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ANTICIPATION OF NEW LEARNING METHODOLOGIES

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Abstract

Words have their particular meaning and purpose to serve when used in a sentence. It is important to differentiate between the terms education and literacy, as being educated is more important than being just literate. When things were absolutely on track heading towards better understanding where the world was not just getting educated but also learnt concepts and topics much more beyond the imagination, the effort to acquire knowledge on subjects was much. Students, today are not just restricted by the curriculum but also engage themselves in extracurricular activities all over the world. In India, the progress of the changeover of gurukul to virtual learning should be a gradual evolution and the course of the learning process must be paid serious and proper attention to. There should be a proper audit to check that the young minds are nourished properly and they are not distracted or diverted by any unnatural or unhealthy elements that they spend more time with. More attention should be paid to the effective physical and psychological health of students than merely keeping pace with the current trends of various learning methodologies. This article seeks to understand the response of students towards the evolution that is being brought into their learning methodology.

Keywords: New normal, flip classroom, blended learning, theoretical aspects, in-house learning.

Current learning methodologies might educate the minds but educating the hearts of students is equally important and should be considered when "welcoming new learning methodologies to cope with the new normal" (Shim SH 2005). It is always believed that a student might forget what a teacher says but never forget what the teacher is. This personal connection between that student and the teacher should be kept healthy like a blood-brain barrier. Education is a treasure or a weapon given to the children to see the world in a more confident manner and face life with a better attitude but how far would it be useful when a student is never exposed to the true scenario, practicality is at risk (Yash Pal S, 2009). Students must be moulded in such a way that they should be capable of turning barren land into a flourishing grassland, round sea tides into mighty oceans of possibilities, windows into doors of creativity and challenges as possibilities (Dooge J et al., 2015). A number of researchers have been stating that the level of learning has increased among students (Momeni Danaei 2010 et al.). Critical thinking and problem-solving ability are the key skills learnt by students when they are educated in the right manner. Creative thinking and teamwork are the interpersonal skills to be kept highlighted

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among the students' (Dooge J et al., 2015). Not just limiting the theoretical knowquite ledge but proceeding toward the practical aspects has increased the enthusiasm and curiosity of learning among students (Shim SH 2005).

Audio-video conferencing with chat features, and virtual classrooms also provide synchronous and asynchronous annotation, communication, and resource sharing for facilitators and participants and is believed to be an effective way of learning and are promoted by educational institutes (Shim SH 2005). But how effective it is in creating an impact in the minds of students matters. Online education is one of the methods adopted by the educational institutes to cope with the current situation since the concept of outcome-based learning is vanishing and the ultimate aim is to complete the syllabus. (Dooge J et al., 2015).

Game-based learning, flipped classrooms, jigsaw techniques, Scavenger Hunts, and Role Play are a few exciting ways of learning but are quite challenging to conduct online (Noroozi et al., 2010). Whatever is the fun that's brought into the virtual mode of learning it's hard to compete with the fun that a traditional classroom could hold. But blended learning is a form of self-phased learning methodology (Momeni Danaei et al.,2010)

Every method/process that we choose to adapt to the upcoming situation will have its own pros and cons. The way to adapt to the current situation is brilliant but without the right impact on students, it doesn't serve its purpose (Yash Pal S, 2009).

The virtual mode of learning has to serve its purpose of provoking the student's interest in the subject (Noroozi et al., 2010). Nevertheless, the class is nourished with entertaining colourful video lectures and PowerPoint presentations, but the students are tuned to understand also with simple chalk and talk lectures. At times, overdoing a topic might make the students reluctant to pursue the topic. So it can be accessed anytime as per the requirement (Zarshenas et al., 2011). But the fact is continuity of the topic would be lost. Many would admit that they are not motivated much towards the subject since the personal bonding with the teacher and the subject is diluted. It's also noted that some are quite interested in the topic taught in virtual learning. They are the ones who could adapt themselves better to the upcoming situations and stay focused no matter what learning methodology is used (Yash Pal S, 2009). Unless the class is taken in an interesting manner they are not able to pay attention. Most students look for personal attention from the teacher. But this doesn't mean that the student has completely lost interest in the subject, they actually do well in the subject and manage to procure better marks in the subject as they know the importance of grades in the education system. (Khodaparast Haghi A, 2005)

Even though the concepts are taught in a broader aspect to the students in the virtual mode of learning, the depth of the concept is often beyond their reach. Complex topics are hard to be understood in depth easily and especially in the virtual mode of learning it is much harder. Staying focused inside a closed room and staring at the desktop screen, with challenging internet connection has made the students stay less focused. At the same time when we compare that current learning experience with the traditional classrooms, it is found to be more fun-filled and more live. A topic could be learnt completely only after it's discussed with our

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friends, group study for instance is thus the best way of learning since it's proven that learning by teaching is one of the most efficient ways to learn a concept better. The bonding that is created among the classmates through this is incredible. Online learning eschews this bond. Nevertheless, this online platform has paved the way to keep students connected. Keeping the students on track and staying focused is a huge task again. The task is not to keep the students away from the internet but from the distracting content on the internet. It's always believed that we become what we see, so the young minds have to be nourished in a proper direction to face life in a much more positive way.

It is surprising to see that few would recommend the virtual mode of learning even after the situation favours for normal method of learning because the students might find it easier to manage time this way. They could skip heavy traffic or avoid travelling hours together to reach school on time. It might also enable the student to devote that travelling time to better things like learning a new language, or take up varied online courses, learn music, practise yoga or even finish a book they started long back. Time management is a skill, not everyone is wise at. Everyone has 24 hours, keeping that 24 hours productive is left to the individual. The question arises over time if the students motivated to keep up their spirits and be productive or are they drowning inside the subversive, negative and misleading things they encounter. But if one were to consider the majority, most students would want to get out of the confinement and restriction. They are the ones who have a much more broader outlook and perspective when viewing the World. They are the ones who are looking for more from life in the way they live and explore. Experience is always the best teacher. Not everything could be thought of or found on the internet. There are things that have to be learnt only by experience, which happens only when they get out of the confinement and explore the world.

In the process of getting educated, it's not only learning what's in the curriculum and managing to get a good overall percentage that matters. A bright student is actually the one who can encounter challenges most efficiently, make visible the plethora of opportunities around him, think beyond the boundaries and believe the sky is the limit for achieving things in life. An open-minded person is the one who is more likely to live a positive life since they are open to learning and experiencing. A conservative person would not be welcoming of the new things in life and is not really open to ideas thereby not having much learning- implementing protocol in life.

Further the online platform is found to be a friendly environment for introverted students. A student who cannot gather the courage to speak up in the class in front of the whole crowd is now more confident in the online platform where he is not under the pressure of being judged or he is more confident and that he doesn't have to handle the sight of the whole class staring at him. This paves the way for the reserved kind of students to open up and register their points or even clarify any sort of doubts about the concept taught. After a huge struggle if this mode of education has paved the way to bring out the hidden talent of introverted students then this mode of education must be thanked and upheld. Few have also supported the idea that the online mode of education is more friendly. But the rest are the ones who don't feel this mode of education is suitable, and they are the ones who seek eye contact and the attention of the

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teacher to be attentive in the class. Not everyone in the class is open to learning. There are a special set of students who would do much better when given a small push and tap on the shoulder. These are the students who need more personal attention. They are capable students no doubt, but all they need is that individualised attention and encouragement.

However, as technology improves and the current trends evolve students are much more affectionate with the teacher and other students with chalk and talk teaching. Many would stress that chalk and talk is the most efficient way of learning. Since the pace at which the concepts are learnt is easy to follow by the majority of the class. The language used by the teacher would be simple and understandable and the level of preparation to go for chalk and talk is comparatively more than a video presentation or PowerPoint presentation, which would enable the students to get their concepts right and take up handwritten running notes. Making running notes is a skill that has to be developed in all the students. Making their own notes will enable them to understand the concept well since they have framed it in such a way that it is understandable and makes sense in their own way. Listening and writing is the best way of learning than just memorising the topics. Memorising skills are no longer appreciated or welcomed in the current scenario whereas creativity and intelligence are what is looked upto.

The theoretical aspect of a concept is just the basics. The applicatory part is very important. Just restricting the knowledge within the book won't really serve the purpose. The practicality of the concept should be the foremost priority. Able to apply the concepts practically is when the concept is learnt completely. Especially with hands-on experience in the laboratory skills of the Life Science department for example, it is really hard for the students to learn good lab practices online. Handling the apparatus and instruments is itself an important skill they have to cope with. But online learning has curtailed the practical skills of the students. They learn the protocols online where live exposure to the labs is not available. Handling glassware, acids, and hot solutions are a precautionary skill that should be learnt at a very initial stage. Basics of these practical subjects should be kept strong without which the practical knowledge of a student wouldn't be much appreciable even if the student is knowledgeable as per the theoretical aspects. Undertaking major and minor projects would require very good laboratory skills in addition to good grades. Watching videos online or experiments demonstrated would only allow the student to understand the protocol and never the laboratory exposure or hands-on experience. The majority of students taught online have admitted to the fact that their practical knowledge is not as strong as their theoretical knowledge. But on the other hand, few are sure that they can confidently handle simple laboratory technical skills that would enable them to manage and soon take up complex projects. These are the set of fast learners who would manage to learn things much faster. Equal importance should be given to the other 40% of students to uphold their practical skills. Since the online mode of education should be a door of knowledge and never a point of excuse or a barrier to learning.

Exams are one of the toughest phases of the learning protocol, where the dedication and focus of the student are justified by the exam grade they achieve. The online mode of exam doesn't really prepare the student like an offline exam. The best level of preparation is achieved only when announced with the traditional offline mode of examination. The courage to take up the

exam will itself mould the student to take up more challenges in life with a much better attitude. The exam may restrict the questions according to the curriculum but the preparation for an exam will definitely disciple a student and teach a student about time management, stress management, and the importance of being consistent, being focused and determined. And there are no shortcuts to victory. Healthy competition would be created among the students to stand out from the crowd and the victory to stand out as the best students is such an incredible feeling which can never be felt in a virtual mode of education. It is also reported that the results of online exams don't really excite the students as much. The excitement and the wait for the results to be announced by the institute are not so much when the exams are conducted online. The scope and respect for the marks obtained are also lost. The seriousness of the offline examination can never be mimicked online. If a student is not trained to be focused, and determined at a very young age as a part of the preparation for the examination, disciplining a student for future endeavours would be arduous.

Being confined within four closed walls has created an adverse psychological effect on students. Among the responders, some students accepted it as a fact that they are psychologically affected. This is due to a restricted kind of living within closed doors, which is a scientifically proven fact that students are pushed more towards depression, anxiety or mental disorders due to less exposure to the outside environment. Learning is now in multiple social contexts and a student can never escape reality, coping with the current scenario is one of the important skills a young mind should be inculcated with. In the journey of teaching the learning process, social-emotional development must be paid equal importance to because, emotional health would definitely affect the student's behaviour in society and also affect the performance of students in education as well.

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