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E-Learning Delivery during COVID-19 and the Future of Blended Learning

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Abstract: The sudden onset on Covid-19 Pandemic has made the teaching community to shift to the e-learning delivery in order to continue teaching students who cannot join the campus and probably at home. The impact of online learning has its own strategies while execution and has will have an impact later when physical classes are conducted in the form of blended learning. The main objective of this paper is to identify the key aspects of e learning in the continuous education process and the pros and cons it will have on the shorter and the longer terms.

Keywords: Covid-19, e-learning, blended learning

Introduction:

The Covid 19 pandemic which started earlier in 2019, had forced the educational institutions across the world to shift towards the online delivery and learning. The sudden onset of the pandemic made the transition from Physical classes to online platforms. This paper intends to study on the impact of this transition on students, parents, teachers and the impact on the educational methodology for the Years to come. Various Online Platforms like Zoom, google meet, WebEx are made available for both personal and licensed commercial purposes.

The schools and colleges are dependent on these platforms for content delivery and face to face interaction between students and teachers. The first criteria for utilizing these

resources are hardware facilities like Mobile Phones and laptops with internet connectivity. The availability of the signal coverage, bandwidth and the internet quota are the primary concerns for both teachers as well as students. The students were able to interact with the teachers and be in touch with their studies which was the major advantage that has been offered in this shift from physical classes and online classes while staying at the comfort of home.

Impact on the various stakeholders:

Since online classes are not an option anymore and becomes a necessity, the impact it has on the various stakeholders has to be studied to know its effects and to rectify the same for the betterment of the society. The major concern is not all students will have the signal coverage and in rural and hilly areas it becomes a major hindrance for the learning, either students need to travel to nearby places where signal coverage is good or they need to skip their lectures.

The next one is the availability of sufficient bandwidth, since either a complete day or half a day has been scheduled with online classes. These factors are common for both teachers as well as students. The unprecedented delay to the sudden rebooting or hardware problems of mobile and laptop and the periodical charging and maintenance of these devices pose a major concern.

The advantages of the online e-learning system:

Students can continue their classes by staying at home and utilize the time spent on transport and materialization in terms of their hobbies or any their courses or skill development classes. The safety it provides by allowing at stay at home and flexibility in submission of assignments in online platform along with the resources available is a major welcome factor.

The concerns of the system:

For younger students, periodical monitoring of the classes and home work to be done by the parents which becomes an additional responsibility. The students are being directed to self-learning, again the outcome depends on each individual. The continuous screen time is having an impact on eyes and creates headache and fatigue. The constant monitoring of students by parents should be done for watching over the contents, kids view while using the internet and mobile phones. Even though the classes are handled and feedback can be immediately obtained, the gap between face-to-face learning and online learning is still wider which has to be bridged by undergoing self-validation of online learning in order to achieve blended learning in the near future.

Conclusion

The sudden shift from face-to-face learning to online learning was initially harder for the schools and colleges to adopt at the beginning. Now the temporary shift may permanently have an impact because of its advantages it offers as blended learning even when the situation resumes normal. Hence the online learning along with the traditional learning methods can act as a boon if only it's been utilized properly.

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