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IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON INDIAN HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM.

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ABSTRACT

The world is fighting COVID-19, and economies all around the world have declared a state of emergency. Work from home (WFH) has grown commonplace, particularly in service industries. Academic institutions were forced to close temporarily as a result of government orders, disrupting academic delivery. As a result, they needed to find new ways to provide academic content, and virtual classes were the way to go. Colleges and universities have quickly converted their courses to remote and online versions as the advent of COVID-19 has forced them to close their physical campuses. As a result, many people are wondering what effect this period of time will have on online learning in higher education. The present paper is an attempt to study the impact of Covid-19 on teaching –learning process in educational institutions. It is found that there is a gradual shift from traditional method to e-learning method.

INTRODUCTION

The pandemic of the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) has significantly disrupted on every aspect of human life. Alarm bells are ringing in the education sector as the COVID19 spreads around the world. The Covid-19 pandemic has forced schools and colleges to close for the time being, wreaking havoc on the educational sector. According to a UNESCO assessment, the shutdown of educational facilities owing to the coronavirus has harmed more than 157 crore children in 191 countries. The COVID-19 and its implications for higher education have been a hot topic of discussion around the world. In many nations throughout the world, closing institutions and cancelling classes has become a COVID-19 reality, causing immense fear and uncertainty. The transition to online education has ensured that students do not miss any classes and that their progress is monitored and evaluated on a regular basis. It is likely a first for India to experiment with education and make a paradigm shift to the virtual world, combining classrooms with online learning. Students will be able to learn more creatively by combining education and technology and establishing a collaborative plan to move forward while offering online lectures. Universities are encouraging students to learn by choice rather than by their actual presence in a classroom by deploying innovative technologies to improve syllabus memory.

Research Methodology

Present study is based on Descriptive Research. Present research work is set to study following objectives.

1. To study the impact of COVID 19 in higher education in India.

2. To understand Challenges and Opportunities in higher education in India

Digital Transformation of Education System

Educational institutes, corporate houses, data management approaches, and online education solutions have all been compelled to operate in unison as a result of the lockdown's increased use of digital technology. Many educational institutions see now as a good opportunity to experiment with and use new technologies. Technology is being used to make education more accessible and meaningful. In order to keep the crisis from stifling the economy, Curriculum, as well as digital transformation, has become the new standard at educational institutions across the country.

Change in teaching and learning approach

The deployment of technology in education has resulted in an extraordinary shift from teacher-centric to student-centric education as a result of Covid 19. Virtual classrooms and various online tools are assisting in the continuation and enhancement of teacher-student engagement as near to that of a traditional classroom as possible. Smart classrooms will enable anything from teacher and parent meetings to staff/management meetings in the future, by providing the essential interactivity.

Today's virtual classrooms and numerous online tools enable us to bring the teacher-student interaction as near to a real, in-classroom experience as feasible.

Use of e-learning platforms

Apart from government-sponsored resources, there are interactive e-learning platforms such as ZOOM, Google Meet, and Webex that may be accessible from the comfort of one's own home. Educators can use these platforms to establish online classes in which they can store course materials, manage assignments, quizzes, and examinations, track due dates, grade results, and provide feedback to students all in one location. Faculty and students can also use Skype, WhatsApp, Google Hangouts, and other comparable e-resources to conduct video/audio conferencing for course-related discussions. Screen recording films are available in a variety of formats, including Screen Hunter, Camtasia screen recorder, Windows screen recorder, and others. Teachers can create tutorial videos with these resources.

Opportunities in Covid 19

Rise in Blended Learning

All the educational institutions shifted to the blended learning mode from traditional learning. Every teacher has become more technology savvy and go through some training to bring themselves to the required level. New method of technology adopted which opens and immense opportunities for a major transformation in the area of education.

Learning management systems to be the new norm. More opportunities for the companies to develop and strengthening learning management systems for use by educational institutions.

Improvement in learning material

Educational institutions have great opportunities to improve the quality of the learning material that is used in the teaching and learning process.

Challenges in Higher Education

The midnight transition:

The pandemic situation forced the educational institutions to evolve the teaching methodologies from traditional method of

learning to e-learning platforms almost overnight. Each and every house has turned into an educational institution for their learnings. There was an increase in the usage of electronic gadgets and internet.

Educational institutions must train the students to be more adaptable in the e-learning method, which improves the skills like creativity, collaborations, continuous learning. At the same time, daily assignments and interactive sessions will be conducted.

Changing Role of Educators:
In the classroom, a teacher can assess student engagement based on their behavior and change the delivery of a lecture accordingly. However, such advantages do not present in a virtual platform. Educators must adjust to avoid becoming their Achilles Heel as a result of such flaws. 'When things go digital, everything that can be measured will be measured!' as Seth Godin once correctly stated. Educators' ability to effectively disseminate knowledge is being scrutinized more than ever before. Educators must be trained on a regular basis to ensure that their efforts are optimized to benefit pupils. Gaining regular feedback on their lecture delivery, conducting frequent evaluations to determine the success of student learning, and interacting with students through technology-based media are all important criteria that any educator should consider. Today's instructors can reach a worldwide audience thanks to virtual channels.

eLearning platforms:
Institutions must swiftly narrow down the eLearning platforms that best meet their requirements. In recent months, ZOOM has experienced amazing personalization and growth in the EdTech industry. Since the early 2000s, Learning Management Systems have been a part of the student learning process. Our pupils have been able to transfer smoothly into the eLearning phase as a result of this. In addition, the number of students pursuing online certificates to boost their resumes has increased in recent months.

CONCLUSION
The post-Covid-19 era presents a chance to change higher education. Institutes and universities should take advantage of this opportunity to transform. Curriculum development, collaborations, skill development, and faculty participation should all be geared toward internationalizing higher education.

In addition, it is an excellent time to strengthen online education in order to be prepared for future pandemics. With the active participation of professors, the entire educational system must undergo adjustments. In the middle of a crisis, the extensive use of technology in teaching will usher in a new era in education, where students will have access to the top instructors from across the world. Faculty quality, IT infrastructure quality, and faculty familiarity with digital instructional technology are all crucial characteristics to consider in the future. "The consequences of COVID-19 will linger for years, if not decades." Significantly more students will be able to attend lessons from home as the new normal. While this trend was already on the rise, COVID-19 will give it a significant boost.

Students in virtual classrooms will find that their learning experience is comparable to, if not superior to, that of students in traditional classrooms. The capacity of virtual classrooms to deliver an infinite number of courses to students' doorsteps is a hugely transformational feature.

COVID-19 has struck our educational system like a bolt of lightning, shaking it to its foundations.

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