



Is the coronavirus outbreak leading to new a educational revolution in India?

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The Covid-19 pandemic has forced governing bodies and school managements to look to digital learning as the only workable solution, still, the entire education ecosystem is grossly underprepared.

In a Nostradamus kind of precision, Bill Gates in 2015 predicted that "not missiles, microbes" will bring the world to its knees. Back then, the World Bank also predicted that a pandemic could see global wealth stripped off 3 trillion dollars. Here, now, the new coronavirus has ensued pandemonium like never seen before. The whole world is grinding to a halt and governments across the globe are scrambling to get the fundamental needs of their citizens addressed. With mandatory shutdowns and social distancing becoming the norm, the question in everyone's mind is how do we engage the upwards of 260 million students in India?

Story of 'modern sanitary napkin' and the 'internet'

The material for the modern sanitary napkins and the internet as a communication device, both are war time inventions, but have more peacetime applications now. War like situations have forced us to invent new things which became an integral part of daily life. Are we going to invent something new in education during this warlike situation caused by the pandemic.

'Discover' may be a better word as many amazing technology and pedagogical approaches were already prevalent before this pandemic, but were sadly ignored due to fear of the unknown and stubborn obstinacy (redundant words lol).

Inescapable shift to EdTech innovations

The Covid-19 pandemic has forced governing bodies and school managements to look to digital learning as the only workable solution, still, the entire education ecosystem is grossly underprepared. What they thought would be the future of education is what we are seeing becoming the present scenario. Pathbreaking technology has forged innovation in the Edtech sector in the past few years yet there has been a reluctance and begrudgement in embracing it

The present situation however has ensured that this digital revolution in education is inescapable and all stakeholders upskill themselves to meet the challenges.

Making virtual classrooms really effective

To make virtual classrooms a reality, there needs to be a paradigm shift in the popular belief of what online teaching learning encapsulates. The focus should not merely be on lesson delivery and sending assessments via email.

An online teaching-learning ecosystem is required to be created making the entire experience as close to real classrooms. It can be achieved in no time by partnering with EdTech service providers with interactive syllabus-based contents, tests and analytics. These process driven teaching-learning ecosystems will bring in disciplined online education and will eliminate ambiguity. In effective virtual classrooms, the teacher can easily implement IEPs (Individual education programs) as Analytics and Analytics based interventions could be done using these platforms. Online class etiquette is the other big one. Reality is that students are more in sync with the digital world than most adults can boast of.

So, when the class clown decides to act up the teacher must now know how to caution him or her in the virtual classroom as effectively as they would in the real one.

E-Teaching-learning platforms step up

To help teachers and students alike, e-learning platforms like EduBrisk have stepped up to the cause. Edubrisk, a brain-friendly learning platform has been one of the first in the country to train teachers in India and in Indian schools abroad, free of cost, and provide the above-mentioned content and features in the platform.

Further parents and students were added to the platform through schools to create the necessary ecosystem.

Students who have exams have been given demo accounts to help them prepare better.

Making every teacher great

The coronavirus pandemic has set the ball rolling for mass upskilling of teachers. Those of them who feared and begrudged technology will see the power of ICT and adaptive learning and the true flipped classroom model will then become a reality. The boom of e-learning in the B2C model (where e-learning companies supply their products directly to students) will see a reversal

as the teachers become highly empowered with multiple tools in the domain of Digital, Integrated and inclusive teaching.

The teacher-based intervention will soar new heights and data analytics and data science-based intervention will be prime mover. With teachers adopting technology and becoming the best versions of themselves, the B2C e-learning model will be forced to step up their game.

While EdTech innovations in digital learning were thought about as an alternative till now, it has been thrust into the limelight as the world's education system marches head on into an e-learning experiment of unmatched scale during this pandemic. When everyone in the school ecosystem is finally forced to pull their heads out of the sand and embrace digital learning, they will come out understanding the sheer ease and effectiveness of the technology they had been dreading.

The global pandemic will have set in motion a lasting impact on the trajectory of digitised learning, making it not only a go to tool in times of need but absolutely indispensable in the world of teaching and learning. While COVID19 outbreak is bringing about a revolution in health and hygiene while trying to break the chain of the pandemic, the educational space is faced with a challenge of not letting there be an interruption.

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