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Impact of COVID-19 on Digitalised Teaching-Learning in Higher Education

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Abstract:

To enhance the standard of higher education in 21st century, use of ICT explored to a greater extent. To share and collaborate academic information among students and teachers in higher education, ICT helps in the different forms like text, audio, video, image and pdf. ICT technology dominates today's education, within the different modes like synchronous or asynchronous which depends on educational needs, skills, and competencies of scholars. Due to the impact of COVID-19 pandemic situation in lockdown period, in order to continue teaching and learning process, teachers are learning and using different ICT tools and technology for teaching purpose. The students also make it use for learning purpose. They experience that ICT technology has played a very important role in their career, since it also helps them to improve their imagination and thinking power. But another thing we should keep in mind that, excessive use of ICT may distract the attention of students to other side and also cause to downgrade their result.

Keywords: higher education, ICT tools, ICT technology youtube, facebook, Whats App.

1. Introduction:

The term “Social media” is known as the application that allows users to communicate with each other to create, edit and share new forms of textual, visual and audio content. Social Media established a new community of learners called as ‘network-self’ learners and involved the use of computing and Internet technology. Social media created an online community which includes collection of Internet based and mobile services that connect people together to communicate,

participate, collaboratively interact, discuss and exchange ideas and information.. Social media devices used in higher education are web 2.0 technology, facebook, youtube, blog, linkedIn and MOOC courses.

The term "Social media" is defined as the application that allows users to converse and interact with each other to create, edit and share new forms of textual, visual and audio content, and to categorize, label and recommend existing forms of content .

Social media constitutes a community of "network-self" learners. This online and social media learning attitude involves use of computing and internet technology. With the emerged use of social media tools, a large number of such institutions are embracing this new ecology of information offered by social media. In India to encourage teaching and learning National Programme in Technology Enhanced Learning (NPTEL) has launched more than 100 online courses and more than 10,000 registered sessions. Also Government of India is planning to recognize online certificates equally useful like that of regular courses. By considering the importance of social media, the paper is divided into the following sections like social media in higher education, different types of social media in education, use of social media in academics, and privacy and issues of social media in academics

2. Social Media in Higher Education:

In higher education different forms of social media used are internet forums, quora, weblogs, social blogs, micro blogging, wiki, podcast, photo or video sharing, rating and social bookmarking. Also web-based and mobile applications allow individuals and organizations to create, engage, and share new user generated or existing content, in digital environments through multi-way communication. Further social network platforms on mobile and web applications are popular in higher education like Quora, Twitter, YouTube, Whatsapp, Instagram, snap chat, Google Plus etc.

We can categorize Social media types like (Wikipedia):

- Collaborative project (ex. Wikipedia)
- Blogs and microblogs (twitter)
- Content communities (youtube)
- Virtual social worlds (second life)

Different technologies used in social media include:

i) Blogs are easily created and updateable websites that allow authors to publish to the Internet instantly. It allow instructors and students to communicate easily and in blog pages are usually displayed in reverse chronological order.

ii) **Wikis:** A wiki is a collective website, where any participant can modify any page or create a new page. Anyone can add and edit what has already been published.

iii) **Social bookmarking:** Bookmarking sites allow users to organize and share links to websites and assist users to produce a searchable personalized internet.

iv) **Google classroom:** Google classroom allows to create classroom for different subjects and teachers can send instruction, assignment, question, material, quiz to the students .

v) **Social Network Sites:** Social network sites are public web-based services that allow users to develop a personal profile. It also assist users to read and react to postings made by other users on the site. These web based services allow individuals to construct a public or semi-public profile within a bounded system. The most popular social network sites are Facebook and LinkedIn.

vi) **Status update services :** This is also known as micro blogging services such as Twitter .It allow people to share short updates about people or events and to see updates tweeted by others.

3. Use of Social Media in Academics:

The usage of social networking in academic activity includes the following:

- Task Assignment
- Teaching
- Announcement
- Class Rescheduling
- Resource Material (searching/sharing)
- Searching and solving question papers on different subjects available of different universities
- Others (entertain, communication, information update)

The Social Media can be useful in all kinds of educations. The Content communities and blogs can act as a digital library. The best example of content communities is You Tube which assist the students with lots of education programs. YouTube has increased idea generation, imagination and productivity among students. It has also improved digital skills of the student's and provide opportunity to them for peer learning and problem solving. Social network sites also provides platform to the students to formulate group discussions and to exchange ideas with their friends and teachers. Active participation in online communities of practice can produce significant value for educators, students and colleges.

4. Social Media Privacy and Issues:

While using social media, students need to remember following things:

- Since social media is public in nature, it requires to take serious decision to post videos, pictures, thoughts, experiences, and observations to social networking sites.
- Students should make distinction between private and public issues in Social Networking sites. They should be aware of the risks of posting private information on the Social Networks.

- Social media distract the attention and concentration of the students towards non-educational activities
- Social media also includes criminal activities which may distract the attention of the students
- Most of the students use media for socializing different activities rather than for academic purposes. .

5. Conclusion:

In 21st century due to pandemic situation, fundamental changes took place in education by virtual worlds and augmented reality. Social media helps to improve content delivery of day to day teaching and assist teachers for delivering the education. It also support students for learning different subjects in their syllabus and also assist students for their placement. Social networks are now been seen as learning platforms and created different communities that could be utilized to enhance student engagement and performance. It also facilitating the exchange of information among academics and other students. Students make use of blogging services, group services in their studies and also use social media effectively for search for colleges and career opportunities. Students should keep in mind to make effective use of social media for the advancement in their career.

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