THE IMPACT, CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES OF ONLINE LEARNING: A REVIEW

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Abstract:

The aim of this review is to explore the impact of Online Learning after the Covid Pandemic era and the challenges and the opportunities it provides to the community. The learning goals and the outcomes have been discussed and the various methodologies that has to be adopted has also mentioned. The major focus of the work is to give emphasise on the importance of online learning and how the teaching community has to effectively engage itself so as to teach the students of the present and the future.

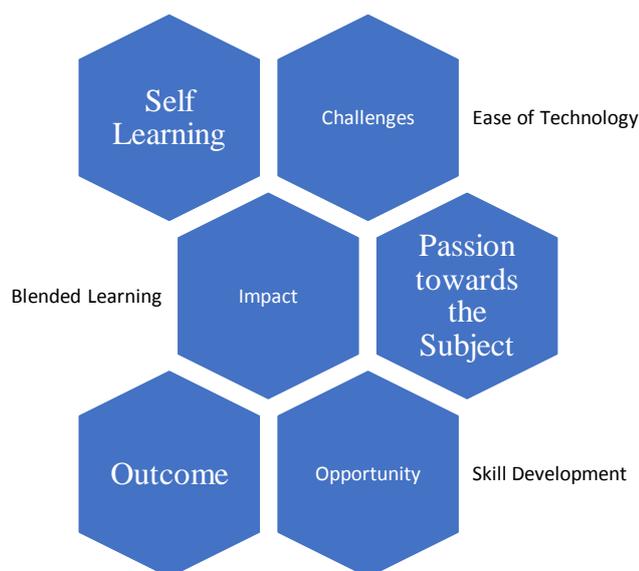**Keywords:** Online Learning, Blended learning etc.

Introduction:

More than ever, the need of online learning has grown in to multiple folds, due to various factors like ease in access to internet, more learning contents on the internet and other platforms and also due to the Covid Pandemic, which led to the closure of Offline classes and the era of online classes in Schools and colleges. The effect of online classes cannot be considered as a one-time implementation, rather than even after the opening of the schools and colleges, it gets modified as Blended Learning. Students who had accustomed themselves to the usage of online tools, finds it easier to learn more effectively by utilising their time even after regular class hours, either by doing courses available online or by doing internships.

The Impact of Online Learning:

The online learning has opened up the possibility of the usage of the e - resources available as course materials, open-source software's for laboratory experiments, hands on experience in doing experiments by watching the videos and increasing the passion among the students for self-learning. The ease of availability of materials has added advantage of one can utilise their time and adopt themselves for setting up goals for learning. The above perspective is suitable for the students as well as the teachers. Since learning is a continuous process and to teach the younger minds, it is necessary that the teaching community has to learn and enhance their skills needed to teach and motivate their students. The availability of online resources has helped the teachers to learn and to contribute in a better way.

The blended learning provides opportunities along with the challenges such as to adopt newer methodologies of teaching and learning. In the face-to-face learning education system, the outcomes of the teaching learning process are more dependent on the teacher than the learner in a conventional environment, where as in online learning, the parameters that defines the outcomes needs to be drawn systematically and the outcomes is more towards the learner. For example, if a learner is enrolling in a course in a learning platform, the outcome depends on how much time the learner affords to spend, the learning rate and the passion towards learning. In a conventional learning environment, periodical monitoring will make sure that the learner is attentive, that again being subjective only.

Online Learning: The Factors involved

The above figure represents the interconnection between the impact, challenges and opportunities and the factors involved in online learning. The more challenge is also for the teaching community, since the updation is needed in the following areas, like the usage of technology to deliver the lecture as well as to maintain the classroom in online classes, periodical assignment submissions, knowing about online quiz platforms, course materials they have to prepare and what best they can offer in their subject matter expertise.

Conclusion:

The online learning has helped to continue with the learning during the covid pandemic and also given ways to effectively take it forward as in terms of hybrid blended learning so as to effectively bridge the gap between teaching and learning and also to enhance the skill levels of students. More studies have to be made and methodology to be adopted in this spectrum so that the outcome-based learning gets implemented for the betterment of the society using online learning.

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