

Challenges resulting from simultaneous online education during the "Covid-19" pandemic: the case of King Khalid University, Saudi Arabia

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Abstract: The spread of the new Corona virus has led to the closure of direct educational activities and the transition to distance learning. Therefore, this study aimed to identify the effectiveness of distance learning in the shadow of the Coronavirus pandemic in Saudi Arabia. A qualitative study was conducted by distributing an electronic questionnaire to the college students to find out their opinions about distance learning. The statistical analysis program SPSS was used to obtain the results. The content analysis revealed the challenges that faced students at Karak University College, and the method of online learning was well received by them. All participants agreed that distance learning saves time and that its performance has improved due to increased time use. However, they indicated that they faced some challenges including methodology, content perception, technology, and behavioral challenges during the online courses and exams.

Keywords: Online learning, COVID-19 pandemic, qualitative study, studentes

Background

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused the shutdown of schools, colleges, and almost all the places around the world. As a result, the education system was completely affected in different ways as discussed in this article. E-learning became a better solution to address the needs students affected by this incident, especially in rural areas. Teachers are not able to convey the matter more clearly and also with the network issues. The Ministry of Higher Education in Saudi Arabia announced the remote teaching through educational platforms. Accordingly, education has been transformed in all universities, including schools, to distance learning. This shift from traditional education to unplanned electronic learning has created a set of challenges and difficulties, A specific area of Saudi Arabia is considered and their situation is mentioned in this article as an example which makes clear that the situation is too pathetic. The students were badly affected but this the only way to solve the issue. The government has implemented lots of measures to continue the education at home which is mentioned in the article. The education institution of more than a hundred

countries is closed down to avoid the spread of corona. These have affected the education of more than a billion students and also the difficulties faced by them are mentioned in this article. The government has taken any initiatives to solve the issue still there are certain drawbacks.

1. Introduction

COVID-19 caused the closure of schools worldwide, resulting in more than a billion students being out of the classroom. This situation has affected the entire education system. Therefore, teaching has shifted to e-learning or via a digital platform to make it accessible for the majority of the students. The changes caused by corona have affected the entire society and also the time taken to convey matters were high which has also been a drawback of e learning[1]. Even though most of them have adapted to the situation students are waiting to get the educational institution to get reopened. If the epidemic will continue after the adoption of online learning and such a change will affect the education market worldwide (2).

The global literacy rate is rising, but the epidemic has affected the education system

In some parts of the world, parents need to keep their children's education to the best of their ability. The government has taken various measures to provide a digital platform for students to learn from home. In the US about 1.7 million out of entire the population is children (4). Nowadays things are different, the schools and colleges across the world use have closed down and they use Micro-soft or Google or other conference applications to continue education. In the United Kingdom, even fitness coaching was started online to maintain health[5].In the case of Japan, private sector companies are providing free online platforms for students during lockdown with the help of the government. Special attention and care were provided for those who are weak both academically, mentally as well as psychologically (6). Most of the issues were tried to be solved to support every one which gave a better opportunity for everyone to express the views and suggestions[7]Teaching staffs are one of the most important factors. They should have attained enough knowledge to convey the matter to others. Lack of technical knowledge can affect the entire students. Along with this lack of digital technology has also been a major drawback[8]. School can never be the same as before until and unless the COVID-19 virus has been destroyed[9].2. Educational sector responding to Covid-19 With the pandemic, many online platforms provided free services to access knowledge including [10]. When free live classes were introduced the CEO of company BYJU told that there has been an increase of 200 % of new students. When the Government has instructed to carry out an online class for all areas the Ten-cent classrooms were used from mid-February. This was one of the biggest online movements in which more than 80 percent of students attending online classes [11]. Many organizations are helping to provide a

platform for teachers to convey the matter to students. When we consider organizations like Lark, which is a Singapore based suite initially introduced an internal tool that provides unlimited conferencing time [12,13). media organizations such as the BBC focusing on different ages and digital A-range options [14). Launched on April 20, Byte Size Daily offers 14 weeks of course-based training to children across the UK, with some instruction provided by Manchester City footballer Sergio Aguero [15). The first step towards online learning began almost three decades ago with the advent of the Internet's first search engine (RCH), which searched for content-wise content rather than hunting for a specific link to a website [16). Possible. This self-education began at least a decade before gaining worldwide and abundant search engine traction through an online search for information that began in the last century.

Today, it's not just about learning from a satisfying curiosity or search for appetite for information that goes primarily online - it goes beyond that. This is where tech companies come in. They are distributed over a period of time through structured small e-modules [17). Instead of one-size-fits-all programs, detach companies offer comprehensive courses designed specifically by subject matter experts with easy access to platforms that can be easily accessed from anywhere with Internet access. Easily accessible. It is inefficient, cost-effective, and sustainable [18]. COVID-19 had to move many areas online, including pandemic education, where many schools and colleges around the world began teaching their students through online platforms. In India, the story is different from other parts of the world when it comes to online education. [20]. They report that trained teachers need access to online learning, along with tools such as online platforms [21]. He emphasized in his opening statement that since online learning can only be done through face-to-face lenses, it is important to change the attitudes of students and teachers. One way to implement this is through the LCM model, which "relies on a practice-focused approach to the design and management of online courses" (22). Dr. Shakila Shawn explained that the idea that has been going on for many years as a result of the epidemic is to use technology for education. He confirmed the efforts of the National Mission on Education through ICT, a strong recommendation of the 11th Five Year Plan [23]. The 1970s satellite television experiments and the use of technology in radio broadcasting education gave "equal access" to all people learning through those media. [24]. "Higher education institutions need to prepare an education plan," he suggested. Therefore, "Institutions, faculty, and students should be guided to reproduce e-content in a way that fits the curriculum to achieve the desired learning objectives of the curriculum" [25]. made his initial remarks that in order to reach a large audience-content needs to be made available in regional languages. [24] Dr. Ashwin Fernandez said COVID-19 has brought a second wind to higher education in

India. They believe this happened for three main reasons. First, the increased use of technology for a wide variety of ideas, especially for education, "increases consumer confidence". Second, India has sought to follow the UK, US, and UNESCO models of online education. In the end, it is based on two issues, "How to level the playing field for Indian universities". 96% had problems with Internet resources and used mobile hotspots to access educational resources [28]. This may be due to the low cost of the internet in India, according to him, as it causes the system overhead. He believes that India is currently in the early stages of transitioning from face-to-face practice to online education, where classes are being taken online. Phase 2 of this transition is "100% Course Delivery (Assessment, Grading) Online" and Phase "Course Credit is Complete Delivery of Online Online Degree)." In order to make an effective change for online platforms for education in India, power supply issues need to be addressed as soon as possible [29]. Dr. V. Sridhar explained the "classification of online education" such as "Learning Management", "Course Delivery", "Assessment and Evaluation" [30]. First of all, we need to record for the next reference and provide the DTH or cable network or the internet connection through the landline infrastructure. Another way to study online is to monitor the online assessment. To improve Internet connectivity in remote areas, connections may be made and accessible from cities or locations with high Internet connections [31]. Educational institutions should start cooperating - because of the problems they face is the same - Try and reach a more fruitful combination of education and technology (32)

2.1. PM e Vidya Programme:

Recently, to address the Kovid-19 lockdown situation that prevents students from going to schools and colleges, the government has launched the 'PM Avidya Program', which includes the top 100 companies in the NIRF in India by May 30, 2020. Allowed to provide a fully online degree automatically. (33). The PM Ividia program includes 'Deeksha' which includes e-content and QR coded energetic textbooks for all categories and is called 'One Nation, One Digital Platform [34]. Extensive use of radio, community radio and podcasts, and exclusive e-content for the blind and hearing impaired. By 2030, India will have the highest working-age population in the world. Not only do they need literacy, but they also need both a job and life skills. The policy not only encourages Indian companies to develop their own online programs, but also to recognize and award online programs offered by foreign companies. There are thousands of colleges and universities in India, some of which have carpus facilities or resources that will serve the potential of 50 percent student growth over the next 15 years. With any financial assistance to build new facilities or open new universities, there seems to be a rational solution to increase the ability of students to enroll online (35). The University Grants Commission (UGC) is

responsible for certifying the new online degree and will not compromise on quality. Online learning consists of at least four sections of video lectures, e-content, self-assessment, and forums to clarify doubts. Transferring credits earned on autonomous MOOCs to universities is the most important step taken by UGC. Immediate launch of the initiative "Psychology" for psychosocial support of students, teachers, and families for mental health and emotional well-being.[36]

2.2.FUSE studio

FUSE Studio is a novel platform for students to become more creative and to develop new ideas and this is a new learning method. This mainly concentrate to develop new skills that are more creative, critical as well as based on new technology [37]. The main objective is to reach students as well as teaching faculties the 30 stream challenges via websites. These challenges are set like video games, when the student passes the level he or she uploads the digital artwork and the complexity of the level and moves to the next level [38]. The upcoming level will be more complex than the previous levels and this improves the skill of the student. Some of the examples of these challenges are building solar cars, laser tablets, roller coasters, designing 3D jewelry and so on., This can increase creativity, intelligence, and also knowledge. Other challenges that are completely digital in which kit will be provided. Moreover, the website provides tutorial videos, pictures as well as links of useful websites [39]. The main theme is to learn from failures. On this website, they say that Failure is another attempt. This is mainly based on how the people are more interested in playing video games and in the hope that the same interest can be made to attain knowledge [40] [41]. Design theory and possibly it's central principle choice which is closely related to FUSE. Students at Fiyse Studio choose their challenges, their pace of work, and when they stop working alone or with others [42]. With the principle of allowing 'not successful' to challenge with negative consequences, students feel frustrated and difficult even when choosing a challenge. [44].

3.How coronavirus reshaped education system

The modified coronavirus pandemic has raised awareness among millions around the world. Some education solutions can bring much-needed innovations. According to the Digital Divide, new changes in educational policies will widen the equality gap [45]. In just a few weeks, the coronavirus (COVID-19) changed the way students around the world read[46]. Those changes give us a glimpse of how education can be better and worse in the long run. [47] How the UK paved a way to a better education system

- The BBC is launching a new daily education program for pupils during lockdown [48]. Famous names from broadcasting, sport, and music will lead lessons or make appearances in certain curriculum-based virtual courses. If you could choose anyone to teach your children geography, who would it be? How about the naturalist

and certified British national treasure Sir David Attenborough? For UK students stuck at home, this has just become a reality. This week, Sir David, along with a host of other well-known figures, will contribute programming to a new online learning schedule aimed at the country's locked-down pupils [49]. The COVID-19 pandemic and the distancing measures it has precipitated have forced families around the world to start homeschooling their children. For many, this has been an education in itself - and for British students and their parents, the lesson won't be ending anytime soon[50]. While other European countries such as Denmark and Germany are either reopening schools or are planning to do so within the next few weeks, the UK's government has yet to set out a timetable [60].

"I want nothing more than to see schools back, get them back to normal, make sure that children are sat around, learning and experiencing the joy of being at school," said Gavin Williamson, the UK's Secretary of State for Education, on 19 April. "But I can't give you a date.[51]" The UK's national broadcaster, the BBC, has stepped in to help plug this gap. Its Bitesize educational platform - which launched in 1998 as a series of revision guides for students aged 14-16 - is being expanded to offer a broad variety of daily online lessons based on the national curriculum and the BBC has recruited a host of celebrities to help deliver them[61]. While Sir David will give lessons on the oceans, mapping the world, and why animals look and behave the way they do, the Manchester City and Argentina football star Sergio Agüero will teach children how to count in Spanish. Pop singers Liam Payne and Mabel will teach music and literacy [52]. Brian Cox - a professor of particle physics as well as a popular science broadcaster - will give lessons on topics such as the solar system and gravity[62]. The BBC's offering is more than just celebrity polish, however. According to the broadcaster, a team of 200 teachers has been working behind the scenes to develop the multi-week whole-curriculum offering, which includes teaching materials and schemes of work to support the lessons being delivered[63]. "It's vital that every child is able to continue learning, and the lessons we are putting on will make sure they have fun at the same time," said Alice Webb, the BBC head of children's programming[53]. While this approach has been met with a positive reception in the UK, similar efforts elsewhere have been met with controversy. South Africa's Department of Basic Education (DBE) has been criticized for supporting a program run by a non-profit an organisation that has recruited celebrity volunteers to read to schoolchildren on lockdown; the DBE's spokesperson, Elijah Mhlanga, has felt compelled to defend the the scheme on Twitter, explaining that the volunteers are not replacing teachers[64].

In Saudi Arabia , meanwhile, this phenomenon has worked in reverse. According to the Global Times, some teachers have become online celebrities; a

biology teacher from Jilin Province named Weng Yu, for example, became a social media celebrity when clips from his online lessons went viral.

Elsewhere, institutions from the public and private sectors are also stepping up to help sequestered students continue their learning. In the USA, many firms and NGOs that offer online educational resources have made their materials free-to-access during the lockdown[65] UNESCO has also collated a list of distance-learning providers, many of them free, to help parents and school administrators facilitate learning while the world's schools are closed.

The pandemic has forced us to reshape the ways in which we work and study. When the dust has settled, will we - like Darwin's finches - have adapted successfully to our new environment? Perhaps a certain eminent naturalist has the answer[54].

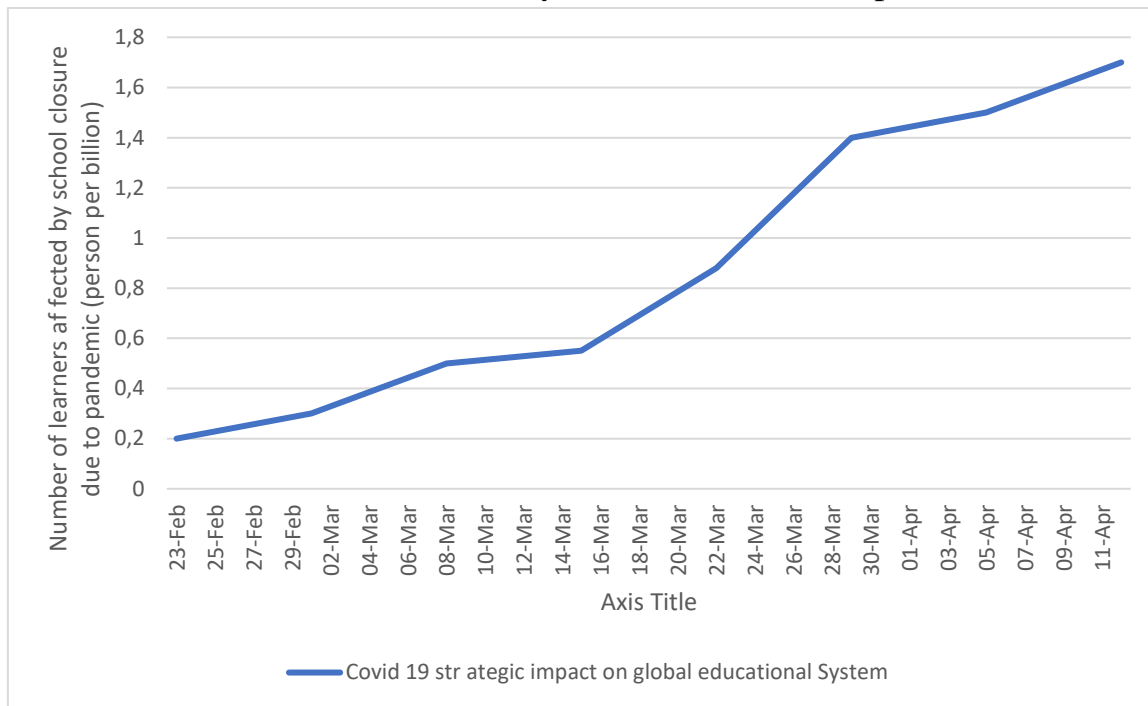
4. Advantages of e-learning

Savings on physical infrastructure: By developing online courses you save on travel/commuting, actual class, and administrative fares, and living and dining costs. Lower costs mean lower fees for practitioners -67. **Physical Limitation of Infrastructure:** By developing online courses, you are no longer limited to 'accepted strength' or 'limited seats'. The ability to market your online courses and the credibility gained from content and scoring systems determine the number of people who will learn to learn from a particular online training provider(55). **Local vs. Global:** By developing online courses, you no longer serve a limited local population, but a global population of registered participants. Even in the case of faculty, [56]you are not limited by the expertise available locally but can use the best professionals from anywhere in the world. **Environmentally beneficial:** Without paper books and paper tests, there are significant savings on paper and the environment is preserved without cutting down trees for its production. **Money is money, that is, instant content, ready for quick results, and quick retrieval:** online content can be created faster than publishing books or magazines. Similarly, automated scoring systems for automated results are much easier to implement, while saving more time for traditional methods of declaring results after a longer time interval. **Being online, you can get answer sheets from anywhere for audit or reassessment[57].** **Reduces red tape:** Online registration, training, and evaluation leave very little room for red-tape, bureaucracy, bias, and corruption. **Lex Flexible vs. Retrograde Learning Programs:** Studying online allows you to learn at your own pace rather than fixed books and class timetables learning schedules.

5. How the pandemic affected the Educational system

The present education system focuses on the IQ level and on the basis of the exam that is remembering and standardizing but this has to be updated to a view of a job perspective and to learn new technologies. The knowledge should be accessible to each and every one. But due to the pandemic, education has become a crisis in most

of the part of the world. So the education has shifted to e-learning so those who have resources can access and for others, this is not accessible [69]. The quality of education is one of the important factors in life. In the case of children, education is provided in the classroom and it is most difficult for them to understand this via an online platform. So education is one of the important things which determines the prosperity as well as the progress of individuals as well as nations. The strategic impact of Covid-19 on the educational system is shown in Graph 1.

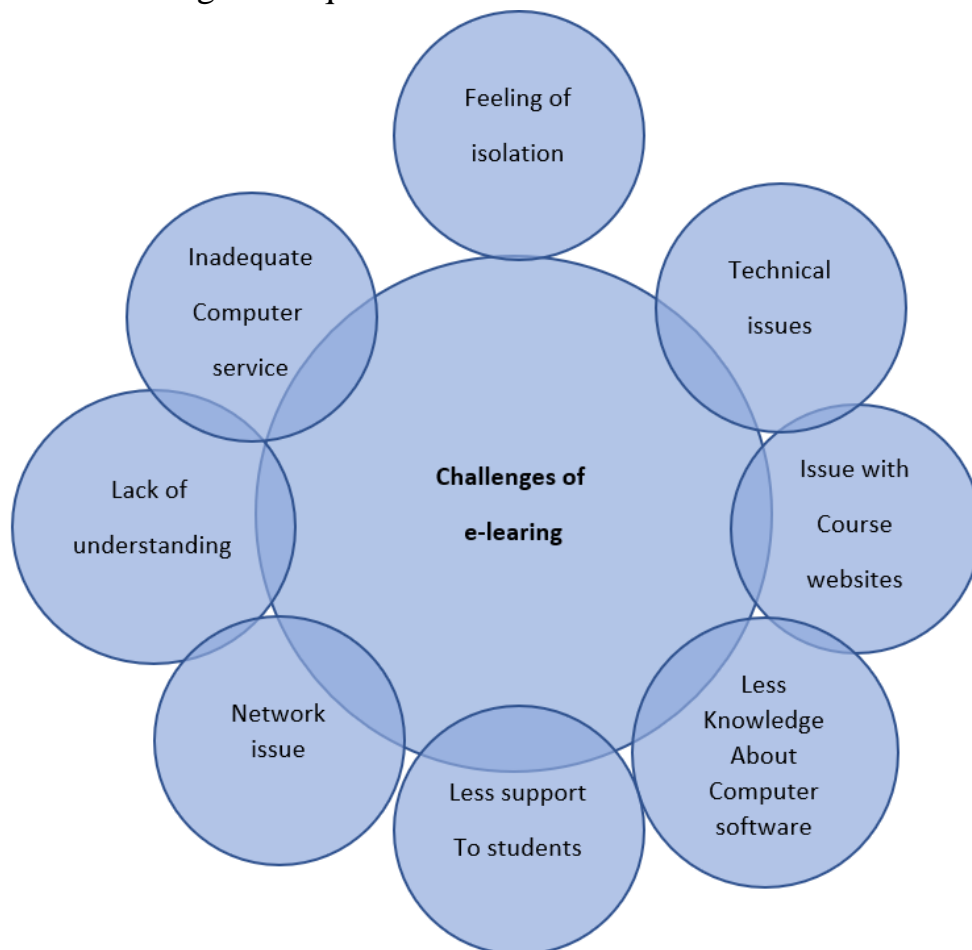


Graph 1: The strategic impact of a pandemic on the educational system. The US has \$1.5 trillion in student loans, the second-largest debt after domestic mortgages. The tuition fee would break 000 to 100,000 per year, with student loans being crushed for future generations. Barack Obama has been accused of paying off student loans even in his 40s. [71] As we make changes in education, daisy-chaining is important for the less likely to fall into three main categories (access, equity, quality/impact). [10,72].

6. Challenges of e-learning

Many are already reaping the benefits: Dr. Professor Amzad, who uses Lark to teach his students at Saudi Arabia University, says, "It's changed the way we teach, and it allows me to reach my students more effectively and efficiently through chat groups, video conferencing, voting, and documentation. My students also think that it is very easy to communicate. Even after the coronavirus, I stick to Lark, believing that traditional offline learning and e-learning can go hand in hand. [77] However, there are challenges to overcome. Some students who do not have reliable internet access and/or technology find it difficult to participate in digital education; This difference is visible between countries and between income brackets within countries [75,76]. For example, 95% of students in Switzerland, Norway, and Austria have a

computer for their school work in Indonesia, according to OECD data, only 34%. In the US, there is a significant difference between people from remarkable and backward backgrounds: almost 15-year-olds from lucky backgrounds say they have a computer to work with [78], which is 25% of those who are backward. People did. Although some schools and governments are providing digital devices for needy students such as New South Wales in Australia, many are still concerned that the epidemic will eliminate digital segregation. Figure 1: gives a nutshell of the challenges of e-learning techniques.



7. The Saudi Arabia experience

Blackboard is an open-source learning system, and it is used widely in the higher learning institutions in Saudi Arabia. Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, the majority of the higher learning institutions in Saudi Arabia used Blackboard to support learning in face-to-face classrooms. The government of Saudi Arabia perceives e-learning positively and considers Information and Communications Technology (ICT) an important aspect of improving the quality of education (Oxford Business Group, n.d.). According to Al-Musawi and Akinyemi (2002), e-learning helps students in Saudi Arabia to access learning resources instead of “making people travel to education ... [in a] population [that] is spread thinly over a wide geographic area” (p.2). The majority of the higher education institutions in Saudi Arabia have already incorporated blended learning and virtual classrooms to complement the

existing face-to-face classrooms (Oxford Business Group, n.d.). In addition to that, the majority of the students in the higher education institutions in Saudi Arabia are experienced in using electronic databases and e-learning platforms, as well as engaging with their peers online.

The Covid-19 pandemic has forced schools and universities to shut down, and inevitably disrupts the traditional forms of face-to-face learning. The present situation gives rise to online learning. While the advocates of online education view the pandemic as an opportunity for students to experience learning with a variety of applications and online tools, the abrupt move towards digital and distance learning received drawbacks and criticisms.

Students are distracted, teachers are not sufficiently trained and our technology infrastructure is far from fully ready to cooperate. I am concerned that some governments and providers are under pressure to move too fast to ensure uninterrupted learning, with little medium-term planning or ramp-up time.

8. Conclusion

In conclusion, it is clear that all the factors which affect e-learning has to be considered which include training to teachers, providing access to the digital platform and so on, the most technologically advanced method should be used[14] Organization should improve the quality as well as quantity of more advanced applications. Along with this better network connection should be provided by the Government. Everyone should try to improve the quality of education at a low cost. From this article, it is clear that many students from rural area cant be able to attend the online lectures and education in such areas are mostly affected. And also the teachers should be properly trained in order to take the classes more clearly. Therefore country-level training should be given to teachers as well as research departments. Instead of creating a proper plan for students, teachers, or schools/colleges Various deep poverty areas were discussed as well as several methods taken by the government were also taken into consideration. But all this does not provide the necessary education to children and instead of going to educational institutions and attending class is not possible in this situation[54]. From all these, we can conclude that this e-learning has affected the dents but there are no alternatives to this until the pandemic comes to an end. Since this can affect the life and health of all people across the globe[17).

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