

Views and challenges on the usage of e-trends in the higher education

Prativa Pan

Assistant Professor & Head, Department of Philosophy, Shishuramdas College, Bhusna, Sarisha, South 24 Parganas, West Bengal-743368

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*Corresponding Author

Email: prativapan1976@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

This paper presents the views on the usage of e trends in the field of higher education. It also presents the basic challenges, which were to be touched upon while making an implementation of e learning in higher education in both jotted points and an effective chart diagram, which will help the educators to get a bird's eye view of the ground situation.

Introduction

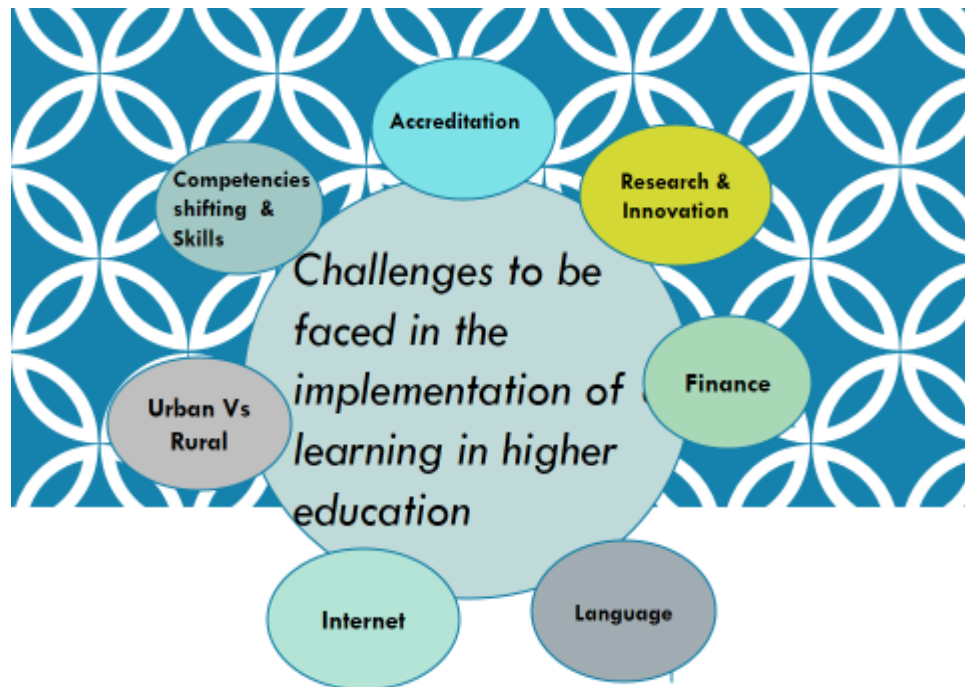
In the wake of this new era of Covid Pandemic, we need to think of a new and innovative way of imparting education. With the advent of digital communication, it has become absolutely imperative think about e learning [Ref1 -6]. This paper will focus on the possible views and roadblocks while implementing this concept of e learning. It is to be remembered that the main emphasis should be not on rote learning or the grades / marks. The reason being the total effort of the students were then focussed only on getting good marks/ grades rather than gaining knowledge in the given subject.

Usage of e trends in the higher education

As a teacher of the affiliated college under a university like the Calcutta University (which has a huge number of colleges), I always had a vague feeling. This vagueness was about what I want to teach to my students and how do I evaluate them. As if they are beyond my reach. But ever since the pandemic hit our country and the world as a whole, we unknowingly got hold of this online education system. We started taking classes by preparing our lesson on the PowerPoint or pdf or doc formats. These formats were shared on google meet and zoom apps. These formats not only served the purpose of file preparation for digital sharing, but also made the way for preparing a perfect lesson plan. The google forms were used to take feedback and attendance. We also realigned the syllabus assigned by the university as we were evaluating our students on google forms through different colourful graphs and charts automatically drawn by the software. The internal assessment could be done on the click of the mouse and the assignment of marks to the student could be done all on the mobile without handling papers. In my opinion this whole thing is an electronic trend revolution brought about in the field of higher education. It does not mean that the initiative of online education was absent before the pandemic. There were many innovative schemes brought about by the apex bodies like UGC and MHRD. The programmes like epg pathsala and MOOC etc. were very much there. They were really helpful. But then the picture of e learning and online evaluation was never

ever so bright as it seems right now at this particular instant of time. If we explore history, then we will find that every war or pandemic has given something positive for the betterment of mankind (apart from the misery, which we face). Perhaps, the e trending in higher education [Ref7 -12] is the greatest gift for the current time we had from the pandemic of Covid 19. The 7 point challenges (see Figure below) to be faced in the implementation of e learning in higher education are as follows:

1. **Accreditation:** The accreditation remains the foremost issue as the stakeholder will always pose a question about the courses offered through e-learning are at par with the direct teaching courses.
2. **Research & Innovation:** Again it would be a big challenge to perform research and innovative activities on any disciple through e learning process.
3. **Finance:** The shift from the conventional methods of teaching to e learning would result in an expenditure to bring in new infrastructure like computers, notepads, network connections. The challenge is the finance.
4. **Language:** Language is a big barrier, while communicating with an audience of large demography. It may so happen that different group of pupil would belong to different speaking languages.
5. **Internet:** People living in cities won't believe that it is still a big problem to have decent network speed in different rural areas, which would hinder e- learning process.
6. **Urban/ Rural:** The Urban Rural divide is not only limited to internet speeds, they also differ in their priorities, tastes and standard of living. While providing e learning materials one need to keep this in the back of their mind.
7. **Shift in competency and skill:** Till now we had a chalk and talk method prevailing all over and there must be shift in the mentality of the educators from 'chalk and talk' method to 'click and teach' method and this require a paradigm shift in competency and skill of the education providers.



Conclusions

E-learning involves in the usage of internet & digital tools for teaching and learning. It enables the learners to study anytime and anywhere. It eases communication and imparts knowledge in audio visual form that leads to sustained learning.

Pedagogical, technical and cost issues should be taken into account for each specific technology when integrating ICTs in teaching and learning practices.

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