

Revolutionizing Education: Embracing a New Paradigm

Neeru Rathi¹, Madhuri Hooda², Preeti Dahiya³

Associate Professor, Department of Education, Maharshi Dayanand University, Rohtak, India^{1,2}

Research Scholar and Assistant Professor, Vaish College of Education, Rohtak, India³

Corresponding Author: preetidahiya1980.1@gmail.com³

Abstract: India has witnessed a remarkable evolution in its education system, progressing from the traditional Guru-disciple model in Gurukuls to a well-structured educational framework encompassing primary, secondary, senior secondary, and university-level education. Today, the country is embracing digital and AI-based learning as it confronts numerous global challenges in our fast-paced society. These advancements have given rise to innovative solutions across various fields, with science playing a crucial role in developing technologies that can adapt to our environment. One such advancement is digitalization, which has permeated every aspect of life, particularly education, empowering it with new possibilities. The introduction of the New Education Policy in 2020 has revolutionized the educational landscape, prioritizing a departure from rote learning and emphasizing self-education to align with current market demands. This paper explores the present state of educational transformation, delving into the driving factors behind this change and how educational systems are responding to the emergence of new platforms such as MOOCs, SWAYAM, AI, and machine learning.

Keywords: digital learning, AI-based learning, global challenges, educational transformation, MOOCs, SWAYAM.

I. INTRODUCTION

In our ever-changing lives, we are confronted with numerous uncertainties across various domains. To navigate this dynamic environment, it is crucial to have a comprehensive understanding of all aspects of life. Education, therefore, plays a pivotal role. In the present era of rapid advancements, even the field of education has undergone a significant transformation. Over the course of history, there have been substantial changes in the methods of imparting knowledge. In the past decade, the utilization of the internet has witnessed exponential growth. The advent of the twenty-first century has brought about a revolution with the emergence of various social media and mobile applications (Schallmo et al., 2017). The significance of the internet reached its zenith during the COVID-19 pandemic, where mobile phones and laptops became the sole means of education while adhering to social distancing measures (Salas et al., 2022; Singh et al., 2022). Digitalization in the education sector has emerged as a boon, offering personalized learning to address the unique needs of individual students (Khan and Iqbal, 2021). When technology is wielded by exceptional educators, it has the potential to revolutionize education. With this understanding, India's New Education Policy of 2020 emphasizes the incorporation of digitalization in education to enable limitless knowledge acquisition (New Education Policy, 2020). The Indian government has initiated various online platforms such as SWAYAM, MOOCs, and ICT programs, while the Edutech industry has experienced rapid growth and development.

1.1 Justification of the Study

In our ever-changing world, where constant adaptation is necessary, education cannot be approached with a one-size-fits-all mentality. It is crucial to provide diverse platforms that cater to the individual needs of students. Online learning offers personalized education, self-directed learning, and easily accessible learning tools. This study aims to raise awareness among students, teachers, and researchers about the evolution of education.

Objectives of the Study: The global transformation and the advent of new technologies have made it imperative for the education sector to undergo transformation and embrace these innovations. The objectives of this study are as follows:

- A) To assess the current state of the education sector in India.
- B) To analyze the ongoing transformation within the education sector.
- C) To examine the positive and negative impacts of educational transformation.

Research Methodology: The researcher conducted a comprehensive review of studies conducted by various researchers at the national and international levels. Secondary data analysis was employed to update knowledge and understanding by examining existing studies. The study utilized a descriptive research design and relied on reference books, informational tools, and websites to fulfill the research requirements.

1.2 Educational Transformation

The prevalence of online education has become an integral part of disseminating information, aligning with the Digital India initiative. Digital education offers a comprehensive approach, providing convenient access to online modules through ICT programs and various MOOC programs for learners. With the visionary National Education Policy (NEP), we have now embraced a flexible curriculum that caters to the needs of educators across India. However, in a country as diverse as India, with varying economic segments in society, not everyone has equal access to the internet. Additionally, those who do have access may face challenges related to limited data speeds, posing obstacles for widespread adoption of digital education platforms (Khan and Iqbal, 2021). India has ushered in a new era of smart education, presenting both opportunities and challenges for researchers in the field of education. In the digital learning environment, the student or learner becomes the focal point of knowledge impartation. The entire transformation in the education system has been introduced for the benefit of the learners, making digital platforms conducive to learner-centric education. Numerous technologies have emerged in the education sector following digitalization, including cloud learning and ICT (Gopal, 2020). Amidst this transformative wave, the importance of women's education has been widely recognized. It is often said, "If you educate a man, you educate an individual; if you educate a woman, you educate a whole family." Empowering women through education is crucial for empowering Mother India. If we aspire to educate the entire nation, it is imperative to prioritize women's education. Educated women possess the understanding to navigate the various phases of life and face diverse challenges. Through the empowerment and education of women, we can address several social issues such as overpopulation, infant mortality, and sexual harassment (Ahamad and Narayana, 2015).

In the present era, the field of education is experiencing a significant transformation as Artificial Intelligence (AI) gains traction. The integration of AI systems in education has enabled the delivery of personalized and tailored education to students. Furthermore, teachers themselves are exposed to various AI technologies, providing them with opportunities for further learning in their respective domains. The implementation of AI-driven technologies, such as personalized learning and customized recommendations for study materials, equips individuals with advanced adaptive skills that align with current requirements. While the introduction of various Information and Communication Technology (ICT) programs in the education system has facilitated advancements, there are still untapped areas in AI-Education, such as emotion recognition, language processing, and facial recognition. AI holds numerous unexplored capabilities that can revolutionize the entire education system, thereby allowing us to excel in areas where we currently lag (Jaiswal and Arun, 2021). The objective is to promote the adoption of AI in education and motivate teachers to enhance their cognitive skills. Teachers now have access to various online applications that simplify their tasks, potentially reducing their workload and allowing them to focus more on improving literacy. Educators recognize the significant role of AI in their professional lives, with 52.1% of teachers favoring AI as an important tool in education for their professional development. However, a small percentage (3.1%) of teachers do not consider AI important for their professional growth (Xue and Wang, 2022). Here is a significant role of TADEO (digital transformation in education) in equipping students with various technical, social, cognitive, and other skills. In our rapidly evolving environment, it is essential to adapt to the current requirements by modernizing our education system. Digitalization in the education sector plays a crucial role in achieving this goal. As industrial revolutions continue to shape our world, it becomes imperative for citizens to understand the causes of problems and find ways to address them on a national level. Digital education allows the entire system to align with global requirements (Olivera et al., 2022).

The concept of dual digitalization, encompassing both digitalization in education and digitalization in subjects, has been explored by researchers. They address the challenges associated with dual digitalization and emphasize the importance

of organizing a digital learning space that benefits both teachers and students. Clear roles and coordination between teachers and students are crucial in this process (Bygstad et al., 2022). Furthermore, a highly enriched digital infrastructure should be in place to make the digital learning space easily accessible and shareable for students and teachers. Educators from both university and external sources should be involved, and students should have the option to join online discussions through various online or social media platforms. This expands the boundaries of knowledge dissemination, providing abundant learning opportunities. Through digital education, teachers can instill a sense of self-learning in students (Bygstad et al., 2022). Robotics in education effectively captures students' attention and enhances their understanding of concepts. It strengthens computational thinking skills and engineering skills, making it a versatile technological tool that brightens students' future prospects. Integrating robotics into school curricula should be emphasized (Eguchi, 2014).

1.3 Empowering Minds: Catalyzing Positive Change in Education

The positive impact of educational transformation was evident in a focused group interview conducted by the researcher. Students expressed their enjoyment of screen-based education classes, as it allowed them to focus on understanding concepts taught by teachers in online mode, rather than spending time copying notes. They found it easier to grasp the concepts through teacher-provided notes. This type of educational transformation facilitated efficient comprehension of concepts without requiring extensive time investment. It provided an easier, more conceptual, skill-generating, interesting, and entertaining learning experience for students (Strakova and Cimermanova, 2018). Teachers also benefited from educational transformation through the digital education system, as it offered them multiple options for utilizing new methods and techniques to educate students. Teachers found it more engaging and creative with the use of various educational technologies. In a survey conducted in a college setting, 75% of teachers responded positively when asked whether they use innovative methods and teaching aids in their pedagogical activities, highlighting their acceptance of digital tools as innovative teaching aids (Tsarapkina et al., 2021). Digital education provides a learner-centric platform for student education, catering to global requirements and offering personalized learning opportunities (Gopal, 2020; Olivera et al., 2022). The COVID-19 pandemic further emphasized the importance of online teaching as the primary means of maintaining teacher-student connections. Teachers embraced this change and displayed a positive attitude towards the transformation (Fitria et al., 2021). Students also welcomed the shift from offline to online learning during the pandemic, finding it more flexible, efficient, and effective, optimizing their cost and time (Firmansyah et al., 2021). The professional collaboration in education has brought about significant changes in societal functioning, contributing to the rapid growth of the economy. The education system plays a crucial role in fostering continuous knowledge platforms for the nation, thereby contributing to consistent and sustainable economic development (Harris, 2013). Research suggests that screen-based education has a positive impact on a child's cognitive development. Computerized educational programs enhance children's thinking abilities and enable them to excel in various fields (Anderson, 2017).

1.4 Unintended Consequences: The Dark Side of Educational Transformation

Educational transformation has brought about some negative consequences that need to be considered. One concern is that children tend to spend a significant amount of time engaging in entertainment programming, which prevents them from fully exploring their skills. Excessive use of mobile phones can hinder their participation in other productive activities (Anderson, 2017). Students may perceive digital education as a limited source of information and learning, as they are often restricted to the notes provided by teachers in online mode. This limitation can negatively impact their academic performance, leading to lower grades (Strakova and Cimermanova, 2018). Despite the numerous advancements in education, there is still a sense of lagging behind. A survey conducted among teachers revealed that some teachers are dissatisfied with the new educational techniques. The reasons for this dissatisfaction include a lack of acceptance of these new methods, insufficient knowledge in using teaching aids, and, at times, inadequate equipment. The study indicates that in 70% of cases, a teacher's satisfaction with modern activities is influenced by their salary, while only 55% consider having sufficient college equipment as contributing to their adoption of modern practices (Tsarapkina et al., 2021).

1.5 Challenges

The adoption of online learning and the utilization of various online apps face several hurdles and challenges. Insufficient facilities, reluctance of individuals, lack of awareness, fluctuations in lecture availability, and inadequate equipment pose obstacles to the transformation in education (Firmansyah et al., 2021; Tsarapkina et al., 2021). In today's fast-paced world, where everyone is engrossed in their own lives and heavily reliant on technology, the erosion of personal interactions and the decline of cultural values are becoming evident. Face-to-face interactions have diminished, and individuals no longer feel the need to spend time with others (Etherington, 2019). In a developing country like India, the diverse economic backgrounds of its population pose challenges to universal internet access. Many individuals struggle to access the internet, and even those who have access often face limitations in terms of high-speed connectivity, impeding the process of digitalization (Khan and Iqbal, 2021).

II. CONCLUSION

The rapid technological advancements, fueled by the Internet and social media, have become an indispensable part of people's lives, shaping their daily routines. The COVID-19 pandemic further emphasized the need for online work and education, leading to a significant increase in the utilization of MOOCs, SWAYAM, online apps, ICT, machine learning, and artificial intelligence. In this process of educational transformation, teachers and researchers play vital roles as social agents, working towards the betterment of students and society (Fisher, 2006). Moreover, the global movement for women empowerment and the recognition of women's rights and perspectives have gained significant momentum. Education plays a crucial role in empowering women, and there have been remarkable changes in women's education. Online learning has opened doors to personalized education, catering to the diverse needs and learning abilities of students. It has created opportunities for a more inclusive and equitable educational experience.

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