

The Challenges of Online Education- A New Pedagogy in the Running Phase of COVID-19 Specifically in the Context of the Indian Education System

Meenakshi Joshi

The Year 2020 does not seem to be as people were expecting. It has given us shocking experience nothing good happened except people learn how to live in minimum resources as we and our ancestors used to live in the past. Since January we have been receiving the news which nobody likes to hear whether it may be the fire in the Amazon forest in Australia or the spread of the Coronavirus originated from china and spread all over the world or thunderstorm it has not stopped yet. The new incident is the Coming of Nisrga storm or the Locts attack. It seems like nature doesn't want us to fit in her paradise place as humans left no stone unturned to make this place purgatory. Not a place to live in. So life on earth has been stopped completely. Wheels of buses, trains, and aircraft have been stopped. People are lockdown at their homes. They have to stay at home to keep themselves safe (ironical situation as we kept animals in cages). The main objective of the paper is to examine the online education specifically in the COVID-19 period. It presents both the aspect positive and negative to keep in mind the future of the coming generation as well as to also keep the more important value education. Moral values are degrading day by day among students which are also a serious aspect to concern. Education is worthless if it leads people to barbarism inhuman conduct than we should think where we are progressing. In an article written by A Nagarajraj Subbarao for the Business World Education, he writes, "Tens of thousands of students are glued to computers and smart phones screens as teachers and students enter a new world of virtual lectures, tutorials, and assessments. Though e-learning poses a challenge to both students and teachers over technology and access, it is keeping everyone busy with lectures, worksheets, and assignments." (Subbarao)

The drastic effects of COVID 19 on the education system are the most prominent idea or thought all over the world is the core area of discussion. World wide spread of COVID -19 viruses and lockdown due to this pandemic has given a break to every area in which education is one of the most affected areas we can count. Whether it is school education or higher education To keep in mind the safety measures of student schools and colleges are completely closed. Now parents, teachers, and administration are finding ways of distancing education to maintain the clause of social distancing. The only option was the online classes. Scholl and colleges were under pressure to conduct classes as they have to justify the bulk fees they demand from the parents on the cost of providing infrastructure. . In an interview to *The Week* D.P. Singh chairman, University Grants Commission he says, "Ever since Campuses closed in March, face to face teaching-learning evaluation and field laboratory-based research activities have come to a halt and technology-enabled academic activities have been initiated." (Dikshit)

The race of online classes started and teachers, students, and parents are somehow managing and coping with the new teaching techniques in present circumstances. Many of us were not prepared for this either student or teachers. Smart phones became the savior for those who were not having laptops, desktop and internet facility, they could have managed somehow to give an online lecture and students have attended lectures with the help of them. There are some practical problems with this system as many senior teachers who were not updated themselves facing difficulties to cope up with the new normal. From the ages they used to teach with the same methods faced many problems. Now we come to online classes and its pros and cons. In India still, in the 21st century, we are stuck with our quite old gadgets that don't support 3g and 4g. Most of the people do not own a laptop or even a desktop. Internet access indeed has to improve a lot in our country. The same problem with the students also they were facing. And after this much struggle, many parents have criticized the efforts put by teachers. Apart from technical issues, the biggest question on online classes is the efficacy of learning. Either you are sending recorded lectures or giving online lectures, the question is, whether a student listening to the lecture attentively or not. Supporters can say that the same problem can be in the real class also. But in offline class teachers have control over the classes and they can vary or flip their teaching methods to interactive or can add activities also. Teachers can take feedback also immediately in classes so they can mold the content as per the needs and level of understanding of students. One more problem with the online lectures is practical learning which is again very important until and unless students cannot perform it practically there is no learning by their side. Only the thematic study is not sufficient. Students who take online degrees from distance education and those who take a degree from the regular course may vary on the performance basis on the work front. Research can say that students who take a degree after doing the regular course are more confident than a student of an online degree holder. In an interview with *The Week*, D.P. Singh chairman, University Grants Commission says that “As India has a diverse set of educational institutions located in different parts of the country, ranging from metros to tribal areas, Indian universities and colleges are still evolving various innovative delivery systems of education, including technology-enabled solutions.” (Dikshit)

There are some minor things also but important to notify here is privacy. Your data can be stolen through online fraud. Cyber security is not enough because everywhere you log in your mail id password can be easily hacked. Your data can be easily hacked. A bond between a guru and shishya swift the path of learning. A teacher teaches every student as per his or her learning capacity. In our Vedas, we have given a different space to guru. Many proverbs are written for a guru. ‘*Guru Bin Gyan Adhura*’ or *Guru Govind Dou Khade Kake lagun Pav, Balihari Guru Aapki Govind Diyo Batye*. So guru is pujniya as per our old rituals and only he or she can have that power of knowledge and education to give a fine shape to his shishya. And it is not an exaggeration. A teacher always works for the betterment of the future of his student. That bond and connection can be developed only through offline education. The impact of it also has its worst effect on students' mental and physical health. It weakens the student's eyesight due to a lot of pressure and a long time of screen time. There is no physical activity due to which students might not get that much fitness. Online classes or recorded lecture also has its benefits.

The most important virtue in this period is, it fulfills the norms of social distancing which is the demand of time as it is the essential topmost priority of the safety of students' staff. It ensures safety as well as learning. It saves not only the time of students traveling to their college or students but also their energy that they can utilize to learn many new things like music lessons or it can be learning a new language. Students can prioritize their learning according to their interests. They have the freedom to choose their lessons to listen and learn at any time. Though Physical. In an article written by A Nagarajraj Subbarao for the Business World Education, he writes in favor of online Competency-Based Learning:

Competency-based learning allows a student to attain transferable skills and competencies. Such teaching is learner-focused. The important aspect that every student has a different learning style and level of engagement usually go unaddressed in regular offline classes where many students hesitate in interacting with the teacher due to peer competition or domineering in the class. The online classes offer flexibility and the ability for students to drive the learning of a competency. (Subbarao)

Post-COVID effects on children are diverse. The batches of 2020 either pass out from schools or colleges are in dilemma in the present condition. The course which they want to opt in the future is not decided yet they are not able to make a decision right now which university they are going to join. The carrier options are changed now. People find the local options are better now. There is slack in almost every industry. The education, tourism, and hotel industry which used to be on the safest mode are suffering the most in the present condition. Though many online platforms are open now where students can join the short term courses and benefit from it like SWAYAM platform where more than a thousand courses are available to cover many fields from humanities to science. Developing skills and enhancement is necessary to grow in the carrier in this tuff period. Online education provides the opportunity to up skill yourself. It is a time of interdisciplinary and versatility. It is not surprising if an MBA student with a specialization in HR doing an online course in data analytics to expand his skills and vice versa. We need to set this right when we criticize online education. It can be a blessing in disguise that we can do it correctly by redressing the shortcomings of the past. M Jagdish Kumar writes in his opinion about online education, "When we shift to online education, more attention needs to be paid to how we impart it. Online education can happen in two parts. First, at their leisure and pace, students will go through the digital resources made available to them. Second students can interact with the teachers in real-time live online classes." (Kumar)

So technology can not be a replacement for a teacher. It can be an aid or a tool for better learning and giving effective results to students and fasten the learning and speed of learning to make students able to face the competitive world. But still, every student has their own pace and a teacher can understand it only not even parents.

REFERENCES

- Dikshit, Rekha, “We have to be pragmatic about opening campuses”, <https://www.theweek.in/theweek/cover> Accessed date ,16.07.2020
- Kumar. Jagdesh, “It is time to move India’s higher education Online” www.hindustantimes.com. Accessed on 18 Sept. 2020
- Subbarao, Nagaraj Shrinivas, “Seven reasons why students should be part of online classes during lockdown”, <http://bweducation.businessworld.in/article/>Accessed 25-05-2020.