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Online Platform and Covid-19 Pandemic Situation

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Abstract
The Covid-19 virus was first identified in Wuhan, China, in December 2019, and this virus created a new pandemic situation all over the world. The Covid-19 pandemic has affected both daily life and the whole education system. Education is one of the most important aspects of child development. Offline classroom environments play an important role in the all-round development of children. This offline classroom environment has become full of challenges for the students and teachers due to the Covid-19 pandemic situation. The education system had quickly switched from offline to online learning to accommodate the situation. All schools, colleges, and universities were closed during the Covid-19 pandemic, and all classes were carried out via various online learning platforms. Therefore, the present study has been aimed to assess the contribution of online learning platforms during the covid-19 pandemic situation. The present researcher has conducted a documentary review study to accomplish the purpose of the study, followed by the qualitative research approach. The result of this study has indicated that various online learning platforms were available for online classes during this pandemic situation, like-Google Meet, zoom, YouTube, Free Conferences, Skype, Microsoft Teams, Google Classroom, etc. The Various numbers of online learning platforms were enhanced for learning during the Covid-19 pandemic situation which platforms approved by the UGC and MHRD viz. Swayam, Moocs, Swayamprabha, e-Pathsala, CEC-UGC YouTube channel, National digital library, etc. Many challenges were also faced by both teachers and students during covid-19 pandemic. The various online learning platforms play a crucial role to establish the connection between teachers and students as used happen in an offline classroom. Indeed, this learning approach has enhanced the teaching-learning system during this pandemic situation in India and all over the world.

Introduction

Since the first case was confirmed in 2019 and the global outbreak started in 2020, the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) has emerged as one of the most serious health issues in the world. [11, 45]. It was first identified in Wuhan, China on December 31, 2019 (Jena, 2020a). An emerging respiratory illness brought on by severe acute respiratory syndrome is known as Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 (Covid-19) [1]. WHO declared Covid-19 as a pandemic on March 11, 2020 [17]. The disease is characterized by rapid transmission [14] which can be transmitted directly though human-to-human contact or directly with contaminated objects [24]. Several reports revealed that human transmission of Covid-19 has happened via a variety of routes, including the eyes, nose, and mouth, and primarily through person-to-person contact via sneezing, coughing, inhalation, and other means [16]. The countries with high advancement in health systems also faced the worst hit of disease as no proven treatment or reliable vaccines were available to control Covid-19 [43]. During pandemic, in India complete lockdown was imposed in March 2020 which continued till May 2020 to stop chain of transmission of Covid-19 [36]. The citizens were advised to stay at home and maintain social distancing [38].

The pandemic has affected all the aspects of life including education across the globe [20]. Schools, training institutions, and higher education facilities have been closed in the majority of countries as a result of lockdown and social isolation measures brought on by the Covid-19 pandemic [31]. WHO state that Covid-19 may never go away, implies a particular threat to students if they are expected to participate in face-to-face classroom activities [34]. In between, movements were allowed, offices began functioning, school and college re-opened for selected levels and continued with online class for others [31].The pandemic forced the government and the other educational institution across the globe to adopt online learning [20]. During the lockdown period, all schools, colleges and other educational institutions were gradually re-opened through online. Overall, e-learning has expanded quickly due to the dramatic spread of the virus [15].

E-learning, sometimes known as online education, is not a recent idea. Online learning or E-learning is a learning environment that takes place over the internet [6]. The majority of terms, including online learning, open learning, web-based learning, computer-mediated learning, blended learning, and m-learning, share the ability to use a computer connected to a network, which provides the opportunity to learn from anywhere, anytime, in any rhythm, and using any means [12]. Technology literacy is required of both teachers and students, including the ability to use some digital platforms for operating and implementing online learning [8]. During Covid-19 pandemic situation most of the educational institutions had continued their classes through various online learning platforms. The researcher aimed to investigate the various online learning platforms and its significant role in education during the pandemic situation in the present study.

Objectives of Study
The objectives of the present study have been framed by the researcher as follow-
1. To investigate the various online learning platforms and its significant role in education during the Covid-19 pandemic situation.
2. To analyse the major challenges with online education during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Method of the Study
In the present study, the researcher has followed a documentary analysis approach. As a qualitative method, document analysis entails a systematic procedure for reviewing and evaluating documents through finding, selecting, appraising (making sense of), and synthesizing data contained within them [22]. The data has been collected for this study from various journals, research articles, websites and other academic publications.

Findings
Worldwide several lockdowns due to Covid-19 have affected educational institutions in every nation. MHRD advises students to their education via online learning platforms in order to prevent interruptions to their studies and to maintain full access to their classes. In a press release put out by the MHRD on March 21, 2020, the union HRD minister shared various free digital online learning platforms for students to continue their learning during Covid-19 based school closures [18].

Table 1: Various online learning platforms launched by Indian Government

Platform Name	Objectives	About	Role in education during Covid-19 pandemic
Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing (DIKSHA)	In September 2017, the DIKSHA platform offers engaging learning material, relevant to the prescribed school curriculum, to teacher, students and parents [28].	80,000 e-content items in Indian languages, catering grades 1-12. During lockdown accessed nearly 215 million times [30].	In the time of Covid-19 pandemic, the platform has experienced unprecedented rise in access by learners and teacher across the country [28].
e-PG Pathshala	In November 2015, to access digital textbook for all classes on this portal.	It has 1886 audios, 2000 videos, 696 e-books (e-pubs) and 504 flip books for class 1- 12 in different languages [30].	e-pathshalaos not only the central attraction of online study for students but, it also provide leisure reading material and health related guideline in order to remain fit in this scenario of Covid-19 pandemic [41].
VidyaDaan	VidyaDaan a program of the nation, for the nation and by the nation to ensure continuity of quality learning [42]. It launched in April, 2020 [39].	VidyaDaan contributes different types of content such as explanation videos, teaching videos, practice questions, competency-based items, lesson plans etc. for any grade from 1 to 12 and for any subject as specified by the states/UTs under their respective projects [42].	Inviting contributors to the development of e-contents due to a sudden spike in demand for digital resources amid the nation-wide lockdown [33].
PM e-vidya	The main objective of the PM e-vidya program is to provide quality education to all the students of country [37]. It launched in 17th of May, 2020 [39].	All efforts related to digital, online, and on-air education are brought together under the umbrella of PM e-vidya, a comprehensive initiative that enables multi-mode access to education.	The top hundred universities in the country will start educating students through online education after 30th May 2020 [37], which was the Covid-19 pandemic situation.
Study Web of Active Young and Aspiring Mind(SWAYAM)	SWAYAM launched in 9th July, 2017. The objective of this effort is to take the best teaching learning resources to all, including the most disadvantaged (MoE and Govt. of India).	SWAYAM is free online education developed by MHRD, Government of India and AICTE with the help of Microsoft [39].	SWAYAM has been open a new portal for students learning in their own platform during Covid-19 (MoE and Govt. of India).
SWAYAM PRABHA	In 10th July 2017, to provide curriculum-based courses that can meet the needs of life-long learners of Indian citizens in India and abroad.	SWAYAM PRABHA is a set of 32 DTH channels devoted to telecasting of high-quality educational programmes on 24×7 basis using the GSAT-15 satellite [17].	State will develop class wise/subject wise content mapped to their syllabus in local languages. Private DTH service providers have also provided one channel each for education during Covid-19 period [30].
CEC-UGC YouTube channel	The goal of addressing the needs of higher education through the use of powerful	CEC-UGC YouTube channel provides free access to an infinite number of educational curriculum-based lectures [20].	As a nodal agency to coordinate, guide and facilitate such educational production at the national level. Today 18 media centres are

	medium of television along with the appropriate use of emerging ICT**.**		working towards achieving this goal under the umbrella of CEC.
National Digital Library (NDLI)	NDLI is an enable to provide equity and assure the quality of education, launched by MHRD in 2018.	National Digital Library of India is huge repository of reading materials (e-contents) coordinated by IIT Kharagpur and sponsored by MoE, Govt. of India [17].	During this Covid-19 pandemic, the NDLI has come up at the forefront of learning, to provide free access to the variety of content from the primary level to the PG level across all disciplines. New steps have been taken by the NDLI to help students in this tough phase of lockdown due to Covid-19 [23].
Massive open online course. (MOOCs)	In 2030, MOOCs shall provide an effective ecosystem for meeting the online educational needs of over 20 million distance learners in the country [5].	MOOCs stand for Massive open online course. MOOCs provide opportunity to its learners such as video lectures, downloading notes, contributing their own and sharing their point of view by the communicating with peers [10].	MOOCs have had free access to esteemed professors' seminars as well as on-going learning support through a variety of events and rich learning materials during the Covid-19 pandemic [3].

Offline classes make a good communication between teacher and students. This communication has become somewhat stable for the Covid-19 pandemic situation. At that time, various online platforms provided good communication between teachers and students as well as offline classroom. Table -2 shows the various online learning platforms which are used as a mediator between teachers and students.

Table 2: Various online platforms which are used as a mediator between teachers and students during Covid-19

Platform Name	Function	Role in education during Covid-19 pandemic
Zoom	Zoom with a simple, dependable cloud platform for video and audio conferencing, collaboration, chat, and webinars across mobile devices, desktop computers, telephones, and room system; zoom is the market leader in contemporary workplace video communications [13].	During Covid-19 pandemic many universities turned towards remote learning. Some replaced their FTF classes with Zoom [35].
Google Meet	Google Meet is real time meeting by Google. Anybody can use his/her browser, video sharing, and presentation. It is also available in smart phone [6].	Google meet provided enough space for interactivity between the teacher and students [20, 32].
YouTube	YouTube it is a one type video sharing platform. Here live video sharing and recorded video sharing facilities are available. Live chatting facilities is available when share live video. It is one of most useable platforms for e-learning [17].	The role of youtube in education is a nascent field to study and provide a detailed background on the contextual factor surrounding the online video sharing platform [7].
Microsoft Teams	Microsoft Teams Encouraged the use of inclusive online or hybrid learning, develops comfort with distance learning tools, and keep students engaged. It is one features of Microsoft office [6].	Microsoft teams helped students to access information and learning resources, have good impact on their knowledge construction and critical refection, and report overall positive learning experience [40].
Free Conferences	Free Conferences HD video conference and audio call is available, it can connect hundred participants in one time [17].	Teachers and students require online video conference platforms to make effective and interactive communication during online lectures [27].
Google Classroom	Google Classroom is a free web service developed by Google for schools that aims to simplify creating, distributing and grading assignment [29].	Google classroom have helped teachers as facilitators in improving reading comprehension [21].
Dingtalk	Ding talk is Video calling, venture and on the spontaneous massaging are all supported through this verbal exchange platform [18].	The dingtalk platform is suitable for teaching and implementing various Covid-19 pandemic prevention methods [44].

Challenges of Online Learning in the Context of the Covid-19 Pandemic
The entire education system has been moved from an offline to an online format during Covid-19. However, these users encountered the same difficulties that are keeping them from fully reaping the rewards of e-learning and ultimately leading some of them to stop using its [39]. Vary challenging to regulate emerging innovations in the rapid evolution of online education, especially during the pandemic of covid-19 [9]. Some of the basic challenges of e-learning are those:
Technological issue are major challenges for online learning. Because, most of the students can't use the electronic devices like- laptop, computer, mobile and many students can't join the online class for poor internet connection in rural area, and rural areas students cannot operate their device appropriately [2].

Destruction and lack of self-motivation is also a major problem during online classes. E-learning requires self-discipline which is lacked in many students [39]. The destruction is being on the internet is already there [4]. YouTube, Facebook, Twitter, news websites, and advertisements are sufficient to divert students [39]. Poor internet connection and long-time online class make destruction also in learning.
Students' assessment is carried out online with of lot of trial and error, uncertainly and confusion among the teachers and students. Several schools and institutions still do not have adequate measures in place to detect plagiarism, primarily because of the large populations of students [31].
Socio-Economic issues become a barrier in online learning because all institution continues their classes through the online during the covid-19 situation. Therefore, most of the

students have participated/ joined their class, but many students have no smart phone or internet connection due to economic issues [2].

Network and internet issues, un-conductive physical space and environment, mental health related issues, lack of basic needs, lack of teaching and learning resources, students' difficulties to adjust, time management issues are also the major challenges associated with the sudden changes to online learning [25].

Discussion

This study shows that various online platforms viz, Google classroom, zoom, Google meet, YouTube, free conference etc. played the major role to continue the classes and institutional work during the covid-19 pandemic situation/crisis. In this study researcher has find out the various Government online learning platform like, SWAYAM, MOOCs, e-pathsala, etc., which has encouraged specially to the online learning during covid-19 situation. Several online initiatives that offer e-textbooks, including PM e-Vidya and SwayamPrabha, the channel for people with disabilities, were launched during the Covid-19 pandemic [19]. The Covid-19 pandemic situation encouraged to shift online learning from traditional mode of learning very quickly.

Conclusion

Online learning was the best way to learn at the time of lockdown due to the Covid-19 pandemic situation. During lockdown various online learning platforms were available for online classes. At first, many students and teachers couldn't utilize and handle those platforms, but after some time every student and teacher were fully adjusted with these platforms. When all countries couldn't take face-to-face classes, that time online platforms helped for continuing the classes and maintained the flow of study. Those online platforms played very important role in handling and overcoming from this pandemic situation. According to NEP 2020 Indian education system should be converted to inclusiveness and digitalized. So, we can say that inclusiveness and digitalized education have already been started here and it is promoted to e-learning. Online platforms have enhanced the digital learning or e-learning during this pandemic.

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