Original Research Article

A Research Study on online learning platforms

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Abstract

In this paper, we have identified key factors which will boost online education in India. We have identified internet penetration; low cost of online education, ease of doing course, initiative by government, employer's recognition and bridging gap are the key factors the growth of online education. The COVID-19 pandemic has generated a world-wide consciousness that the present way of lifestyle does not work. There are many areas need the revolutionary changes and it has become obvious, one among is educational sector. In India, educational institutes/universities remain closed since the mid of March-2020, because of the fast spread of COVID-19. Emergency lockdown has a preventive measure upended the life of students, parents and teachers. To combat these inevitable crisis educational sectors started conducting the online classes. The sudden changeover in teaching/learning method has raised new challenges and opportunities.

Keywords: Online education; Face to face education; Challenges and opportunities; Digital infrastructure

INTRODUCTION

The process of imparting education has gone through a sea change if we look at the picture 10-20 years before now. Technology has taken over almost every field of our lives and the onset of online courses came as a path-breaker. No longer did one need to have access to schools, time or a lot of money! All one needed was a good internet connection and a computer .Online education is learning, utilizing electronic technologies to access educational curriculum outside of a traditional classroom.
Objective of the Study
1) To understand the concept of online education.
2) To study current state and future of online education in India.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This research study is based in the secondary data. The said secondary data is collected from different sources such as reference books on E-Learning, Web Portals, Online Education, and Distance Learning. For this research study, the secondary data is also collected from various magazines and journals which are connected to E-Learning, Web Portals, Online Education, and Distance Learning. For the said research study the secondary data is also collected from various websites, search engine and online information providers.

HYPOTHESIS OF THE RESEARCH STUDY:

1. E-Learning is very helpful for country like India which consists of large amount of youth.
2. It provides better utilization of Information Technology.
3. The impact of E-Learning in Indian Education System is positive.
4. With the increase in the use of internet day by day, the scope of E-Learning is wide

THE GROWTH OF DIGITAL LEARNING

Following are the main reasons for the growth of online education in India:

➢ With nearly a billion people on mobile phones and over 200 million mobiles connected to the internet, there has been a considerable rise in digital learning

➢ The use of best-in-class content, real-time learning and feedback methods, and personalized instructions has encouraged online learning

➢ People are stepping towards digital learning as the edutech firms are providing them the comfort of 'live and interactive' anywhere learning in digital format, through its online programs

➢ These online courses are affordable and easily accessible

➢ Digital learning aims to break the numerous barriers that are preventing people from receiving quality

➢ Education in the physically bound classrooms

FUTURE OF E-LEARNING IN INDIA:

The future of E-Learning portal is bright. Through regulation and financial support, Government of India is taking every measure to boost E-Learning environment in India. Not only government but many private sector participants are also taking every step to provide pace to E-Learning system in India. All these measure and steps make India as attractive destination for E-Learning industry. Many foreign companies are planning to setup their business of E-Learning system in India. The futures of Open University are also very bright in India. Till date there are more than 10 open universities in India providing more than 500 courses. Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) is the pioneer and biggest Open University in India. In order to promote Distance Education, Distance Education Council has been set up to promote and develop Distance Education in India.

MAJOR CHALLENGES WHILE INCORPORATING ONLINE EDUCATION

1. Incorporating online education in the general education system isn't an easy task, with the new set of rules comes many challenges.

2. If we take the example of rural India, almost 30% of them are not computer literate and many don't even know how to start a computer. Having basic computer knowledge is important if we want to provide online education in every part of the country.

3. Unaffordability is a big issue. For the low-class community like farmers, maids, household staffs, sweepers who have low income, affording a laptop or computer is a really difficult task.

4. It is a big challenge for teachers too. It's not important that a classroom teacher can be good at teaching in online sessions.

5. Practical learning is not possible in online classes. Even if teachers can explain the theoretical aspects, students still need practical training to grasp what they have learned, which is most common in subjects like science and practical arts.

6. To conduct an online examination, India has only a limited number of resources available and moreover, the numbers of questions asked are also limited.

7. Conducting live sessions and streaming them for the children who belong to the rural part of India is not possible because of the poor network connectivity. Even if the rural areas are gaining knowledge about new technologies like smartphones, laptops, or tablets, and are doing everything to afford it, the lack of internet network supply is still a big issue.

CONCLUSION

Higher education in India is currently restricted by lack of clarity when it comes to regulating online channels of education. Teachers and students' comfort with online class design, structure, level of interaction between students and faculty, the quality and amount of class content, technical support, and overall experience with online class delivery impact the overall teaching and learning experience and determines the ultimate success or failure of online mode of education. Thus, awareness needs to be increased focusing on the convenience and accessibility aspect in order to increase the adoption of online channels by students and teachers. Frustration with class structure and design may translate into a poor learning outcome for students. Improving the quality of online classes with the help of various service providers, along with support from different colleges and universities can help in making online mode of education more effective and easily acceptable all over India. The concerns suggested by teachers and students point towards the fact that more research and study should be conducted to provide more detailed information for changes to occur within design and methodology of online classes. Establishing a structured and user-friendly environment for online mode of education, one that is accessible for all without putting financial burden on students and teachers should be the main criteria in the minds of college and university management while promoting online education.

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