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## ***ABOUT US***

LEX BONA FIDE - LAW JOURNAL is an open access, peer- reviewed and refereed journal provide dedicated to express views on topical legal issues, thereby generating a cross current of ideas on emerging matters. This platform shall also ignite the initiative and desire of young law students to contribute in the field of law. The erudite response of legal luminaries shall be solicited to enable readers to explore challenges that lie before law makers, lawyers and the society at large, in the event of the ever changing social, economic and technological scenario.

With this thought, we hereby present to you

**LEX BONA FIDE: LAW JOURNAL**

## **MODERN TRENDS IN EDUCATION IGNITED BY COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

(by Athira Nair, S.Y.B.L.S.L.L.B. and Sakshi Swapnil, S.Y.B.L.S.L.L.B.)

### **ABSTRACT**

The entire world was in great peril, the day the COVID-19 pandemic broke out. First and foremost, we had no idea what was going on as the virus began to spread all over the world. This pandemic has proven deadly, infecting and killing thousands of people. Lockdown has imposed abruptly, schools were closed, teaching was suspended, and everything came to a halt. The entire system of the world as we know started working in its half capacity. There were unknowns, people were confused as this was something we had never seen before. All institutions that existed, started malfunctioning, even economic development was at a halt. This research paper aims at discussing the magnitude of effects on education caused by the ongoing pandemic. Its primary goal is to help one understand the heights of changes a global pandemic can cause. The education sector was thrown into disarray. New trends in education were introduced, as a solution, an online learning platform was introduced. Trends in modern education such as attending classes within the four walls of a room and gaining knowledge through a screen were introduced. The sub-theme of this research paper aims at highlighting the positive and negative impacts of this pandemic on education. This deadly pandemic which restricted our social movements connected us to the entire world through a screen. It became easier for people to access and attend conferences, have live interactions with each other and even avail the distant learning facilities. On the other hand, negative impacts will be discussed as to how it became quite difficult for a student to grasp knowledge with the help of a system called online meeting through new technologies and platforms like zoom and google. There was a significant lack of social setting which leads to deterioration of skills and health of a student. To Conclude, traditional classroom teaching methods were and continue to be the preferred method of education.

Nelson Mandela once quoted; “Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”

## **INTRODUCTION**

The sudden outbreak of a deadly virus, COVID-19 which made its way throughout the globe, has brought the world to a standstill. Such lethal effects of the pandemic are deeply entrenched in our systems.

The educational sector has been disrupted globally for the first time in human history. An effect is likely to remain on our coming generations as well. The human civilization of the modern world was functioning smoothly at its own pace, people were carrying out their regular duties and living their lives, but everything came to a standstill, as the virus travelled through continents. As a result, modern methods of “work from home” and “e-learning” were introduced. Today this deadly pandemic is spreading like a flame all over the world, which refuses to be extinguished.

This pandemic has led to an increased gap in the education sector. The worldly institutions of finance and economics came to a halt as well. All activities were impromptu disturbed. COVID has interfered with the progress of all institutions all around the globe; amongst this educational sector was the worst hit as it is a sector that requires utmost social interaction to gain knowledge and to learn. This deadly outbreak has caused all human activities to shift to a remote place. This is the first-time education has ever taken a turn like this, it also has opened up many opportunities along with repercussions.

While understanding this pandemic, one must go through all the opportunities it has to offer. Which includes the modern trends that have emerged in education, one that is evolving at the pace of the current world, the positive outcomes of this pandemic and the negative effects this deadly virus has brought upon the world.

## **OBJECTIVE**

This research paper focuses on the following objectives:

- To discuss the modern trends in education that were the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- To highlight the multitudes of positive impacts of a pandemic on education;
- To analyse the negative impacts of the pandemic on education

- To conclude with some possible solutions that can be undertaken by the authorities to reduce the gap between the real and virtual world.

## **MODERN TRENDS IN EDUCATION**

The educational sector has leaned towards a “new normal” with e-learning. More than a year into the pandemic, the schools and educational institutions have been on a path from disruption to recovery. According to the statistics by UNESCO, there were 58,758,603 affected learners and 3.4% of total enrolled learners and over 14 country-wide closures. [1]

In countries like India, Germany and France, schools were ordered to shut down due to the lockdown, to curb the statistically rising number of cases and to ensure the safety of children. Iran and Nigeria followed the same methods. [2]

The world came up with the solution of accessing online platforms and tools to ensure the sanctity of educational institutes such as schools, colleges and universities.

The students of this generation and the ones that have passed out of institutions have always made sure to include technology and the internet in their means of education. The Internet has been a vital part of developing human civilization. But it is only when the world faced a deadly virus, we switched completely to online means. The social setting of schools and so on were no safer. Digital means evolved the most in this pandemic.

When the pandemic put forth a condition of social distancing to keep everyone safe, the acceleration of technology and the modernisation of education took place. Social interaction was possible in no way. A shift from traditional teaching and learning to Modern and digital learning, as well as teaching, took place. For better or worse, the students had to use their digital devices, not for fun, but as a means of acquisition of knowledge.

This pandemic has contributed to digital learning is a terrific way, which includes blended learning and using tools that make learning easier. Accessing technology for the means of acquiring knowledge led to an increase in the analytical and research skills of an individual.

People were sceptical of e-learning, but thanks to this pandemic, people have come to accept novel learning and no longer feel obligated to learn traditionally using only the circumstances of a classroom.



The new classroom was zoom, google meet, skype and many more such applications. The classroom was not a chair or a desk, but rather an online portal within the comfort of your house and digital devices.

This new trend in education has made us realise that in a crisis, we must not panic but rather think of solutions. It is also sustainable for the environment and helps us build a better future. Activities and fests, and extracurriculars have shifted online as well. It's not just textbook learning, but there's no such area that is left out of the ambit of E-learning.

George Couros once quoted that "technology will not replace great teachers, but technology in the hands of great teachers can be transformational."

Several educational institutions are open to using a "blended learning" strategy that combines face-to-face and online teaching. Students will be required to physically attend classes on fewer days under this arrangement. The "new model" in the "new normal" for course delivery is blended learning. Students can now benefit from personalised learning as a result of the worldwide pandemic, which allows them to learn at their speed and at their own time. This will also help to customise a student's learning experience through the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI). Every student would benefit from a unique educational approach that is tailored to his or her individual needs with an AI-enabled personalised learning experience. Leading Edtech platforms like Bright Tutee provide an extensive collection of online homework, tutorials, and assessments. [\[3\]](#)

To sum it up, some of the modern trends that were introduced into our educational system due to the ongoing pandemic is as follows:

- A significant shift from traditional to modern learning.
- Increase in analytical and research skills.
- Introduction of e-libraries into the curriculum.
- Transformation of classrooms into meetings.
- Digitalisation of Education.
- Sustainable form of learning.
- Awareness regarding the benefits of E-learning.

## **1. POSITIVE IMPACTS**

First of all, let's discuss the positive impacts of the covid pandemic on the education sector. Due to this pandemic, students got a chance to spend long and quality time with their family for the first time due to which the relationships are getting stronger. They can save a lot of time as they don't need to travel.

Universities and colleges have a fantastic chance to start enhancing the quality of the learning materials utilised in the teaching and learning process. To a significant extent, the teaching community has been insulated, especially in a country like India. Collaborative education and learning can now take on new forms and even be monetized. [4] Learning does not have to be unpleasant; it may be self-paced and enjoyable. Students have a chance to pay more attention to tough subjects. It has provided them with the opportunity to develop creativity in several ways. They have taken advantage of the lockdown by doing non-school activities such as washing the car with dad and listening to entertaining stories from grandmother. [5] New forms of collaborative teaching and learning are possible. People were forced to develop and apply new skills as a result of the pandemic. The use of digital technology has resulted in a rise in digital literacy. Students who used to maintain hard copies of study materials now rely on soft copies for reference. There is a fresh opportunity that has arisen. [6] Digital literacy has increased.

While on one hand online education has become a compulsion in this pandemic, on the other hand, it is also the need of the hour. Online education is like a boon in the life of those students whose financial condition is not stable due to which they can't take admission in educational institutions. There are many platforms like Google and YouTube where anyone can get an education for free. The system of e-learning expanded rapidly when all educational institutions had to be closed. The demand for online courses at this time is increasing which are helpful in the preparation of competitive exams. Teaching materials for online studies are available in written, video and audio form. They are easily accessible sitting at home. Today every person who has a smartphone and internet can get an education sitting in any corner of the world. In online education, lectures are recorded in the form of video or audio, which can be easily seen and heard again and again which is not possible in offline mode. It allows studying along with a job. In offline mode, many students study in a class and there is noise, but this doesn't happen in the online mode because students can sit in solitude and study with a lot of concentration. There is no need to buy more and more notebooks and books, here all the material is available in digital form.

### **1.1 Opportunities unravelled within the comfort of home spaces.**

In a world where visiting places like schools and Universities was a norm for a student, it became much easier for students to learn from within their homes.

The opportunities that were presented in front of students and academic scholars was immensely rich in grasping knowledge. Internships that were from far off cities from one's hometown, was now nearer to the academician, as online opportunities were introduced.

The opportunity to work and study from home within the comforts and through a screen was introduced, due to the pandemic. Even though this pandemic has proved to be deadly, certain things were new and were much easier to understand.

### **1.2 Unique and easy ways of learning**

With new platforms and digital learning, traditional learning came to halt for the time being during the pandemic. With this, students have learned to study online with their respective institutions and have approached a much easier method of learning. With E-learning, both students and teachers have their own pace and the methods are flexible. It offers a wide array of agendas to help overcome the barrier of lack of a social setting.

### **1.3 Collaborative Learning**

Collaborative Learning is one of the e-learning approaches which creates an environment where students can interact with each other on an online platform. Collaborative learning is inclusive in traditional learning as well but in an online platform, it becomes more evident as it's a shared place to enrich the knowledge and personal texts and messages are common.

### **1.4 Quality time with family**

One of the greatest advantages of this deadly situation is that an individual gets to stay home and study without actually being present in the institution. In this fast-paced world, one forgets to take a pause and spend some quality time with their families. Due to this pandemic, students were able to spend time with their families even while studying.

### **1.5 Global Platforms awakened through the accessibility of the internet**

Earlier, while education was still on the path of traditional learning, one couldn't easily access events held by universities, not in their country. With the introduction of online platforms, one

can easily attend webinars and events hosted by universities that are miles away. The globalisation of education is the future of learning along with e-learning.

### **1.6 Digitalisation of education**

Just because of the internet, students are connected with their teachers and do activities related to studies. Due to digital education, students could be given necessary education using better technologies and today digital classes are being taken by every educational institution globally.

### **1.7 Sustainable means of learning.**

With the introduction of e-learning, pdfs and soft copies are being used to learn instead of textbooks. Paperless education is being conducted, which is a sustainable way of learning and is easier on the environment.

### **1.8 Judicial usage of time.**

While the time from travelling to schools and universities is saved, the students have multitudes of opportunities in front of them to utilise it in such a productive way. The students can inculcate reading habits, or even develop a hobby or even make time for exercise. They can convert their weaknesses into skills and learn new languages. Due to e-learning, students find themselves with a lot of time that can be made use of in a way that's healthy to their future as well as the present.

## **NEGATIVE IMPACTS**

Covid has completely taken down the education sector, forcing every school and college to close and it took a long time for the institutions to come up with a new idea to restart things by offering online classes which have their loopholes. It was very much difficult for some teachers to teach in online classes since they were unfamiliar with technicalities. They were used to asking questions, discussing their experiences, and teaching life lessons and moral values using a blackboard in a large room full of children. An online platform was built years ago, but it was never used for basic education. These instructors use online platforms to teach and train students. It's quite difficult to teach pre-primary students in this manner because they are too young to comprehend the scenario. Students in some parts like the rural areas of Jammu and Kashmir face problems due to unstable connectivity. They encounter a lot of challenges just to attend their classes. Students who have lost their parents are now unable to pay for their education and the impoverished kids who used to attend government schools merely to get food

in the form of mid-day meals, now don't have anything to eat. According to article 21 of the Indian constitution, everyone aged 6 to 14 has the right to education. So, just because they can't pay for it doesn't mean they will be denied it. The government must take action and make amenities available to such students. Children nowadays are more tech-savvy; thus, they try to come up with new ways to cause mischief in online classes. The way people used to study has evolved. Students used to have notebooks in the past but now they keep pdfs for the same. Students attend their lectures from their comfort zones due to which they are becoming more lazy day by day which will have a significant impact on their lives whenever everything will get back to normal. Staring at the screen for long hours has a direct impact on their health. They come under a lot of stress. Students are not learning and their learning skills are deteriorating. The fees of private universities are much higher than that of government universities and in this hour of unemployment, it is becoming difficult for poor and middle-class families to pay their fees. In many educational institutions, the students had to be promoted to the next class based on marks obtained in the previous class without any examination. This can badly affect the quality of education and also their future.

Due to the closure of educational institutions amid the covid pandemic, the students have started forgetting what they had learned in the previous classes because of which they are finding it difficult to learn in the classes of the current session. After taking online classes, instead of practising on their own, they spend most of their time playing games on mobile or using social media. At home, students are not afraid of their teachers, so they do their own thing. Due to this, they are getting affected negatively and also getting away from their studies. Practical work can never be done in online education, while many other competitions such as sports, music, etc. are conducted in offline classes along with studies in school. But in an online class, teachers only focus on completing the syllabus. In online education, students are not able to communicate with each other. There is no atmosphere of competition between them. Due to the lack of a competitive environment, students gradually start getting bored with education. Students who left their families and went to study in big cities and were living on rent faced many problems in meeting their living and food expenses.

This deadly global pandemic ought to cause long term problems. A student, he/she/they attend the online classes, as time passes by, one realises that there is little to no exposure to a real-life stimulating classroom. Studies and acquisition of knowledge are happening from inside of their houses which reduces the probability of a child excelling in real-life skills that an actual classroom provides. The overall personality development, interpersonal interaction and socialization of students has been badly affected during this pandemic.

Without the exposure of actual classrooms and educational institutions, a child and a student fails to develop social relations and hence becomes more distant from people. Interacting through a phone cannot replace the actual scenario of interaction in real life.

The Child gets addicted to the internet and social media as well.

## **CONCLUSION**

The lockdown has taught everyone a lesson as to how to adapt to difficult situations and learn to deal with them efficiently. It is during such difficult times; the capability and knowledge of humans are tested. We need to realise that such challenges aren't ordinary. Even with the adaptation of online platforms for work and education, there were several challenges faced.

This pandemic has changed the way of living of everyone and significantly impacted our lives be it a common man, a student, a youngster, an adult or anyone else. We all are going through a rough patch and are hoping to get back to normal as soon as possible. One day everyone will be able to attend schools and colleges and people will have more and more job opportunities.

The day is not far, considering the number of efforts our medical sector, police, and government has undertaken. Even the citizens of our country have contributed to making this pandemic a little less tough. Even if more challenges lie ahead for us, we must make maximum utilization of the resources that are available within our social sphere.

Therefore, the government should try that online education should not be out of reach of the weaker sections of the society and schools, colleges and other educational institutions should be opened at the earliest by getting the children vaccinated. There must be ample opportunities made for the economically weaker sections so that even they can access the basic right of education, like everyone else.

If there was no online education, would it have been possible to educate children during this pandemic?

The answer lies in the previously based arguments, that is no. We must realise that digitalisation is the future of education, but it must not be the only means of education, traditional means are still the idealistic approach to gain a proper education. A blend of traditional and digital means of education will help us make maximum use of the available means.

As once very wisely quoted by Leo Buscaglia, "Change is the result of all true learning."

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