Research Article

A Study on the Coronavirus Pandemic and its Impact on the Indian Education Sector & Online Learning Pertaining to the Students

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Abstract

The recent COVID -19, Coronavirus outbreak has brought the entire world at a standstill. various industries , businesses , households have been brought to its knees , on of these sectors that this study focuses is the Indian education sector which is just right about coming off age in terms of digitization , the study explores how this sector is coping with the outbreak and how technology has come out as savior to this field.

Introduction

What if we had to live in a World of Corona? Today we are living in extraordinary times. Since the last couple of weeks and months, it seems like we are living in a science-fiction movie. With a virus that is of our own creation and no extra-terrestrial alien afflicting our lives and livelihood. WHO today requests us to 'respect the virus' and 'learn to live in a World of Corona'? The questions arise when we look at this situation through the perspectives of educators and education researchers. To cope with the current situation larger section of educators are looking at the default and the safest option which is teaching digitally. Some institutes in India were quick to adapt to these transitions. But only a few people have the answers to the challenges faced by these transitions because only a few have experienced this important change of fully online teaching and learning after being in the most technologically developed world. As the feeder of higher education it's a huge challenge and a room for innovation for schools and education centers .In a highly competitive and aggressive market, global educators have warned and emphasized the attention requirement over the relationship of technology, teacher, and students. As education is not just a cognitive process but social too.

Objectives of the Study:

The study has the following objectives:
- To Analyse the impact of COVID 19 on the Indian education sector
- To Analyse key concerns relating to digital learning in India
- To Identify various factors involved in digital or e-learning

Research Methodology

Keeping the Objective of the Research in the Focal Point, we have Chosen Survey Method to address the actual areas of Development and Actual Benefits to the Real Beneficiaries. To get the better Picture, greater Accuracy and in -depth Analysis, we have collected a wide range of Samples of 100 Responses.

Sample

100 Stratified Samples in Strata's of men and women from the age group of 15 to 30 years of age, which includes learners, students

COVID -19 and its impact on education sector

With confirming cases of soaring deaths due to coronavirus schools started closing on the 23rd of February in the Lombardy region of Italy. Italy dramatically changed the course in a bid to halt the virus and went under lockdown by evening. Five weeks later, with many familiar and unfamiliar ways teachers were reaching students at the doorsteps via video conferencing. Using the most unironic technology of the era flip grids and virtually post-it notes which helps students and teachers to create short videos and help each other solve problems together. International School of Monza being part of the biggest educational technology (EdTech) has 1.5 billion students who are attempting to study solely online under it. The 21st century has compelled us to force educators, students, and parents to think beyond limits, solve problems that were never solved before, to communicate at the largest reach, and most importantly to be agile.

Andreas Schleicher's head of education at the OECD says "It's a great moment" for learning. The red-tapism that caused the hindrance between the goal is gone and people are looking for solutions that was a blur in the past. The essential thing about learning by self is it leads you towards the ownership of learning. Which lets you discover the self-customized pattern of learning. Schleicher also emphasizes the fact that once the momentum is built it is difficult to put the genie back in the bottle. This accessibility only limits us to more dynamics than we can think of for starters it is only on display for all the world to see. It sheds light on deep inequalities too not just who has devices and bandwidth, the skills of self-learning also play a crucial role and whose parents have time to invest in their children's growth. Tech might have hacked algorithms of teaching theory well, but the drawback speaks for itself when looking at the criteria like socialization, care and coaching of community and shared spaces.

With the rolling out of tech insights overnight the focus of learning has shifted from the relationships with teachers, personalization, and independence. But it ends up giving a sour taste due to lack of self-learning training. Many people may frustrate over log on processes and mucking through products that did not make sense. Turning into a short-term commercial strategy for the vendors who focuses on educational courses. Nick Kind says, "But for this to become transformational for teachers and learners, you wouldn't have wanted to start this way."

The stormy pandemic will surely prove that either our education system can be revolutionized, or online education is not as efficient as it seems. Slowly changing education signifies a lot of things but most importantly it highlights the requirement of digitalization for the post-coronavirus economy.

The Indian perspective
An epidemic to the Pandemic transformation of COVID-19 has ensured 1.5 million schools/ colleges to convert a traditional classroom into an online classroom. The building of the vision and breaking of the stereotypical thinking is essential for our educators to reach the maximum of their potential.

Certain factors made easy connecting online is making a blueprint of the goals, attendance, instead of traditional textbooks e-books can be offered. Reputed and dynamic institutes have already adapted to these transitions and are flawlessly providing education even during this crisis.

73% of internet users will be interacting in a regional language by 2021 says a report by Google India and KPMG. A massive void to be filled by vernacular speakers.

People constrained to the language English only will be limited and the consumer base will be decreased for these platforms. Thus, vernacular content has a wide scope to cherish this market in the future and has an opportunity to fill the digital divide.
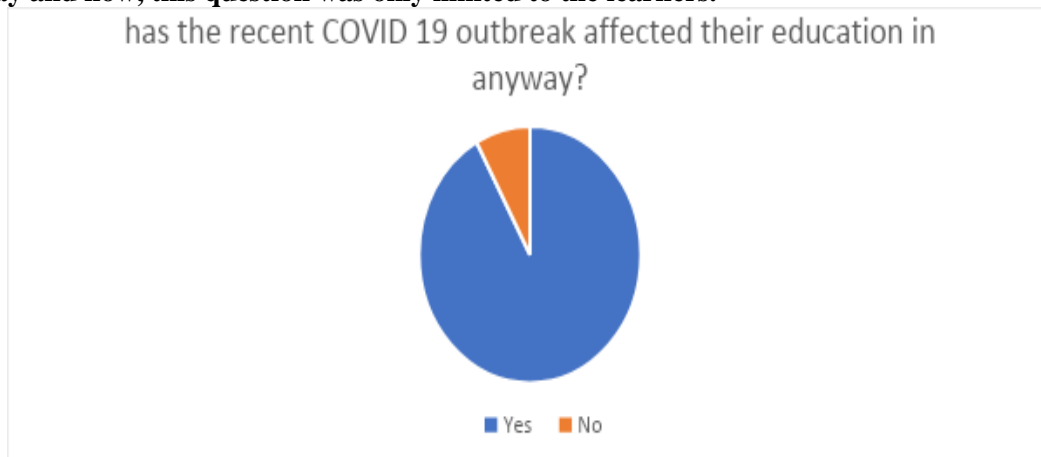
With different tools and extensions in the market approaching and accessibility of online teaching is easier than before. Zoom, Google Hangouts, and Microsoft teams provides integration for free, when education is concerned we cannot overlook assessments for this institutes are associating with open sources like Moodle and ERP vendors are assigned the work to bring out more learning management systems (LMS). Technologically ahead of every country China has developed a National Online Cloud Classroom. This platform runs on 7000 servers and 90 terabytes of bandwidth, for simultaneous use by 50 million learners.

The situation is alarming, and we need to remodel our approach towards an uninterrupted education service. The environment has always been dynamic and technology is the most rapidly changing aspect of it and owing to this rapid change and emerging technology today EdTech has become more relevant and impacting positively more and more people across the country in 2020, and beyond.
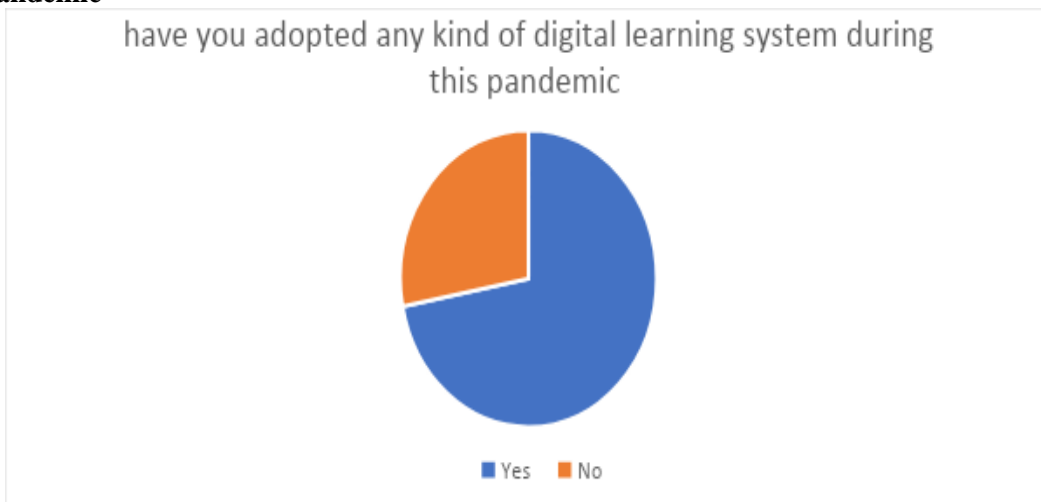
Primary Data Analysis & Interpretation
On the basis of survey conducted, number of questions were asked to the respondents, the most important observations.

The respondents were asked has the recent COVID 19 outbreak affected their education in anyway and how, this question was only limited to the learners.

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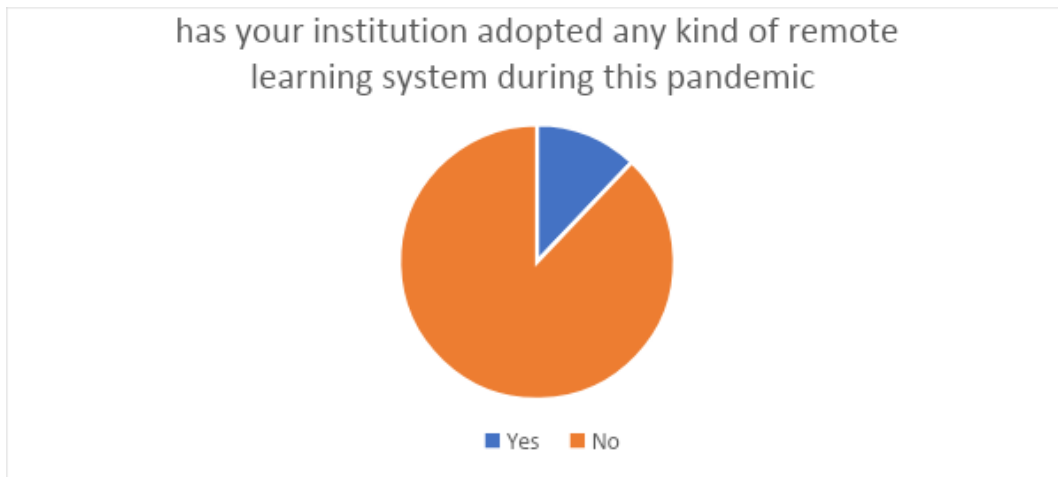
■ Yes ■ No

The above pie charts depicts that around 92% respondents feel that the recent COVID 19 outbreak affected their education majority of the respondents said that though their course work was almost over , COVID 19 has ruined the academic calendar in terms of semester end examinations and various competitive and professional examinations like CA , ACCA and CFA

The respondents were asked to have they adopted any kind of digital learning system during this pandemic

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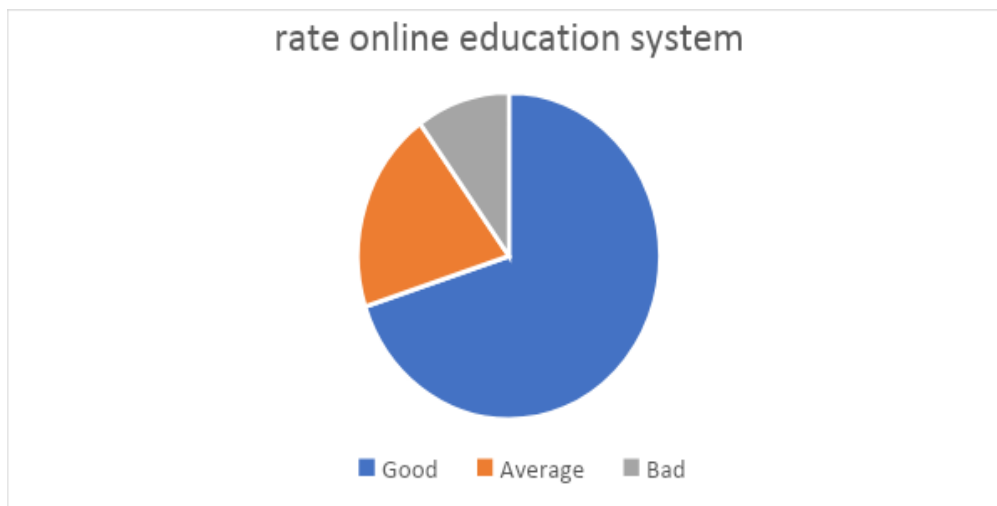
■ Yes ■ No

The above pie chart depicts over 72% learners adopted various kinds of digital learning system during this pandemic, which include platforms like Coursera, EdX and Udemy. The main reasoning behind option for this is was many of the courses are offered by colleges of prestigious repute such as Harvard, oxford and offer wide range of specialization of the subject of their liking

Respondents were asked has their institution adopted any kind of remote learning system during this pandemic

The above pie chart depicts that only 44% of respondents said that their education institutes are adopting to various types of remote learning systems which include Google Classrooms, Microsoft Teams, Zoom Video Conferencing etc.
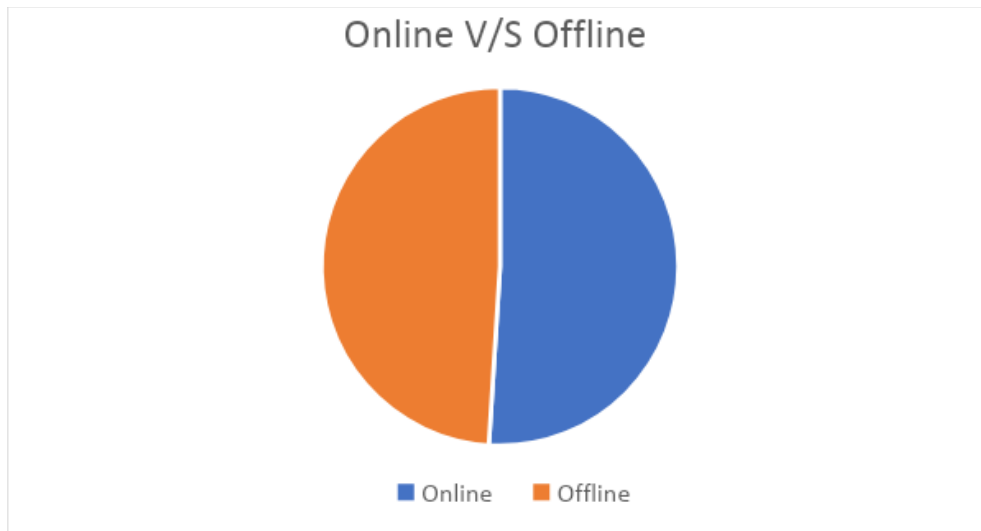
Respondents were asked to rate online education system and the reason for the same

Over 70 % respondents gave online education system a " Good: rating , reasons given for the same ranged from Online courses offer students greater control over their own learning by enabling them to work at their own pace, More engaging multimedia content, greater access to their instructor and fellow classmates via online chat, and less likelihood of outside scheduling conflicts can contribute to improved retention metrics. Online courses also tend to include more frequent assessments. The more often students are assessed, the better their instructors can track progress and intervene when needed.

10% respondents rated online education system as "Bad" because broadband access is still not pervasive. And 256kbps will not cut it. People do not trust a virtual company. A real physical presence is still needed to sell the program. This hinders the reach of the program. This may change as more and more people get comfortable with pure online transactions and the biggest one - students are not looking for 'learning'. They are looking for a 'certificate'. And a brick and mortar shop can provide a visible certificate.

Respondents were also asked their learning preference with reference to online vs offline method

Online V/S Offline

■ Online ■ Offline

When the Respondents were also asked their learning preference with reference to online vs offline method , it should gap between both options is quite less , 51 % respondents said they prefer online teaching over offline , reasons were mostly related to convenience and access , but 49% respondents still prefer traditional form of education over online education major reasons were lack of technological infrastructure and lack of personal touch following chart depicts the trend in sampling of the study

Age-group	Male Student	Female Student	Total
15-20	25	27	52
20-25	24	22	46
25-30	01	01	02
Total	50	50	N=100

HYPOTHESIS TESTING
Hypothesis:
H_0: There are no differences of opinions about technology as a biggest concern w.r.t. online education system, amongst students

H_1: There are differences of opinions about There are no differences of opinions about technology as a biggest concern w.r.t. online education system, amongst students

Hypothesis testing (Chi Square Method)

Online education			concerns		
			Technology	Impersonal	Attention	total
yes	51	32	12	7	51
no	49	40	9	0	49
total	100	72	21	07	100

	concerns		
trust	Technology	Impersonal	Attention
yes	36.72	10.71	3.57
no	35.28	10.29	3.43
total	72	21	07

O	E	(O-E)*2/E
32	36.72	0.60
12	35.28	15.36
07	10.71	1.28
40	10.29	85.78
09	3.57	8.25
00	3.43	3.43
Total		**114.7**

$\chi^2 = \sum(O-E)*2/E = 114.7$
Degrees of freedom= (2-1)(3-1)=2
χ^2 (0.05, 2) = 5.991 (Table Value) , χ^2 (0.01, 2) =9.210 (Table Value)
χ^2(calculated) > χ^2 (0.05, 2)

Hence, the **hypothesis null is rejected,** there are differences of opinions about There are no differences of opinions about technology as a biggest concern w.r.t. online education system, amongst students.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS
Following conclusions can be drawn from the study:

- Online Education during COVID 19 is gaining immense popularity especially amongst the leaners

- Major reason for its popularity is ease of use and 24x7 availability and ease of taking lessons at home

- Online education platforms have the full potential to replace traditional form of apparel shopping

- Online education platforms have a few concerns one of them being internet infrastructure

 Following recommendations can be suggested with the help of the study:

- Uniform availability of internet being the major concern, Online education platforms should provide downloading content as an option .

- Such platforms have several myths associated with them, need of the hour is to create proper awareness and burst baseless myths specially concerning safety issues

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