Whatever the new technologies will come in future, the space of teacher must be there as always, no technology can replace the teacher. But to keep the pace with the age, teacher must understand the technological transformation which is happening in the world, so that instructor can guide the students in order to manage the huge information in a very precise way. While concluding just hope that the good and efficient teachers, equipped with the latest technologies will unequivocally transform the world.
References