"OPINION OF STUDENTS ON ONLINE TEACHING AND LEARNING IN HIGHER EDUCATION IN

COVID-19 PANDEMIC: A REVIEW OF LITERATURE"

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ABSTRACT:

COVID-19 pandemic situation has disturbed teaching and learning process in a many of institutions. This situation has tested the efficiency of higher academic institutions to deal with such abrupt and unwanted situations and crisis. Online teaching and learning have become the main way of being in contact with students during the pandemic everywhere. Many researchers have studied Students' perception of the learning process that took place over that period of time with no face to face off line education. In this paper it has been tried to know the students' perceptions of online learning by reviewing the literature of research done by different researchers. The research paper selected for review haveexplored the effectiveness, challenges, and advantages of online education in different institutions. This paperanalysed that the common online platforms were Zoom, Microsoft Teams, Google meet etc platforms were used to offer online interactive classesand whats app is being used to communication with students outside the class. Many studies found that both faculty and students agreed that online education is useful during thepandemic. At the same time, many have also found that online education efficacy is less effective than face-to-face learning and teaching. Students gave the feedback as that online learning challengesin terms of lack of interaction and motivation, technical and internet issues, data privacy, and security. But students also opined about the advantages of online learning. The benefits were mainly self-learning, low costs, convenience, and flexibility. Even though online learning works as a temporary alternative due to COVID-19, it could not substitute face-to-face learning. But on the contrary it is also true that there is no other option for online learning in this situation.

Key Words: COVID-19, Online Learning, Students, Effectiveness

INTRODUCTION:

COVID-19 was declared as a global pandemic in March 2020 (WHO, 2020). It has drastically impacted all walks of life and all sectors including education. The effect is so hard that many institutions have closed down. This situation has put all the institutions to have unpredicted shift from traditional to online learning. Thisunimagined outbreak triggered new ways of teaching and learning online. Some institutions opposed and many institutions accepted the required change. In this pandemic situation the whole world has seen the most extensive educational systems change from offline to online in more than 190 countries worldwide. The outbreak of COVID-19 established partial or complete lockdown, where people are forced to stay home. The higher education institutions' closure

demands online learning, where the course material is taught. Many institutions have replaced face-to-face instruction with online learning platforms to control the outbreak's spread. The government had imposed a national lockdown, which resulted in universities and schools' closure.

Most global institutions opt to use synchronous and asynchronous online teaching methods: synchronous is where faculty and their students meet in a pre-scheduled time as a part of interactive learning classes, while the asynchronous method refers to the faculty giving the course without interaction with the students. There is no interaction between the faculty and students. Asynchronous modes of online learning suit students to access online material whenever they like. Faculty are the role players in making learning enjoyable, shaping students' attitudes and personalities, and helping students pass. COVID-19 spreads online learning culture across the culture. COVID-19 forced the shift to online learning, but some universities in underdeveloped countries are not adequately equipped to teach online efficiently. Moreover, the faculty's training is different globally between high-income, middle-, and lower-income countries. Another major obstacle is the Internet connectivity for underprivileged students. It is a de facto that face-to-face instruction is more efficient than online and the complete shift to online during COVID-19 makes it necessary to investigate the perception of students on online learning to identify the advantages and disadvantages, and challenges of online learning.

While the whole world is facing much trouble in the last few months, it has been difficult for the world, and the impact of online learning has been significantly observed on faculty members and students in particular. Teaching and learning online has a wide range of advantages, yet poses some challenges. It makes the process of learning for students' comfort due to time flexibility in attending classes. However, online learning acts as a barrier to the engagement of students in real class activities. Moreover, students lack the influence of peer learning. These challenges also leave an impact on student's personalities and prevent them from taking their turns. Additionally, the faculty's role is to teach, monitor, and provide advice for students on both academic and personal levels. The current crisis, COVID-19, highlights the role of the internet and technology in all walks of life including education. The pandemic has shown the role of online education in coping with abrupt crises, and therefore it is significant to understand both faculty' and student's perceptions concerning online classes.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

1) To study the various views of the students about the online learning in this situation of COVID 19 through reviewing the research papers

2) To explore the advantages as well as disadvantages of online education through the review of literature

3) To understand the impact of shift of education from online to offline on students.

4) To analyse the perception of students about online learning through the review of papers

REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

Total 6 research papers have been studied to understand the perception of students seeking higher education about online learning and the impact of online learning on the students.

T.Muthuprasada, S. Aiswarya, K.S. Aditya, Girish K.Jhaa (January, 2021) have studied on "Students' perception and preference for online education in India during COVID -19 pandemic". This paper shows the efforts needed to be put by the higher education institutions to shift from offline to online teaching to adjust with the critical situation arose and fight against the pandemic situation and survive and continue giving education to the students. The efforts are being taken by universities and institutions for shifting to online platforms to catch up with the curriculum. This paper tries to put the perception and readiness of teachers and students for online education.

The findings of this study revealed that most of the students evinced a positive attitude towards online learning in the worst situation of COVID 19. The online learning was found to be advantageous as it provided flexibility and convenience for the learners. Students preferred well-structured content with recorded videos uploaded in university websites. They also indicated the need for interactive sessions with quizzes and assignments at the end of each class to optimise the learning experience. However, most students also reported that online classes could be more challenging than traditional classroom because of the technological constraints, delayed feedback and inability of the instructor to handle effectively the

Information and Communication Technologies. Therefore, all these factors should be considered while developing an online course to make it more effective and productive for the learner. It's possible thatonce the COVID-19 pandemic settles down, we may see a continued increase in education systems using online platforms for study aids, albeit in a hybrid mode in combination with regular classes. Hence this study will prove useful for reimagining and redesigning the higher education with components involving online mode.

Shivangi Dhawan (2020) in her research titled "Online Learning: A Panacea in the Time of COVID-19 Crisis" concluded that natural disasters always make human beings to change accordingly. Higher education giving institutions are not exceptions. COVID-19 situation has given motivation for the adoption of highly innovative communication technology and e-learning tools. To make e-learning effective in such difficult times, stakeholders of educational field should focus on the use of technology more efficiently, that is, the usage of that technology which has minimum procurement and maintenance costs but can effectively facilitate educational processes. The author suggests to consider all the advantages and disadvantages of the tools to be used in e learning before implementing them. Institutions should conduct plenty of research when bringing the right technology for different educational initiatives. There should be proper clarity on the purpose and context of technology adoption. Various factors which affect the choice of a particular technology such as security features, availability and condition of laboratories, internet speed, internet access, digital literacy levels of the beneficiaries should be considered. As per the authors view such systems need to be developed in educational institutions that make sure that no student is getting deprived of education due to their location, social class, ethnicity, and so on. Disasters and pandemic such as Covid-19 can create a lot of chaos and tensions; therefore, there is an important need to study the technology deeply and with due diligence to balance these fears and tensions amidst such crisis.

Kari Almendingen, Marianne SandsmarkMorseth, Eli Gjølstad, AsgeirBrevik, Christine Tørris (2021) in their research paper "Student's experiences with online teaching following COVID-19 lockdown: A mixed methods explorative study" found that although students had little previous experience with online education, these students seemed to adapt quickly to the sudden shift to ad hoc online education due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The most concerned problems among students were found to be lack of social interaction, a feeling of being alone in their studies without group studies, bit of uncomfortable environment including insufficient data bandwidth and a sense of reduced motivation and effort. Although data analysis showed that face-to-face contact was greatly missed during this time-period, students adapted with the urgent requirement of having online education to complete their academics. The study also revealed that the students expressed that they wanted more structure in future digital courses and the students started feeling comfortable with online education which could be a bit threaten for continuation of off line education.

ShyamSundarSarkar, Pranta Das, Mohammad Mahbubur Rahman and M S Zobaer (July 21) in their research paper "Perceptions of Public University Students Towards Online Classes During COVID-19 Pandemic in Bangladesh" have denoted these points. Historically, Bangladesh's education system follows conventional face-to-face or in-class schooling in almost all education institutions, including schools, colleges, and universities. Nevertheless, after the declaration of closure of educational institutions since the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic, the government has focussed on online-based schooling in Bangladesh's educational institutions. Therefore, both the teachers and students are trying hard to get accustomed to this newly introduced practice. Although they have become familiar with the technique, many factors are still raising challenges for successfully utilizing this online schooling technique. However, the online class is still the only medium to continue education in the middle of this pandemic situation when the government has imposed school closure, and countrywide lockdown started.

Through this study, researcher tried to explore the perceptions of public university students towards the online schooling process. Researchers found the mixed result. Although few students are getting benefitted from online classes, most of them face some troubles. For instance, online schooling has created discrimination between rural and urban students, between laptop/PC users and mobile phone users, between WI-FI users and mobile network users. Thus, a sustainable learning and teaching medium is affected. Moreover, students cannot interact with the

teachers and their classmates during online classes. The group work opportunities among students are also restricted. The availability of high-speed broadband or cellular internet connection is rare outside the city areas; thus, students in rural areas are continuously facing trouble getting a stable internet connection. Therefore, their participation in online schooling is often affected. Rural areas also face issues with electricity connection which is an additional burden. Moreover, students often do not have electronic gadgets to participate in online classes effectively. Nonetheless, we revealed that female students had more positive attitudes toward virtual classes than male students. The study also revealed that it is highly appreciated that the government has started broadcasting classes for the students through television and radio, but some improvement in the action plan is still possible. The study also suggested to have concrete guideline or policy help educational institutions take sustainable actions during the pandemic to keep the education services going on.

Mohammed Arshad Khan, Vivek, Mohammed KamalunNabi, MaysoonKhojah and Muhammad Tahir (December 2020) have made the study on "Students' Perception towards E-Learning during COVID-19 Pandemic in India: An Empirical Study" This present study analyses the perception of university students towards e-learning during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The study reveals the preferences of students for e-learning as it provides them much freedom to connect with their teachers, fellow students and engage with their study materials at the comfort and flexibility of space and time. The easy access of study resources is found to be one of the major reasons for the students to opt for e-learning. The study indicates that e-learning technology enables easy information access leading to positive attitude formation of students towards it. This finding is based on usefulness, self-efficacy, ease of use, and the behaviour of students as regards e-learning. The study affirms the usefulness of e-learning such as ease of study from any geographical location which is not possible in case of conventional face to face-learning. Furthermore, the study illustrates the similar experience of being educated as done through the physical classroom teaching as students perceive e-learning as analogous to face to face-learning. This research study indicated that in the recent past, e-learning has gained immense popularity in India as students are found to be inclined towards online learning tools to interact with each other and the educators as well. Furthermore, in the

absence of face-to-face interaction, digital technology has also been well accepted by the students for the purpose of learning. Therefore, necessary measures should be adopted for improving the quality of E-learning to help with better learning of students during the phase of Covid-19 pandemic.

Claudiu Coman, Laurentiu Gabriel Tîru, LuizaMesesan-Schmitz, Carmen Stanciu, and Maria Cristina Bularca(December 2020) have done research on "Online Teaching and Learning in Higher Education during the Coronavirus Pandemic: Students' Perspective. The study led to two categories of implications: practical and theoretical implications. The study had been in relation with higher education in Rome. On a practical level, a series of useful recommendations for teachers can be outlined in order for them to succeed in increasing the quality of the educational process in the online environment. The paper explains how difficult it is for the students adjust with online education but with practice the student's opinion would be positive. It has been suggested that universities could develop training sessions for teachers or could develop programs whose role would be to stimulate teachers' performance and implicitly the quality of the educational process. Technical issues are still the issues most difficult to solve, due to the capacity of the servers owned by universities. Surely, universities have made efforts in order to solve these problems and improve the way the E-learning platforms work. Still, students' technical problems remain poor internet connections, signal loss, lack of adequate digital devices, especially for students living in rural areas or students from families with low incomes. Universities could create programs to meet these types of needs and thus facilitate the learning process for students who find themselves in these situations. The paper suggests in improving teachers' technical skills, developing training programs meant to help teachers remodel and adapt their teaching style and the way they interact with students, to the online environment. The main challenge is that the higher education system has to face today are: teachers' resilience to change and changing students' perception towards online learning. Training programs for teachers need to be developed in order to: help them adapt to the changes, to help them understand that the future of education in higher education systems involves the online environment, that it is unlikely that the system will return to how it was before the pandemic, and that online teaching is a new way to interact with students. Some teachers who are open

minded, flexible and interested in developing themselves became self-taught and tried to improve their teaching skills. However, a certain segment of teachers still manifests resilience towards learning how to use new tools and they use, during the courses, only the basic functions of the E-learning platform. It is also important to mention that in the higher education system, it is more difficult for teachers to acknowledge that they do not know how to use certain tools provided by the platforms, which is why they do not ask for support in this regard. Still, only technical skills are not enough, teachers also have to adapt their methods of teaching to the online environment.

CONCLUSION:

The review of literature done on "Opinion of students on online teaching and learning in higher education in COVID-19 Pandemic: A review of literature" based on six research papers shows one common point that the covid situation has hit the education line in a different way. Online teaching and learning have emerged with some advantages and some disadvantages. It has put a great challenge in front of higher education institutions, teachers and students. The quality of education now has a question mark as this online education has come with abundant problems of getting adapted with this new environment and facing the technical problems too. But if the institutes have to survive in the future there is no other way than the online education. As it is said survival of the fittest, the institutes which will strive hard and take efforts to make online education successful they will survive in the future and those won't may face problems. It can be concluded that though there are hurdles for online education in higher education it has to be continued with by maintaining quality as natural calamities may hit anytime.

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