Online Education – A Review

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Abstract*: This study examines the rapid growth of online education, the different types available, and how governments are tackling challenges in this field. It explores how online education has become popular globally and the various ways people can learn online, from massive courses to virtual classrooms. The paper also looks into the issues faced by online education, like accessibility and the digital divide, and highlights the steps governments are taking to address these challenges, such as improving infrastructure and implementing policies. In conclusion, it discusses the future possibilities for online education, considering emerging technologies and the evolving role of educators, emphasizing the ongoing need for research and collaboration to enhance digital learning.*

Keywords: Online Education, E-learning.

I. INTRODUCTION

The growth of technology has brought tremendous change in the almost every sphere of life.Technology has also impacted the process of education [1]. Technology has taken over almost every field of our lives and the onset of online courses came as a path-breaker. No longer did one need to have access to schools, time or a lot of money! All one needed was a good internet connection and a computer [2]. In the aftermath of COVID-19, schools, colleges, universities including students and teachers had to shift to online education platform as an alternative mode of learning and instruction. The alternative mode of learning has been made available through online, TV, mobile, radio, textbooks, etc [4]. The government is supporting online education in India because of its potential to improve education quality and reach through the Digital India initiative [1]. Edutech is certainly ushering the new age of learning in India [2].

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Aman Jindal, Dr. BPS Chahal [1]: The growth of technology has brought tremendous change in the almost every sphere of life. Technology has also impacted the process of education. The face to face education has experienced a remarkable change in the last 10 years. Although face to face education is still considered the norm, but acceptance of online courses is increasing in the field of management and engineering. Some of the reasons for the exponential growth of online education is that it is instant, online, anywhere accessible, self-driven and on the go.

Zahoor Ahmad Lone [2]: 'Live and interactive' digital learning empowers the learners to receive par excellence, quality education anytime and anywhere. Whether it is career and technical education or project-based learning, it gives learners a more interactive platform for learning and assessment.

Dr. Shreeda Shah and Dr. Tejal Jani [3]: Online sessions may be used to complement classroom teaching but cannot be used to replace classroom teaching completely in the way in which the technology enthusiasts want it to be a new normal post Covid-19 Pandemic unless a mechanism is devised to address the issues and challenges presented by the researchers.

Piyush Joshi, Dr. Shweta Dewangan [5]: There are basically 3 types of E-Learning i.e., Synchronous, Asynchronous and Blended Learning

III. THE GROWTH OF DIGITAL LEARNING

Following are the main reasons for the growth of online education in India [2]:

- With nearly a billion people on mobile phones and over 200 million mobiles connected to the internet, there has been a considerable rise in digital learning

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- The use of best-in-class content, real-time learning and feedback methods, and personalised instructions has encouraged online learning.
- People are stepping towards digital learning as the Edutech firms are providing them the comfort of live andinteractive' anywhere learning in digital format, through its online programmes.
- These online courses are affordable and easily accessible.
- Digital learning aims to break the numerous barriers that are preventing people from receiving quality education in the physically bound classroom.

IV. TYPES OF E-LEARNING MODELS

There are basically 3 types of E-Learning [5]:

- Synchronous
- Asynchronous
- Blended Learning

Synchronous means at the same time, so in Synchronous type of E-Learning, there is a interaction between participant and instructor via Web Bases Portal

Asynchronous means not at the same time, so in Asynchronous system of E-Learning the portal allow the participant to complete the syllabus or training without interaction with the trainer or instructor.

Blended learning is a combination of E-Learning tool with traditional classroom teaching In Blended learning students can enjoy classroom experience with interaction with teachers and students via actual classroom. Blended E-Learning has benefits of face-to-face interaction with social benefits of classroom training and different teaching techniques.

V. STEPS TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT FOR OVERCOMING CHALLENGES IN ONLINE EDUCATION

Online classes [4]:

Online classes are being conducted at the schools by employing various digital tools in the form of DIKSHA portal (https://diksha.gov.in/), SWAYAM Portal (swayam.gov.in), SWAYAM Prabha, DD Channel, e-Pathshala (https://epathshala.nic.in/), NROER (National Repository of Open Educational Resources) portal (https://nroer.gov.in/welcome).

Offline Learning Tools [4]:

Learning programmes have also being started in the form of offline learning tools in the form of radio, community radio and CBSE podcasts, etc. The medium of TV, radio has been used for the students who do not have digital means.

PM eVidya [4]:

A comprehensive initiative called PM eVidya has been initiated which unifies all efforts related to digital online, on- air education to enable multi-mode access to education. This will benefit students in schools and higher educational institutions. The various initiatives under PM eVidya are placed in Annexure-II.

VI. FUTURE OF DIGITAL LEARNING

With the Digital India programme's vision to transform India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy, the education sector in India is poised to witness major growth in the years to come. Technology-led reach and easy access will bring about a socio-economic difference in the lives of Indian learners [3].

VII. CHALLENGES

- Lack of Infrastructure and hardware facilities which hamper reliability of online learning.
- Problem in finding willing skilled manpower to training illiterate rural areas of India.
- No or very less computer-based courses/skills taught to students in government primary schools to increase their knowledge about ICT importance in rural development.

VIII. CONCLUSION

Online education can change the whole future scenario in education if it can be implemented in collaboration with industry, universities and government. Drastic changes in course curriculum are required to bridge the gap so that students are industry ready after passing out. Education process needs to be changed by making it more practical with the use of technology. Also, course should be designed in different language to increase their reach and more opportunities for youth of rural India. Innovations are required to design ways to increase the social skills of online learners.

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