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Unleashing the Potential of Digital Education in Post Covid Era

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Abstract: *The Covid-19 pandemic increases many challenges and leads to disruption across the Higher Education sector; university campuses closed, and face-to-face teaching and assessment shifted to andigital or online format. Students have the chance to make judgments in Pandemic that are based on facts, constructively solve challenges, and—most importantly—adapt to circumstances when new abilities are required. Flexibility in our educational institutions must be created if we want to guarantee that these abilities will be fundamental for all pupils. In India, the online education system has also led to a great deal of confusion, making it difficult for students to maintain their normal academic schedules. The majority of universities have taken the initiative to promote communication using Skype calls, the Zoom application, Google Classroom, and other digital and online modalities in order to resolve these issues. It prepares teachers and students to use online learning environments and other forms of technology to facilitate the sharing of knowledge. Digital India vision of the government is emerging as a vital tool for solving the present crisis due to Covid-19. It is a fact that technology-based education is more transparent with all respect. Keeping all these in mind present paper is an attempt to highlight the features of digital education in present scenario*

Keywords: Digital Education, PostCovid Era

I. INTRODUCTION

The considerable influence of information technology on different facets of society, including education, services, employment, and commercial practices, is what defines the contemporary era, sometimes known as the "digital age." The adoption of IT-based digital interventions in higher education has resulted in significant changes. Given that geographic barriers are no longer a significant obstacle and that knowledge has become more pervasive, one of the notable improvements is the increasing accessibility to education. Several difficulties have arisen as a result of the ongoing growth of higher education, which aims to reach the target gross enrolment ratio of 30% by 2030. One of these issues is the lack of a sufficient supply of high caliber teachers. It can be difficult to find enough skilled instructors to accommodate the increasing number of students. A lack of infrastructural support that is required to facilitate the expansion may also exist. It becomes essential to make investments in the hiring and preparation of qualified instructors to handle these issues. It is important to work to find bright teachers and give them the resources and support they require to offer high-quality instruction. In addition, it's important to give infrastructure development first priority so that institutions can properly accommodate the growing student population. Indeed, the difficulties of providing a high-quality education and supporting infrastructure in higher education have been acknowledged for many years.

1.1 Covid-19's Effect on Digital Education

The pandemic helped us see that there is only one sector that requires transformation, and that is education. Something had to be done to prevent the kids from being cognitively confused. That was the main task: going from nothing to something. Teachers, however, were not given enough time for preparation or training in the online education mode because the transition from the traditional education system to it was so abrupt and unexpected. However, despite its challenges and limitations, this revolution has opened the door for changes to the current educational system. The administration of tests or competitions presented another issue as a result of the shortcomings of our assessment and evaluation system. It became clear that the educational system needed to be flexible and open to everyone.

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The landscape of education has changed even more as a result of technological advancements, particularly those related to the internet and digital platforms. Access to educational resources has been greatly increased as a result of the development of online learning materials and the popular use of platforms like YouTube. The boundaries of time and place are no longer an issue for students as they can now access a wide variety of educational videos, tutorials, and lectures online. This has greatly democratized education, enabling students from many backgrounds and regions to gain access to high-quality instructional materials. The boundaries of time and place are no longer an issue for students as they can now access a wide variety of educational videos, tutorials, and lectures online. This has greatly democratized education by enabling students from many backgrounds and locations to access high-quality educational materials.

To enhance the use of online channels by students and teachers, awareness needs to be raised, with a focus on the convenience and accessibility factors. Students may learn less effectively as a result of frustration with the format and design of the class. It is possible to increase the effectiveness and general acceptance of online education in India by improving the quality of online courses with the assistance of various service providers, support from various colleges, and assistance from various universities. In order to give a better design and approach in the online sector, more research and study should be done; the major criterion should be accessibility for all without placing a financial burden on students and teachers. Higher education is still primarily provided online

1.2 The way that students advantages of digital learning

Unparalleled availability and access: The capacity of digital learning to offer unmatched access to education is one of its biggest benefits. Learners can now easily access a wide variety of educational resources and courses, regardless of their geographic location, socioeconomic status, or time restrictions. Individuals can learn at their own pace with this amount of flexibility, which enables them to juggle their education with other obligations like employment, family, or other responsibilities. The constraints of traditional classrooms are removed by digital learning, allowing those who may have previously been unable to pursue their educational objectives access to education.

In traditional classroom environments, learners may encounter obstacles like constrained course options, geographic isolation, or scheduling issues. Digital learning, however, gets over these restrictions by interact with course content has been revolutionized by digital learning tools. Student engagement is increased via interactive and multimedia-rich information, which makes learning more dynamic and stimulating. Students can collaborate with classmates, take part in online forums, and access additional materials, all of which enhance the learning experience. Additionally, the use of adaptive technology in digital content has improved student performance with encouraging outcomes.

To fully realize the potential advantages of the digital age in higher education, it is crucial to continue solving the issues related to assuring the quality of digital content and supporting infrastructure. The cost-effectiveness of digital learning is a major benefit. Digital learning frequently shows to be a more economical choice for both students and educational institutions when compared to traditional education methods. Physical classrooms are not necessary with digital learning, which lowers infrastructure expenses for things like building upkeep, utilities, and classroom supplies. These money-saving resources can be used by educational institutions to raise the standard of their digital learning materials or provide access to more students. Scalable and affordable course delivery is made possible by digital learning. The ongoing expenditures related to providing online courses are quite modest once the initial setup of the platforms and courses is finished. Better Engagement: Presentations that are dynamic and aesthetically pleasing are possible with digital learning. Videos, photos, and interactive material are examples of multimedia components.

Collaboration: Through features like discussion boards, chat features, and collaborative tools, technology enables interactive learning experiences. In order to build a sense of community and involvement, students can actively participate in discussions, ask questions, and communicate with classmates and instructors. Online platforms may also readily promote collaborative activities and projects, allowing students to collaborate and learn from one another.

Personalization and Adaptive Learning: Thanks to technology, learning experiences may be customized to suit each person's needs and preferences. With the use of adaptive learning technologies, instructors may monitor students' progress and modify the pace and content accordingly, giving specific feedback and encouragement. This tailored strategy improves learning results and learner engagement.

Self-learning: One of the significant advantages of digital learning resources is that they provide students with the opportunity for self-learning and exploration. Here are some key points regarding self-learning through digital

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resources. Digital learning resources offer a wide range of materials from various educators, experts, and institutions. Students can access different perspectives, teaching styles, and approaches to a particular subject.

Enhanced Teaching and Assessment: Digital tools and platforms offer teachers innovative ways to deliver instruction and assess student learning. Teachers can utilize learning management systems, online quizzes, and interactive assignments to track student progress, provide timely feedback, and adapt teaching strategies accordingly. Digital learning also enables data-driven insights and analytics, allowing educators to identify areas for improvement and tailor their instruction for better student outcomes

Continuous Professional growth and Lifelong Learning: Digital learning promotes lifelong learning and ongoing professional growth. Professionals can easily access information related to their industry, refresh their skills, and obtain certifications. Access to a wide range of specialized courses and resources is made possible through online platforms, allowing people to stay current in their industries and improve their job chances.

While there are many benefits to digital learning, it's necessary to take into account its limitations and potential downsides.

Technical Problems and Dependence on Technology: Internet access and technology are crucial to digital learning. The learning process can be interfered with by technical problems like hardware failures, software bugs, or internet outages. To fully participate in digital learning activities, students and instructors need to have access to dependable technology and a steady internet connection. Due to their dependence on technology, people who have poor access to it or low levels of digital literacy may encounter difficulties participating.

Loss of Interest in organized Classes: Some students may get disinterested in traditional organized classes as a result of the availability of online courses and access to qualified instructors from around the world. Classroom-based education may seem less enticing due to the availability of online resources and the allure of self-paced study. However,

Self-Motivation and Discipline: These two qualities are essential for success in online learning. To maintain their focus and motivation throughout their digital learning journey, learners must rely on their own self-discipline since teachers and classmates cannot be physically present. In traditional classroom environments, students frequently engage with teachers and peers in person on a daily basis, which fosters a sense of external accountability. This can assist in keeping students on task, motivated, and engaged in conversations and assignment completion. Without this external responsibility in digital learning, it may be simpler for people to put off doing something or lose enthusiasm. Digital learning occurs in a setting that could be distracting, including at home or in public, where students might run into various distractions like housework, family members, or other students.

Learning Hierarchies and Knowledge Application: Traditional learning hierarchies may be challenged by easy access to a wealth of digital content. While it gives them access to cutting-edge resources and a wide range of topics, it can also make it more difficult for students to understand fundamental ideas and use their information effectively. To close the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical application, a well-structured curriculum, direction from knowledgeable instructors, and opportunities for practical application are essential.

Dependence on digital infrastructure and education: It's important to understand that in places with sparse or unstable internet connectivity and technological infrastructure, a complete reliance on digital education may not be possible. The digital divide that results from unequal access to broadband internet might restrict prospects for people without stable connected. As a result, it's critical to ensure equity.

Education has been transformed by digital learning, which provides unmatched access, flexibility, engagement, and personalization. For learners of all ages, it has removed obstacles and increased opportunities, enabling them to pursue their educational objectives. However, it is crucial to recognize the need for a balanced approach, taking into account the constraints and difficulties brought on by digital learning. It is important to work to close the digital gap, guarantee equal access to technology, and offer support mechanisms to kids who might need them. We can create a future where education is more accessible, inclusive, and successful than ever before by embracing the power of digital learning and solving its challenges.

A balanced strategy is essential for maximizing the advantages of digital learning while minimizing its disadvantages. Incorporating online resources with

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Initiatives of Govt. of India on Digital Education during Covid-19

- Diksha portal contains e-Learning content for students, teachers, and parents aligned to the curriculum, including video lessons, worksheets, textbooks and assessments.
- e-Pathshala is an e-Learning app by NCERT for classes 1 to 12 in multiple languages. The app houses books, videos, audio, etc. aimed at students, educators and parents in multiple languages including Hindi, Urdu, and English.
- National Repository of Open Educational Resources (NROER) portal provides a host of resources for students and teachers in multiple languages including books, interactive modules and videos including a host of STEM-based games..
- Swayam is the national online education platform hosting 1900 courses covering both school (classes 9 to 12) and higher education (under graduate, post graduate programs) in all subjects including engineering, humanities and social sciences, law and management courses.
- SwayamPrabha has 32 DTH TV channels transmitting educational contents on 24 x 7 basis. These channels are available for viewing all across the country using DD Free Dish Set Top Box and Antenna.
- e-PGPathshala is for postgraduate students. Postgraduate students can access this platform for e-books, online courses and study materials during this lockdown period.

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