**ROLE OF MOBILE PHONE FOR LEARNING AMONG THE COLLEGE STUDETNS DURING THE PANDEMMIC COVID 19**

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**Abstract**

The COVID-19 pandemic has been an impact of global change in medical learning methods all-over countries, and the usage of skill quickly and creatively to maintain learning and teaching. Digital platforms help students in learning. It provides and enhances skills and education with pleasurable, handles with ease, and deepening learning and encourage reflection. Such benefits make it possible to learn from multiple perspectives. When a pandemic is resolved, there will be dramatic change in the learning system. Here we focus on some positive and negative effects of Covid 19 on education.

Keywords: Learning, Mobile phone, Covid 19

**Introduction**

The sudden outbreak of the pandemic COVID – 19 in December 2019 in the Wuhan city of China has literally knocked down the global economy due to its contagious spread to most of the nations in the world. The pandemic has overwhelmingly disrupted the functioning and outcomes of all education systems across the globe affecting the students of all levels from kindergarten to college (García & Weiss, 2020). The closing down of schools, colleges and universities brought about challenges in the smooth functioning of the system in many parts of the world. The classes became empty learning discontinued and the examinations indefinitely stalled off in 150 countries as closures of institutions are a critical pillar of social distancing tools to mitigate the spread of the pandemic (IBRD, 2020).

The state of affairs in Kerala was also no exception to this general global trend. However, as the second wave of the pandemic has shown some relief, the state conducted the terminating examinations of all the major courses in May and June. The schools and colleges had a virtual reopening switching over the class from brick and mortar class rooms to virtual class rooms. With the direction of the University Grants Commission (UGC), the higher education system of the state to started functioning online. As the smart phones are ubiquitous among students in the state, the classes virtually kicked off on the min screens of these gadgets. Using various e - platforms for social interactions including Google meet, Zoom meet, Jio meet and social networking sites such as telegram, What’s app and Google class rooms, students interact with their teachers so as not to let the pandemic to throw spanner in the smooth functioning of the new academic semester.

Mobile phone plays crucial role in the online access of the class rooms. Studies point out that more than 73 percent of the students attend online classes through the smart phone plat forms, 18 percent of the students use broad band facilities including wi – fi and 9 percent use both for the classes and the faculties relies upon Google class rooms, Google meet and videos on You Tube.(Rafi, Varghes, & Kuttichira, 2020). Thus the mobile phones are incredibly the larger platform on which the juggernaut of online class moves around. Optimising accessible solutions to this platform reduces the disengagement of the students at higher education centres including colleges.

However, the public education system was not built nor prepared to cope with the over whelming challenges of the pandemic It suffers from several lacunae including the lack of IT infrastructure, expertise and training to sustain teaching and learning and to provide safety net supports that children get from the real world class rooms. Besides, in many ways the crisis has widened the existing socio economic disparities as number of the people lost their jobs due to the lock down in many parts of the state enforced to contain the super spread of the disease. Hence meeting the cost of online education is burdensome .for many. The system suffers due to poor network faculties causing disruptions in the continuous delivery of the classes. The loss of information is large due to this. The socialisation and the extracurricular and other activates which imitate the physical, mental and cultural development suffers as a result many of the objectives of education wouldn’t be realised. Increased exposure to the devices make them addicted to them causing mobile phone dependency and problematic mobile phone use are likely to be accentuated. This would brew up numerous health issues which in turn make the future generation morbidity prone individuals. Hence the online class may be temporary solution to the discontinuity of the education due to break down of the pandemic. it cannot be seen as a substitute for real time college education. The sooner we open the colleges and universities after the easing of the pandemic, the better would be the physical, mental and cultural well being of the future generation of the society. Main objective of this paper is to understand the positive and negative effects of COVID 19 pandemic in Kerala economy.

**Positive effects of Covid 19 On Education**

**1. Rise in Blended Learning**

Universities and colleges will shift to a model of blended learning where both face to face delivery along with an online model will become a norm. This will require all teachers to become more technology savvy and go through some training to bring themselves to the level that would be required.

**2. Learning management systems to be the new norm**

A great opportunity will open up for those companies that have been developing and strengthening learning management systems for use by universities and colleges. This has the potential to grow at a very fast pace .

**3. Improvement in learning material**

There is a great opportunity for universities and colleges to start improving the quality of the learning material that is used in the teaching and learning process. Since blended learning will be the new format of learning there will be a push to find new ways to design and deliver quality content especially due to the fact that the use of learning management systems will bring about more openness and transparency in academics.

**4. Rise in collaborative work**

The teaching community to a large extent has been very insulated and more so in a country like India. There is a new opportunity where collaborative teaching and learning can take on new forms and can even be monetized

**Negative effect of Covid 19 on Education**

**1.** **Passive learning by students**

The sudden shift to online learning without any planning -- especially in countries like India where the backbone for online learning was not ready and the curriculum was not designed for such a format -- has created the risk of most of our students becoming passive learners and they seem to be losing interest due to low levels of attention span.

**2. Unprepared teachers for online education**

Online learning is a special kind of methodology and not all teachers are good at it or at least not all of them were ready for this sudden transition from face to face learning to online learning.

### 3. Technical Difficulties

Technology plays a huge role in online learning. Subsequently, many teachers and students find it quite difficult to adjust to learning and teaching from the confines of a computer screen.

Digital education will have a limited scope as compared with the written and handy material which is provided in an educational institute. Moreover, the authentication of the educational material is at stake. E-learning will always provide the students with different information in different ways. So, the authenticity of the educational material should be tested before these materials are circulated with the students.

**Conclusion**

In short, we can conclude that the increased penetration of the mobile phones in Kerala helped the state to launch the online class during the closures of colleges and university centres during the COVID 19 Pandemic. However, there are several challenges which threaten the quality of education and equitable accessible of the same among various socio economic groups. Besides, the prolonged use of such devices will drive the youth into situations of severe health issues. Hence the mobile phone dependent online education cannot be considered as a long term sustainable solution and the real world classroom education cannot be substituted with online class rooms. It can serve only as a supplementary mechanism to augment the knowledge contraction by the students.

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