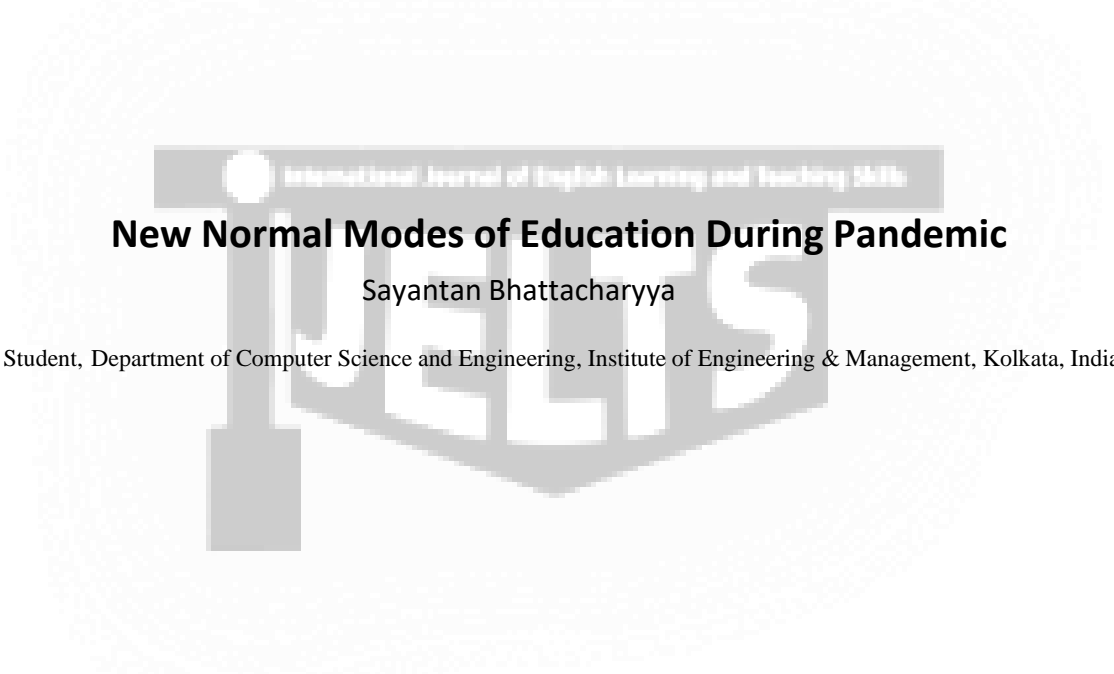


Running Head: New Normal Modes of Education During Pandemic

1



International Journal of English Learning and Teaching Skills

New Normal Modes of Education During Pandemic

Syantana Bhattacharyya

Student, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, Institute of Engineering & Management, Kolkata, India.

Abstract:

Online learning is nothing new, it was already prevalent. With the COVID-19 pandemic, schools and colleges had to shift from physical classrooms to remote classrooms. Powered through the use of the internet, video conferencing software(s), and other suit(s) of online tools, online teaching and learning is the new normal mode of education. This paper aims to discuss the benefits, the disadvantages, the classroom environment, and factors affecting evaluation in the online mode of education.

Keywords:

Introduction: Online Learning, Full-time online course, New normal mode of education

The online mode of education is the new normal. Across the globe, most schools, colleges, and Universities have shifted to online mode of education from physical classrooms. Classrooms have changed to online meetings, demonstration on board has changed to presentation, and this shift has happened globally due to the pandemic. In this paper, the process of Online education (full time or MOOC) is divided into parts – Teaching, Learning, Classroom environment, Health Issues, Challenges in Online mode of education and evaluation.

Teaching:

The online mode of education focusses teaching through the means video conferencing, in case of full-time course or pre-recorded video in case of a MOOC. Typically, the contents of full-time online mode of education are using slides to deliver notes/explanations/concepts. While areas of subjects where it requires visualization, which was difficult in physical classroom, online teaching is proving great in those areas; areas like lab experiments are compromised to virtual labs. Online mode of education is quite unfit for subjects which require a lot of practical knowledge or skills, like sports or physical education. In many cases teachers are feeling dissatisfied with the process of teaching but had to accept the system due to the pandemic. At first, the whole process of teaching was something very new with teachers who are not technology savvy. Gradually the process normalized between the teachers. Online teaching is aided with the use of images, videos, animated graphs, GIFs and other visual aids which may help students to understand.

Learning:

The online education is nothing new. Online education platform like edX, Coursera, Alison, LinkedIn learning, SkillShare, Udacity are present from long back. Some platforms or apps even are specialised for particular area of study language learning (Duolingo, Bussu, LiveMocha, LingQ), Data Science (like DataCamp), programming (like freecodecamp.org), while some even target learners of different age groups, or regional exams. These platforms provide MOOCs or even courses equivalent to a Master's degree. However, full time online course is something new. It requires students to join classroom on regular scheduled time, just as in physical campus but online. So full time online learning is quite different from a regular MOOC. Course materials are quite often accessed with the means of videos, presentations, e-books, pdf copies or relevant electronic formats. Learning in online mode is subject of self-motivation. It has been observed that students cannot motivate themselves to study in online mode. Moreover, online mode of education requires equal concentration and, in some cases, even more than that of physical classroom. Learning areas which include hands on experiment, are achieved by the means of virtual lab or online virtual simulation. However, this may affect the learning process, firstly virtual simulation is all totally different from hands on procedure and secondly in virtual simulation shows very little or no instrumental or experimental error or observational error, which is totally different from physical experiment environment, where there is a least instrumental error or experimental error or there maybe some value (like acceleration due to gravity) that may depend place to place.

Classroom Environment:

Students' learning, motivation, and satisfaction are all affected by diversity and inclusion. Online learning/teaching can provide a great way for diversity in classroom. Online mode of education can bring together both educators and learners of different ethnicity or countries together. Students or educators of different culture can be brought together with online education. Students who may not have made it possible to be the classroom for distance, is there in the classroom due to online mode of education. Online mode of education has also enabled people to pursue their education and responsibilities at the same time. Accommodation Cost of foreign full-time course may be too high for some individuals but with new online mode of education, students may pursue their education at the foreign universities, which not only enables classroom diversity but also strengthens the key concepts of education access. Online mode of education gives all students a chance to succeed. It gives pupils of varied backgrounds a sense of belonging and

conveys a message to the rest of the class that everyone is welcome. Students can form healthy relationships with one another in a safe setting.

Running Head: New Normal Modes of Education During Pandemic

4

issues:

While online learning/teaching has several advantages in terms of time flexibility and a diversified classroom setting, regular online sessions might lead to health problems. Attending online lessons for 6-8 hours on a regular basis may have an unfavourable effect on vision and other health conditions, such as cervical spondylosis caused by poor posture. At home, unlike in the classroom, children are not obligated to follow good ergonomics. One of the most prominent explanations for the recent upsurge in back problems or fibromyalgic symptoms is taking online classes on beds and sofas. Prolonged screen usage has been linked to an increase in vision difficulties as well as frequent headaches. In addition, anxiety and sadness are on the rise as a result of home confinement, as are sleep difficulties. Children who take online lessons at home are not required to be as professional as their peers in the classroom. While school is primarily a place of learning, it is also the hub of many students' social lives. Teenagers and young adults have the opportunity to engage with their peers at school or university. It provides kids with an opportunity to socialise and express themselves. Without frequent social interaction, kids may feel lonely, unmotivated, or frustrated as schools and universities move to virtual formats. Numerous researches have demonstrated that social isolation has a higher rate of harmful effects on people's mental and physical health. Face-to-face contacts have also been shown to help alleviate depression and anxiety in other researches. Social anxieties and tensions may be exacerbated by a lack of social connection. Teenagers, for example, may be concerned about changes in friendships as a result of extended solitude. Exposure to Electromagnetic radiation caused by Mobile phones, laptop or other electronic devices, in order to access the classes, on a regular basis may cause long-term health problems.

Challenges in Online mode of education:

After traditional classroom learning, students find it challenging to adjust to an online learning environment. They are unable to adapt to commuter-based learning due to the abrupt change. Students who have always studied in a traditional classroom setting find it difficult to concentrate on online platforms. It is critical that they adopt the new learning environment with open minds. Many students may not have access to a high-speed internet connection, which is necessary for online learning. As a result, they are having difficulty launching virtual learning and other platforms that require an internet connection. They have technical problems since they are unfamiliar with technology and computer programmes. A fast or slow internet connection can affect how quickly you can join the class and avoid missing any live sessions. If you're having trouble downloading information about the issue, or if you're seeing blurry videos, there's a chance you're experiencing poor connectivity. Even sometimes meetings are spammed with vulgar, racist, irrelevant contents that cause distractions.

Evaluation:

With respect of evaluation in online mode of education, it has been a debatable topic of discussion. It had been observed that students are taking unfair means to score grades in examinations. Even with proper invigilation some students are still successful in finding loopholes. Many teachers are unsatisfied with the evaluation scheme of online mode of education. Some teachers are in the say of that online evaluation isn't the enough and appropriate way of evaluation. Moreover, remote learning cannot provide proper examination environment.

Conclusion:

Online learning is a growing and exciting new way to learn about almost anything. From one-hour live workshops to online degrees, today's online learning choices are diverse. There is almost something for everyone; all one needs to do is look for it. However, studying online differs from studying in a traditional classroom setting, and it is critical to consider one's goals, requirements, and interests before committing to something. In the lives of students and working professionals, online education has had a favourable impact. However, there are drawbacks too, which must be accepted owing to the pandemic.

