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Impact of the COVID-19 Lockdown on the Quality of Higher Education

Danis Amirov, Almetevsk State Oil Institute, Russia*

ABSTRACT

COVID-19 halted the education system throughout the world. Colleges and schools across India were shut down to contain the spread of the virus. Now there was an immediate need to respond to this situation and colleges, schools, and coaching centers throughout India, and the world started moving online for conducting classes, giving homework and assignments to the students, thereby not stopping the learning. The purpose of the research is to investigate the closure of schools and colleges due to COVID-19 and its impact on online websites, certification courses. Both primary and secondary research sources were used to collect relevant information throughout the research. Primary research was taken from a questionnaire, surveys, and interviews while secondary sources included articles, previous research papers, newspapers, etc. It was found that students found online learning necessary during the lockdown and that there was a significant relationship between the closure of colleges and schools during the lockdown and an increase in online course takers.

KEYWORDS

Impact of Lockdown COVID-19, Quality Higher Education, Sustainable and Smart Future in Digital Age, Tools Used Basic of Bioinformatics

INTRODUCTION

The COVID-19 lockdown has led to the closure of schools and colleges throughout the world an estimated 1.2 Billion students across the world are affected due to the same, Nearly 186 countries around the world have stopped working due to this global pandemic, While some say that it is difficult to suddenly shift to a complete online learning methodology, The rest argue that information technology in education will help students and will eventually be a part of the regular curriculum.

However the academic calendar was disrupted and there was a need to stay on the learning track not only for students but also teachers, Now the best way to do so was to make use of online learning platforms, online communication platforms and certification courses to promote learning during this pandemic. Online classes started taking place on zoom, Microsoft teams, Google meet etc. Also the employees were asked to work from home so that the virus does not spread much.

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INDUSTRY BACKGROUND

- The online education market in India was valued at INR 39 billion in 2018 and is expected to reach INR 360.3 billion by 2024, expanding at a CAGR of ~43.85% during the 2019-2024 period.
- Ease of learning, flexibility, and a wide range of study materials have influenced the overall growth of the industry.
- The Indian online education market is highly fragmented with around 3,500 edtech start-ups operating in the country. Many foreign players are entering the Indian online education industry.
- BYJU's, Udemy, Coursera and Duolingo are a few prominent players in the industry, catering to the requirements of different target audiences.
- The Indian Government also played an important role to promote e learning by offering free courses through portals like Swayam, Diksha, Nasscom. The AICTE launched an online portal "ENHANCEMENT IN LEARNING WITH IMPROVEMENT IN SKILLS"
- Portal which gives access to free online courses from 18 ed tech giants. A large number of ed tech giants also gave away online courses free of cost, based on a study on top 35 online learning platforms the ed-tech segment saw a 26% increase in online traffic between April 2019 to March 2020.
- BYJUs Learning app announced free classes till the end of April 2020, Like Uncademy founder Gaurav Munjal said that they have increased taking free online class.
- Some important factors for online learning are Students learn more than offline normal classroom courses, Important concepts can be discussed, Regular assessment can be made online.
- Some professors would argue that online presentations help create an efficient and effective communication model which could benefit students in the long run. Research suggests that online learning helps retain 25%-60% more information as compared to 8%-10% classroom teaching.
- Also E-learning requires a 40%-60% less time to learn than traditional classroom teaching as the course can be tailormade with our pace. So one can make the most out the time, also since these courses are self paced students can skip unnecessary stuff.
- E-learning also saves a lot of time commuting from one place to another. E-learning saves a lot of money as well by reducing time of commuting from one place to another. IBM is said to have saved $200 million by switching to e-learning.
- For students COVID-19 was one of the best opportunities to enhance their skillset with a lot of websites offering free certification courses.

Though these courses were offered before COVID-19, There was an increase in number of course takers in the pandemic period. It has been stated by DHE under MHRD recommended that even the teachers, faculty member may use this time in online learning,self development, writing research papers and other fruitful activities

RESEARCH PROBLEM

1. Since the closure of education institutes due to the COVID-19 lockdown schools and colleges have opted to give online classes and homework online to contain the spread of the coronavirus.
2. From the research we want to investigate how much of an impact does the lockdown have on online learning
3. How has COVID-19 influenced the online certification courses and e learning platforms in MBA Colleges in Pune.
4. Since the outbreak of COVID-19 a lot of e learning platforms have announced free courses for it course takers weather this had led to the increase in online enrolment of courses or not