



## Role of online teaching during corona virus pandemic

Roseleen Sharma and Lakhwinder Kaur

Department of Extension Education, College of Agriculture, Punjab Agricultural University,  
Ludhiana (Punjab) India  
(Email : [lakhwinder@pau.edu](mailto:lakhwinder@pau.edu))

According to a famous saying, *When something crosses its limit, Mother nature tackles the issue in its own way.* Deforested lands, polluted water bodies and air, animal hunting and the trafficking for human's self needs and many more immoral activities forced the environment to turn out to be ruthless and then a virus mutated. This virus led to harsh devastation globally. Millions of people were infected and lakhs died due to this virus known as novel corona virus. Fear prevailed all over the world and people were traumatised on how to save themselves from this virus. Being a virus which is spread by physical contact and aerosol it's rate of transmission spread like fire throughout the planet and all the countries started following various methods to protect the population from following a trap to this dreaded COVID-19 virus. Entire lockdown was forced in many countries including India. Although this measure was followed with

the objective to reduce the spread of COVID-19 virus and it actually helped to control it to a large extent but along with that many more sectors were affected. Normal daily routine of people which we all took for granted came to a halt. Roads, shopping malls, educational institutions and other locations wore a deserted look. Many people, especially the migrant labourers were left unemployed and homeless during the lock down. Along with other sectors which were affected during this pandemic, the education sector was also largely affected. As schools and colleges were shut down, the COVID-19 pandemic has created the largest disruption of education systems in history. But as we live in a modern era, a new concept *viz.* online teaching came into picture. From the nursery students to the graduating ones, everyone had to study from their homes. Several applications such as Zoom app, Google meet, Microsoft team etc. were launched by multinational companies which help the students to a large extent in

order to cover up their studies. Although there is no substitute for classroom teaching as the teacher is unable to clear all the concepts by online teaching. As we know along with any new technological advancement comes criticism. So, it has many disadvantages too. As it requires excessive usage of electronic gadgets, it hampers the overall mental development of the students. The classroom education which is filled with interactive sessions between the teacher and the student, create positive energies and the tendency to learn the subject increases. But in online teaching no such activities take place efficiently and the learner gradually loses interest in the subject. Major disadvantage of online teaching is the indiscipline created by some students during the classes which disturbs the decorum of the class going on and show disrespect towards the instructor irrespective of the fact that he/she is trying his level best so that the studies



of the student is not affected. Adding to these disadvantages, a major issue is that some subjects such as music, dance, art etc. which form a major element of any educational institution's curriculum helping the student to learn some life skills along with bookish language cannot be taught by mere virtual platforms. Another major negative impact is that by virtual teaching, the instructor is unable to understand that whether the concepts are clear to the students or not because some of them lack the confidence of asking their queries regarding the subject matter and in my opinion, the reason behind this issue is that the teacher is unable to observe the body language of the learner virtually and cannot make out the difficulty which is being faced by the student. Moreover, some financially weak students who are unable to buy such devices have to suffer huge academic losses. According to certain surveys, the sale of electronic gadgets like smart phones, laptops had increased at a drastic rate. The

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concept of online teaching also harms the eyesight of the student especially those of kindergarten. Certain radiations from such devices also affects the students. Along with that certain subjects which need practical applications for their theoretical part cannot be learnt through online teaching. But as each coin has two sides, there are some benefits of online teaching too. As the education of students had to be carried on to avoid any issues in their future, so online teaching offered a platform for the continuation of their studies. It also helped the students to utilise their time efficiently. As it is said that an idle mind is a devil's workshop, so online teaching helped the future leaders of our country to be productive even in this time of global pandemic. By its virtue, students were connected with their studies and exams were conducted online by some educational institutions. Furthermore it helped the students to complete their academic sessions by overcoming issues which were put forward by this pandemic.

Apart from benefiting the students, this technology also gave a massive breakthrough in computer and software engineering sectors. It also led to increase in employment in such sectors. Adding to the list of benefits offered by online teaching another advantage is that the

teachers carry on with their jobs even during the time of this global pandemic unlike other professions which were completely shut down and people had no source of income left with them. So in some way, along with the students academic lives, it also supported a number of teachers financially worldwide. One more advantage of online teaching is that during the delivery of lectures, instructor's uses tools like power point presentations, word documents etc. in applications like zoom etc. which in some way helped the students to retain the subject matter easily and gave them an edge to move from typical classroom teaching. So after keen observation of positive and negative aspects of online teaching we reach to a conclusion that although it has multiple bad aspects but the benefits which students avail from this methodology of education deserves appreciation. As it is correct for any new scientific and technological advancement which is made in today's world, in the case of online teaching too, it largely depends on the user that how does he/she uses this tool and avails all its benefits without being much affected by its negative impacts. So it would be pretty accurate to call this concept of online teaching a necessary evil.

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