IMPACT, CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN TEACHING LEARNING PROCESS DURING COVID-19

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ABSTRACT-

When the COVID-19 pandemic was suddenly rising, countries were forced to implement the lockdown on people. As the lockdown time was increasing, the need to maintain the education system was also uprising. It was sudden and unexpected. Nobody was entirely prepared for the situation as it was worsen day-by-day. The online teaching learning is not new term. Everyone uses for different learning purpose on their own convenience. It was not mandatory. In India, the offline learning process is still very popular. Most of the students are not equipped with the resources needed for the online leaning. This paper will discuss the impacts of COVID-19 on the education system, the challenges face by the students and teachers. It will also make a light on the opportunities comes with it.

INTRODUCTION

The education system is very important for the growth of the individual, country. But when COVID-19 spread in the entire world and there was no option other than isolate people at their home for getting infected. The entire education system was staggered. The extension of the lockdown made the educators to create and follow alternative system with minimum human interaction. Gradually this new system was adapting in many area[6].

IMPACT OF COVID-19

There is various teaching learning methods exist for different pedagogies. Direct interaction between teacher and student always consider as best option. In the direct interaction, the educators can choose, implement and change the teaching methods as per the group of the student present in the class. The educator can directly analyze the student perception of different group and use different methods to make it easier for the student to learn. In higher education, the teacher mainly plays a role of facilitator to students who provide the direction to the learner via various methods [6].

But aftermath of the COVID-19, the educators need to find the alternative path for the learning process to keep the students in track. The online classes become the mandatory to the student so that the development of the students does not affect due to this pandemic. Now online classes become a backbone of the teaching learning process. The face-to-face interaction replace with virtual interaction via various applications such as Zoom, GOOGLE MEET, YouTube etc[1].

The online course does exist pre-COVID era but there is a big gap between it. The students who registered themselves for the online courses/classes; they knew about the required resources needed to attend the respective class or courses. It is responsibilities of the enrolled students to arrange the required resources and also complete the task or assignments on time given by the instructor or educators.

But Post-COVID, the digital education system needs to implement to proper education. As the time for the lockdown was increasing, the Govt. of India makes its mandatory for the teachers to take classes digitally. The educators need to opt from different methods to reach the students. The educators also have to ensure that they connect with the each of their students. This is the main limitation the educator faced during this period. There are various obstacles to connect with students.

In India, All students are not well equipped with the resources required for digital class. The internet connection and smart devices such that smart mobile phone or desktop or laptop is the backbone of the internet class. But, the internet connection is not consistent in the rural part as compare to urban area. Secondly, the smart devices are not available to each student. The house mobile phone is used to share for the classes. Thirdly, the socio-economic difference, the students belongs to different group and different economical class.

For online classes the educator needs to connect with the students. But it is not possible to connect with online classes for the student who does not even have smart phone. So the educator need to share the study material via different methods such as whatsapp, email, text messages, Google classroom, Learning management system etc. The educator cannot only depend on the virtual class to connect with the students [9].

The Govt. of India also launched various program for digital classes on DTH channel, YouTube channel etc. to avail the lectures on TV, YouTube channel etc. the students time table for the lecture was displayed on the website and shared by teachers to students.

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

When the online classes were implemented, the main problem was faced by the educator to connect with all the students digitally. Mainly in higher education, students go to internet café to fill the form for the fresh admission. Most of the students use their parents, sibling's mobile number to register. So, the mobile number was not personal and sometimes it was changed. Additionally, as the new regulations of the mobile number validity, the number was out of reach or unavailable or not valid. The mobile number was not recharged. It was very hectic to connect with students via mobile number.

Another biggest obstacle was the availability of the hardware such as mobile phone, smart phone, laptop and, desktop and so on. Not all students having their personal devices to attend the classes. The resources were shared with the other family members for their classes, work from home and so on. the time for the classes were needed to adjust according to the large group of student. The study material was also adjusted accordingly.

Initially the students took classes very enthusiastically. The student was excited and interested to attend classes as it was new to them. But with the time passes, there was new problems arise. Due to poor network connectivity, the lectures were not perceived as it should be. The quality of voice and screen share is changing as per the network connection. The external environment problems make loose the students' interest in the online classes. In the offline classes, the teachers can change the way of teaching, as student's reaction are directly notice by the educator. But it is not possible in digital platform [3].

After overcome the challenge to connect with students, there was a new problem arises. The students having siblings have classes at the same time. On the other hand, the students using parents' phone was unable to attend class due to their schedule. The timing need to adjust accordingly as well.

The teachers need to connect with the student digitally. Now the educators can reach student much easily as compare to regular classes. The parents and guardian also took care of the students seriously. At home students were in comfortable environment. They can focus and maintain their time at their own pace. The study material can be use anytime, anywhere. They can sit at their comfortable space and listen to lecture at their own understanding. It was a great opportunities for them[4]. The student prefers self study as compare to group study. Online lecture favors that student. On digital world, they can read on their own. During this period, the learner also learns time management for the study and personal as well family time.. They can make their own notes for future use.

The educator can create, arrange the study material. It can be reused in future also. The online classes make a close connection the technology. The feedback of the students can also be analyzed efficiently. It provides the educators to manage the classes digitally.

DISCUSSION

The digital world is always bringing new opportunities in the various eras. The educators have to keep up the technology to make a connection with the student. They need to aware all the necessary ways to reach understand and connect with student. It is very important to know the mindset of the learner so that the educator can change its ways to teach them. The entire teaching world is directly attached with the mind, way of thinking, perceiving power of the students. The education system always reflect on the same for the successfully educate the learner.

FUTURE SCOPE

Post COVID, The new-normal life will be continued with some safety measure. All the daily life activities will resume as the COVID-19 will be under control. Post COVID-19, the educator should provide the support to students who faced various socio-economical challenges in their life. The mental health should observe for the healthy life style after the lock down period. The learner should also be able to focus face-to-face classes. In the lockdown, it may be possible that

learner will hesitate to communicate with classmates, teachers etc i.e. as post lockdown side effects. The educator needs to create and maintain environment for learner to feel comfort, learn, study and communicate with each other.

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