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RESEARCH PAPER

Opportunities for the Education System of Pakistan in COVID 19

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Introduction

The two forms of online education, asynchronous and synchronous online education, are heavily analyzed, but teachers, institutions and governments must have a thorough awareness of the benefits and drawbacks for online education to be productive and useful. According to (Hrastinski, 2008). Although Pakistan did not sit idly by after this

epidemic. Schools, colleges and universities continue to thrive on their own by using online education system. Meetings were also held from time to time at the government level and various instructions were issued. All these efforts resulted in the continuation of education in one way or another and did not stop completely. But the truth is that in Pakistan has not been able to take concrete steps regarding education. This has been happening with education for years. Every government makes education its priority, but in practice it is at the bottom of the list. The easiest way to measure government priorities is to review the budget and funds allocated for education. Unfortunately, instead of increasing the education budget in recent years, it has decreased. As a result, well-known government agencies are on the verge of bankruptcy. Yuval Noah Harari drew attention to a flaw in today's educational system: Traditional academic abilities are prioritized above critical thinking and adaptability, which are required for future chances and success (Harari, 2020).

There are examples of the University of Peshawar and the Engineering University of Lahore. The number of children affected by school closures in Pakistan is said to be around 40 million. Who are forced to stay at home due to school closures? However, there are very few who maintain their education through online teaching. Children, especially in rural areas and remote areas, are the most affected. It is matter of fact that education needs new modern educational space, techniques of learning and mix realty technology (Campbell, 2016). According to experts, this rate is commendable even in urban areas as far as universities are concerned, but for students studying at the school and college level, access to internet homes is less in urban areas as well as in rural areas. According to experts, especially children who are studying in government educational institutions have an even higher rate of not having internet at home. As a result, it is almost impossible for them to get an education online. More particularly, when it comes to practical, hands-on learning in online system, where there is a pressing demand for learning materials, virtual reality can give multimedia information to aid in the teaching of kinesthetic learning (Kose & Guner-Yildiz, 2020, pp 1-16).With the exception of major urban areas, Punjab, Sindh, Gilgit-Baltistan and the recently merged tribal areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa also have no or very limited internet access. Which makes it extremely difficult to get an education there. In Baluchistan, many urban areas are also far from easy access to the Internet. Children cannot rely on 2G or 3G internet for video links other than using the online video app 'Zoom' for online classes for educational purposes. it is also the responsibility of the government regulator to ensure that Pakistani consumers have access to better quality internet.

Literature Review

Malik, Ajmal, & Jumani, (2020), explain in their article titled "The Effects of COVID-19 on Education in Pakistan: Students' Perspective" The academic institutions were closed on March 20, 2020, because to the extensive spread of COVID-19, and individuals were encouraged to isolate themselves at home. This lockdown had a negative impact on the economy, but it also closed down all educational activity, leaving a massive gap in students' learning and education around the world. The purpose of this quantitative study was to determine the influence of COVID-19 on the education of higher-level students in Pakistan. Learners enrolling in intermediate, undergraduate, graduate, and postgraduate levels were given a five-point Likert Scale questionnaire. The data revealed that students had a lot of trouble grasping specific ideas during e-classes. The participants lacked

internet connection and had received no prior instruction on how to use the online service. Teachers and students both confront issues when it comes to online education at the same time. It was also discovered that, despite teachers giving the essential materials and feedback to students, students continue to struggle with understanding concepts, gaining information, and communicating with their teachers online. Teachers are overworked as a result of the large number of online classes. This study is very helpful but lacking to differentiate the grass root level issue to normal education system and e-learning system. This study also had not discussed the problems of primary and secondary education in Pakistan but is very helpful to the current study providing with the important information about the online class system.

(Qamar, & Bawany, 2021) in their article "Impact of COVID-19 on Higher Education in Pakistan : An Exploratory Study" explain that although online learning appeared to be the greatest option amid institute closures, the abrupt shift in teaching and learning methodology was not well received, and unforeseen obstacles arose. The goal of this research is to identify the challenges that students and teachers experience as a result of this abrupt change. Furthermore, it investigates undergraduate students' satisfaction with online education techniques during the COVID-19 outbreak. The research used a survey design and was conducted using two separate questionnaires, one for students and one for professors, which were typically offered via social media sites.The significance of the aforementioned variables was determined using correlation and regression analysis. According to the findings of the poll, the absence of connection between students and teachers is the most significant barrier to online learning. The entire model with all four indicators was strong predictors of student happiness, according to regression results. The findings also revealed that MLD is the most powerful and significant of all. They hope the findings of this study will help us improve the paradigm shift in this epidemic and make it more efficient. This study had not discussed the problems of primary and secondary education but is very helpful to the current study providing with the important information about the online class system in Pakistan for the education purpose.

Hypothesis

COVID 19 can be taken as blessing to bring reforms in education system in country like that is far behind in using tools modern technology in education sector as it is COVID 19 pandemic that forced the authorities to adopt modern techniques of education.

Pakistan currently tries to maintain millions of children in school, and educators worry that if partial shutdowns persist, enrollments would plummet even lower. Some pupils in private schools were provided study plans and extra schoolwork, while the majority of Pakistani children in public schools were being sent home with no more instructions. Pakistan has some of the poorest educational statistics in the world. More than forty percent of Pakistan's school-aged children do not attend school, making it the world's second-highest percentage. Even among those who go to school, literacy rates indicate that many do not learn. Only about twenty percent of third-graders in Pakistan can read or understand a descriptive paragraph. Educators, researchers, and government officials are now concerned that the months-long closure of institutions that offer very limited remote learning may compound the situation. Over 300,000 schools in Pakistan have been shut down since epidemic of March 2020 due to the coronavirus epidemic,

students at some private schools have been fortunate enough to be able to continue their education through digital systems and applications. However, mobile phones and the internet continue to stay out of reach for millions of other Pakistani students. Public and private sectors under the guidance of government and international agencies developed online of e learning systems to reach out the students and run the state of business in educational institutions. Modern technology helps in continuity of the education through online or e-learning system and number of social media platforms like, zoom, cloud meeting, Microsoft teams were developed to draw an idea of class rooms and conferences along with other online facilities to accommodate the students and fulfill the needs of educational system. Many of them are so useful that the use of these online facilities should continue to bring easiness and efficiency in the work of education.

Online Registration

Education institutions are speedily developing online registration procedure to bridge over the hurdles to apply physically due COVID 19 and developing online data base system that is very important in modern age for the institutions of education. This system in future can also be used on permanent bases to develop a strong online data base for policy making in future and adopted as easiest way of registration and transparent and merit based admission in the institutions.

Online Submission of Dues

Online submission of dues is also very important step to provide facility to the students and parents for submission of dues during the epidemic and if the all institutions can develop uniform policy to provide facility of submission of online dues it can be used after the end of pandemic to facilitate the students and their parents specially the parents sitting out of country to support the education of their children.

Option of online access to Libraries

Many institutions in Pakistan are in process to link their libraries to online access for their students and if majority of the leading universities and educational institutions can provide online access to their libraries it will create a permanent facility to students and researchers that will be useful after pandemic and serve as key factor to develop the learning and research instinct in students.

Option of online access to Teaching Faculties

The sudden emphasis on online education due to the epidemic of code nineteen has also caused a difficult test for teachers. Teacher's workload during e-learning has increased because teachers are answerable for converting their contents of course to be friendly of e-platform to the students. This substantial workload is predictable to source unanticipated monetary and time cost (Akkoyunlu & Soylu, 2006). First of all, not everyone in the education sector in Pakistan has adequate technical infrastructure and even those who do, how well they perform their responsibilities in virtual classrooms without proper training and coaching is big question. Many teachers also say that they want to educate their children online with full concentration, but due to the cheapness, carelessness or financial constraints of many parents, the facilities required for virtual classrooms at home are not available to the students. Government and autonomous

educational institutions should try to develop the facilities for teachers to facilities for virtual classrooms at home and equipment to teach classes from home. This developed technique will become useful after epidemic's end as student will be able to contact their teachers at home for extra coaching and teacher in case of disability to present in campus can take classes from home. It is also important to note that faculty can attend online teaching course to enhance their skills from national and international master trainers and share experience through online courses.

Option of Online Classes

The point is that when the infrastructure and prospects for online education in the country are not available to everyone, it is not difficult to estimate how many Pakistani students will benefit from shifting education from the real to the virtual world. But with the help of international and national funds a mechanism for online classes can be made possible and it can be started at any specific level of education and enhanced it step by step to other levels. Although online learning has its own benefits, such as flexibility (Smedley, 2010), interactive features (Leszczyski et al., 2018; Wagner et al., 2008), consciousness (Amer, 2007), and advantages, the intended direction in its adoption by universities is driven by their willingness to integrate their actions with both locally and globally policies and practices in order to combat the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic. Option of online classes will definitely serve as factor to enhance the literacy rate in Pakistan as number of students at shops, workplaces can join the online classes to resume their study along with their jobs or business. Online attendance record and option of online discussion through social media platforms has provided opportunity to both teacher and students to discuss the matters of class work at home and in the days of vacations. If the policy maker can enhance the efficiency of this mechanism it must continue in the best interest of education.

Online Submission of Assignments and Working Papers

Many of the education institutions are developing and allowing the facility to online submission of assignments, papers, class work and home work. This is very helping for the student to avoid the extra burden of papers and printing and for teachers to easily find out the plagiarism in assignment and working papers and maintain the record in soft form better than the hard form and evaluate their students better by using online submission of assignment and working papers in class rooms just because of strategies developed in the epidemic to manage the online classes. If this practice can continues after the epidemic it will be very helpful for the students and teachers and also record keepers of educational institutions.

Option of Online Exams

Modern techniques of conducting and monitoring the exams are very useful and can be used after the end of epidemic for transparency of examination system. If the online examination options remain continue after the epidemic it will also help to enhance the literacy rate and provide option for distance learning to the students who cannot afford the education in person and wanted to appear in classes and exams through online system of education from the institutions of their own preference.

Online Results

Majority of boards and universities have developed systems of online results of exams and tests and trying to facilitate the students to provide them latest information about their exams and results and if it is enhanced to provide them online result cards, certificates and degrees, it will be mood of facilitation for the students and obviously the society as whole and the continuation of this practice apparently will be in the benefit of them too after the epidemics.

Issues in Online Learning

If about one third of Pakistanis do not have access to internet, then how can they get education online? Forty percent of the country's mobile phone users say they do not know how to fully use their smart phones and the apps installed in them. However, during the Corona period, some special measures had to be taken. Pakistan have started online education but we have not even felt the need to review the required facilities. The Internet situation should have been reviewed first (Falak, 2020). See how strong and powerful signal internet is available. In which areas of the country is this facility not available? However, the process of online education began without any review or planning. In most remote areas, the Internet is either not available at all or the signals are very weak. Because of this, students have not been able (and still are not) to study properly online. Students from backward areas of Balochistan and FATA in particular have been badly affected (Qureshi et,.el, 2012). It was necessary to review the situation at the highest level and formulate a strategy.

Efforts were made to improve the Internet and other facilities. But unfortunately, after so many months, the situation is as it is. With the advent of online education, there was a demand for the introduction of internet packages for students at discounted rates. This demand was not taken seriously. The experience of teaching online was also new for teachers. A few educational institutions arranged the training on their own. But most of the teachers in the educational institutions continued to teach experimentally and learn something(Anwar, khan & Sultan, 2020). . It would be great if the educational institutions could devise a system to get feedback from the students so that it can be pointed out what kind of complaints are being made to the students. The need for internet access for everyone in the country aside, many citizens and students in Pakistan do not have a computer or a smartphone.

Psychological Issues

Many parents themselves told me that they gave their mobile phones to their children for online classes, so they kept playing video games on them. This problem is also not only of a few families with more children in Pakistan but also of a large number that such families have one or two smart phones but more children wanting online education at home. Psychologically, it has also been observed that children rarely ask questions in online classes (Hassan & Bao, 2020). In addition, when the speed of the Internet becomes a problem, the voice of teachers does not reach the children. In these circumstances, the fear is justified that if this situation continues, how will the children perform in the exams. If passed, with what kind of knowledge? If progress in the next grade happens automatically without exams, it will be a compromise on the children's academic ability.

The majority of serious students are not satisfied with the state of online education. One reason for dissatisfaction is teacher performance. Private companies have arranged it. But there is no teacher supervision system in government educational institutions. University students complain that many teachers do not give regular lectures. Even if they take classes, they give short leave to the students but no one asks. But despite the best efforts of teachers, student do not like online classes(Jenner, 2021). It is matter of psychological issue that when you're at home, it's hard to focus on studying because they (teachers) can't see you.

When you are at home, you pick up your mobile phone thinking that you will see it in just a few seconds and put it back, but then it takes only ten minutes and you don't even know it. Need of separate room for students in home for classes is necessary to prepare them psychologically but it's easy to say and hard to do, isn't it? What if you don't even have a table? "Imagine if students who just lie in bed on their laptops and spread a special sheet and say it's my place to study. Consider the difference between watching a bedtime lecture and telling yourself that I would look at it as if it were a special occasion (Cataudella, et al., 2021).

Organize your study room at home

it is important that you have a space that you use for reading, no matter how small. And if there is a proper table, it is very good. Try to find natural light in this place as well. And if there is a window in this room, what could be better than that because by looking far out of the window, you can get rid of the problem that occurs by constantly looking at a mobile, laptop or computer screen.

Create a timetable

It is important to organize and plan your day for online learning. "Buildings do a lot for you when you're at university. You go to a specific room to get information or get a lecture. You have to go to another room for a discussion or seminar. Then in another room for other resources like library. "When you're online, it's all sitting in one place and you don't get what you used to get from buildings. So you have to organize yourself. " He suggests that students set aside some time each weekend to plan what they will do next week. on the calendar you set the time from your work deadline to exercise. He says that this will enable you to take advantage of the facilities available in online education (Sharp, 2007)

Try reading with friends

Getting an education should be a social process, if you also want to watch pre-recorded lectures, start them at the same time with your friends as you might have done while watching movies. Or you can talk about it on social media or through the university website while it is running. Watching lectures together or learning them separately and talking about them together is less likely to bore you because you know other people are waiting for your ideas.(O'Grady, 2018)it gives you a chance to say either I find it difficult or I don't know what to do next. This is the same conversation you had when you left the classroom (Shrap, 2007).

If that doesn't work, tell someone

Do you think your teacher's lecture is not interesting? if that's the case, let them know. It's all new to them, so feedback can be important. He says online education does not have to be in the form of lectures on zoom. There are other ways to do this. "Basic things like taking a poll every ten to fifteen minutes or asking people to express their opinions or distributing the video in such a way that no one is talking all the time." "If you're having a hard time learning online, you're not alone," he says. Any child who is having difficulty should talk to Student Services. "You have to raise your hand and ask for help (Martin, 2007).

Find out how to learn better

It's important to know which study time is best for you. If you don't know if you can read better during the day or in the evening, try adjusting your reading times. If online lectures are new to you, listen to them in different ways. You do not need to keep the video on. Some universities allow you to download lectures. You may find it better to run these lectures at double speed. And instead of taking extravagant notes, try taking 100-word notes or five points for each lecture or chapter. "Instead of saying, 'Come on, this is a 20-hour supply that I have to complete,' she says, 'it's better to look at these as the resources that will help me do my job (Sharp, 2007).And for those who are distracted, it's best to break your day into 20, 20-minute breaks and put a break in between.

Conclusion

Of course, the corona virus has changed the world. Its effects can be felt in almost all areas. It has also had a profound effect on the education sector. Instead of sitting in the classroom and listening to the teacher's lecture, answering questions directly, the students had to study online. Despite the passage of so many months, educational activities have not been fully restored. Online education continues, albeit in part. Online education is only beneficial if students have permanent access to computers and the Internet. Students living in remote areas have not been able to access online education due to the lack of access to the Internet, it is necessary for teachers to be given regular training in online teaching. Reducing the semester or lecture duration due to Corona also affected students' learning. It was suggested that if the situation returned to normal after Corona, additional make-up classes should be arranged to make up for the shortfall. In light of this research, it is suggested that more funds be allocated for education. Efforts should be made to eliminate digital divide and so on. After reviewing the situation, one conclusion is that the trend of plagiarism has increased in the Pakistan due to online education and exams. University students who worked hard for on-campus education and exams are looking for new ways to cheating. It has been found that most students, instead of creating their own assignments, buy fabricated assignments and submit them to teachers. With the passage of time more transparent system of online classes and exams will be developed and at the end of the epidemic that is not looking too close that online educational system can be so powerful and useful that the continuity of this system along with on-campus education can become tool to enhance the literary rate and facilitate the parents, students and teachers along with the management or authorities.

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