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MANAGEMENT STUDENTS' PERCEPTION ABOUT ONLINE LEARNING DURING COVID 19- LOCKDOWN

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ABSTRACT

Online learning has gained importance these days due to the emergence of the latest technology available at the hands of learners. The pandemic caused due to COVID -19 has forced each one of us to take a hands on trial on this. As the schools and colleges were shut to indefinite period the completion of the syllabus and transfer of the knowledge to the students was a great challenge to all the educational institutions. Online classes can to some extent replicate our physical classrooms and provide an enriching teaching and learning experience. The attempt was made to study the perception of students towards online learning during COVID-19. 128 management students' survey was conducted. Findings revealed that most of the students have access to technology. Usage of Zoom cloud meeting, Google Classroom and YouTube video surfing has increased during lockdown. Students faced challenges like lack of face to face interaction with teachers, inconvenience in clearing their doubts, the level of distraction while online learning as compared to classroom. Research suggests that to make the online sessions interesting and increase the involvement of students, teachers need to come out with certain creative solutions. Digital learning cannot be the permanent alternative to face to face learning.

Keywords: COVID -19, Lockdown, Online learning, Pandemic.

I) INTRODUCTION

Within the last few years the progressive changes have been witnessed in the concept of traditional education. Being physically present in a classroom is not the only learning option anymore. According to a 2011 study by the Online Sloan Consortium (Online Learning Consortium) US is the undisputed leader in online education. India started the concept of distance education in 1985 by opening "Indira Gandhi National Open University."

Now when in the beginning of the year 2020, this Coronavirus pandemic devastated most of the businesses from retail, petroleum, automobile, agriculture etc, how can the education sector be eliminated from this?

In most of the countries schools and colleges started shutting down since February. In India the process of shutting down the schools and colleges started from mid March. Lockdown has created uncertainty in the whole education process. So it becomes imperative to find out the immediate solution to this problem.

UNESCO has estimated that around 1.26 billion children or 70 percent of children around the world have had their education interrupted because of the pandemic and a large number of these children are from what UNESCO calls the "low tech or no tech" phase, with India contributing 300 million of the 1.26 billion children. To deal with this situation UNESCO has come up with a variety of solutions. UNESCO is working with ministries of education in affected and concerned countries to ensure continued learning for all children and youth through alternative channels. In India even though it was a difficult task for teachers and students to switch from traditional teaching methods to digital way of teaching, most of the universities came up with online learning as a strong solution to this problem. However, the previous assumption that online learning was only a realistic option for tech-savvy teachers has been swept away, to "reach out to everyone at the same time", (Holliday). According to Professor Sahana Murthy (IIT, BOMBAY) one way in which online teaching could be implemented is through the LCM Model, which focuses on a "learner-centric approach towards the designing and conducting of online courses. For India to make an effective shift to online platforms for education, it needs to address the power supply issues as soon as it can, enable a shift in mindset towards online teaching and learning and conduct robust training for faculty and students on ed-tech tools. (Ashwin Fernandes)

II) REVIEW OF LITERATURE

(Bali & Liu, 2018) examined the issues of student perception toward online learning and face-to-face learning in the context of social presence, social interaction, and satisfaction in Indonesia Open University, Taiwan branch. The comparison of the online group and the face-to-face group conducted to explore student-learning perceptions regardless of the course delivery method and the online environment. This study indicates that face-to-face learning perception was higher than online learning. However the level in the university does not have influence on online learning and face-to-face learning. Meanwhile, some students were very comfortable in online learning since it led them to the chance to be innovative by using computer technology.

(Singh & Rathod, 2019) studied adaptation of e-learning and an alternative to traditional classroom courses. The paper attempted to determine the barriers and factors for adoption of e-learning as a supplement as well as an alternative to traditional face-to-face learning. Author studied the literature from different perspective, users as technology adopters, users as learners and users as