

## **The Changing Role and Challenges Experienced By Teachers in Using Technologies during Pandemic in India**

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**"Whoever teaches learns in the act of teaching and whoever learns teaches in the act of learning"**

### **\*Abstract**

*As preventive measure educational institutes were shut down to contain the spread of COVID-19. Teaching process was shifted to online mode from face to face mode. It changed the role of a teacher. Online assessments on trial-and-error basis were conducted; content suitable for remote learning using technology was created on an untested and unprecedented scale. Transitioning to an 'online mode' had its own challenges. These include ill-equipped teachers, limited access to the Internet, hindrances to replicating the rapport between teacher and students in an online world, lack of uninterrupted power supply, increase in screen-time, absence of a robust monitoring method, bridging the patchy and unavailability of tools to create content in regional languages. In this situation teachers not only find solutions to these challenges but see the glimpses of the future of learning also. This global crisis has changed some elements of learning permanently. However teachers lead in this crisis and discovered the future. The current article deals with the changing role of teacher due to pandemic and challenges faced by them while using technology.*

*Keywords:- Role, Teacher, Challenges, Technology, Pandemic*

### **Introduction:-**

The overwhelming situation of the pandemic affects all aspects of human life and so on education. This Global crisis has also changed the role and duties of a teacher. They faced many difficulties in teaching learning process. A teacher had to quickly re-imagine human connections and interactions to facilitate learning. Virtual education brought a varied set of challenges. Due to Covid-19 pandemic the world of education changed overnight as sudden lockdown imposed all over the country. There was a dynamic shift from physically going to educational institutions to attending classes virtually through online mode. Students and teachers both faced a tough time. It becomes difficult for everyone to adopt and adapt a more unconventional way of teaching from the traditional model. Using a new mode of teaching with almost no preparation wasn't easy at all but the teachers did not back down. They came up with innovative methods to teach and retain the attention of students. They use technology to reach the homes of every student. For the teachers, it wasn't an easy task as all were not trained to use technology for the purpose of teaching.

### **How the Pandemic Changed the Role of Teachers?**

Pandemic Covid-19 was an unimagined situation in India and it introduced an unusual use of technology in the teaching and learning process. Regular classes were stopped and online classes were introduced which brought both students and teachers on online platforms for conducting teaching and learning process. Now teachers' role has been changed as it made the need of learning technology for smooth flow of education necessary. It changes the role of a teacher as follows:

- As traditional lecturing was not useful for remote learning environment, teachers use Radio, TV, mobile and online platforms etc.
- Teachers become creative.

- Teachers engage students effectively.
- In India during pandemic teaching was very challenging because the sources related to technology are less but the response towards technology and online teaching during the pandemic was commendable just because of tremendous efforts of teachers.
- Teachers divide their time effectively in teaching, engaging with students and in administrative tasks.
- In India during Pandemic teachers faced lots of problems like preparation of teaching material. They feel anxious, tired but some ratio of teachers happy and satisfied.
- Teachers had more time for student teacher interactions and they become more flexible.
- Teachers learn technical sources, operating technical mediums to conduct online classes, take exams, provide assignments, and even provide score cards.

### **How have Systems Supported Teachers in Their New Role during Pandemic?**

In India during the pandemic the government supported teachers by giving them flexibility and freedom to teach the students with their sources, facilities and needs. After declaring the guidelines, teachers started to implement these guidelines and recommendations and started in-service FDPs for developing the teaching methods. They learnt maximum use of technology in their teaching. But during the pandemic it was also realized that in education more training was needed by teachers for making their teaching better during adverse circumstances.

### **What challenges faced by teachers during pandemic in India**

There are many challenges experienced by teachers which have never existed before.

During pandemic, Education in India provided new breakthroughs in technology. The emergence of fresh approaches in pedagogy was perpetually transforming teaching. Along with these changes new challenges also come for teachers in schools and colleges.

Some of these changes experienced by teachers are as follows:

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1. Online class etiquette
2. Parents hovering during online classes are an issue, maintaining discipline online is tough, etc.
3. Lack of IT support
4. Continuous technological changes
5. Unequal access for all students
6. Unoptimized software for mobile devices
7. Security issues
8. Non-availability of smart phones for students
9. Network issues
10. Data pack problem
11. Less participation of students

### **What ways teachers had adopted to cope up with these challenges?**

Education has changed dramatically with the distinctive rise of e-learning due to Covid-19 pandemic, now teaching is undertaken remotely and on digital platforms.

The crisis has shown that maintaining quality in education during crisis by

- Teachers improved their Technological and pedagogical skills.
- Teachers learn how to combine multiple modes of teaching i.e. online, offline and blended to facilitate learning.
- They get formal in-service teacher training.
- They activate regular follow-up plans to support the skills developed.
- Teachers develop new skills to solve tough problems and express ideas in new ways.
- Teachers collaborate and coordinate with other teachers to explore new tools.

### **Conclusion:-**

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Due to pandemic, teachers encountered with the opportunities of online learning in a virtual class where teaching and learning process occurred online. As compared to the school teaching system things are not similar in the online learning system. In this approach there were challenges but the use of technology made it easier. Now with remote teaching teachers can establish the teacher-student relationship in a better way. Students might face problems in coping up with remote learning. They had no opportunity to meet their friends. To deal with all these situations teachers guide them to focus on their academics. This situation was equally challenging for teachers also. They face challenges in managing time tables with students and fellow teachers. It makes Fellow teachers able to coordinate with each other and discuss ways and other important things. Virtual meetings on zoom and other apps helped students in their academics. Remote learning made students more flexible and empathetic. Now, teachers use more innovative pedagogical method of teaching to teach students and make them understand concepts. So we can say that this pandemic brings many positive changes among teachers. However they had experienced many challenges but they discovered the new education system.

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