Case Study

A Critical study on student's perception of online education in India

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Abstract

Due to COVID-19, education institutes shifted to online modes of instruction and assessment to keep a safe social distance. There has been a tremendous shift towards online learning through the Indian Government's digital initiatives. Online courses exploded over the past couple of years in popularity, satisfying the needs of almost educational institutions. 'Online education' refers to a method of instruction wherein students engage in learning through the use of internet-connected computers at home. The study aims to analyse student's perceptions of online education in India. Receptiveness towards online learning in India during the COVID-19 lockdown period was significantly higher for student's from urban areas compared with rural areas. With the advent of the 'National Education Policy (NEP)' 2020, online education has become very relevant at this stage. The policy recognises the potential advantages of such measures but stipulates that the digital gap must be addressed before it can be fully implemented in the Karnataka State.

Keywords: COVID-19, Online education, Student's, NEP, Digital Gap.

Introduction

Online learning has become an integral aspect of a person's lifetime education since it allows students to access a wealth of resources and explore many pathways for resolving problems. A clearer picture of the students' interests and their approaches to online learning will emerge from this research. If students knew this information, they could make more informed decisions about how to get the most out of their online learning experience[1]. "Online education" refers to a method of instruction wherein students engage in learning through the use of Internet-connected computers at home. Over the past decade, online courses and diplomas have exploded in popularity, satisfying the needs of many adults who want to further their education but must balance other responsibilities, including working or caring for family members. Online education is more cost-effective than conventional education because of its accessibility, adaptability, and focus on outcomes. All of the people's requirements have been satisfied, so they may study whenever they choose without feeling pressured. The best thing about online learning is that it can help students no matter where they live in the world[2].

Unlike any other industry, education has benefited quickly from technological advancements. Online education appears simple at first glance but is actually rather challenging. Both online and brick-and-mortar schools are held to the same high standards of quality. Because of advancements in online education technology, virtual schools have better automated methods to detect and punish instances of plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty. To expand their reach and provide more online courses, several online colleges have formed collaborations with more traditional educational institutions[3].

In today's education system, virtual classrooms are a must-have. With more and more people relying on Online Education and the services it delivers, the popularity of Online Education is also rising among college students. Students and teachers alike have benefited from the Online Education facility since it allows them access to the most latest and up-to-date material accessible anywhere in the world[4].

Students have taken to the new century's trend toward online learning with ease. The purpose of this guide is to help you better understand the concept of online learning, as well as its relevance and potential outcomes. Read the article to learn how this change is improving students' lives and to discover several applications that may be used in Online Education[5].

Meaning and Benefits of Online Education

The term "online education" refers to a learning environment in which both teaching and grading take place entirely online. It is possible to further subdivide online education based on the percentage of online learning in a certain course. These subsets cover the gamut from wholly virtual experiences to more conventional hybrids of online and in-person learning. It's a flexible method of delivering instruction that involves learning in any field via the World

Wide Web. When a course is offered online, it enables teachers to reach students who otherwise would not be able to participate[6]. It's useful for pupils who'd rather choose their own pace and schedules when completing assignments[7].

Online degree programmes and other types of distance education are already widespread, and their popularity is rapidly increasing across virtually all academic disciplines. Online educational opportunities are expanding, as are the number of schools and other organizations that offer them. The onus is on prospective online degree-seekers to do their research and make sure they enroll in a legitimate, approved school.

Numerous positive outcomes have been associated with online learning. People who make their living in the field of education consider it as a boon. Access to study materials and video lectures has helped students improve their study habits. It is more reliable and cost-efficient than traditional classroom settings since students may learn and practice their abilities from anywhere. Knowledge in all areas of study is readily available to students through online education[8].

Below are a few benefits of online education: i. Utilizing the tools available online, you may acquire whatever knowledge you choose. ii. Students are able to learn more easily and pleasantly when they sit in their preferred locations. iii. The addition of online courses to a curriculum vitae or resume is sure to wow. iv. Through online education, students are able to learn at their own speed. v. Online education comes at a cost that is far lower than that of more traditional instructional methods. vi. Acquire a level of expertise in every aspect of life. vii. Students are able to rapidly review lectures based on their own needs. viii. Education that is both less daunting and free is offered via a number of websites and mobile apps. ix. Provides more time for reflection prior to the act of sharing materials through online education. x. In the context of online learning, put your focus on ideas, opinions, and thoughts, and share them with other participants. xi. People are more likely to communicate with one another in groups, and they work harder to overcome their anxiety about seeming ignorant. xii. Online education allows for a more adaptable timetable for academic pursuits. xiii. Online education is more cost-effective than traditional education since students don't have to pay for things like transportation or uniforms. xiv. Students gain from receiving their education online since it exposes them to a variety of instructional methods. xv. In online education, there is a plentiful supply of both instructors and materials.

Importance of Online Education

Greater availability of network nodes at the building and division levels would dramatically improve the standard of

distance learning resources available to faculty. Due to the proliferation of the Internet and mobile computing devices, students no longer need to attend traditional classrooms to learn the same information they would have gotten in a traditional classroom. Evidence from studies shows that online learning environments are just as effective as traditional ones for imparting knowledge to pupils[9].

Both the instructor and the student may determine the speed at which they want to study while using online education. The extra flexibility of being able to design a schedule that accommodates everyone's list of tasks is also available. Therefore, enrolling in classes through an online educational platform makes it possible to strike a better balance between employment and school, which eliminates the necessity to sacrifice anything in any area of one's life.

The geographical and monetary barriers to obtaining a decent education have been removed thanks to the proliferation of online educational opportunities.

The rise in career opportunities brought about by online education is another important facet of the development of online education. Expert advisors and educators now have the ability to reach more students thanks to online education. Students get access to the best academics and tutors from all around the world for their educational needs.

They benefit from receiving their education online since it enables them to remain current with the most recent technological innovations and advances. Any profession may benefit from the time-saving and money-saving qualities of an education obtained online.

There is a strong desire among Indian students to enter the business or IT fields. The lack of physical constraints is maybe the single most beneficial aspect of an online learning environment. Online courses are open to students from all areas of life. The number of students enrolled in online programmes is increasing exponentially. One possible explanation for this expansion is the rapid development of information technology, especially the Internet, software, and digital tools for accessing data[10].

Objectives of Online Education

Online learning is the wave of the future, and every student is itching to get in on the action. People in many walks of life, not just students, may benefit from taking classes online. With the development of new technologies, it has become a place where people may showcase their skills and grow as artists[11]. i. It improves the overall standard of both learning and teaching via the use of online education. ii. Online education may be tailored to meet the specific learning styles and requirements of individual students. iii. Improve the teaching and learning capabilities of online

education by making them more time and resource efficient. iv. Regain access as a user and the flexibility of time to engage with learners participating in the learning process via the usage of online education. v. Provide everyone on the faculty, as well as the staff and the students, with direct and unrestricted access to the information and services that are available. vi. Investigate and make available more sophisticated online technologies to the School of Education so that it may enhance its web presence in such a way as to acquire and attract a greater number of prospective students and to satisfy the shifting requirements of our community. vii. Enhance the capacity for online engagement between individuals and groups associated with the School of Education. viii. Develop new technologies and enhance existing ones, as well as support tools, in order to fulfill the current requirements and expectations of the School of Education. ix. Obtain input from users on the amount of contentment they have with both the existing services and the new services, and then make improvements in accordance with that feedback. x. Maintain the current technology, including the hardware, software, and network infrastructure, so that it can continue to provide Online Education in a dependable manner. xi. Raise students' understanding of the need for increased security across all online education teaching modalities.

Ways to Learn through Online Education

Students may take advantage of online education in a number of different ways now that they can enroll in and complete courses from a wide range of different schools.

Below are a few ways to learn through online education: i. E-books contribute to the analysis of the resources that are now available. ii. Journals, iii. are helpful in providing information that is essential Videos are helpful in acquiring knowledge, iv. Recordings of previously given lectures that may be accessed at any point in the day Quizzes to evaluate the knowledge acquired, v. Forums for discussion where everyone may share their thoughts and ideas, vi. Live question and answer sessions to facilitate in-depth comprehension, vii. Participation in online learning communities, viii. Tests are carried out in order to ascertain and collect feedback. ix. Providing a plethora of resources while also rendering e-learning content mobile-friendly.

Apps for Online Education

A lot of helpful and simple-to-obtain apps exist for online learning. It doesn't matter if a student is at home or at another location; they may still use these apps to their educational advantage. The interface and functionality of mobile applications are incredibly user-friendly. For this reason, we have provided the students with a list of potential online education programmes for them to look into. Some of the following mobile apps provide free courses, while others

demand a subscription fee in order to access their library of paid courses that are personalised to the individual user's interests. Me Consider using the following mobile apps to supplement your online education[12].

"Fox Fi, Ever note, Google Hangout, Tether, My Homework, Drop box, Easy Bib, Self Control, Any. Do, Mendeley, Doodle, Zoom, Micro Team, Merit nation, Byju's, my CBSC Guide, Vedantu, Vidyakul, Toppr, Doubtnut, Khan Academy, CA clubindia, Imdigolearn, Test book, Unacademy, Adda 247, Grade Up, Coursera, Simplilearn, Udemy, Sololearn, Coding Ninjas".

National Education Policy and Online Education

Digital media today is the blend between the classical and conventional way of learning like books and notebooks and digital software. Online education is the growing face of the education system in India. Since the New Education Policy (NEP) came in 2020, many changes have been made in the education system that included online education as well[13].

MOOCs can be seen as a form of open education offered for free through online platforms. The idea of MOOCs is to open up quality higher education to a wider audience. As such, it's an important tool to achieve goal of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. MOOCs are massive open online courses. Today, MOOCs are providing flexible and affordable educational opportunities learners at all stages.

In 2015, for the first time ever, learners earned college credit for MOOCs on edX. Since then, edX and our partner universities have increased the number of programs around the world that recognize learners, accomplishments in MOOCs and offer credit pathways into degree programs[14].

In addition to traditional course materials, such as filmed lectures, readings, and problem sets, many MOOCs provide interactive courses with user forums or social media discussions to support community interactions among students, professors, and teaching assistants.

MOOCs are regarded by many as an important tool to widen access to higher education (HE) for millions of people, regarded as contributing to the democratization of HE, not only locally or regionally but globally as well. MOOCs can help democratise content and make knowledge reachable for everyone. Students are able to access complete courses offered by universities all over the world, MOOCs increase access to an extraordinary number of courses offered by world-renowned institutions and teachers[15].

Conclusion

COVID-19 pandemic and consecutive lockdowns have caused a lot of disturbance in the education system of India. With the

closure of schools for months and the loss in the business of school owners and trustees, people are leaning towards the digital platforms of learning. With the emergence of a new set of rules formed by the Indian government in 2020, we can say that digital ways of learning and education are going to be the new normal. But this is going to come with lots of challenges as I have mentioned. Online learning has the potential to improve students' familiarity and ease with technology, as well as their confidence and proficiency in using computers. They all agreed that the convenience of online courses meant that their information and communication demands could be satisfied promptly. Teachers who frequently used ICT emphasized the medium's value for encouraging students to work together to solve problems, involving them directly in the process of knowledge construction, and cultivating students' cognitive abilities, as well as for fostering a culture of inquiry similar to that of researchers. Online education has limitless potential to improve today's society. They can study whenever and wherever it is most convenient for them.

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