Chapter 18
The Impact of Virtual Learning in the Indian Education System

Dheva Rajan Srinivasa Varadhan

https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4377-4423

University of Technology and Applied Sciences, AlMussanah, Oman

ABSTRACT

India has a rich tradition of learning and education right from antiquity. Education in India is on its journey undergoing diverse stages (e.g., Gurukul system of ancient times, Vedic schools, madrasas, and classroom teaching). Now it has reached the level of virtual learning or eLearning. It is a technology-driven learning method. This chapter focusses on the impact of virtual learning in the Indian education system and analyses various factors affecting the tutors, students, and organizations. It also proposes few techniques to deal with special children too. Various suggestions to handle different issues faced in virtual learning also forms the background of the study.

INTRODUCTION

Virtual learning (VL) is a kind of a learning system based on formalised teaching but with the help of electronic resources. This has now become an integral part of a course teaching. Whether it is a full-fledged one or as an assistance tool or an opportunity or a threat is quite a debatable question. Virtual learning has become a crucial aspect of the educational system nowadays. It is developing day by day. VL can be considered as a revolutionary approach to enable a workforce with the knowledge and skills needed to turn change into benefit especially in higher education. VL has become quite popular and well appreciated among students all over the world in this existing COVID period. It has almost become a necessity of the present time. This chapter focusses on the debate and discuss the impact of VL in Indian Education system due to COVID.

People have already entered the new educational era of VL knowingly or unknowingly. It has slowly emerged to become the most important tool for learning today. VL at this time has become the need of the hour to spread education quickly any time anywhere. Acquisition of knowledge and exchange of information, which takes place through virtual medium like video, audio, videoconference, e-mail,

chats etc. comprises VL. If one considers VL a process then e-content can be acting as a product. VL is a method that involves analysis of learners, content, planning, designing and delivery of content. It provides a wonderful opportunity as well as fills the lacuna to the regular classes and ensures / monitors the study hours for the learners beyond the class hours.

FUTURE IS FULL OF VIRTUAL?

VL has become the new norm of the future; it is a convenient and flexible option while equally promoting active and independent learning. It is a very flexible learning process irrespective of particular timings, age, place, and course with only condition being the learner must be equipped with a laptop/desktop with good internet facility. VL is a very good method of learning in situations like the current pandemic. It cannot be denied that it has its own pros and cons. It provides a huge platform to interact easily with very good courses and education on a global scale. Thus, many factors influence the usage of VL directly and indirectly.

In this VL mode, teaching can be based in or out of the classroom using just the computer/laptop and the Internet. This has become the major component of VL. Nowadays smartphones and tablets too have become good competitors to computers, but cannot act as a substitute. VL is a kind of de-multiplexer where one teacher can educate "n" number of students. It is a platform that motivates students of all kinds to freely interact overcoming their fear and shyness. Until before COVID 19 situation, students and teachers of most institutions have least participated in VL platforms. Nevertheless, as everyone knows, in the current scenario, people are getting adapted to technology so fast and VL is no exception. .

Dheva Rajan, S. (2020) mentioned in his book chapter "COVID-19 and lockdown in the world" about the many advantages of VL like flexibility, time saving, easy to interact any time etc. along with various disadvantages like practical learning especially in life science where the solution is still not found. All these pros and cons are discussed in this chapter for students and the teachers separately. Many suggestions too for the development of VL industry have been given in the chapter. One can effectively manage the teaching-learning process through VL. It will cover maximum of the well-maintained population. However, it can never be accessed by poor countries, states or villages unless positive steps are taken by the respective state or central governments.

The quantity of learning varies from person to person according to their passion in learning. In such a technology- driven scenario, it has become a challenge for the teachers to accommodate this quality in their teaching and learning process. Online teaching poses different set of challenges for educators (teachers) and students (learners), but collaboration and communication make it easier to stay connected and engaged. VL is an excellent method of educating even the remotest areas of the world. As the distance between the tutor and student is significantly reduced, a lot of time and money is being saved that is spent mainly for transportation and other means. Anyhow, readers can get idea of the future scenario or trend when going through this chapter fully.

BACKGROUND

P.M., Binu (2011, 2015) performed an analysis to assess the efficacy of strategy-based instruction to improve the acquisition of English in slow learners. P.M., Binu (2016) identified self-learning strategies

Related Content

Communicating in Multicultural Firms: Boundary Creation, Fragmentation and the Social Use of ICT
Jakob Lauringand Anders Klitmøller (2010). *Organizational Communication and Sustainable Development: ICTs for Mobility (pp. 134-152).*
www.irma-international.org/chapter/communicating-multicultural-firms/38555

Management Efficiency Building Materials
Ionit . Ionand Serban Costel (2016). *International Journal of Sustainable Economies Management (pp. 14-20).*
www.irma-international.org/article/management-efficiency-building-materials/166553

The Use of Information Technology: Lessons Learned About Sustainability in Education During the COVID-19 Pandemic
Gheorghe Popescu, Elvira Nica, Ana-Maria Iulia Santaand Ruxandra- (2021). *International Journal of Sustainable Economies Management (pp. 10-22).*
www.irma-international.org/article/the-use-of-information-technology/288064

Investigation of Consumer Behavior: A Study on Organic Wine
Sotiria Bazianaand Eirini Tzimitra-Kalogianni (2016). *International Journal of Social Ecology and Sustainable Development (pp. 50-61).*
www.irma-international.org/article/investigation-of-consumer-behavior/146592

Increasing Pressure on Forest Resources and its Consequences in India: A Review
Kesari Singh (2022). *International Journal of Social Ecology and Sustainable Development (pp. 1-15).*
www.irma-international.org/article/increasing-pressure-on-forest-resources-and-its-consequences-in-india/315310