A NEW NORMAL? ONLINE EDUCATION IS HERE TO STAY

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We have all committed to, or immediately enforced several behavioural modifications or changes to help keep us protected during this time of unprecedented global crisis, and severely mismanaged international public health crisis. As we propel forward, months deep into lockdowns and curfews it is time to start asking ourselves, is this the new normal? The rapid boost that the Coronavirus pandemic has given to the online education sector, has made it a market sector harder to ignore, hence we are faced with the question of what will learning look like in the immediate future?

Why we cant open physical learning institutions (Schools, Colleges and Universities)? Despite its apparent drawbacks, such as lack of interaction, severe academic risks, and disparity in education received because of socio-economic status, Online education has suddenly felt an ache to innovate and increase their reach to potential customers. EdTech companies are now setting up focus groups, and are not only just focusing on content, quality of content, and amount of content, but interaction, design critical thinking and in some cases the mental health of their students. This upsurge in momentum will not fizzle out soon.

An obvious expected benefit that is derived from online education is remote learning in terms of geography is more accessible, however, high-speed internet fidelity remains a real barrier for far too many.

If online education methods are improved, and best practices evolve it will be exceedingly beneficial to differently-abled students, and those who cannot access the premises of the educational institutions, if developed in the right way, Online education can make education more accessible. However, we must keep in mind, that is a privilege to be able to study at home, over the internet.

As we move forward and see key reforms in the digital learning space, it will be recent to see what way this trend takes.