

"The Change in Education Brought About By E-Learning and Increased Interest in The Subject Among High-Level Students" (In the Context of the COVID-19 Pandemic)

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I. INTRODUCTION

Education is a crucial tool for people worldwide in maintaining the balance of life and existence on Earth, inspiring everyone to progress and succeed in life. Education enables us to achieve a proper balance of our body, mind, and soul. It trains us throughout our lives and gives us the vision to choose even the biggest goals, and it is through our education that we achieve those goals. The true importance of education can only be understood by someone who has experienced the disadvantages of being uneducated. Education is extremely important not only for an individual but also for a family, a community, and a nation, because "the pace of development of any nation depends on the spread of education among its citizens."

In ancient times, universities like Nalanda and Taxila in India were renowned centers of learning throughout the world. Initially, education was primarily oral and based on memorization. Over time, the form and methods of education changed. Gradually, written words began to be used as educational tools. This marked the second revolution. As a result, written education took its place alongside oral instruction in schools. Consequently, educational material was inscribed on the walls of houses, on tree leaves, and on cave walls using symbols. The third revolution came with the invention of printing, making books readily available. The advancements in electronics technology marked the fourth revolution. Following this, radio and television began to be used in education. The advent of computers, laptops, tablets, mobile phones, smartphones, and CDs/DVDs led to advancements in communication, giving rise to email, digital video, e-books, e-learning, online education, and internet-based higher education. These tools have brought about unprecedented

revolutionary changes in the field of education, transforming old concepts with a modern perspective and giving them a new form.

Education refines and enriches our lives, experiences, and thoughts. It not only shapes an individual's personal life but also transforms them into a responsible member of society and a virtuous citizen of the nation, enabling them to contribute to the overall progress of society and the revival and restoration of its culture and civilization. Education is considered the fundamental element of national upliftment, as it forms the backbone of every national endeavor. An uneducated person is like an animal; education is the medium through which a human being attains true humanity. Just as clay, in the hands of a potter, takes the form of a beautiful vessel, similarly, a person's personality blossoms through education. Thus, education is the only option for the all-round development of a nation. Through education, a nation can be made developed, progressive, dynamic, well-equipped, and prosperous. In the modern era, the importance of education is as crucial as soil and water are for growing a fruit-bearing tree. To spread education to every individual and to ensure that no person, boy or girl, remains illiterate, the Government of India granted the right to education the status of a fundamental right. Following this, the process of teaching and learning was progressing well when a period arrived that shook the entire world of education. The global pandemic of Coronavirus led to the closure of schools, and books lay dormant in school bags.

For the first time in human history, the education of an entire generation of children was disrupted on a global scale. The coronavirus pandemic completely transformed the education system. To prevent the spread of the infection, more than 190 countries around the world had to close their schools.

According to UNESCO, since the beginning of COVID-19, the education of approximately 1.5 billion students in 138 countries worldwide has been disrupted due to school closures. Similarly, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) released a report stating that the coronavirus pandemic affected the education of approximately 320 million students in India, including about 158.1 million girls and 162.5 million boys. Globally, the education of 1.57 billion students in 193 countries was impacted by this pandemic. In this situation, to ensure that children's learning continued uninterrupted, e-learning was introduced as an alternative. E-learning brought a ray of hope amidst the despair of the COVID-19 crisis, and children began receiving education through laptops, cell phones, tablets, etc. Online education, in simple terms, is an internet-based education system. In this system, students and teachers communicate using internet-enabled devices, and students benefit from learning through videos.

Thus, considering the future of the students and the importance of education, "electronic learning" or "digital education" was introduced, which proved to be a good alternative for maintaining continuity in education. It's not that we were unaware of e-learning before the pandemic; students and educational institutions were already using this medium for teaching and learning. However, at that time, it was optional, depending on which medium students and institutions preferred. But the global pandemic like COVID-19 made this option mandatory and essential, and it emerged as a ray of hope for the education sector during the lockdown, paving the way for the future of education. The acceptance of e-learning in higher education, the role of work technology, and the information system success model are all relevant in this context. The COVID-19 global pandemic has forced higher education institutions to reconsider their teaching methods. Due to this public health emergency, universities in higher education have adopted e-learning technologies as a solution to face-to-face education.

Thus, e-learning has emerged as a significant technology in education at higher education institutions. We advise students to utilize e-learning systems for educational purposes, and lecturers at higher-level academic institutions should encourage them to do so. According to a recent study, today's students learn only about one-third of their education

from teachers in colleges and universities, the rest from their peer group and through self-study. Universities are no longer the sole source of learning, nor can they shoulder the responsibility of providing higher education, technical skills, and vocational training to everyone on a lifelong learning basis. The use of multimedia and the internet has ushered in a new era, raising expectations among both students and teachers.

New technologies, machines, and the internet offer flexibility to learners. Since they engage all of a learner's senses simultaneously, learning becomes more engaging. These technological tools also make it easier to combine education with entertainment, thus creating educational entertainment. They are highly motivating and empower learners. In this information age, it has become possible to use new technologies for education and learning in a more interesting and effective way.

The internet has become a transformative force in daily life. Richard Hooker warned that change is often inconvenient. The internet is a vast repository of information that has accomplished the remarkable feat of making the world's knowledge available in one place. It provides information on all subjects and can be accessed from anywhere in the world. The internet has given students the option to pursue their studies at their own pace, time, and location. Students can access learning materials in the blink of an eye. They have direct access to information and learn through exploration rather than rote memorization. This makes the learning process more student-centered. Most programs equip students with the skills to navigate the internet and explore new areas of information. This process of exploration motivates students to discover and learn new things.

Today, the use of the internet is increasing in all areas of life, leading to its rapid expansion worldwide. The internet plays a vital role in government, non-governmental organizations, healthcare, banking, sports, news, and primary, secondary, and higher education. The use of the internet has made the path to higher education easier for students. Today, not only students in higher education institutions but also those in secondary and primary schools show a keen interest in learning through the internet. The spread of the internet has brought about significant changes in the field of information and communication in India. Internet users in India can access all types of

information sources to enhance their knowledge. India is among the developing countries with the largest number of internet users. There are two main reasons for the widespread adoption and support of the internet in India. The first is the large number of people who know and understand English and who prefer to communicate in English rather than any other language. Initially, it was made available only for educational purposes through the Education and Research Network (ERNET). This service was the first joint effort of India and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) towards establishing an internet infrastructure in the country and bringing Indian internet services to international reach.

In the mid-1990s, India witnessed a massive revolution in the field of information technology, which propelled the country to the forefront of the global IT sector. Information technology came to be recognized in India as a transformative force capable of bringing about change in all aspects of human life and laying the foundation for a knowledge-based society in the 21st century.

Today, the internet is used all over the world, although its usage varies from country to country. Less than 8 percent of India's population uses the internet. In terms of language, English is the most widely used language on the internet.

The internet is being used extensively in the field of higher education. It has led to advancements in educational standards. Today, a student sitting in any corner of the world can receive higher education with its help. E-learning is defined as all types of electronically supported education and learning that influence knowledge construction in terms of students' personal experiences, practices, and knowledge. E-learning includes web-based learning, computer-based learning, virtual classrooms, and digital collaboration. Educational materials are distributed through the internet. Nowadays, the internet is being used not only for e-learning but also for filling out online forms, applying for jobs, and reading books. Today, students are using the internet in all areas of education.

The use of modern teaching machines in higher education.

Today, the use of modern teaching machines such as mobile smartphones, laptops, tablets, radios, tape

recorders, televisions, projectors, and language laboratories has mechanized the higher education process. With the use of these machines, teachers can easily share their knowledge and skills with their students. The use of teaching machines in the field of higher education is rapidly increasing.

Online Education

If you want to continue your education while working or if you don't have time to attend classes, students can pursue distance learning through online programs offered by relevant institutions. They can study from the comfort of their home or office and even take online exams. This has led to a rapid increase in students' interest in higher education.

Reading Books Online

Students need many books for higher education, which not everyone can afford to buy. Besides, because books are expensive and not easily available, students prefer to read them online. Therefore, the availability of online books benefits all these students. Nowadays, detailed descriptions of all types of books are available on the internet, allowing students to complete their entire studies using these online resources.

Teleconferencing in Higher Education

Its use began in the United States in the 1960s through television and picture phones. Multimodal services provided by computers and the internet are used for conferencing. Here, we can transmit written materials, diagrams, etc., to the participants in the conference using internet services. Audio-video conferencing, when well integrated with computer technology and the internet, provides both teachers and students with self-instruction and self-training based on their individual interests, time and resource availability, and learning pace. This allows students to communicate with each other about higher education topics and discuss course materials.

M-Learning

Mobile learning (m-learning) is also trending these days. Mobile devices are available to students 24/7, keeping them constantly connected to the internet. As a result, students can now utilize the cutting-edge technology of mobile services for e-banking, e-commerce, and e-learning, just as they do with internet and web technologies accessible through computers. Today, every student is using their mobile phone to address their educational needs.

Distance Education

The contribution of distance education systems in the field of higher education is constantly increasing today. Multimedia and the internet play a significant role in distance education. Many individuals are unable to pursue higher education due to family, social, economic, and time constraints, but they still harbor a desire to learn. Through this system, aspiring students are provided with education in the comfort of their homes. Multimedia, email, the internet, SMS, MMS, video magazines, television programs, etc., are used in this process. Educational activities, such as admissions and course materials, are made available to students at home through electronic media and the internet.

E-Library

The level of higher education is changing rapidly in modern times. Today, the internet has made information and education easily accessible to students anytime, anywhere. Students can access thousands of pieces of information related to their subject with just one click. They can read any book from the comfort of their homes. The internet has made access to information from anywhere in the world easy. Students can study books, research papers, and dissertations from online libraries according to their interests.

E-books

The internet has made its presence felt in all aspects of life today. This has led to a rapid increase in the availability of books online. Publishing or making books and magazines available on the internet is called e-publishing, and such books are called e-books. Students can read them for free or by paying a fee. They can also be downloaded as needed. The increasing number of e-books day by day proves that students' interest in them is growing.

II. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This research paper utilizes the survey method for data collection. Information was gathered from 100 B.Ed. students (respondents). These students are undergoing training at Mayadevi College of Education and New Era College of Education in Dewas city.

Tabulation, graphical representation, and interpretation of data.

1- Which do you use more for academic purposes, textbooks or the Internet?

1. Textbooks 49
2. Internet 51

Question 1 also asked respondents which do they use more for academic purposes, textbooks or the Internet. 49 respondents said they use textbooks, while 51 said they use the Internet.

2- Why do you use the internet for educational purposes?

1. Cheaper medium 26
2. Greater availability of study material 31
3. Availability of free books 23
4. Lack of easy access to books 20

2 asked why you use the internet for educational purposes. 26% said cheaper medium, 31% said greater availability of study material, 23% said free availability of books, and 20% said lack of easy access to books.

3- Has the internet made higher education easier?

1. Yes 100
2. No 0

Question 3 asked whether the internet has made higher education easier. 100 respondents answered yes, and 0 answered no

4- Is the Internet useful in higher education?

- 1 Yes 100
- 2 No 0

In question 4, respondents were asked whether the Internet is useful in higher education. 100 answered yes and 0 answered no

5- Which of the following do you use most for educational purposes?

- 1- Internet 75
- 2- Textbooks 25

It is clear from question 5 that when respondents were asked which of the following mediums do they use most for educational purposes, they did not. 75 respondents said they use the internet, 25 said they use textbooks.

6- Are you satisfied with the use of the internet in education?

1 Yes 95

2 No 5

Question 6- When respondents were asked whether they were satisfied with the use of the internet in education, 95% answered yes and 5% said no.

7- Which language do you consider easiest to use on the internet?

1 Hindi 15

2 English 80

3 Both 10

In question 7, respondents were asked which language do you consider easiest to use on the internet. 15 said Hindi, 80 said English, and 10 said both languages are easy to use.

8- Is the Internet a reliable medium for learning in higher education?

1 Yes 88

2 No 12

In question 8, when respondents were asked whether the Internet is a reliable medium for learning in higher education, 88% said yes and 12% said no.

9- Do you face language barriers when using the Internet?

1 Yes 37

2 No 63

In question 9, when respondents were asked whether they face language barriers when using the Internet, 37 said yes and 63 said no.

10- Do you face problems when using the Internet?

1 No 95

2 Yes 5

In question number 10, when respondents were asked if they experienced any problems using the internet, 5 answered yes and 95 answered no.

III. CONCLUSION

The results of the survey conducted for this research paper are very interesting. According to the research survey, 96 respondents use the internet for educational purposes. Textbooks are used more frequently than the internet. The reasons for internet use in higher education have been identified. The main reasons include lack of time, pursuing education alongside a job, increased responsibilities, greater availability of study materials on the internet, difficulty in finding books in the market and libraries,

and the high cost of books. Students are using the internet because it is a cheaper medium compared to books. All respondents agree that the internet is a cost-effective medium. All respondents believe that the use of the internet has made higher education easier; therefore, the internet is a useful medium for higher education in the present time. Only 4 respondents are not satisfied with the use of the internet, while 88 respondents consider the internet a reliable medium for use in higher education. 80 respondents find the English language easy to use on the internet because most of the study material is available in English, but 20 people face problems with the internet due to the English language.

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