Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on education, Rise of Online Teaching Learning process & Effects on Health of kids.

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Abstract

Background: One of the immediate effects of CORONA VIRUS Outbreak, education system took a toll and most of the schools and colleges shifted to online studies. Platforms used to teach or take classes drastically took 360 degrees turn and hence many software apps and online companies came to rescue. But is this kind of Education a boon or Ban for our kids?

Key words:
Online education, Physical health, Mental health, Computer Vision syndrome, Learning outcomes.

Introduction

WHO special envoy has urged us to "respect the virus" and "learn to live in a World of Corona". But, as an educator and education researcher, I am wondering what will it mean for all of us to "respect the virus" and "live in a world of Corona"? What will it mean for teaching and learning "in a world of Corona"? The solution that most people around the world are seeing as the default and safest option is technological - online teaching.1.

Research on online teaching and learning is still going on as research on Coronavirus. Very less is known as every domain of education is Little researched. Also, in comparison to on-campus classes, online classes are not seen as very effective for school-age students.1.

So there was a huge challenge ahead, as well as room for innovation. This led to flooding of Software companies and their applications, compelling to buy during this time of Crisis.

When *Times Higher Education* surveyed leaders of prominent global universities in 2018, the 200 respondents – from 45 countries across six continents – were emphatic on one point: online higher education would never match the real thing.[2]

Teaching and learning online is somewhat more successful in higher educational contexts. But, compared to the Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCS), a blended-model of online (asynchronous) teaching and learning utilizing LMS platforms (such as blackboard or moodle) and, on-campus (synchronous) classroom interactions are more effective. [1]

Now with the COVID-19 crisis, faculty even in the most technologically developed education systems are struggling to deliver upto the mark lesson content. It is seen although teachers had set-up online LMS platforms for their on-campus courses at the beginning of the semester, it is taking a huge amount of time and work to make their course fully online using synchronous online platforms, such as zoom. The global health crisis has given many other challenges in the society and economy. A purely technological solution to deal with the global public health and related challenges is probably not enough.[1]

Students from privileged backgrounds are more used to taking exams and assignments online whereas Those who are socio-economically disadvantaged students without personal computers and internet at home problem arises for them.[1].

It is seen that the university's administrative staff is working "tirelessly, around the clock" to provide training sessions on how to use the site, and teaching the faculties for the practical tips on using of these e-learning forums.

Faculties have been practising lecturing with and without video, sharing clips and slides, trying to keep their students interested, like preparing in-class activities, group discussions,

online polls and PowerPoint presentations to make them "more eye-catching" but the fact of Face to face teaching is more grasping and effective. Students are not able to grasp the content from this kind of learning where they are distracted by lot many stuffs like gaming consoles at home. Hence this is putting a lot of disadvantage to practical or Lab classes for science and medicine subjects. Although this e-learning has increased the imagination and analytical thinking among the students, but at the same time Plagiarism ratio has also increased. Students who are unable to read or have technical issues they just copy the content from their friends and are least interested in doing the assignments by themselves.

Additional speaking, there are technical difficulties adjusting to online learning. Sometimes interactions online can be "quite weird", as some students prefer to turn off their computers' cameras and microphones, leaving teachers to lecture to "black screens" for hours on end.

According to latest update, Almost more than 3,730,002 cases have been reported and parents are worried about the health of their young children. But in longer terms, there are some more points to be concerned about like physical health and metal health. Reduced physical activity during this confinement can lead to Weight gain, lethargy, reduced cardiorespiratory fitness, Altered unhealthy diet patterns etc. Along with this there is impact on mental health as well like disturbed sleep pattern, prolonged usage of mobile phones, gadgets, online classes can lead to headaches and dizziness, changes in vision, irrational fear and anxiety, lack of creativity and interaction, frustration & boredom to name a few. [3]

With the increase in the use of electronics, many children experience today's most pervasive threat: digital eye strain.

We've all experienced it—tired, dry eyes, blurry vision, headaches, and neck aches. And all it takes is a couple hours of continuous use of electronics. Also known as *Computer Vision Syndrome[.4]*

Lastly, we should consider the reason we all are doing such hard work, what is happening to student learning outcomes. School closures have negatively impacted student learning outcomes.[6] Schooling provides essential learning and when schools close, children and youth are deprived from opportunities for growth and development. The disadvantages are disproportionate for under-privileged learners who tend to have fewer educational opportunities beyond school.[7] When schools close, parents are often asked to facilitate the learning of children at home and can struggle to perform this task. This is especially true for parents with limited education and resources.[6]

Schools are also hubs of social activity and human interaction. When schools are closed, many children and youth miss out of on social contact that is essential to learning and development.[6]

Hopefully, these phases of trouble shooting can provide universities, professors and students the opportunity to practice adaptability, patience and resilience. And, these experiences will serve as preparation for future challenges that come with the next epidemic, pandemic and other disaster.[5]

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