

Pros & Cons of Virtual Learning during Covid-19 Pandemic

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The current COVID-19 pandemic is expected to have stupendous impact on economy as well as on education around the world. World Bank has declared that COVID-19 pandemic triggers more than 1.6 billion children and youngsters were not able to go the school in 161 countries. According to UNESCO, 1.3 billion students are to be out of school all over the world. This figure is extent to 80 to 85% of students around the globe.^{1,2}

Virtual learning is another way to continue teaching – learning process and make students engage in academic related activities. Even though, it is not perfect answer but quick solution to facilitate learning process during this emergency crisis. Initially, virtual classroom was sounds like trial and error because it is not easy to connect large group of students on single platform. As well as, Schools have to embank suitable technological platforms to implement online teaching program. It is strenuous to transform developed structure, Daily attendance, timetables and lesson plans in to an online mode within fraction of time.²

The parents play essential role to provide successful virtual school experiences to their children. Parent helps to create conducive environment of leaning, setting the pace and encourage the child for daily student- teacher interactions. Virtual teaching implemented better if parents contributed actively in their child's learning. Parents should aware about materials and tools required to enhance fruitfulness of the sessions. This will help to build up confidence of the child. Parents are not lesson instructor but serve as a facilitative support and help the student to achieve desirable goals.³

Because of lockdown there are no traditional classes in college and schools. Virtual learning activities are as online learning activities are going on in India. But this learning activity having two sides pros as well as cons. Which describe in detail as below:

Firstly let us discuss about pros of virtual learning activity;

1. It is easy and has convenience access to all the students at the same time:

Online learning activity is different from attending traditional classes. Students can learn from their home place. Teacher can arrange the time schedule according to the student's convenience. It is having greater flexibility with online classes so one can manage easily of demand of family obligation their job, their hobby & other responsibility.

2. Provide More Individual Attention:

In classroom may be teacher cannot be able to provide attention to the each and every student. This learning activity can help to the teacher to solve that issue. E-learning activity allows all the students to learn at their own place. So that all students has chance to clear their doubts and teacher can help them to learn better.

3. Personalize Learning Experience:

There are individual differences in all the students so the need & pattern of learning of all students is different. The customization is help to students with advance technology.

4. Save Time & Money:

Online mode is more affordable than traditional classes so the time , effort & money can be saved.

5. Beneficial To The Environment:

In E-learning mode as driving is less so environment couldn't be polluted.

6. Report The Students Performance :

You can also provide some quizzes and tests for students and the feedback that you can receive immediately. So that it gives more good time to focus and improve the skill for learning material to the students.

7. Active Role of Parents :

We can involve the parents also. E-learning activity helps parents to review the performance of their child. Parent & Teacher cooperate each other more effective process of learning of the child.

8. The Teacher Can Share Effective Learning Material:

With the help of different videos, E books, images, quiz etc. that helps to the students to become more learning activity.

The cons related to this E-learning activity:

1. No Social Interaction Between Peers:

For help the social life. The social interaction is important but this online activity take away to this interaction from people or peer. So this is one bigger disadvantage of virtual learning. Students can feel isolation and it will be lead to distraction, withdrawal and minimum participation.

2. Management of Time and Setting a Schedule:

It is important to make good time management and schedule for the students .proper skill is required for makeup time management.

3. Problem Related to Network Connection:

Many people who are from rural area. May be they have very little or no access the internet. So here the virtual learning is not interrupted. Low internet connection and technical difficulties these two are barriers to use online activity for students as well as teachers.

4. Knowledge of technology:

If the teacher or students having lack of knowledge and skills in operating the advance technology, It will not fruitful to the students. They need to know the handling of virtual education.

5. Spend long time in front of computer:

If student or teacher has to spend extended time in front of computer, it will affect their health. It can be produce a negative physical & emotional effect. There are chances to arise health problems like exertion, visual discomfort, joint ache etc. It can be affect to decrease learning achievement and can have mental disorder like stress.⁵

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