



Online Education – A New Normal after the Current COVID 19 Pandemic?

Though there exist both offline education taught in a class room and online education in the form of sessions pertaining to distance learning, they have their own advantages and disadvantages. The traditional teaching or offline education taught in a class room is beneficial as the students interact with the teachers and their peers face to face which helps them to understand better. This creates a sort of peer bondage and helps to maintain social relationships among them.

But the improvement in the technology, has opened the door for the online education, more so widened by the current pandemic i.e. COVID 19. The pandemic has forced the governments to implement complete lockdowns in their respective states since the start of the pandemic in early days of 2020, which is continuing till now and probably will continue for few more months. Though initially it was started as a time gap arrangement, the online classes or the examinations are about to continue and the stakeholders are getting themselves adjusted to this new normal.

As the technology is improving, the online learning would have definitely replaced the traditional method in near future. But the existing pandemic has forced us to embrace the online education system much earlier than it was thought to be well recognised.

The advantages in the online learning like no necessity of travel to classrooms which saves money and time, no need of infrastructure, students ease to attend the classes, practically classes can be conducted from anywhere in the world using experts in the field, much easier learning with availability of digital technology, knowledge and skills enhancement of learner and many more are making it an much accepted method of learning especially in this scenario. It is even supported by the fact that one out of every four students is enrolling himself or herself for the online courses according to online learning Consortium data.

Though there are disadvantages of online learning in the form of limited student feedback, social isolation, requirement of strong self-motivation and time management skills, lack of development of communication skills, difficulty in monitoring and prevention of cheating by students, the students are accepting the new but known mode of learning which they never thought of experiencing. This pandemic has pushed them towards the online learning mode. Gradually over a period of one and half years, they are accepting the reality and embracing this virtual learning. The changing students' perception, other stakeholders' keenness and most importantly, continuing pandemic and future of which is unpredictable, the online learning might replace its counterpart, traditional learning as a new normal..... the way of learning!

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