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USE OF ONLINE LEARNING METHODOLOGIES TO OVERCOME THE EDUCATIONAL CHALLENGES

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This is a very hard time for the Society, Nation and World when a very dangerous virus named Corona Virus (COVID-19) attacked the human beings. The problem was identified first time in Wuhan, China and found it has a potential to travel through air from one person to other. In a very short interval this disease spreaded all over the world. This epidemic shocks the entire economy of all the countries of the world. Communication of traffic, transport of goods school, college, business transactions, and even the man's exit from the house made it difficult. No country could have imagined that a time would come when everything would have to be stopped and the world economy would be pushed back many years. This pandemic forced all countries to shut down everything. This dangerous disease had such an impact that all the nations of the world were forced to shut down their economy. This pandemic stopped execution of business, companies, factories, school, and colleges. There is not a single sector whose work is not affected by its side effects. In the present paper, the impact of pandemic COVID-19 in the field of education has been expressed by the author. Also the methods used by educational institutions to overcome the loss of the education of the students and to bridge the gap between teacher and students due to this pandemic have been explained.

INTRODUCTION: COVID-19 has affected the various field of our life in a very bad manner. There is not a single sector which is not affected by this disease. All the countries have shut down their work in one or another way. In India, the lock down is going on since 25th March 2020. Most of the sectors are asking their employees to work from home. The concept of work from home was introduced by cooperate sectors. It was never thought that Educational institutions will also adopt this in this crucial time. According to the report of UNESCO (2020) over the 90% of the World's students are not attending their Schools and Colleges. More than 186 Countries have their Schools and Colleges get closed in last two Months due to this Pandemic. This was a big problem in front of the Education System. Our Government was focusing on online learning mode since last many years. It was not known to anyone that this time will make us learn to adopt all these online methods to bridge the gap between education and the students. Students were worried about their studies and completion of syllabus. It is always said "where there is a will, there is a way". These lines are very much true in this situation. Teachers are trying to become computer friendly and learning the latest technologies and tools to make the e contents for their students. Here the author has explained various online methodologies used by the Teaching faculty to make students comfortable and keener to gain education using online tools available.

PROBLEMS FACED DURING COVID-19

The number of Corona Virus cases worldwide increased drastically in last 2-3 Months. It is a biggest challenge for the Government of all countries to control this Pandemic. In INDIA, we too are facing problems in various sectors and fields of our life such as agriculture, education, business etc. Every work has been stopped such as workers have lost their work. Market is closed resulting in degrading the business of a businessman, examinations and regular studies of the Students have been interrupted. The Education stopped for a while during Lock Down in the entire country, as Schools and Colleges are closed since March 2020. The challenge was how to overcome the crisis in the Education system. What approach should be used by the organization to fill the gap between students and studies? It is always said that “Where there is a will, There is a way”. So did the Secondary Education and Higher Education Department too. Higher Education Department took the initiative to approach the students using latest technologies. The gap was filled with the help of the pillars of the education systems i.e. teaching faculty. At the initial stages it was a challenge for the Higher Education Department and its teaching faculty also, that how to interact with the students while staying at home. But in a very short period of time, Teachers learned how to use the basic tools required to deliver and impart knowledge to the students.

LEARNING METHODS AND RESOURCES USED:

According to the Survey done by UNESCO in 61 Countries about 1.5 billion students have large impact on their studies due to closure of educational institutions. This survey indicates that Governments of all the countries are making efforts to deliver distance education by various means such as online teaching to ensure the continuity of the learning. The teaching faculty of INDIA too is using various methods to reach at the door step of the students by virtual platforms few of them are illustrated in figure-1. All the efforts done by the teachers and Education organizations are giving the message to prove that how a Teacher can wait or stop giving education whatever the situations are.

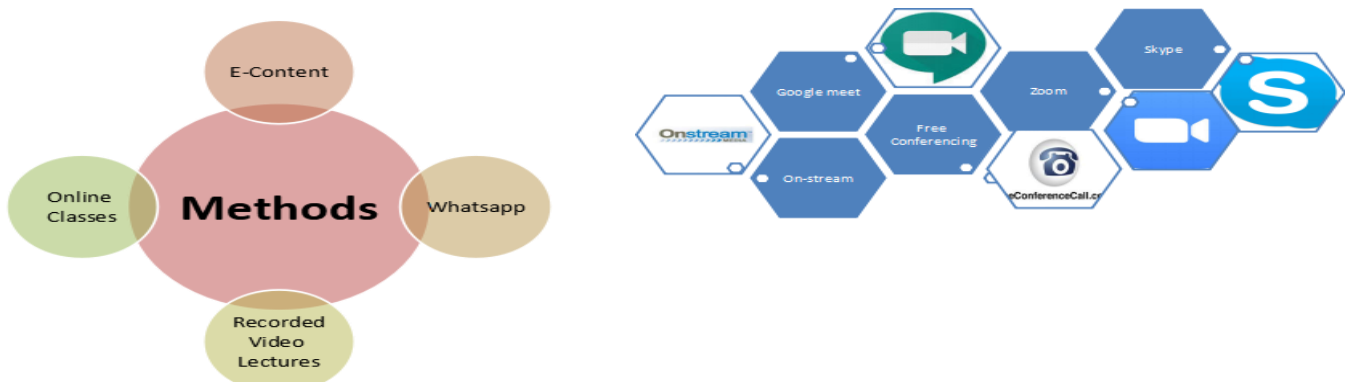
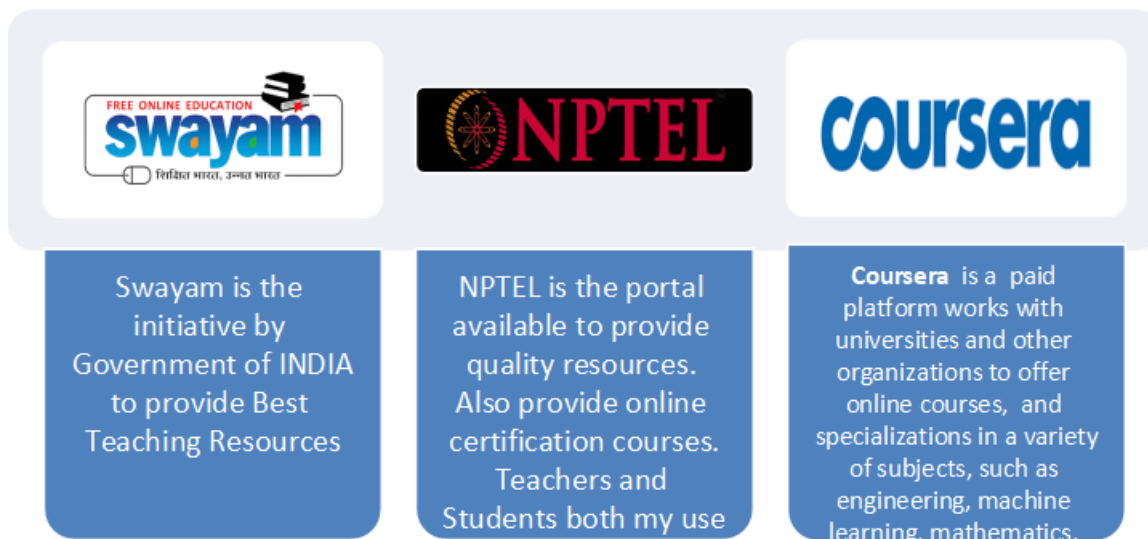


Figure-1: Methods used to approach Students during COVID-19

The teachers are in contact with their students by means of various modes such as online classes, provided them the text materials in form of e contents, power point presentation, and recorded lectures. Many teachers joined the students through google class room where they are able to interact with them. Whatsapp groups are proved to be very user friendly and easy to use platform. Teachers are able to send their contents to the students through this platform. Teachers are involved in online teaching too through various online conference tools like zoom, free conferencing, google meet, cisco WebEx etc. Many companies come up with the free software which can be used to make the e-contents by downloading them free of cost. This Pandemic make all the teachers tech savvy and made them learn about the latest technology without knowing about the subject specialization. There was a time when all were dependent on the computer faculty of their institutes for even a small work of typing a text or application. But now all the faculties have become computer faculty itself, which may be taken as positive aspect of the bad time we all are suffering from.

RESOURCES USED FOR IMPARTING KNOWLEDGE TO STUDENTS DURING THE PANDEMIC:

To make the students engage in this condition is a bit difficult tasks. So question comes how to engage them so that they are can utilize their time while staying at home in the studies and not waste time whole day just by sitting their mobile phone and keep busy on social media. Here comes the role of teachers as an Educator and Mentor as well. It's the time for teachers to develop a socio-emotional skill into them and students as well. Teachers are using now a days various tools to develop their own contents to impart and share the knowledge to the students such as Adobe Presenter, OBS , Open Shot Editor and many more to make the contents. Along with their own contents such as audio, video, tutorials, number of other resources that may differ from subject to subject such as SWAYAM, NPTEL, Shiksha Setu, Google suite for education and various e-learning platforms. The College higher authorities are encouraging their faculty to use these tools to prepare their e-contents. Few Resources are mentioned below in Figure-2.



Swayam is a free online education platform for the students as well as teachers. Swayam is the place where one can get knowledge starting from class IXth to post graduation in various

subjects. Government took this initiative with a motive of getting knowledge anywhere, anytime by anyone. One can get the subject knowledge in form of video lectures, text documents, assignments, quizzes. The students may be in contact with the instructor through discussion forums. To ensure the quality education total 9 national coordinators have been appointed by government of India.

NPTEL is National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning project funded by Government of India. It is another national platform which can be used to access the e contents for science and technology. It was initiated in 2003 by seven IITs in collaboration with IISc Bengaluru. NPTEL is the largest online repository in the field of science and technology. UGC has already recommended adding one online course per semester to be covered through online mode. But this is yet to be implemented by various universities.

Coursera, founded on 2012 is also a platform that may be used to explore the e contents for the higher education purpose. This is the platform that may be used to just get the knowledge and certificate course may be accomplished using it.

FUTURE ASPECTS IN NEW SESSION

Online Education became essential aspect and necessity during the lockdown period in COVID-19. No one can deny the use of online e contents made by the faculty and Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs). This may be start of Online Teaching and Learning methodologies that may be used by Higher Education. The decision is to be taken that what percentage of the course may be delivered online to the students. One needs to be alert about the information provided by higher authorities regarding the implementation of the e-learning. This COVID-19 gave the opportunities to the Colleges in terms of admissions as students will be willing to take admissions near to their homes. So Colleges may prepare the strategies to give quality education to the students so as to enhance strength in their respective Colleges. Colleges have to make their own Learning Management Systems (LMS) so that students and teachers may have common platform through institute to interact and communicate with each other. The teaching faculty has to be more and more adaptive to the new tools and technologies. The higher education department was already emphasized many times towards the online content delivery but the teachers were not comfortable to adopt the technology and embedded learning methods. Now the situation has been changed totally due to the pandemic. The question of willingness is no more standing, we all have to make the teaching methods much stronger by using latest tools and platforms of online teaching. Along with the quality education Colleges and Higher Education Department will also have to make the admission process more Holistic and to make the entrance test optional or wave off. All the plans and decisions are to be taken by Higher Education and Universities itself. So stay alert and tuned to get all the updates.

CONCLUSION

It has been concluded that imparting the knowledge and gaining it cannot be restricted or stopped by any virus such as COVID or any other situation. The Education can be given or taken if the enthusiasm of doing it high. Teaching faculty need to strengthen the knowledge on various online tools and softwares so as to make the students equipped with the subject

matter in an easy and convenient manner. Still some challenges are there with us in form of internet problems and availability of the gadgets to the students who are living in rural area. These problems can be overcome by understanding the need of the hour. In this tough time all have to stand together teachers have to support the institutions; institutions have to support the higher authorities. This situation will also be passed, we all have to be together and follow the guidelines and regulations provided by the Government and other higher authorities.

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