

## Framework: Challenges of the new “normal” education

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### Abstract:

This article is written to cover the concept of the new normal education and its dynamics. This study is emphasizing on the pattern of online education, its execution and escalation. It entails how Sars-Cov-2 Corona Virus(Covid-19) pandemic has spread its wings worldwide and how the global education system has transformed from the traditional face to face classes to online classes. This article sheds some light on the changes and challenges of this new “normal” education which has been brought forward to the entire world.

### Introduction:

Early 2020, the whole world encountered an unexpected phase where an epidemic took place across the globe in the countenance of the Corona Virus. Soon this converted into a pandemic and brought major changes in the world, in the personal and professional lives of the people drastically. The virus has affected people emotionally, financially, mentally, and in almost every aspect related to the daily lives.

Correspondingly, pandemic Covid-19 has affected the global education system to an extent. The pattern of the education system around the world has been commutated on an extreme level. All the schools, colleges, universities and other academic, technical and research institutions became standstill as the pandemic arose and started spreading from one person to another person in almost every region of the world. This inevitable pandemic brings out a new revolution in the field of education. Thanks to information technology, had it not been existed, all the functionality around the world would have been paralyzed.

Now students across the world are studying online with the help of various applications and web platforms such as Google meet, Zoom, Microsoft teams, and other common educational platforms like Blackboard. The pattern of education has now been changed drastically. Though online education has its challenges to both students and the educators, while executing the classes online, we can state that technology has been a savior to the education system.

This pandemic closed the doors of all the educational institutions, schools, colleges, and universities, however, with the help of the internet and web apps, we continued the process of studies online.

### How it is executing:

Corona Virus has brought the mode of learning and teaching to an unexpected facet. The educators and students who used to attend the premises of institutions physically are attending their classes online nowadays. As this pandemic locked the world behind the doors of their residence, people are facing changes in every dynamic. The education sector is one of these dynamics that has completely transformed to the new comprehensive enormities. The institutions across the world have accommodated the necessities of education on the internet. The educators and students now interact with each other on the various web portals and applications to run the cycle of the new normal education. These applications and web portals have taken care of all the educational activities such as classes, assignments, examinations, tests, report cards, and so on. The teachers and students are running errands with the help of technology. This new normal education has become the latest conviction of executing education even in the times of the unavoidable circumstances when people cannot step outside of their home or gather at places like school, colleges, universities etc.

### Why it is different:

This new normal pattern of education is indeed different from our traditional pattern of education because here the students and teachers are using bridge mend on the basis of technology. The internet has bonded the educators with their students to continue their studies. In the pre-Covid-19 era, the students used to visit their institutions to attend their classes and apart from studying, they used to take part in the co-curriculum activities too. The online studies have almost eliminated the activities such as sports, camps, marathons, mass lab experiments, yoga and much more.

Online education has different types of co-curricular activities like project model submission, five minutes of meditation, art project etc. However, the gap of differentiation between online education and traditional education cannot be filled easily, but our educators are trying their best to not to compromise with the quality standards of educational exemplar.

#### **Advantage of online education:**

The advantages of online education can be stated as:

The educators and students do not have to move from one place to another place in these hard times of Corona Virus, they can simply process the cycle of education from their own places and also can control the spread of the virus while not going to the institutions because gathering in groups can spread the virus even more.

Commuting from homes to institutions takes time, taking the classes online can save time for both the teachers and students. We can count it as a benefit if this online pattern of education can save the time of the associates.

Online education is teaching the world a better way of using the internet and technologies that surround us.

Parents also can keep a clear record of their children's studies and they do not have to wait for the fortnightly or monthly parents-teachers' meetings.

Students can review the recorded lectures for clearing the doubts that occur all of a sudden. Similarly, educators also keep a record of their work and evaluate it whenever it is needed.

Where there are advantages, there are limitations too. Here we are listing some noticeable limitations of online education:

The platform of online education is limited to the dimensions. Yes, even though the concept of online education is advanced and robust when it comes to technology, but, it has its own limitations such as one cannot experience the enjoyment of the co-curricular activities, cannot take an enjoyable breath of relaxing while hearing the bell of recess or short breaks.

Online classes may face some technical glitches sometimes that takes time to get fixed. Also, these glitches may ruin the interest of students that results in nuisance in the class later.

All the educators and students are bound at their own places and cannot experience being gathered as they used to do.

It is hard for the teachers to control the class because they are not present physically in front of the student and possess less impact when it comes to controlling the unpleasant behavior of the students. It is hard to keep the students active, as most of the time students are not interacting, and due to the cultural boundaries we are not yet in a position to have them on a video interface all the time of the classes. Providing a recorded lesson make the students less interested in the virtual class room, as they feel they can listen back to the monologue in the recorded session, where a standard classroom demands a continuous visual and oral interaction through a dialogue process between educator and the students. In addition, the domestic environment sometimes create disturbances during the classes.

#### **Educator's dilemma:**

#### **Limitations of Online Education:**

The dilemmas our educators are facing are quite common, as discussed in the limitations of the online education pattern, controlling the nuisance and unpleasant behavior of the students is the most challenging task that a teacher has to accomplish. Sitting in front of computers, laptops, mobiles, and other gadgets students try to do whatever they want, also, they sometimes intentionally disturb the class. This is a major issue to resolve for the educators because an ill-maintained class decreases the quality of the lectures, and that is not acceptable, neither by the parents nor by the educators and their authorities. *According to Bao W. "The teachers were having adequate tools to express or deliver their message, the tools like body language, expressions, etc., in traditional face to face classes, but they are bound with limitations while giving lectures online, therefore the only tool they have to make an impact is their voice".*

Hence, resolving such issues has become a dilemma for all educators across the world.

### **Educator's responsibilities:**

The responsibilities of the educators have increased since the concept of the online education system is executed. From allocating the best resources to maintaining the time according to the class schedule are not the only responsibilities of a teacher. But, managing the class with an impact, observing the performance and behavior of the students, controlling the unavoidable nuisance during the online classes, and many similar problems and challenges like these have become the prominent things that has become and added responsibilities of the educators. Taking care of these aspects will result in better management of the class that will demonstrate a sense of responsibility in the educators.

### **Student's psychology and adaptability:**

The psychology and adaptability of the students vary from person to person because billions of students from different age groups, regions and cultures are sitting at their homes and attending the online classes. While some are very sincere, but, on the other hand, some are habitual of creating the mess, and some are mischievous by nature. Also, there are students who are sharp and intelligent, but, on the other side, there are students who cannot focus on the studies easily. The study of the students' psychology and adaptability is complex. However, it is the educator's duty to observe and tackle the students according to their capabilities. *According to Muilenburg LY, Berge ZL., Students' attitudes differ on the basis of eight major factors that can be considered as barriers named as: administrative issues, social interaction, technicalities, learning capabilities, suitable time and environment, support and motivation, internet and technical status, and so on. The students' attitude towards online classes depends on these aspects.*

Is going to the institution important?

Yes, going to the institution is really important because there are numerous things that this concept of online education lacks. Throwing the light on the development of personality and skills that takes place in a pupil's life while joining the school, college or university because these institutions teach students to live a life in a better way, to cope with different people and diverse situations, and behave accordingly, and to learn and accommodate with the diversity that eventually results in thriving and nurturing the mindset, perception and persona of the students.

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### Comparison with the homeschooling

This new normal education is quite similar to homeschooling because a student can only study and learn by sitting at home in front of the computers, tablets or mobiles. The only thing that is added in this concept is unlike homeschooling, technology is gathering other class fellows at one online platform that is a medium of interaction among the students and the teachers. Researchers such as Ray & Brian D. stated in the introduction of a research, "*Homeschooling is a kind of home-based education that is led by parents, and it is an old age traditional educational practice that is very popular in the United States*".

However, this new normal concept of online education is led by the faculty hired by the institutions, so we cannot state that online education is similar to homeschooling.

### Are parents welcoming online education?

The views of the parents may change in correspondence of their convenience. Parents who are working from home and are having the resources that are required for online studies are welcoming online education with an open heart. However, the homes, where the resources cannot be allocated easily or having other issues such as power cut, poor internet connectivity, lesser privacy are not in favor of the concept of the new normal education.

### Conclusion:

The concept of new normal education has its prominence in every dimension, but it indeed lacks some of the paramount aspects. These aspects need professionals to practice more to fill the remaining gaps. However, the future of online education has a wider scope because people across the world are now more dependent upon technology and the majority of them find it very convenient. Also, this concept has brought the revolution in the education system that most of the institutions would like to operate online in the future. Furthermore, the guardians and the students are also getting used to this as the days are passing. As artificial intelligence is growing dynamically, the chances of making online education's pattern a permanent system are quite high.

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