

The Covid-19 Pandemic and the Digital Transformation in Education- the New Normal in India

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Abstract

The whole world fights with the corona virus and the whole world is going through a very strange and challenging situation due to it. The corona virus also known as the COVID-19 is an infectious disease caused by the newly discovered coronavirus. The World Health Organization (WHO) has declared it as a "PANDEMIC" because of the wide spread of it in the whole country. Because of the pandemic situation there are various challenges, the economy is going down, there are lot of financial crises, there is increase in the unemployment rate, reverse migration to rural areas, poverty, low standard of living and change in the life of everyone. There is digital transformation in many areas like banking, payment, business, learning, commerce, bookings and other many. This paper discusses about the COVID-19 pandemic and the digital transformation in the education which is the "NEWNORMAL IN INDIA".

Keywords: COVID-19, Pandemic, Digital Transformation, Education, The New Normal, India, E-Learning, ICT

Introduction

The COVID-19 pandemic has demobilized the global economy. The whole world fights with the corona virus and the whole world is going through a very strange and challenging situation due to it. The pandemic has impacted every segment of life and wearing mask regularly, frequently washing of hands, maintain social distancing are the new normal. The corona virus also known as the COVID-19 is an infectious disease caused by the newly discovered Corona Virus. The World Health Organization (WHO) has declared it as a "PANDEMIC" because of the wide spread of it in the whole country. Due to the spread of the disease the countries had to impose complete lockdown and the whole society had to suffer really hard time.

Because of the pandemic situation there are various challenges, the economy is going down, there are lot of financial crises, there is increase in the unemployment rate, reverse migration to rural areas, poverty, low standard of living and change in the life of everyone. There is digital transformation in many areas like banking, payment, business, learning, commerce, bookings and other many.

The outbreak of the corona virus disease is really very challenging. "HEALTH IS WEALTH" and for the protection of ourselves and to prevent its spread wearing of mask, frequently washing the hands with soap for 20 seconds or with sanitizer, maintain social distancing, avoid going to crowded places is necessary. As the spread of this disease was increasing in whole worlds, the countries were forced to impose lockdown. Due to which in developing country like India people really faced tough times. It has an impact on everything education, tourism, financial markets, sports,

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religion, employment food security etc. the increasing number of cases also led to fall in the stock market. In a country like India where people residing in the rural areas went to urban areas for employment are coming back to their villages. There is lot of unemployment, increase in poverty, difficult to survive situation. Even the economy will be down. There is recession in the market. The entrepreneurs, small and medium size enterprises and even the big companies are shutting down, removing their staff, some of them are operating at 50% and the companies are also paying 50% salary. This has made very difficult for the people to maintain the living standard rather the survival is difficult.

Digitalization Trend

The 21st century is the “DIGITAL ERA”. Digitalization is seen in all the parts of the world. The Government of India has taken various initiatives like “Digital India”, “Make in India”, “Skill India” which promotes the digitalization. The government of India is planning and promoting the various activities relating to Digitalization. With E-Governance there will be a positive impact on our economy. With digitally transformed economy all the activities will be transparent, there will be a record for each, and thus it will weed corruption in the nation and help increasing the economic growth and economic development in the nation. With digitalization there will be less use of paper with this we will move towards a more greener economy and it will promote sustainable development for our nation and will help to save nature for the future generations.

With the digitalization businesses are now E-Businesses, learning is E-learning, Banking is E-banking, E-wallets for the digital payments, E-Bookings, E-Governance, E-Commerce and

many more. Digitalization has removed boundaries and the activities can be carried across the globe. It has many advantages like faster, efficient, smooth, transparent, with record track, convenient and flexible. Everything is possible with simple clicks on the device with digitalization. Of course, for the one's not updated with technology, illiterate, not having good bandwidth, or device for them challenging to make use of digital updated things.

The digitalization has made it possible and filled the gap in this pandemic situation. When the lockdown was imposed the companies started to prefer “WORK FROM HOME” for the employees so the work could be carried out. The nationals used digital payment system and e-wallets to avoid spread of infection and avoid going to banks or ATM'S for cash withdrawal and complete the process easily, fast and hazzle free. Even the E-Commerce is at a high trend in India. And for the students to fill the gap for the traditional classroom and give them knowledge and education digital methods were used. With digital learning methods the student's learning were in continuance and the teachers also engaged in it could feel fresh.

Electronic Learning (E-Learning)

Electronic learning also known as E-learning, online learning, Digital Learning is a learning system based on the formalized teaching method but with the help of electronic resources. In E-learning there is a need of device like laptop, desktop, palmtop, tablet, phablet and also good network bandwidth for a continuous flow is required. In E-learning the students can learn at any point of time 24*7 and at any place. It is very convenient and flexible. Also, the learner can repeat the same session for better understanding. In E-Learning the same feeling is there whenever accessed by anyone.

E-learning is also very attractive with pictures and images with which the learner feels easy to grasp it. The learner can enroll into online overseas courses and can pursue foreign education by sitting at home and can fulfill his dream of getting a foreign university degree. In E-learning Virtual classrooms, Video Conferencing Discussions, PPT'S, assignments, quiz, exam, audio video presentation is possible.

Electronic Learning- the New Normal in India

Due to this pandemic situation to fill the gap to the traditional classroom teaching millions of students are going for online learning across the globe. "ELECTRONIC LEARNING IS THE NEW NORMAL IN INDIA". The e-learning is running successfully in India and is positively adopted by the students and which shows that post COVID-19 there will be increase in the demand of Online Education. With e-learning, the academic continuity of the students is been maintained. Of course, many of the institutions are having digital infrastructure and the staff updated with the usage of it. Of course, the students might miss the classrooms, and the teacher-student feeling but e-learning is now the new normal. With the e-learning students are engaged to learning at their own pace in a collaborative environment.

Rationale of the Research Study

The present research study has been undertaken to know and understand about digitalisation trend, Electronic Learning and E-Learning- the new normal in India, to study the advantages of electronic learning, to study the disadvantages of electronic learning, to know about the current trends in India of Electronic learning- the new normal. This research work will help the academicians, research scholar, policy makers, students, corporates and

organizations to gain an insight in the E-Learning future which is the new normal in India. With the help of this research study, changes and development can be made by knowing the current scenario of the situation. The study is based on the very important topic i.e. Education and the future of our nation depends on Education and with this research study steps can be taken to develop it further for the new normal and planning can be made for the future.

Review of Literature

Wang, Qiyun., Woo, H.Lit., Quek, C.Lang., Yang, Yugin., & Liu, Mei.(2011) studied that the social media application Facebook has the potential to be used as Learning Management System (LMS). The usage of social media for learning has pedagogical, social and technological affordance. The utilization of available social networking websites for teaching-learning activities has been examined and discussed in various research works.

Chen,R.S., & Tsai,C.(2007) highlighted the role of gender in web-based learning environment. On an average male student have more positive attitude towards web-based learning than females.

Edmunds, R. & Richardson, J.T.E. (2009) Various factors like gender, age and subject background play important role in deciding the learners' attitude towards e-learning environment.

Objective of the Study

The research paper has the following objectives:

- To know and understand about digitalisation trend, Electronic Learning and E-Learning- the new normal in India.
- To study the advantages of electronic learning.
- To study the disadvantages of electronic learning.

- To know about the current trends in India of Electronic learning- the new normal.
- To draw a conclusion.

Research Methodology

The word “Research” is divided in two parts “RE” and “SEARCH” which means to search again and again. It is a systematic way to carry a study on a particular topic. The term Research Methodology is the procedure used to find, choose, filter and analyse information about a particular topic. To fulfil the above mentioned objective, secondary data is used. The present research work is a blend of descriptive and exploratory research work and has extensively used the secondary data method for the research study. The research study undertaken is purely secondary. The information used in this study is collected through various newspaper, magazines, conference proceedings, websites, journals, and books etc to collect various data for the information collected used in this study.

Advantages of Electronic Learning

- E-Learning is flexible the learners enrolled in the program can access at any point of time 24*7 and at any place.
- One of the advantages of E-learning is cost effective. It saves the cost of printing materials and as no need of venue for the educational institutions. And the students also save money to travel to the institutions and the accommodation charges if any.
- As the E-Learning is designed with interactive pictures and images the learners love to watch it and there is better retention due to the interesting and interactive materials and keeps them more engaging.

- It is possible in e-learning to get the same experience when accessed at any point of time by anyone. In traditional learning the mood, the fatigue, the tiredness makes the lecture different at every time whereas e-learning is quite consistent.
- In E-learning one of the advantages is it offers personalization; the learner can choose the subject which interests him and his needs can be catered.

Disadvantages of Electronic Learning

- One of the disadvantages of e-learning is that it depends a lot on technology, it is an obstacle for the one's not having a good network bandwidth and a device to use it.
- e-learning is flexible and can be accessed at any point of time and here the teacher is not physically present to motivate the student and hence the student might feel lazy and think to access it later and e-learning may tend to no learning.
- In e-learning the student might feel isolated and miss classroom friends, the environment, the ground and the teacher-student relationship.
- If any assignments are given, then it is difficult to authenticate a work done by a student.
- e-learning lacks the face to face interaction and the transformational power. e-learning requires a strong self-motivation to sit and learn, and good time management skills.

The Covid-19 Pandemic and the Digital Transformation in Education- the New Normal in India Current Trends

The whole world fights the corona virus. The pandemic situation has made everything very challenging even the survival for few is difficult. In a

developing country like India the pandemic has affected everything the economy, the education, the festivals, the living, the education, the businesses, the financial market etc. we all have to take care of our health and take safety measures. To maintain the academic continuity the online education has filled the gap of traditional classroom teaching. The digital transformation is the new face of education and is the new normal adopted by millions of students across the globe. Of course, there are certain challenges to e-learning but in this pandemic situation learning can be in continuance, students can gain knowledge and even the teachers remained engaged in the teaching-learning process.

Conclusion

Due to the covid-19 pandemic the digital transformation is the new face of education and the new normal in India. The whole world fights the challenging situation due to the corona virus. To maintain the academic continuity the online education has filled the gap of traditional classroom teaching. The e-learning is running successfully in India and is positively adopted by the students and which shows that post COVID-19 there will be increase in the demand of Online Education. Of course, there are also certain challenges and obstacles to e-learning but after this situation e-learning can become a great addition to the traditional teaching-learning process which will make the learning process more dynamic, interactive and diverse.

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