Perceived Benefits and Challenges regarding Online Teaching Strategies among the Students in Relation to COVID-19 Pandemic: A Review

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Abstract: *The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic has bought many changes to the education sector world wide. It has resulted in shut down of all the educational institutions across the globe. As a consequence, education impartment has changed dramatically, with the rise in e – learning, whereby teaching has been undertaken on digital platforms. While countries are at different points in their COVID-19 transmission rates, worldwide there are currently more than 1.2 billion children in 186 countries affected by school closures due to the pandemic. With this sudden lockdown in many parts of the globe, some are wondering whether the adoption of online learning will continue to persist post pandemic, and how such a shift would impact the worldwide education market. In response to significant demand, many online learning platforms are offering free access to their services. There are , however, challenges to overcome. Some students without reliable internet access and /or technology struggle to participate in digital learning. This gap is seen across countries with lower socio- economic status. This has also result in feeling of emotional insecurity among the students who cannot gain access through the digital platform to gain education.*

Keywords: Benefits, Challenges, Online teaching, COVID-19

1. Introduction

Online teaching typically refers to courses that are delivered completely online, meaning there are no physical or on-campus class sessions. Though online courses offer a great many benefits, they are not right for every student. Few students simply learn better in a collaborative setting than they do on their own. The COVID-19 has resulted in shut down of all the educational institutions across the world. Globally, over 1.2 billion children are out of the classroom. As a result, education has changed dramatically, with the distinctive rise of e – learning, whereby teaching is undertaken remotely and on digital platforms.

2. Materials, Methods and results

A study was conducted by D. Markus and A. Girik in the Universitas Kristen Indonesia in April, 2020 to investigate the learner's perception on online learning in the midst of a COVID-19 pandemic through qualitative research approach. The instrument used was semi- structured interview technique. The researcher interviewed the learners by calling them by using whatsapp application and thematic analysis was done. The study showed that the laerner's perception on online learning reveals that it is good in the midst of COVID-19 pandemic.They perceived online learning as very much helpful. They also spotted light on the availability of internet access, financial issue and online learning implementation.

Burgess Simon, Sievertsen from the University of Bristol conducted a study on the impact of COVID-19 on the education system on the 1ˢᵗ of April, 2020. They revealed that the global lock down of education institutions has caused major interruption in students learning, disruptions in internal assessments, they stated that teaching is moving online as well as students assessments too. They came with a solution that schools need resources to rebuild the loss in

learning, once they open again. Schools should consider postponing assessments for learning rather than skipping internal assessments. For the new graduates, policies should support their entry to the labour market to avoid longer unemployment periods.

Another study was done by Mahajan M V and R Kalpana on the students perception about e- learning in Tamil Nadu, India in ovtober,2018. A quantitative approach was undertaken with a structured questionnaire (18 close and 5 open ended)were used for data collection and it was presented to 150 sample of M.B.B.S second year, which falls under the age group og 19-21 years of different socio economic and demographic backgrounds. Results revealed that 90% students used internet daily.78% of males and 92% of females have an idea about e – learning. 58% of males and 49% of females uses various forms like emails, chat, blogs, videoconferencing, whatsapp to communicate with their faculties. 98% agree to find e- learning useful and out of that 86% males and 94% females are motivated to use it. 81% males and 88% females find e learning to be of interactive mode. Implementing e – learning would improve performance in 99% students with 74% males and 53% females indicating better understanding of the course. Out of this, 38% agree e- learning is disadvantageous as it will replace faculties as they are comfortable with the traditional teaching style.

Due to the lockdown Government of Assam has launched different methods of technology which were tried and tested by teachers, students and institutions in this phase to minimize the loss of learning experience, especially the studies of curricula. To replace the physical classrooms with an online mode of teaching and learning Government of India has launched MyGovAssam application to make it feasible and east accessibility for the students.

Kamini Vidisha, co founder of Acadru revealed three major educational problems faced by students and educators due to the covid-19 pandemic. She stated that Students do not have a result because exams either did not happen or were left in the middle, and many of them face uncertainty as to their future because their next steps further on further education or careers are dependent upon them clearing their school or college leaving exams. She further states that in the absence of hard academic indicators such as grades and marks , many of the students find themselves in a situation where they are unable to differentiate themselves and lack a cohesive framework to get themselves ready for the jobs and education tasks they face next. Further she reveals that in response to the covid-19 scare, many schools have moved online and parents seemed to have assumed the role of teachers and are fast becoming savvy with resources created for home schoolers to cause minimal disruption to their children's education.

3. Conclusion

Due to the COVID -19 pandemic and subsequent lockdown, the online teaching and learning strategies has become more prevalent. Live classroom instructions, simulation labs, and clinical experiences in the field of nursing are few of traditional teaching methods, which were not possible since the breakdown of COVID -19 pandemic. Students can find access through various electronic applications such as AUDIO VIDEO CONFERENCING APPLICATIONS like: Zoom, Webex, Skype, Youtube, emails, whatsapp, Google classroom etc. Many students may not have access to such applications due to internet barrier, financial crisis, or deficit knowledge regarding the usage. So far very few studies have been conducted among the nursing students regarding the online teaching learning methods. Though class room teaching can never be replaced by online teaching, but by switching on to such, during such crisis, we can see a new evolution in the teaching learning process which will boost up the student both technically and intellectually.

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