

E Learning: A Boon of COVID Era

Gunvanti Rathod^{1*} and Pragnesh Parmar²

¹Additional Professor, Pathology and Lab Medicine, AIIMS, Bibinagar, Hyderabad, Telangana, India

²Additional Professor and HOD, Forensic Medicine and Toxicology Department, AIIMS, Bibinagar, Hyderabad, Telangana, India

*Corresponding Author: Gunvanti Rathod, Additional Professor, Pathology and Lab Medicine, AIIMS, Bibinagar, Hyderabad, Telangana, India.

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Abstract

As COVID 19 has been declared as a pandemic disease by the WHO, all educational activities have been suspended during the lock-down period of COVID 19 infection. As a result, E learning emerged as new method of teaching to maintain the continuity of medical education. There are many reasons for its overall acceptability e.g. Ease of use, Flexibility, and better control on environment and many more. Due to resource limitations in a developing country like India, this approach created a major challenge. Alone E learning will not serve the purpose of development of professional skill. For development of professional skills blended learning would be better along with E learning. At the end online teaching is a boon during the COVID 19 outbreak for the whole world but other concerns should be addressed for successful and effective teaching activities.

Keywords: COVID 19 Infection; E Learning; Overall Acceptability; Blended Learning

The influence of Information technology is remarkable in today's era. Nowadays the craze of E learning is increasing day by day using various platforms e.g. E conferences, E CME, webinars and many more other.

The meaning of letter "e" in e-learning is the word "electron-ic." According to Bernard Luskin (2001) who is known as pioneer of the E-learning explains "e" as exciting, energetic, enthusiastic, emotional, extended, and educational. E-learning is not possible without internet. It is a collection of education, recent and past information, communication, various training, knowledge, and performance [1].

According to the World Health Organization (WHO) COVID-19 pandemic was announced in March 2020. A public health emergency was asserted all over the world [2]. All teaching institutes were stopped when government declared lockdown in almost all countries of the world. During the lockdown period of COVID 19 infection many difficulties were faced unexpectedly by teachers and students all over the world. E learning was the only hope for

all as a primary method of teaching and learning during the lock-down period.

To continue the process of teaching and learning all stakeholders including institutional administrators, teachers, students, etc were trying to do all efforts and building significant hard work to optimally utilize the available technology and social media [3]. By using various innovative techniques for the purpose of education the teaching institutes accepted various platforms of E learning e.g. use of different software/applications for e learning such as Zoom, Microsoft, Google Classroom, Google sites and Google Docs to take the online classes [4,5]. The main purpose of using all these different mode of E learning is not only to complete the course but also to remain in continuous touch with the students. Another advantage of these classes were that the students had increased the confidence and faith in their teachers, mentors and faculty during COVID-19 pandemic. There is no doubt that E learning is accepted successfully for teaching- learning purpose worldwide by all education institutes. Before COVID 19 outbreak no one thought that E learning will become a part of official education not only in India

but all over the world. According to recent guideline of National Medical Commission (NMC) a new CBME curriculum was developed which includes the Self directed learning at each and every levels which is mostly based on E learning. There are many reasons for its overall acceptability e.g. Ease of use, Flexibility, and better control on environment and many more. The major advantage is that we can use it anytime and anywhere. Although it has plenty of advantages, there are few limitations which should be keep in mind e.g. lack of student teacher physical interaction, social isolation, internet connectivity issue etc. It's a major challenge for any developing country like India because of the resource limitations. Furthermore alone E learning will not serve the purpose of development of professional skill. For development of professional skills blended learning would be better along with E learning. At the end online teaching is a boon during the COVID 19 outbreak for the whole world but other concerns should be addressed for successful and effective teaching activities.

Conclusion

Though E learning can't replace completely traditional learning but in pandemic situation, E learning is proved to be boon for all educators. Future of E learning is very optimistic and technology supports the extensive use of it in various fields. Theoretical teaching can be easily replaced via E learning but practical teaching is not much successful.

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