Virtual Schooling: Issues And Challenges During Pandemic

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Abstract: Virtual schooling is a participation between The Centre for Teaching and Learning (CTL) by means of different apparatuses, practices such as web-based platforms, tools, devices, video conferencing software, discussion boards to help and motivate students and educators to fill the gap of physical classroom. Virtual Schooling is inseparable from e-learning, happens on the web. Here, students and educators interact in synchronous where students interact or engage with educators while they convey their lessons live, or asynchronous, where students watch recording of the lessons later anytime. This Paper is exploratory in nature, data is collected with primary source like questionnaire and respondent are a total of 66 teachers and 65 students of schools in Lucknow city. Though virtual schooling can happen in multiple and distributed location but at the same time it is significantly more complicated than most expect. The difficulties engaged with virtual schooling might appear to be too various to even think about counting. Commonly found challenges on behalf of educators and students are: multitasking, requests advanced prestidigitate qualities which is inevitable, yet exhausting; quality of teaching resources; volume of work, remote teaching includes a bigger workload than traditional classroom teaching. The volume of assignments, design and plan the lessons and emails to answer can astonish you; time management skills are a continuous issue for remote learners with study, career and other commitments.

Keywords: Virtual schooling, Virtual schooling, Virtual schooling, E-Learning

1. Introduction

The Director General of WHO in March 2020 (WHO, 2020) pronounced Covid-19 as a pandemic after evaluation of the rapid spread and seriousness of the dangerous infection over the globe with added declaration of social distancing, cognizant addition in the physical gap between individuals so as to control spread of disease (Red Cross, 2020). This pandemic has constrained worldwide physical closure of organizations, sport activities and schools by pushing all foundations to relocate to virtual platform, and this has caused startling disturbance of traditional teaching and learning method. In contemporary time COVID-19 situation every school is practicing virtual schooling. Virtual Schooling is inseparable from e-learning, happens on the web, it is typically facilitated through technology, such as web-based platforms, tools, devices, video conferencing software, discussion boards or learning management systems. Here, students and educators interact in synchronous where students interact or engage with educators while they convey their lessons live, or asynchronous, where students watch recording of the lessons later anytime. Virtual Schooling is the place the student and the educators, are not physically present in a study environment, information is transferred through technology. Though virtual schooling can happen in multiple and distributed location but at the same time it is significantly more complicated than most expect. Virtual Schooling completely is reliant on technology and web, educators and students with poor internet connections are quite a lot tending to be denied access to virtual schooling. The reliance of virtual schooling learning on technological devices and the arrangement of the technological devices was a major challenge for schools, academicians and students.

A) Challenges and issues on Teachers Perspective:

Amidst the Covid-19 pandemic, every education institution had to rotate their guidance on virtual platform to permit educating and learning to continue. It has been a difficult timeframe for all educators, all around the globe. Many teachers were not effectively prepared to convey quality guidance in the virtual schooling platform (Feldman, J. (n.d.), 2019). The troubles drew in with virtual schooling may seem to be by too many to even consider about counting. Usually discovered difficulties for academicians are:
1) Preparation needs more time now

Preparing for the class is required and every individual student feedback is not easy task to perform, however the class majority part is considered to be answered first. The entire cycle may go in an unending circle as certain topics may be rehashed again and again by the educator, despite the fact that the content has just been already completed. Valuable feedback utilizing the proposed platform is non-apparent as students who already have understood the content would definitely see them rehashed again and again (Mohamed K. Watfaa and Diana Audib, 2017). If the teachers need to abstain from producing a ten-page study material and intelligent video for a solitary exercise of material, educators require extra preparation time to churn out the content for delivery in class yet they need to include all important aspect of the content. Volume of Work has deliberately increased in virtual schooling which is even bigger workload than traditional classroom teaching.

2) Multi-tasking is another issue

Performing various tasks of academicians in the work environment influenced all features of the educator’s carries on with, their time management, organizing task and performing multiple tasks being the new topics as outcomes of educators performing multiple tasks in work environment (Ticulon, Malita, Davao Occidental, Janice Serenio Alquiar, 2018). Performing various tasks demands advanced prestidigitate characteristics which is unavoidable, yet exhausting. Continually shifting from one work and another, fundamentally decreases adequacy of the two works. This is clearly terrible news for productivity yet a series of studies have uncovered some problematic symptoms of driving the brains from multi-tasking (Aaron Brooks, 2020).

3) Technical difficulties with online teaching tools

Although virtual schooling has numerous possible advantages, specialized challenges are one downside to the expanded utilization of this medium. Failure of internet from teacher’s side will not allow them to continue with lecture and result in wastage of time. On the other hand, if the failure of internet occurs to even single student will force the teacher to repeat the content and this may even happen multiple time in one session which would exhaust teacher who has to take multiple sessions in a day.

B) Challenges and issues on Students Perspective:

Virtual schooling are restricted with quantitative-style addresses where the appropriate responses must be in multiple choices, which isn't generally the situation in every course where the procedure utilized by students is more significant core interest. The virtual platform doesn't permit students to work together on assignments and projects, particularly with regards to group assignments like arithmetic projects that include mathematical modelling and learning by doing with peer, such practices are no more easily possible in virtual schooling platform.

1) No collaboration with peer:

Collaboration among peer is one of the absolute most significant components of fruitful virtual schooling platform. Collaboration inspires learning and advances a more profound and all the more basically mindful way to deal with the topic (Mohamed K. Watfaa and Diana Audib, 2017). Sadly, collaboration effort is one of the most troublesome things to accomplish when peers are not genuinely present together.

2) Every student has different pace of learning:

In the study hall, the teacher can screen the students and change their movement to oblige any individual who needs additional time. In a virtual study environment, it is hard to do as such. Students may remain quite and later leave learning feeling sad, disappointed and having adapted nothing (María Graciela Badilla Quintanaa, Angelica Vera Sagredob and Miltiadis D. Lytras, 2017)

3) Schedule issue:

Scheduling for class preparing can be a headache, however planning for virtual schooling can be a considerably greater challenge. At the point when you utilize a mixed learning arrangement that expects participants to focus on different synchronous and asynchromous exercises. Students are now found struggling in following the virtual schooling schedule and their personal schedule. As now they need to put extra efforts in curriculum understanding, studying, retaining at the same time. Students are unable to handle the virtual schedule and found dealing with stress, depressions and anxieties (Nanigopal Kapasia, Pintu Paul, Avijit Roy, Jay Saha, Ankita Zaveri, Rahul Mallick, Bikash Barman, Prabir Das, Pradip, 2020).

This study can assist academicians with having a more profound knowledge of issues and challenges faced while virtual schooling and help in adapting it with more simpler and helpful approaches to provide the necessities of their students, this paper can fill in as a guide for teachers on the most proficient method to introduce their lessons in an easily understandable manner. It will likewise make them mindful of the necessities and challenges
experienced by the students and address these worries to make their learning more engaging and joyful. In addition, this study can help researchers with more information in regards to the issues and challenges faced while virtual schooling and allow them to come up with suggestions and ideas to minimize the challenges.

2. Literature Review

Covid-19 not just affected human life yet in addition affected education and organizations (J Surg Educ. 2020). With standards of social distancing, all school classes were suspended because of the progressing Coronavirus pandemic. Considering its suggestions on our students, virtual schooling was directed each day. We utilized a free form of Zoom which permits limit of 100 members and for time span of 40 min, student’s feedback was gathered when class was completed in the virtual schooling set up. (Nanigopal Kapasia, Pintu Paul, Avijit Roy, Jay Saha, Ankita Zaveri, Rahul Mallick, Bikash Barman, Prabir Das, Pradip Chouhan, 2020) accounted that students were generally experiencing anxiety, stress, and depression because they were confronting issues identified with helpless poor network, trailed by the nonappearance of a positive climate to learn at home. Students from rural areas confront helpless poor network. Also, poor monetary conditions may be a purpose behind the not so suitable environment and non-availability of discrete space for their online examination.

Though researcher communicated about utilizing cell phone for study purpose and, appreciated the adaptability of it at any point of time he or she wishes to use it and anywhere round the globe. Many of the students found that using cell phone gave them another chance to learn and they also appreciated for the visual feature of how cell phones can be utilized as device for effectiveness. Availability of tremendous amount of material accessible on the web, and the speed with which the exercises could be finished utilizing the device astonished the students (Alice Schmidt Hanbridge, Nicole Sanderson, and Tony Tin, 2015). A considerable extent of students utilizes virtual platform for learning now, huge numbers of them face tremendous difficulties in Virtual schooling platforms. School education has its own particular space that Virtual schooling platforms do not have. COVID-19 emergency made students extemporized their areas. In some cases, this was on a dining table or sofa of living room, in the bed or the lounge area. These are zones that have different purpose, where other family members are doing their daily task. On account of virtual platforms, conventions on its utilization are not effortlessly seen, prompting uncertainty for education. On account of virtual schooling, it is in action worldwide as a valuable option for the quick help for the students. Consequently, there are worries about the restrictions of virtual platforms, and the parts, qualities and suspicions about the Virtual schooling set up (Leticia Rodriguez-Segura, Marco Antonio Zamora-Antunano, Juvenal Rodriguez-Rosenda, Wilfrido J. Paredes-García, José Antonio Altamirano-Corro, and Miguel Angel Cruz-Perez, 2020). Profound learning is not resulting as virtual platforms lack in collaboration and engagement, technology permits the development of an improved thought of the innovation associated with education but kinesthetic learning is not much suitable for virtual platforms.

(Sakshi Agarwal, Jaya Shankar Kaushik, 2020) mentioned in their paper that students reacted that these online meetings broke repetitive daily schedule, were a decent use of time and the material was but difficult to have. They felt roused to peruse on the subjects and it helped them not to consider COVID and rest calmly. Most incessant components ruining learning were expressed as restriction on the number of students, time restriction of the lectures in virtual platforms, and technical fault or poor internet connectivity during the virtual classes.

The snappy and unexpected virtual change cycle of schools and colleges has tremendous burden on ICT units of schools and colleges to manufacture virtual platforms, incorporated to full relocation into virtual applications from their traditional system. Educators additionally share part of the remaining burden since they are answerable for changing their course substance to be virtual friendly to the students. This hefty remaining task is relied upon to cause unexpected monetary and time cost, (Manfuso, 2020). Emergency reaction students accepted more messages from the college, these heaps of messages have added to the pressure of students and academicians and this may bring about emotional well-being issues.

Schools and colleges should improve their help conditions to bring out virtual classes through electronic implies, academicians should improve their computerized abilities and investigate educational methodologies that, not just permit them to communicate the topical rules of their subjects yet in addition help the skills of scholarly independence in students. A significant viewpoint is that scholarly specialists should obviously indicate the boundaries that make learning a reality. Schools and colleges keep on altering, adjust, attempt new methodologies, work being continued in virtual platforms. We as a whole battle with the real factors of the virtual gap and absence of admittance to devices, networks, and vital facilities for students (Jacinto Joaquin Vertiz Osores, 2020)

Online training is profoundly established in suitable groundwork and design of directions with a few accessible hypotheses and models, however the relocation cycle of the schools and colleges to virtual instruction becomes doubtful on the grounds that these cycles might be of inappropriate groundwork, plan and advancement of virtual instructional applications because of the pandemic. The emergency reaction movement strategies embraced by schools and colleges are restricted to virtual media without taking awareness of viable virtual education practice.
Virtual Schooling components are e-platform driven and subject to internet availability, educational organizations can work together with telecommunication ventures to either minimize the expense of internet package or give free data to the students and teachers as a feature of their corporate social responsibility. The worldwide acknowledgment and experience of contemporary Virtual schooling, with prompt circumstances where students and academicians will become acclimated to utilization of virtual platforms and apparatuses for educating and learning, and this use will, almost certainly, go far off school into the work environment (Olasile Babatunde Adedoyin & Emrah Soykan, 2020)

(Nicole Johnson, George Veletsianos in Innovative Learning and Jeff Seaman, 2020) concluded in their study that most of academician’s respondent about the need of more knowledge on the best way to help virtual students also best practices for themselves as they work and educate from home. Training academicians to take up virtual schooling will improve the of value virtual schooling experience. Authors also suggest that training of academicians will preferably accentuate on assessments, collaborative needs of students, pedagogy, and the various types of help that different students need to succeed.

The study hall environment, is much simpler to schedule time since students were visiting class regularly in school duration. In regular schooling students get more opportunity to meet with their friends and faculties and more opportunity for work to be done in the study hall with the assistance of classmates and the faculties. Most of the students learn better in actual classroom being up close and personal connection or the kinesthetic methodology that is given by teachers and classmates while going to classes in the actual classroom. Online classes may be useful for certain students however most of the students learn by practicing it physically, seeing, and having the option to collaborative approach and engagement with the peers and the educator. Rather, combining the classroom teaching and aspects of virtual classes such as PPTs, use of technology while delivering lessons would result towards the positive growth of students and allow them to comprehend better what is being taught. (Tirtha Goradia, 2018) concluded that the move towards blended teaching method is hoping to add to the improvement of 21st century skills and abilities with getting ready our students to confront worldwide difficulties in the current cognitive and technological age. Technology, teaching method and subject knowledge permits teachers to utilize new advances and remodel the traditional teaching method.

A large portion of the papers in the field of virtual schooling measure the convenience and usability of platform, and contend that these variables will influence a person's choice to utilize new technology, very few contend about the challenges faced by students and few contend about the challenges faced because of the inadequacy of using the device or even not having device or good internet connectivity. Therefore, the paper tends to address the challenges faced in fostering virtual schooling and evaluation by both parties the information giver “academicians” and the information receiver “students”. Hence, the discussions in this paper would be highly relevant to bring out the practical problems faced during and after the schooling sessions. This paper is also showing measure to overcome the challenges seen in the practical implementation of Virtual schooling platforms.

3. Methodology

This is a primary data-based study, where we have developed a structural questionnaire of 12 statement. Questionnaire link utilizing 'Google form' was sent to teachers and students of Lucknow through WhatsApp and E-mail. Participants were from Lucknow Public School, National Public School, Primary School, Shahpur Chinhat. A total of 65 students and 66 teachers provided complete information with respect to the study. Simple frequency analysis was assessed to survey the learning and teaching status in virtual platform, issues and challenges faced in virtual schooling platform.

4. Findings

The paper brings out student’s and academician's perception of the challenges and issues faced in virtual schooling platform. The paper centers around problems experienced by both the parties in virtual schooling set up. The participants were asked questions that concerned the virtual schooling problems, peer learning and assessment of students, preparation time for virtual schooling via academicians, study duration of students in virtual schooling period, maintenance of work life balance, dealing with multi-tasking, internet connectivity issues etc.

A) Student’s Perspective

Participants characteristics

Of 65 students, (47.7%) of students were aged 14 years and below and (52.3%) were 15 years and above. The number of male and female students were 29 and 36 respectively in the sample. In India, individuals are depending vigorously on solid internet, PCs, or cell phones to stand with the new normal. As there is seemingly no end in sight this emergency has forced students to get on virtual platforms to continue with their education. As the nation takes to online platform, the current pandemic is affecting students from rural area more than the students who live in urban areas.
Issues related to study during virtual schooling

In virtual schooling platform, it is found that learners were mostly facing problems related to Internet connectivity (55.4%), one of the major struggles for students and teachers is the poor internet connection. Students are helpless and have experienced issues in getting their questions cleared during virtual schooling. Out of 65 students, 24 (36.9%) had no separate room for study purpose. Absence of favorable environment to study at home (32.3%) is another issue, virtual schooling is a need nowadays but it fails to provide proper study environment which is required for effective and mindful understanding of what is being taught by the teacher, poor economic conditions might be a reason for the unfavorable environment for their study in virtual platform.

Students were asked to rate few issues on the scale of strongly disagree to strongly agree, where (33.84%) students choose disagree on “I am connected with my teacher” during virtual class, (23.07%) strongly disagreed on the same matter. When asked about If they are able to collaborate with their classmate (32.3%) strongly disagreed, (29.23%) disagreed. At the point when we have moved to virtual schooling, we miss out on classroom engagement, collaboration with peers and social interactions. While the teacher is delivering lecture exclusively by through visual mode that is PPTs, it makes it more strenuous to interact. This absence of engagement has been a worry with respect to virtual schooling. More than half of the students (60%) disagreed when asked if they were excited about taking classes on virtual platform and they often miss deadlines due to connectivity was agreed by (43.03%), (49.23%) agreed on that communication without visual cues leads to misunderstanding. However, (38.46%) agreed on finding online teaching challenging as there is no correlation between the retaining previous lecture and comprehending present lecture.

B) Teacher’s Perspective

1) Participants characteristics

Of 66 teachers, (71.2%) of teachers were aged 31 years and above and (28.8%) were 30 years and below. The number of male and female teachers were 34 and 32 respectively in the sample. Most of the teachers were from urban area (80.3%) and (19.7%) from rural area. (48.5%) of teachers were from Senior level class, (31.8%) in middle level class, (19.7%) were from junior level class from which (80.3%) were from private school and (19.7%) were from government school.

2) Teaching status during virtual schooling

A few questions were asked to know about the teaching status during virtual schooling that incorporates if they have separate room for work? who owns the gadgets used for teaching purpose? time dedicated to prepare for virtual schooling? More half of the teachers (65.2%) had no separate room for work. It was major problem for them because for delivering they wanted silent room without any interruption. The most terrible experience was that they had to manage different sorts of interferences from internet connectivity issue to interruptions from family members. Regardless of whether it's the most important thing from family’s perspective but any kind of disturbance leaves the whole class distracted.

Out of 66 teachers 41 teachers strongly agreed that they were investing more time in virtual schooling setup which concludes that more half of the teachers (62.1%) had to make more efforts and additional time for preparing
for virtual schooling set up than they would generally do in traditional classroom. Teachers had to provide information to the schools like syllabus coverage, lecture planning, designing the lecture prior to taking the class virtually.

3) Issues related to study during virtual schooling

In virtual schooling platform, it is found that teachers were mostly facing problems related to Internet connectivity (71.2%). Over a decade, India is having serious issue about internet connectivity and the digital literacy. Teachers and students from rural regions lack in to coordinate with the technological skills and internet connectivity with teachers and students of tier 1 and tier 2 cities, followed by absence of favorable environment to teach on virtual platform (43.9%). Making a firm stance between work and home is intense. At the point when your own life and your work are both under a similar rooftop, it's harder to switch between the two and it is quite tiring and exhausting. Study found that (36.4%) teachers were facing excess workload issue in virtual schooling platform, which certainly led some teacher’s suffering from stress, depression, and anxiety (16.7%).

Teachers were asked to rate few issues on the scale of strongly disagree to strongly agree. Making the lecture interactive and not just the one-way communication was quite a task for teachers (40.9%) chooses disagree on I am connected with my students during virtual class, (30.3%) strongly disagreed on the same. Teacher’s were not able to monitor the body language of the students and ensure their focus. When asked about If they find difficulty in assessment of students (27.75%) agreed. Over half a teacher (50%) agreed on facing issues with students new to virtual schooling and students often miss deadlines due to connectivity was agreed by (46.96%). (42.42%) agreed on that communication without visual cues leads to misunderstanding. However, (53.03%) strongly agreed on finding online teaching challenging. More than half a teacher accepted that they find online teaching challenging.

Measures taken to have work life balance and deal with multi-tasking

About (56.1%) were found creating a Schedule and Set Boundaries as work is in never ending phase in work from home situation. (39.4%) decide to work only in working hours to maintain work life balance. Teachers struggled in making sure to take breaks, halting work in timely basis, only (27.3%) gave themselves breaks/took time off. (54.5%) planned ahead to deal with multi-tasking and by limiting the number of tasks they plan to do each day they (42.4%) distinguished urgent from important, some decided to accept their limits and not work extra (24.2%) to deal with multi-tasking

5. Suggestion

Virtual schooling aren’t without its shortcomings. Web based preparing accompanies its own specific attributes, which can imperil the achievement of the preparation. As hard as virtual schooling may be for teachers, it's probably much harder for our students. They’ve gone from study halls explicitly intended to help learning, to bedrooms and living rooms where interruptions are copious and support isn't generally found instantly. It's nothing unexpected many students will be enticed to quit studying. virtual Schooling ought not be viewed as a panacea. It is just by knowing the issues that different schools and institutions have experienced that you can execute projects to understand its maximum capacity. There are different strategies that can minimize the trouble in virtual schooling.

For virtual schooling teachers and students ought to have a committed, quite workspace so as to avoid any physical disturbance. At the point when teachers preparing for class, they should focus on the sound quality (an issue that is regularly disregarded) and make a point to test out on a few smartphones, browsers and applications. Teachers should organize virtual classroom exercises utilizing chat section, conversation sheets or cloud tools for engagement. They can show their face and let students hear their voice, utilizing video or sound chronicles. They should try not to become a robot who just conveys by means of text. Timetable standard check of with students through email or chat can be done, within their limits. Teachers can focus on those students who easily tend to disengage specifically. They can discover more tips for engaging and stay connected with them (Jackson Best, 2020). It may not generally be clear to students that joining a Zoom meeting is practically comparable to strolling into a study hall. It's a smart thought to remind students that similar standards apply to in virtual schooling courses as to school classrooms. They ought to act professionally, treat others with graciousness and regard, avoid utilizing obscenity or socially hostile language, and be in a suitable environment. Preferably they should join class from an appropriate, quite area, with a device that allows proper participation in the class exercises without any disturbance.

Moving a course for teacher intended for classroom conveyance to a completely “virtual schooling” without a doubt represents certain difficulties, not in particular the subject of how to communicate to students on how they will be relied upon to cooperate with the new course materials as well as new methods of engagement. A few parts of school classroom may stay unaltered. Others, will acclimate to oblige the new manners by which students will participate or engage with teacher, the course materials, and with fellow classmates. The pandemic has doubtlessly
caused an adjustment in the typical teaching and learning utilized in the campus environment, however that doesn’t mean they should be relinquished altogether. The shift to virtual schooling can be troublesome. It can require rebuilding course utilizing new pedagogical methodologies, learning exercises and technological devices that might be unfamiliar both academicians and students. By imparting coordinated effort, regular engagement and dynamic learning into the virtual or virtual set up, academicians can even now ensure students get significant and collaborative engagement experience (Karen Quevillon, 2020).

This paper has proposed the accompanying suggestion to the policymakers, educational specialists and government. Government should come up with uniform scholarly plan for the schools and furthermore start a legitimate Education Continuity Plan (ECP) to proceed with the learning cycle during this virtual schooling time. For systematic flow of the virtual schooling during future well-being crises the infrastructural department of educational board ought to come up with proper Education Continuity Plan (ECP). There is a need to ensure adequate network connection to make a positive space for study among the students from the vulnerable segment of society and avoid discontinuation of class. Academicians should be provided with training program to upscale their teaching capabilities and productivity, there should be proper schedule of working for academicians and proper time table for students to maintain their work life balance for the peace of their mind and healthy lifestyle.

6. Conclusion

This paper has tried to bring light on issues and challenges faced academicians and students in virtual schooling platform. It extends our knowledge on both student’s and academician’s perception of the utilization of virtual schooling platform, in specific the practical challenges of virtual schooling. The results confirmed the challenges and issues on both the perspective of teachers and students, the challenges are of that extend that more than half of teachers (62.1%) and (50.8%) of students are not willing to choose virtual schooling after pandemic ends. Students found issues study duration as more screen time was not safe for their well-being, they were not able collaborate with their peer, preparation time for virtual schooling via teachers, assessment of students, maintenance of work life balance, dealing with multi-tasking, internet connectivity issues etc.

The virtual schooling has made noteworthy disturbances in scholarly exercises. This paper found the learning and teaching status of students and teachers during the time when every school possible is running virtually. Though a generous extent of students and teachers are utilizing virtual schooling for learning and teaching, a considerable lot of them face gigantic difficulties.

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