E-LEARNING DURING PANDEMIC

HUMA B
Assistant Professor
Future Group of Institution, Bareilly

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this paper is to understand the role of e- learning during pandemic. This lockdown has changed the role of teachers, teaching and learning process, student engagement in learning all over the world. Lockdown period has created a state of cognitive dissonance in teachers and students mind for situations they faced during their day to day teaching-learning. COVID-19 has created the revolution all over the world. Almost all the institutions were running on offline mode of learning and there are many obstacles towards adapting virtual engagement of students. Due to the situation of shut down this is becoming necessary to adopt e-learning mode for learning. This is for the first time in India, schools have moved towards online classrooms. It is a struggle for parents, teachers as well as students to deal with this pandemic crisis.

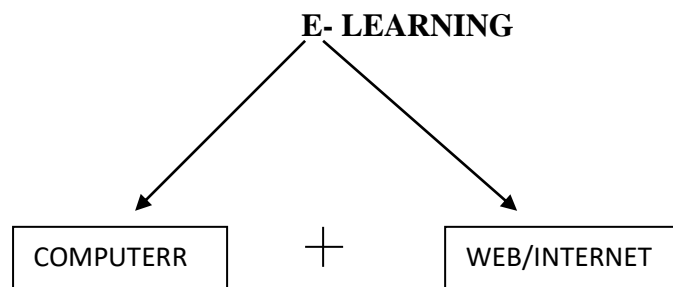**KEYWORDS**- Pandemic, COVID-19, Lockdown, Teaching, Learning, e-learning

INTRODUCTION

Whole world is now in pandemic situation and fighting against problems. COVID 19 lockdown affects education sector also and all the countries have closed down school, colleges and universities for the safety purpose. All this affects studies a lot and to overcome from these affects, the educators, faculty, students are doing best on their behalf. This is the time to rethink and reflect on the education sector. Teachers are the next level of COVID 19 warriors, fighting for the nation and shaping future of tomorrow. Teachers are working on various aspects of e-learning.

E-LEARNING

E-Learning is Electronic learning. E-Learning is learning conducted through electronic media, typically on the internet. It is the use of Information and Computer Technologies to create the learning experiences. It is a kind of learning that is delivered, enabled using electronic technology for the explicit purpose of learning or training.

It is a best way for utilising electronic Technologies to access educational curriculum outside a traditional classroom. E-Learning is a flexible term used to describe means of teaching through technology.

E- LEARNING

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        COMPUTERR    +    WEB/INTERNET
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E-Learning is the combination of computer or a computer network. It is one solution for students who have problem of distance from their house to the school.

DEFINITION OF E-LEARNING

"E-Learning is the use of Information and Computer Technologies to create the learning experience."

- Horton, (2006)

"E-learning is defined as learning facilitated by the use of digital tools and content that involves some form of interactivity, which may include online interaction between the learner and their teacher or peers."

-(Ministry of Communication and Technology of New Zealand, 2008)

On the basis of above definition it can be said that e-learning or electronic learning is considered an umbrella term that define education using electronic devices.

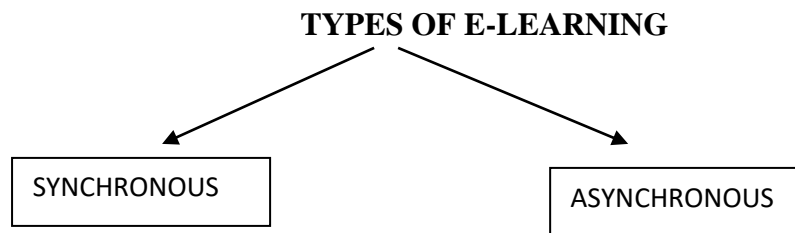### IMPORTANCE OF E-LEARNING DURING COVID-19 LOCKDOWN

"Never stop learning: for when we stop learning we stop growing"

The covid-19 crisis May change our Global outlook, it teach us how education needs to change. During this lock down students are losing valuable time of their education because of this situation in which all institutions are shut down. All over the world, educators are experiencing new possibilities to do things differently and with more flexibility. Most of the Institutions opted the idea of online learning in place of offline learning instead of wasting time due to the delay in reopening of educational institutions. Someone has rightly stated that "learning should never stop even at the time of crisis". E- Learning plays a vital role and has kept the learning process intact even at this time.

Following are the reason why e- learning becomes important during pandemic period:

- **To reduce the gap between online and offline learning-** When students and teachers are facing a barrier of social distancing, ICT has reduced this barrier with the help of so many digital and online tools. Students can be in constant touch with their teachers with the help of online classes conducted through Skype, Zoom, Google Hangouts, Google classroom etc.

- **Easily accessible-** During covid-19 lockdown where everyone should have to follow social distancing. Attending online classes is as simple as opening up computer or tablet unlike physical classes. Students can see recorded session of the class also.

- **Global connectivity –** E- Learning do not need institution boundary. Here people connect to themselves around the globe. Learners can access to the libraries of various countries, can join different educational groups. E- Learning breaks all boundaries and provides an unlimited treasure of knowledge to the users.

- **Easy access to resources-** With the help of e-Learning fast access to the educational resources can be done easily. Students can access to many e-books, e-journals, portals etc. within minutes from their home. Many online classes are also running to provide resources to the learners during crises.

- **Free online learning platforms-** Many online learning platforms are offering free access to their services, including platforms like BYJU's, SWAYAM, MOOC, Zoom, Google Hangouts, Skype meet up, Google classrooms, YouTube etc. Students can learn many things with the help of these platforms. These platforms are becoming very useful for teaching learning to make best use of covid-19 lockdown period.

- **Social distancing can be exercised-** Due to the regulation of social distancing it is not possible for students to attend the schools. Online classes and e- learning content can provide the same quality of education in the comfort of their homes. So, as to secure their future. Lecture sessions can be conducted by keeping in mind social distancing with the help of e- learning.

- **Less expensive-** There are number of courses and resources which are available free of cost during covid-19 lockdown. So that students can get benefit of these resources easily. A number of webinars and seminars are organising without any cost.

- **Easy interaction-** students and teachers can interact with each other easily, without any physical interaction. Students can ask their queries at any time with their teachers. Teachers are able to take lectures online and can upload their lectures.

- **Flexibility-** E- Learning allows the learner to learn at their convenience. Learners can learn material anytime anywhere. Learner can have recorded session of lectures which they can see afterwards.

- **Quick up gradation of course material-** With the help of e- learning a teacher can update study material faster than any other mode. A teacher can use laptops, cell phones to record their audio-video and upload them on e- learning platforms. If they face any problem regarding uploading then helping videos are also available online. They can take help from these videos and may know how to upload videos.

- **Covers a large number of learners at a time-** With the help of e-Learning a teacher can cover a large number of students comparatively at low cost. By creating Webinar, Zoom classrooms etc. large number of audience can be cover up.

TYPES OF E-LEARNING

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          TYPES OF E-LEARNING
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    │ SYNCHRONOUS  │   │ ASYNCHRONOUS │
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Synchronous e-Learning is the kind of learning that happens in the real time i.e. connected with live program. Methods of synchronous learning include video conferencing, teleconferencing, live streaming lectures etc.

Asynchronous e-Learning is that type of e-Learning in which it is not necessary for the participants to present online at the same time. Here the learner can see the recorded lectures anytime anywhere. Here learners are not time bound. Methods of asynchronous e- learning include streaming video content, virtual libraries, post lecture notes etc.

PROMOTION OF E-LEARNING DURING COVID-19 LOCKDOWN-

"The starting point of all achievement is desire"

E- Learning programs have been considered as appropriate crisis response measures. In many countries, teachers are encouraged to continue the communication with learners by delivering live lessons or Massive Online Open Courses (MOOC). MHRD, India, has launched various digital learning platforms to promote learning through digital platforms. One of these platform is **Diksha** that has more than 80000 e-books for class 1 to 12 by CBSE, NCERT, states and union territory. Another platform is **e-pathshala**, which have a collection of around 1886 audios, 2000 videos, 696 e-books. PM eVidya program is also an initiative to promote online classes for 1 to 12th standard. BYJU'S registered 6 mn new students accessing free lessons on its platform. Unacademy recorded 1.4bn free users engagement. Other educational Institutions resorted by various platforms like Zoom, Skype, WhatsApp, e-mail etc.

"This Is An Opportunity To Save The World Sitting At Home. Take It"

CHALLENGES IN E- LEARNING DURING PANDEMIC PERIOD-

The fear of poor quality online teaching learning and the hesitation of the teachers to use online portals is the big problem of e-learning now a days. The shutdown of educational institutions creating many problems in teaching-learning process. However there is a need to adopt innovative methods to interact with the students. But there are many challenges to implement this. Due to this shutdown the structure of schooling, learning, teaching, and assessment methodologies was the first to be affected. Some schools and Institutions opted online teaching learning system but some students reported that home learning program are becoming more stressful in comparison to regular classroom. Many students are in the opinion that workload of online classes is larger than regular classes. Some students lack the devices and internet access and are not able to participate in online classes. Although who are having data packages are not capable of supporting video calls on program such as Zoom.

Lack of digital literacy- Most of the people are digitally illiterate. Specially the people of rural areas are not techno Savvy and are unable to understand the features of digital devices.

E- LEARNING AND POST COVID-19 EDUCATION

"The classroom with all its limitations, remain a location of great possibilities".

Face to face classes shifted to online learning systems because of shutdown of educational institutions due to covid-19. But it is difficult to predict about educational landscape look after covid-19. Post covid-19 is an opportunity for the educational institution, utilise this opportunity to transform itself. They should focus on curriculum design, collaborations, skill development and faculty involvement. Today it is, Covid-19 lockdown..... We do not know what will be the situation ahead in future.

Following points must be keep in mind to face the situation-

- **Fill the gap of Technology-** There is a need to provide access of technology to all learners, especially to the village learners. As peoples of rural areas have a fear of using digital devices and this fear should be removed to reduce the gap of technology.

- **Train the teachers-** To train teachers is becoming very necessary for creating an online learning environment. A teacher must know how to use Zoom, Skype, Telegram, Teleconferencing etc. Proper training must be given to the teachers to make them aware of digital devices. Teachers must know how to take lectures online, how to organise webinars, web- posium etc.

- **Aware students-** Not only training of teachers is necessary but to aware students is also an important part. If the students are not aware of using digital platforms then training of teachers will be useless. So, make students aware of using digital learning platforms.

- **Unlocking the technology-** During this COVID 19 crisis, it is very important to make best use of technology.

Let us take advantage of the pandemic period and provide children to realise the dream of

EK BHARAT SHRESHTHA BHARAT

CONCLUSION

COVID-19 lockdown resulted in educational institutions shut all across the World. It has created the revolution for educational institutions, as there are lots of obstacles in teaching towards adapting to technology during covid-19 crisis. Hence, the Teacher's adopted online learning system to overcome from the loss of studies. Online learning under pandemic period spread as a pathway to an emergency response. It is important to make aware of every teacher, students and parents about the need of e- learning.

"Keep Learning because Knowledge is the Key to Power".

"Help yourself and help others"

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