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ICT: A TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC OUTBREAK

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Abstract: The corona virus disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak was first identified in Wuhan, China, in December 2019. World health organization declared this as a pandemic on 11 March 2020. In this very short period of weeks; it had made worst effect on our economy and educational system. Hence it give us a glimpse at how education could change for the better - and the worse - in the long term.COVID-19 outbreak results into the closing of schools and colleges and ultimately in the cancellation of examinations taken by various universities.ICT fills the gap between the interaction of the teachers with the students so as to get an ultimate knowledge. Recent article is to introduce various ICT tools which can be extensively use in various fields of educational system to cope up with the recent problem. It gives a various hints and advancement in the future transformations.

Keywords: COVID-19, ICT, Moodle, Google classroom, Higher education

Introduction : Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) consist of extensive and varied collection of technological instruments and resources which are used to communicate with one another. It plays a role of unified communications and the integration of telecommunications and computers, as well as necessary enterprise software, middleware, storage and audiovisual systems, that enable users to access, store, transmit and manipulate information. The main objective of ICT is to provide information to the user in the soft form. In recent trend, use of ICT tools has been evolved exponentially. It is used for enhancing the content of course material; preparing and sharing the content; communication and discussion between the learners and teachers; creation and delivery of presentation and video lectures; academic research; student enrolment etc.

Methodology : In the current scenario, people have to access knowledge via ICT to keep updated with the latest developments. For this, education always plays a crucial role in various economic and social health of a country Education increases the productive skills, sense of well being as well as capacity to absorb new ideas. Various ICT products such as teleconferencing, email, audio conferencing, television lessons, radio broadcasts, interactive radio counseling, interactive voice response system, audiocassettes and CD ROMs are use in education for different purposes. As due to COVID-19 pandemic outbreak, many higher education institutions have been closed resulting the students to learn remotely. This pandemic disease and the upcoming various lockdowns has made universities and colleges across India to shutdown. In this crucial time central and state government are engaged in providing support for e-learning and online education. Now we can take the support of ICT, which help increase the knowledge, education and literacy status of people. One of the key components of ICT is e-learning. E-learning is the learning through the use of electronic technologies instead of traditional learning. It gives a momentum to educational system and fills the lacuna created by the closure of educational establishment due to corona virus pandemic. E-learning allows us to share and communicate knowledge via multimedia platforms. Many e-learning resources offer multiple courses on the same subjects different types of certifications, methodology and assessment parameters.

As the lockdown are continuing throughout the world, many of the learners are signing up the “The Science of Well Being”, a free course from Yale University. NASSCOM is offering courses of Artificial Intelligence Foundation Course and related subjects for free on its portal Skillup Online, in collaboration with Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology. A powerful organization Tata consultancy Service provides “Career Edge-Knockdown the Lockdown” a digital certificate programme for free in association with TCS iON. It facilitates advancement in the communication, presentation and behavioral skills of students to create an impression in interviews and the workplace. Recently Public Policy Research Centre and Ram Bhau Mhalgi Centre jointly started a certificate e-course namely ‘Understanding Good Governance’ through which students can discover the ‘annals of good governance’

Through information and communication technology techniques, government of India took initiative to use numerous online platforms to engage students in online learning. Human Resource Development Ministry and various departments working under it are also taking

numerous initiatives. The University Grants Commission and its Inter University Centres (IUC)- Informational and Library Network (INFLIBNET) and Consortium for Educational Communication are also the part of this system. Teachers, students and researchers can also access to this system. Various Information and Communication Technology tools which we can use at this stage are SWAYAM, MOOC (Massive Open Online Courses), E-Pathshala, SWAYAMPRAKASHA, e-SHODHSINDHU etc.

There are some other e-learning platforms apart from these government sponsored resources which can be accessed from home. For these platforms, the teachers have to create one group and to this group they have to first add their students and then the teachers are able to upload their lectures, power point presentation, study material, audio instructions etc. As the new generation carries smart phones and other devices, e-learning methods can be attempted on large scale.

Easy class Learning Management System is software where the teachers can take an online lecture, can put notes, upload assignments, quizzes and exams, upload the results of quizzes and exams and can put notices to keep students updated with academic system.

Zoom Classroom is another online resource which helps teachers to communicate with students through video conferencing, collaborations, and virtual classrooms and increase the student's participation. But GOI's Ministry of Home Affairs advised that the use of this video conferencing app is "not safe". The number of Zoom users in India has been increased considerably and is an ultimate alternative for the learners for video meetings during this COVID-19 pandemic. The "loom" app is also another alternative like Zoom which can also be used by us.

Google Classroom is another way out for the teachers to communicate with the students by creating a group in which the students are added by teachers and then after they can upload various educational video lectures, can take the test through various software such as *Google forms, Testmoz, Quizmaker, Followclass, Proprofs, Classmarker* etc. so that the students will be able to attain the upcoming examination.

Moodle, is another online platform for the teachers with numbers of features for conducting online examinations and to deliver the course contents. E-resources such as

Skype, Whatsapp, Google Hangouts can also be used for video or audio conferencing by the teachers and the students.

COVID-19 has a tremendous effect on the education system around the world and could have long lasting impact on learning innovation and digitization. This could change the trends of the learning aspects in future. COVID-19 pandemic outbreak has motivated us to think about the way out from this condition to make surprising innovation. We are engaging students in the academic activities through various online platforms. We are heading towards the “learning anywhere, anytime” concept of digital education. Traditional learning aspects are replaced by new learning technologies. The lifestyle of learning at school can slowly be changing into the learning from home or anywhere you want. We can make the learning consortiums including governments, publishers, education professionals, technology experts and network operators coming together to form the various online platforms for the students to learn in future. Learning in the government funded universities and schools can be replaced by such type of consortiums. Learning through the ICT technologies can widen by economic digital devices and the low cost data plans. With decrease in the access costs and increase in the quality of internet access will decrease in the gap of the educational quality and thus increases the socioeconomic equality.

Conclusions : This review article has tried to explore the role ICT technologies in the present scenario in education field as there is ongoing rise in cases of COVID-19. All colleges, offices, schools etc. now started to adopt online mode of working. So, in particular the paper has argued that ICTs have impacted on educational practice in education to date in quite small ways. All this started as a temporary solution but now this has turned into a lifestyle. Extrapolating current activities and practices, the continued use and development of ICTs within education will have a strong impact. To ensure that the opportunities and advantages are realized, it will be important as it is in every other walk of life to ensure that the educational research and development dollar is sustained so that education at large can learn from within and that experiences and activities in different institutions and sectors can inform and guide others without the continual need for re-invention of the wheel. Once again ICTs serve to provide the means for much of this activity to realize the potential it holds.

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