Future Outlook of Online Learning in Indian Education System

Dr. Amit S Nanwani
Assistant Professor, Department of Commerce
Dada Ramchand Bakhru Sindhu Mahavidyalaya, Nagpur, Maharashtra, India
amitsnanwani@yahoo.com

Abstract: *Covid-19 pandemic have impacted lives in several ways. To stop the virus from spreading, lockdowns were imposed in every nation around the world. Lockdowns thus interfered with daily living. The Covid-19 outbreak and subsequent lockdowns have had an impact on India's educational sector. The four stages of continual countrywide lockdown led to closure of all the schools, colleges, tutorials, and other education institutions with immediate effect. The Covid-19 pandemic has affected the traditional education system and it has been very alarming. Children were unable to finish their education since people were confined to their homes for months. They were delighted by what they thought would be a holiday, but it turned out to be a terrible disaster. They were deprived of their education, therefore the government had to find a replacement, which was online learning. As both students and educators may not be ready for this single accessible option, countries all over the world have no choice but to turn to go online. Online classrooms have replaced the traditional teaching methods within a very short span of time. There is no doubt that the education system has steadily grown in schools and colleges in the seven decades after independence, with much of the credit due to government policies and the constructive participation of the MHRD. Numerous initiatives have been taken by the Ministry of Human Resources Development (MHRD)for enhancing learning by various digital platforms. In the coming years, digital learning will play an important role in the Indian education system. The main aim of this paper is to assess the future prospects of online learning in Indian education. The entire research study and findings are based on the objectives.*

Keywords: Online & Digital Learning, Digital Platforms, Future Prospects, Indian Education.

I. INTRODUCTION

The Covid-19 outbreak and subsequent lockdowns have had an impact on India's educational sector. The four stages of continual countrywide lockdown led to closure of all the schools, colleges, tutorials, and other education institutions with immediate effect. The Covid-19 pandemic has affected the traditional education system and it has been very alarming. Children were unable to finish their education since people were confined to their homes for months. They were delighted by what they thought would be a holiday, but it turned out to be a terrible disaster. They were deprived of their education, therefore the government had to find a replacement, which was online learning. As both students and educators may not be ready for this single accessible option, countries all over the world have no choice but to turn to go online. Online classrooms have replaced the traditional teaching methods within a very short span of time.

New Circumstances need new initiatives. In the recent crisis of Covid-19 pandemic Online teaching has played a very positive role. Covid-19 has necessitated that the education system should be equipped with alternate methods of quality education, when and where traditional methods of education are not possible. In order to interact with students, university faculties are creating accounts on online video conferencing platforms including Zoom, Skype, Google Classroom, and Meet. The potential for on-demand access to the information at any time or on any digital platform is offered by new media, but this presents difficulties for both the administration and the students. These days, digital media combines traditional learning methods like books and notes with modern technologies like eBooks and PDFs.

There is no doubt that the education system has steadily grown in schools and colleges in the seven decades after independence, with much of the credit due to government policies and the constructive participation of the MHRD.

Numerous initiatives have been taken by the Ministry of Human Resources Development (MHRD) for enhancing learning by various digital platforms.

II. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

2.1 Objectives of the Study
1. To overview the need & importance of online learning in the current scenario.
2. To overview the Digital Education Platforms launched by MHRD India.
3. To assess the future prospects of online learning in Indian education.

2.2 Collection of Data
The secondary data is the base of present study and has been collected from various articles published in magazines, daily newspaper, websites, internet, published journals, etc.

III. NEED & IMPORTANCE OF ONLINE LEARNING IN CURRENT SCENARIO

In recent years, there has been a surge in online learning. It has been a successful method of giving students a top-notch education. It uses a variety of learning strategies and learning styles to match their particular learning demands. Through its considerable resources, it aids in the education of every student. Online courses let numerous students continue their education throughout the pandemic. Parents and stakeholders recognised the advantages of online education during the significant precautionary shutdowns. Online schools had no influence, but all regular institutions continued to be largely dependent on them. Other obstacles in India's quest for a better education include dropout rates; however, it can be reduced with online education.

In online education students exhibit advanced digital abilities. Their future prosperity depends on having these sophisticated skill sets. Our technology-based educational system has made it possible to effortlessly remove many educational obstacles. People can choose customized options for online learning if they have had bad experiences in the past or have trouble finding the suitable atmosphere to study in at set times. It provides reliable options, such as individualized study plans and adaptable study timetables. In this digital age, students can overcome their knowledge gaps through the technology-based educational system, making online learning just as successful as traditional education. A more student-centric structure is required for contemporary teaching and learning. Because it can overcome all obstacles, online education is urgently needed. Some of the points that make online education relevant are Easy Access, Variability of programs and courses, Flexibility, Career advancement and Teacher Development.

IV. DIGITAL EDUCATION PLATFORMS LAUNCHED BY MHRD INDIA

MHRD has prepared programmes, portals and apps for digital educations some of the important are as follows:

- Swayam Prabha TV Channels: The MHRD has 32 channels dedicated to broadcasting high-quality educational programmes. Swayam Prabha DTH channels are intended to assist and reach learners who do not have internet connection. Other DTH and cable operators use these channels in their systems as well. States of India have been consulted in order to share air time (4 hours daily) on the 5 existing SWAYAM PRABHA channels for telecasting educational related contents.
- DIKSHA portal: It is known as Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing. DIKSHA is designed to inherently support states/UTs in exercising autonomy, independence, and choice in creating and running learning programmes to suit their needs and achieve their goals. DIKSHA gives access to a wide range of curriculum-related e-content, Energized Textbooks (ETBs) for teachers.
- National Digital Library of India (NDL): This digital platform is available for all categories of educational institutions, academicians, differently abled students and all others who are ready to The Website address to access is: https://ndl.iitkgp.ac.in/.
- PRAGYATA: contains Guidelines on Digital Education to assist school heads, teachers, parents and students in e-learning, it has eight steps for online and digital education namely 1) Plan, 2) Review, 3) Arrange, 4) Guide, 5) Yak (Talk), 6) Assign, 7) Track and 8) Appreciate. It also states that the teaching should be done according to the NCERT calendar.

- e-Shodh Sindhu: Provides a platform to access higher education electronic resources with the help of INFLIBNET centre. Manypeer reviewed journals and institutions are linked with this portal.
- MANODARPAN: Psychosocial Support for Mental Health & Well Being of Students during the COVID Outbreak and beyond. An initiative by the Ministry of Education, Government of India as part of Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.

Some of the key digital initiatives taken by the state governments are as follows:

- "Learning Outcomes Smart Q Mobile App" in Maharashtra,
- "PadhaiTunharDuvaar (Education at your doorstep)" in Chhattisgarh,
- "Top Parent App" and "KHEL (Knowledge Hub for Electronic Learning)" in Madhya Pradesh,
- "SMILE (Social Media Interface for Learning Engagement)" in Rajasthan,
- "Vidyavahini Bihar App",Unnayan App: Mera Mobile Mera Vidyalaya" and "Unnayan Bihar Teacher App" in Bihar
- "Mission Buniyaad" in NCT of Delhi,
- "Project Home Classes" in Jammu,
- "KITE VICTERS Educational channel" in Kerala
- "e-scholar portal as well as free online courses for teachers" in Meghalaya,
- "SamparkBaithak App" in Uttarakhand,
- "Biswa Vidya" and "Mobile Application" in Assam,
- "Phoenix Mobile application" in Chandigarh,
- "iScuela Learn Mobile Application" in Punjab,
- "Sikkim Edutech App" in Sikkim,
- "EmpowerU Shiksha Darpan" in Tripura.

V. FUTURE PROSPECTS OF ONLINE LEARNING IN INDIA

Before the epidemic, India as a nation had never embraced online learning, but it was thrust upon us sooner than we had anticipated. For pupils and the educational system, this has a number of effects. The fact that we have been able to prevent the pandemic from affecting schooling is highly laudable, but there are other things that show the grey areas where our nation has to improve.

India is going through an amazing technical development era that is affecting every area, including business and education. Given the existing trends, it is anticipated that the online higher education industry would expand significantly over the next five years, supporting programmes for distance learning. The implementation of virtual classroom ideas could provide a practical component to the online medium; however, many courses now only offer theoretical content. Future trends point to a hybrid model where online players open physical locations to give students experiences akin to those found in a classroom. According to the survey, several businesses have already begun to enter the market in an effort to increase student participation.

India, however, has started making the shift to a society that mainly relies on digital technology to make things simpler as the Fourth Industrial Revolution got underway. To make studying simpler, easier, and more convenient, a number of online learning systems have popped up recently. There are currently more than 560 million internet users in the nation, and that number is rising quickly. We must take advantage of this development since it means that a significant portion of our population can now easily access the online world.

Many educators who now offer lectures utilizing an online platform acknowledge that the way of education has changed. The educators and students are easily able to use chat groups, virtual meetings held online, document sharing, and much more. It appears that even when the epidemic slows down, this process will begoing on. The education community will combine the use of traditional and online learning.

VI. CONCLUSION

In the coming years, digital learning will play an important role in the Indian education system.The 21st century is a time of information technology and massive competition. With the development of modern digital platforms that have improved India's academic environment, technology has integrated itself into our educational system. With the presence of multiple edtech businesses and different government programmes making inroads into our educational system, online education has gained traction among these technological breakthroughs. The advantages of online/digital education, on the other hand, cannot be realized unless the digital gap is bridged via coordinated initiatives like the Digital India campaign.

A more student-centered framework is required for contemporary teaching and learning. Because it can overcome all obstacles, online education is considered essential. Regardless of their location or status, instructors and students may now access a multitude of instructional materials due to e-learning tools. A learner can study from a renowned professor who is located on another continent at their own convenience.

All learners must have access to technology, regardless of their demographics, learning preferences, or special needs. The best method for producing an equitable tech experience is to adopt a platform that incorporates an accessible design from the very beginning of content production. The Indian education system is now the second-largest market for e-learning after the US as a result of pedagogical innovation and the use of technology in the education sector.

REFERENCES

[1]. https://government.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/education/hrd-minister-launches-india-report-on-digital-education-2020/77257350

[2]. National Education Policy 2020,https://www.education.gov.in/sites/upload_files/mhrd/files/NEP_Final_English_0.pdf

[3]. Draft National Education Policy 2019,https://innovate.mygov.in/wpcontent/uploads/2019/06/mygov15596510111.pdf

[4]. India Report Digital Education 2020,https://www.education.gov.in/sites/upload_files/mhrd/files/India_Report_Digital_Education_0.pdf

[5]. PRAGYATA Guidelines for Digital Education https://www.education.gov.in/sites/upload_files/mhrd/files/pragyata-guidelines_0.pdf

[6]. A Concept Note on Technology in Education: NDEAR "SHIKSHAK PARV", 2021

a. https://www.education.gov.in/shikshakparv/docs/Technology%20in%20NDEAR.pdf

[7]. https://manodarpan.education.gov.in/

[8]. https://ess.inflibnet.ac.in/about.php

[9]. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Digital_Library_of_India

[10]. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Digital_India

[11]. https://iimskills.com/the-future-of-online-education-in-india/

[12]. https://digitallearning.eletsonline.com/2021/05/the-future-of-e-learning-in-india/

[13]. https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/readersblog/safaltaeducation/future-of-online-education-in-india-37647/

[14]. https://www.shiksha.com/mba/articles/online-education-in-india-trends-future-prospects-blogId-14763

[15]. http://neoiasacademy.com/online-and-digital-education-nep-2020/

[16]. https://theskillcafe.com/blogs/news/future-prospects-of-online-education-in-india