



CHALLENGES TO HIGHER EDUCATION IMPACTS OF COVID-19

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ABSTRACT

Today we are facing pandemic as the Corona virus is sweeping its way around the globe and its impact is only beginning to be visible. The pandemic has brought in many deaths, thousands have been quarantined and has led to a serious situation of global health emergency. To curb the spread of this virus, lockdown has been implemented very strongly. In order to handicap the virus from spreading, social distancing and limiting contact with each other is a necessary evil. All walk of life has been severely affected due to this lockdown which is an effect, this is turn has crippled the economy painfully. Like other sectors education institutions are also affected in terms of lagging behind in the annual academic calendar of events. This paper construe the capacity of the country and its teaching fraternity to endure the education process at the college and universities in the form of online distance learning methods and challenges during this process, this paper reviews the different available online platforms that are used and challenges face by both the teaching faculty and the students during the online classes.

KEY WORDS: *pandemic, lockdown, online education, online platforms, social distance.*

INTRODUCTION

Corona virus which was detected in Wuhan, China on 31 December 2019, the Corona virus spreads through the human to human transmission which was confirmed by the World Health Organization (WHO) on 20 January 2020. Today that the COVID has challenges the advancements not only in the Health sectors but in many different several sectors as like finance sector, All education, automotive and engineering sectors etc. The very important need of the hour is social distancing and lockdown and excellent medical care. The pandemic situation has led to a total lock down world over and India is no exceptions because the present day s is many people are affected by COVID -19. A of today around seventy eight lakh fifty nine thousands people have been reported as infected by the virus and around four lakhs thirty two thousand have been reported as dead. This has warranted a complete shutdown of all the industries and various sectors, educational institution is not an exception to this. The shutdown of the education institutions has led to many apprehension among the students and teaching fraternity. However the teaching

fraternity has been innovative methods to interact with the students and focusing on the curriculum.

With this back drop the paper is based on the following objectives:-

1. To highlight the sources and importance of e learning and e teaching.
2. To discuss the challenges in digital learning.
3. To study the measures and methods in out coming in the situation challenges.

1. SOURCES AND IMPORTANCE OF E LEARNING AND E TEACHING

Challenges in higher education on covid 19. The teaching fraternity with the use of many e teaching and e learning applications such as Google classroom, Google Zoom, Easy class, Go To Meeting, Remind, Slack and many others have been adopted to reach the students as far as possible. Now the bigger challenges was to select an application among the ocean of applications available on the internet catering to every one's needs with low data consumption and better stability during the live streaming. Figure 1: Various online platforms available for teaching .

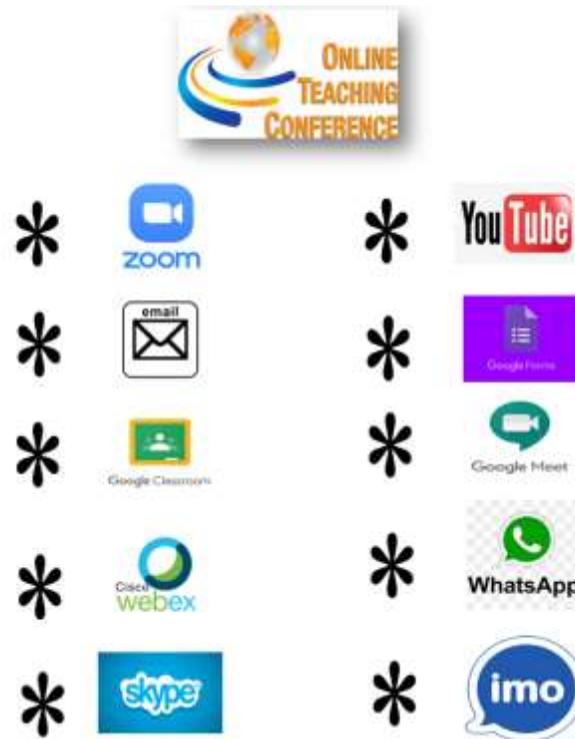


Figure :-1

It is clear that the above figure there are many online platforms available at our disposal. Different apps for different purposes for teaching the students for the live streaming/conference/lecture series zoom app has been used and for assigning students assignments the Easy Class app and Google Classroom application are utilized. For students who cannot join the online Classroom Posts were uploaded in side share an online platform so that the students can download the PPT whenever they get internet access and any doubt clarification is clarified through the calls.

To enable the practical knowledge of Labs, many universities and Organizations have come forward and provided virtual Labs for the students. Keeping in mind the financial crisis during the lockdown many Organizations have offered the free online courses for the students one such example TATA STEEL, and many other universities or many Organizations and higher education sectors which offered online courses with the registration fee of RS.1/- just by login to www.capabilitydevelopment.org and signing with the details and take on the courses. They provide nearly 27 courses. Some of them are: Advanced Microsoft Excel, Basic Metallurgy, Basic TQM, Bearing, Machine learning industry 4.0, MS office, PLCs Basic, Induction

Motor, Transformer and many more. As it has been noticed that courses offered not only target just one branch of engineering but encompass all the streams of engineering such as computer science, Electronics and Communication, Mechanical, Info science, Instrumentation and technology.

2. CHALLENGES IN DIGITAL LEARNING

The first challenge was to access the students access to Internet connectivity. Specially, the students hailing from rural areas and backward areas. The students were expected to have a smart phone and laptop with 4G connectivity to enable streaming of the live teaching and learning. The second challenge was to have good internet connectivity even in urban areas to avoid buffering and lagging of the live stream, this can happen when Internet connection speed is inadequate to accommodate the encoder's bitrate or if there is excess load on the server which will make the application to crash. The third challenge is the live streaming focuses only on the theoretical imparting of the subjects without actual use of the laboratory, as technical education



is more important factor to practical oriented.challenges to students.

From the students point of view the challenges were, the students had to leave the hostel and PGs immediately due to lock down and they could not carry their textbooks and laptops to their native and as such it was not possible for them to take part in the e- learning. The final year student's are worried and are anxious to know if they will have an extension of the current semester due to which there joining dates for companies are extending. Students who are planning to take admission in foreign universities and Organization and who want to pursue their higher education in India are worried that due to this lockdown they might have to lose one year.I have been also counseling the students to in still confidence in them.

3. OUTCOME OF E-LEARNING AND CHALLENGES OF E- LEARNING

The online learning process initiated by the lock down (because covid 19 in pandemic situation) on a large scale is not just platform for the students but we saw a greater platforms for the faculty as well offering many short- term certificate courses.There are many Organizations and higher education and online platforms which have been offering Various development course s to the different faculties as well. The teaching faculties are making use of this Lock down to lupgrade their knowledge by enrolling themselves in various faculty development programs offered by ATAL,NPTEL and MOOC. Many IITs are offering two weeks long online faculty development programs/ courses which are a boon to the teachers the faculties have been upgrading themselves from the various online courses conducted by IITs or other Institutions sectors and a good knowledge exchange process has been initiated which otherwise would have not been able or possible in the absence of the online platform.

CONCLUSION

In Challenges to conclude, the students have accepted the online teachings and learning more important to other courses with open heart.They are really happy that Institutions are putting efforts to keep the curriculum on track amidst the lock down period,on top of All the issues and against the back drop of these situations challenges.The Online education is " not a substitute but an appendage to class room teaching and learning also other methodologies. It is temporary aid during the different situation that we are facing."

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