

## Issues and challenges of virtual teaching learning environment in pandemic period

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### Abstract

To remove the shortcomings of traditional classroom use of virtual classroom is advantageous and it is not a new concept but to deal with the health pandemic situation of the world, it is the need of education system to use virtual teaching learning environment. As, virtual teaching learning environment proved as a blessing in the disguise but it also faces many issues and challenges which the presenter try to paper down here.

**Keywords:** education, virtual teaching learning environment, pandemic, health crisis, issues and challenges

### Introduction

#### ▪ Pandemic

Pandemic is a rapid spread of disease across worldwide in a short period of time. At present, the Pandemic which world is facing is Covid-19. It is the infectious disease which is caused by the Corona Virus whose outbreak began in Wuhan, China, in December 2019. Corona Virus is a virus which causes illness humans or animals. According to Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, GOI: In humans, Corona Virus is known to cause respiratory infections ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases such as Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS). It becomes a health crisis at global level.

Due to this global health crisis, we are facing the challenges. The biggest challenge is that the curable medicine to destroy the Corona virus is not found yet and to meet the requirement of standard health kits. This is the root causes of another bigger challenge i.e how to stop outspread of corona virus? For this GOI announced lockdown across the country on 24<sup>th</sup> March. This lockdown help India to protect its citizens from more outspread of corona virus but there are pros and cons of every concept. So, lockdown also brings challenges with itself. Some of them are:

- How to make lockdown strictly followed?
- To meet the requirement of eatables of below poverty line peoples.
- To meet the basic requirements of the peoples who are in another cities for work, whose maintenance based on daily income.
- How to stop panic of Covid -19 among peoples?
- To stop rumors or false news about Covid-19.

#### ▪ Teaching-learning Process

The Covid-19 pandemic causes a great loss in economy across worldwide and of course education system do not remains untouched with this. In India, after lockdown, the teachers and students facing many problems like:

- How to remain in touch with teaching learning process?
- How to execute examination of children.
- How to complete syllabus in higher education.
- How to execute internal and external exams of students enrolled in higher education.

To meet these challenges, the MHRD has started stay safe digital learning initiatives such as:

For school education: Diksha, e-pathshala and NROER.

For higher education: SWAYAM and SWAYAM Prabha.

These all platforms facilities are free. In addition, MHRD also advised students to do projects at home like: “Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat”, “Swachh Bharat Abhiyan”, “Jal Shakti Abhiyan”, “Ban on Single Use Plastic” and “Fit India”.

Other than these platforms, educational institutes and colleges have started online classes to complete their syllabus and preparation for internal and external examination using other platforms like: Google Hangout, Google Classroom, Zoom, WebEx, etc.

#### ▪ Virtual teaching learning environment

Virtual teaching learning environment is an environment which facilitates online teaching and learning. It is also termed as e-learning or online learning.

It really becomes blessing in the disguise of Covid-19 pandemic that with the help of teachers and technology schools and colleges has started online teaching to help their students and remains touched with them. Due to this every house becomes a school and every parent becomes a teacher and doing studies and assignments with their children.

#### ▪ Characteristics of Virtual teaching learning environment

Virtual teaching learning environment has the following characteristics:

Rouse (2011) highlighted following about virtual teaching learning environment-

- It is a set of teaching and learning tools intended to develop a student's learning capability via computers and the Internet in the learning process.
- The principal mechanism of this platform is curriculum planning (breaking curriculum into sections that can be assigned and assessed).
- It helps in student tracking.
- This environment cares online for both teacher and learner.
- It is an electronic communication (e-mail, threaded discussions, chat, Web publishing).

- It requires Internet links to external curriculum resources.
- It is an artificial classroom.

### Issues and challenges of virtual teaching learning environment

As we know the creation of virtual teaching learning environment in India with the huge population is a challenge in itself. Teachers and students have to face many challenges like:

1. It required trained teachers to execute technology in education.
2. It needs proper internet facilities.
3. Software installation and execution.
4. Maintenance of e-storage of data of students, videos, e-content, assignments, records etc.

### Issues and challenges of virtual teaching learning environment in Covid-19 Pandemic

Issues and challenges mentioned above are general but if we talking about issues and challenges in this covid-19 pandemic they are more and new as compared to general one. As, the entire schedule of everyone whether they are student, teachers and others workers and non-workers get disturbed due to this lockdown. All are confined to sit only at one place and have to perform their duties. Schools and other educational institutes try to perform their responsibilities through virtual mode. The issue and challenge of requirement of trained teachers may be overcome due to this lockdown period as every teacher works harder with all his/her dedication to meets the students needs through online mode. So, we can say educational institutes' lockdown but teaching learning process is continuing. Instead of this the teachers and students facing many issues and challenges such as:

1. How to reprogramming the minds of teachers and students to shift themselves from tangible classroom to virtual especially for theoretical courses like social science, education, humanities, etc.
2. Acceptance of virtual teaching learning environment.
3. Vision on every student.
4. Maintenance of discipline.
5. Internet facility with good speed and sufficient data package.
6. Proper management of time of virtual classes with household work without disturbance.
7. Teachers and students who have large number of family members with small space.
8. Challenge for female faculties.
9. Motivate every student to take class for whole session and present intellectually.
10. Authenticity of students.
11. To stop leakage of ids or links of virtual classroom.
12. Clarity in audio and video.
13. Concept framing according to the time slots of classes.
14. Workload increases.
15. Time management of parent faculties with their kids' virtual classes.
16. Execution of virtual examination from home without cheating and other indiscipline.
17. How to take admissions for new session using virtual environment.
18. Health problems.
19. Addiction of using mobile phones, tabs or pc.

20. Unavailability or unawareness of latest technology equipments.

### Conclusion

We human are adaptable to all situations and work for adjustment, solutions and survival. So, the educational system members also working in this direction and soon will get solution for also these challenges as faculties are actively practicing virtual mode with different-different platforms. This is the blessing in disguise that most of the teachers and students become techsavvy, tries to step with the need of modernization and requirements of students in such worldwide health crisis and also reduces paper work which helps in environment protection.

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