



Perception Of Virtual Learning Process Changing The Lives Of Learners During Pandemic

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ABSTRACT

Online teaching learning process has changed the lives of millions. One way or the other it has ignited the new trends of learning and also impacted the studies of teenagers and the youth. Many of them are encouraged to start new journey of life ahead and also few of them got a set back and tried to work on or improvise the process of learning. Pandemic conditions of COVID-19 have not only spoiled lives of many in couple of years but also it had disrupted the most crucial aspects of life i.e., teaching learning process. Lecture delivery had seen major changes through online teaching but it had made teachers to learn new methods and tools of making effective delivery. The motive of study is to check the perception of students and teachers about online learning and how studies got impacted due to these changing circumstances and new ways of learnings.

Keywords: Online learning, Students' perception, Teachers' perception, COVID-19

1. INTRODUCTION

Online teaching and learning process has gained unanimous acceptance in the entire world. In the era of 21st century digital tools and methods have been performing pretty well with world-wide platforms to make people engaged in learning new things so that people can develop their potential and get value addition in their proficiency. With the development of National Education Policy (NEP) these learning methods will leverage individuals to gain impetus and sharpen their career in the area where they have interest and furnish them to freedom the common youth to excel in their life. The conventional methods of learning process though can't be avoided but it has now not been envisaged to much effective way of learning. It had been the common practice in Indian community to be limited with face-to-face teaching though it was made compulsory during COVID-19 pandemic in all educational institutes. All around physical mode of learning was converted to virtual mode of learning. Number of universities and institutions have been still into phase of adoption and probably few of them have adopted as well till date. Although the advancements in technology will always invite new things in the future

trends but effective teaching through online mode in itself is a challenge where internet access is limited in remote and hilly areas. It is an opportunity for teachers to learn and develop potential in learning new modes of teaching and also pose struggle for adopting in their pedagogy. More important thing is imparting education needs in-depth engagement of the entire class which is at most required for a better class. Fortune, Spielman, and Pangelinan (2011) studied about 156 aspirants who got enrolled in both modes of learning online and offline at Northern California, United States but no significant difference was found in between these two ways of learning statistically. Tratnik (2017) study showed significant differences in perception of student studies when online mode of learning was compared with offline mode. Students were found more engaged in physical mode of classes rather than online platform. The motive of the study is to examine the perception of virtual learning and how it is favourable and limiting factor for aspirants.

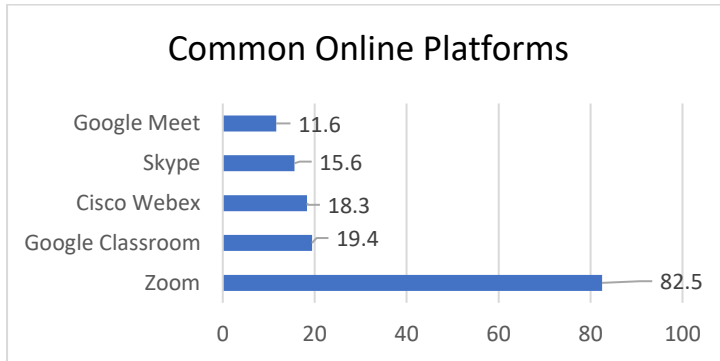
2. LITERATURE REVIEW

The tremendous impetus of information technology has made feasible online mode of learning. The entire teaching fraternity had been very enthusiastic to develop in shaping the career of many youths. According to Lynch (1999) online learning contains educational material that arouse interest of new age learners, teachers, community and the institutions. The trend of online learning which had been the tradition of American education system are now being adopted as distance learning education imparting professional, technical knowledge for aspirants who are looking for career opportunities at national and abroad level (Bartley & Golek, 2004; Evans & Haase, 2001). The recent trends of learning is known as e-learning where teacher aspirant do not have time constraint when it is a recorded lecture and aspirants can listen as per their convenience. Tantri(2018) studied on the criteria of engagement in virtual mode of classes through distance education system. The results of study shows that there is significant and positive impact of learning through online mode. The anticipation of connectivity with aspirants and social factors are envisaged. Further Khusniyah and Hakim (2019) extended their research on impact of virtual classes by making use of web blogs to check the aspirant capability in comprehending English statement. The results were favourable in context to aspirants in making them proficient in reading and comprehension skills. Kuntarto (2017) study the impact of virtual classes in Indonesia language by using online learning tools techniques. The study shows that these models were adequate enough to retain the interest of 80% aspirants by absorbing the material content lecture session. Mustofa, et al. (2019) studied on developing repositories of online learning models by making use of government web portals to overcome and mitigate the differences in quality of universities. The results of the study shows that virtual mode of learning shows positive impact and promote quality in Indonesia university. Maulana and Hamidi (2020) study on aspirants' perception of virtual learning in practical disciplines and found positive changes through learning process, lecture delivery and infrastructure.

3. OBJECTIVES OF STUDY

- 1) To study the perception of online learners with respect to conventional mode of teaching
- 2) To study the benefits and limitations of virtual learning.
- 3) To study the online platforms that assist online learning.

Figure 1: Common online platforms:



The above Figure 1 shows common online platforms that are in practice for teaching learning classes. The most fabulous is zoom application platform that provide user-friendly approach to have virtual classes. There are 82.5% users of zoom application are teachers who are engaged in imparting knowledge. Beside it there are Google classroom, Cisco Webex, Skype, Google meet that provide such features of virtual classes. Beside these one there are other applications which had been considered for these classes like google duo, YouTube, Moodle, WhatsApp

4. ONLINE LEARNING PLATFORMS

- a) **Coursera:** It carries 3000 plus courses that has partnered with 200 top notch institutes and corporates to create courses that can bridge the gap of learners and set you ahead in career opportunities. They are almost paid that need to accomplished in defined timeline. The accreditation certificates are recognized by employers. The classes are probable in multiple languages with user-friendly web portals. The platforms provide facility to professors can upload their sessions, assign grades and assignments to learners
- b) **Udemy:** It carries more than 1,83,000 courses with price range from \$11 up to \$ 200. They have 65000 instructors and experts that offers niche. The courses are available in 65 languages. The website is a rich source of repository of study material where aspirants have access over unexpected topics of knowledge inculcating. Beside courses on programming, business skills, productivity there are lot of courses on language, arts, music and fitness. The web page permits designer to develop multimedia lectures with audio and video component.
- c) **Skillshare:** It carries more than 35000 courses. It is based on subscription that offers more than 70 different creative topics for aspirants to learn about animation, graphics, design, creative writing, photography etc. The courses are only available in

English. Their major concern is to scale up practical aspects of learning with assignments for aspirants.

- d) **MasterClass:** It provides more than 100 courses. It provided courses on cooking and develop leadership skills on different range of topics. For example, Ramsey's cooking talents and Anna Wintour's leadership skills. It has only annual subscription but courses have comprehensive curriculum. Since MasterClass is a subscription-based platform, users have privilege to attend as many sessions within a monthly subscription.
- e) **Edx:** It offers more than 3500 courses with a certificate and accredited institution. It has signed MOU with partners like Harvard, MIT and Berkeley that have more than 15000 instructors who impart knowledge on different categories. They also collaborated with Arizona State University, that also offer "Global Freshman Academy" to earn credits for selected lessons.
- f) **Udacity:** It offers more than 200 courses with monthly subscription of \$399 and \$ 1995 for four-month subscription to courses. It offers courses that corporate call them as "nanodegrees" which needs four months to accomplish. It further provides full access to real advisors who assist in preparing professional resumes. Udacity has diversified courses on enhancing technical skills. The platform is designed on areas of web page development, programming, cloud computing and data science. Each program is supported with live examples, individual code reviews and instructors who address aspirants' requirements.
- g) **Pluralsight:** It provides more than 7500 courses with price between \$229 and \$449 per year with certification. It is designed for professionals who are employed and believe in enriching their knowledge. The company offers mini degree programs for individuals and team. They are organised into three level with unlimited access to courses. They provide courses in subjects like software development, data science, information and cybersecurity.

5. CONCLUSION

Online or virtual classes have both positive and negative impacts on lives of many teenagers and youth. It also massive opportunities to learn things which make aspirants more creative and professional. It the source of repository where all kind of courses material in form of repository are available in form of paid or non-paid form of subscription. Aspirants have the advantage to attend these virtual classes as per their time and comfort. The sessions are conducted by professors who have sound knowledge over different diversified topics and they belong from the reputed institutes. During pandemic COVID-19 when life had become miserable the practice of imparting education to the society of teenagers and youngsters did not restrain and through the help of above-mentioned online tools and courses aspirants utilised their time in learning and exploring new things. Most of them lost their jobs and also encourage to initiate their ventures by learning business management tools and practices. The tuff time never last for long and based on idiom the teaching fraternity and students have proved that education should

not sacrificed at cost of difficult situations. Online or virtual classes though had not been envisaged very effective to retain the interest of students and engage them for all subject classes yet many universities and institutions have brought up major transformation in their education system by initiating distance education programs.

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