COVID-19 A root map to the challenges and issues facing by teaching professionals on E-learning program with a special reference to Kerala

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Abstract - **Covid-19, the disease was first detected in China, has infected people in 185 countries. As many countries and world capitals have been put under strict lockdown, major industrial production chains have been brought to a half. Corona brought a challenging and very pathetic conditions all over the world without having a separation of developed or under developed countries, urban or rural, health or finance, education or entertainment and so on. It has totally reflected on the daily life systems of human beings. It has impacted on India by the half of March. By March 15th India has started to announce the lock down periods and all the educational institutions were closed. As said earlier it brought a lot of negative impacts on global economy and on human's life styles. But apart from the negative impacts, it brought a lot of new and advanced challenging lifestyle too. The educational system is one of the most remarkable area out of this. Especially a traditional cultured state like Kerala has been introduced the new technological based teaching system. Government around the world has urged employees to work from home where possible. Shares in technology companies such as ZOOM, GOOGLE MEET have short up as more people rely on video conference calls and email to hold meeting and or get task done. This study focusing on the E-learning systems that introduced by the government of Kerala without losing their academic days and how it impacted the local people and students as well. And more over this research has tried to find out the challenges and problems facing by the teachers and students and also analyzing whether this system will adopt in the near future as a permanent solution for educational industries or not. Kerala government reopening the schools on June 1st as usual. The government has decided to take several steps to maintain safe environments for the students. Government has introduced online teacher training programs to help the teachers understand how to educate the students using online methods and portals. Covid 19 pandemic, Kerala began the new academic year with online classes for students. At least 45 lakh students in Kerala began attending virtual classes organized by the state education department. At the beginning of the new academic year on Monday in abid to ensure that they do not miss out on lessons due to the Covid 19 induced lockdown. I have conducted this study among 100 teaching faculties from government as well as private educational institutions.**

Key words: **covid 19, Virtual Class, Electronic gadgets, KITE VICTERS, first Bell.**

I.   INTRODUCTION

It was very shocking decision to enable te Technological based educational systems to Kerala "the overwhelming traditional knowledge delivering state". But the world ruining Covid-19 pandemic paved the new path to the Kerala state to applying ITC based teaching program. As we know the state Kerala is highly ranked state in its educational proficiency and culture, it started the new ITC based educational program without missing the academic days. This new and unexpected mode of education named as "First Bell". This is completely introduced by the Kerala state government which is focusing only on government institutions. The classes aired through KITE VICTERS Channel and various other online Plat forms like you tube and Facebook and so on. On this occasion it was the new journey of other private educational institutions to start their own classes on online platforms.

For this purpose all the private CBSE/ICSE schools and all other government /unaided higher educational institutions were relayed on their on softwares and other well versed platforms without missing even a single day of academic days. On this most of the institutions relayed on zoom, google meet and so on to enable the classes and conferences. The idea of work at home and teach at home too. It was really like a miracle to available the online education all over the state as there are a lot of tribal areas situating. This virtual classes now available through cable operators, five DTH operators, Victorsweb ,Facebook and YouTube channels of KITE-VICTERS, the state owned body in charge of the endeavor. Now this virtual class facility is not only utilizing by the children of Kerala but from the Middle East, United states, UK and so on. In the case of some specific classes, the viewership exceeds 40 lakhs. Apart from India , the classes witnessed by hundreds

of students in the Middle East as well as American and European regions. The classes are prerecorded and the prescribed times are allotting to each classes(from first to twelve) in government institutions and the teachers are responsible to get back to the students over mobile phones to clear their doubts and concerns. But in the case of private and higher educational systems they are following their own software and their own manner of dealing classes. Mostly such institutions are providing the face to face live virtual interactions and activities.

In this article i tried to point out my observational problems and challenges which were faced by the teaching faculties and students all over the state kerala due to the newly luanched ITC based virtual class systems. Someover this is like a battling to Covid pandemic to deal with the virtual classes.

The pandemic condition and the virtual classsystem all were like the thing out of box. The main purpose of this article is to list out the major challenges and issues which are facing by the teaching faculties and students aswell due to the e-learning programe that rised out of the lock down periods.

I conducted this study among 100 teaching faculties from schools, colleges which are private and government . I collected the data from the primary level of sourse.

The scope of the study:

The days are passing through a tough life experience. All the levels of daily life has experienced a new life style and facing some sort of challenges too. The lock down periods completely stucked over the daily life systems and business systems too. Out of this the educational system has also proven a new but challenging methods of teaching and learning all over the world.

- The study describes the challenges and problems facing by the teaching faculties
- The issues facing by students over the virtual learning
- The troubles that meeting by the lower level income groups families about thier wards education over the lock down periods as well.
- Analysing whether ITC based education can be followed for future.

Objectives of the study:

- ✓ To verify the troubles of teachers and students due to the e learning program
- ✓ To check out whether this virtual classes are best to follow in future or not
- ✓ To list out the remedial measures which is taken by the state government to ensure the quality of education in the state**.**

Limitations of the study:

While carrying out the survey and obtaining the relevent information the following difficulties were encountered.

- The findings of the study are based on the opinion of respondents, so it may be biased
- The population choosed for this study was some more above averaged income groups
- The challenges of e- learning programs are severly affecting on tribal people but our populations are from the remote area but not from the tribal
- The data collection was don over internet

II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Simon Burgess, Hans Henrik Sievertsen 01 April 2020 in thier article named "**Schools, skills, and learning: The impact of COVID-19 on education**" says that the global lockdown made much more interruptions in educational field this also adversly affected on educational value assessments. They also pointed out that there will have more professional gap in the job market.

UNESCO Education sector's issue notes: document code: ED/2020/IN2.1/REV, year of publication 2020: in this article UNESCO suggesting some facts on screen based education that are; mould mentors to built up a good pedagology for students, have to design the most better methodologies of online mode class handlings, design the duration of the distance learening as it is suggesting 25 minutes for primary students and 40 minutes for secondary school candidates and so on.

Impact of COVID-19 on Education System in India: By : Deepali Kasrekar and Gayatri Wadhavane-Tapaswi: This articles illustrated somany drawbacks and also the advantages of e lrerning programe out of this the most highlighted glimpses of sreen based education is that the glaring disadvantages of postpondment of examinations.

Christie Blazer Miami, Florida May 2008 in his article the educational technology clearly stated the advantages and disadvantages of technology based education system. As the technological growth is rapidly taking place there is an immense tendency among professional and general community to adopt more technology in thier daily life style. But the introduction of computers and other technology in to the class room has facing some debatable issues and complications. Its very essential one to make technical support to the teachers aswell as the general parent stake holders. The easy accessability encouraging the use of technology but still its follows its own limitations.

Shivangi Dhawan in her article named Online learning: A panacea in the time of COVID-19 crisis clearly listed out all the strenght, drawbacks and opportunities of online classes. It hinting a new oportunity of EdTech startup s. Its point out various varieties of e learning engines like SWAYAM, Byju's, Adda247, Alolearning, AptusLearn,

Asmakam, Board Infinity, ClassPlus, CyberVie, Egnify, Embibe, ExtraaEdge, iStar, Jungroo Learning, GlobalGyan, Lido Learning, Pesto, Vedantu, Edubrisk, ZOOM Classroom, ZOOM Business, Toppr, Unacademy, Coursera, Kahoot, Seesaw, Khan Academy, e-pathshala, GuruQ, and the list is long.

III.   RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Resrach methodology is a systematic way to solvivg the reseach problem. This is the way how the research could be conducted. It is a science of studying how research is done scientifically. In this article a cross-sectional observational study with systematic probability sampling with sample size of 100 was conducted through web based data collection.

Study method: cross-sectional observational study

Sample size: 100

Study population: 24-45 years of the age group teachers who handling classes from thier homes due to Covid 19 lockdown.

Inclusion criteria: Being between the age of 24-45 years. Teachers who handling online classes

Period of the study: 3 months

Data analysed:

The challenges: the covid 19 made a root map to some challenges in educational industry. The schools were closed by the middle of March. Still schools are closed and the E-learning system is in its sharp rise. Due to the e-learning system the main challenges that were faced by the teaching faculties and students are listed here,

1) Cost impact
2) Connectivity issues
3) Limitations of virtuality
4) Gap in communication
5) Lack of pedagogical improvement
6) Lack of training and technical knowhow
7) Carving more time
8) Couldn't apply in physical education and extra curricular activities
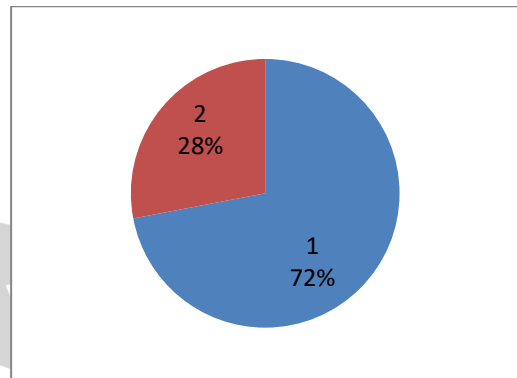9) Higher rate of drop outs

*cost impacts:

Launching of virtual class introduced by state of Kerala brought a hike in the cost of study as it needed to have more and more electronic equipments like TV , mobile phones, Tablets, desk tops and so on...which might not be at hands to every one. Most of the kerala families belongs to two or three childs and they have to attend the online classes at the same time, it needed to have seperate electronic gadgets at a time. The government introduced the "First Bell" on victers channels at pre fixed time but this is also available on some electronic gadgets like TV or cell phones etc. So for attending the online classes and having such electronic equipments brought some sort of financial burden on

Kerala families and also upon the tuters. They also neede to have such advanced internet connected equipments but the salary cut also was rised at the same time at its extreme. A lot of victims are there in kerala out of this class 10 girl ends life allegedly over lack of access to online classes which was from the district Mlappuram, the distric always score higher rate of board results.

There are so many social and political activists,clubs,school students associations, NSS and NCC cadets all over Kerala has freely donating TVs and mobile phones to the most back ward people. But still its impacting some financial burden to the normally income groups.

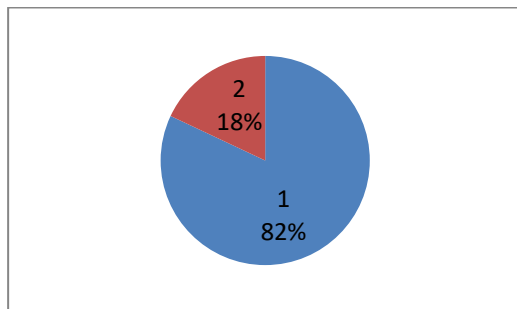**Chart :1 The rate of financial burden incurred due to online education:**

72% of the families are responded as they inccured extra financial burdens due to the online class mode. Due to the olnile educationa programe this is incurring more financial burden to the parents as well as teachers as they need to ensure high speed data connection and more electronic gadgets.

*connectivity issues:

Most of the kerala students belongs to the backward and tribal area. Still there are some places which dreaming the electricity connection and mobile tower. The poor connectivity and signal problem is the main bottle neck which is facing by the kerala faculties and students too.It is fastly rising many disturbance and issues over the virtual class room and some more missing thier academic time too. Online class rooms never replace real classrooms. Many of students doubts remainun addressed during the video sessions due to net connectivity problem and audio clarity issues.
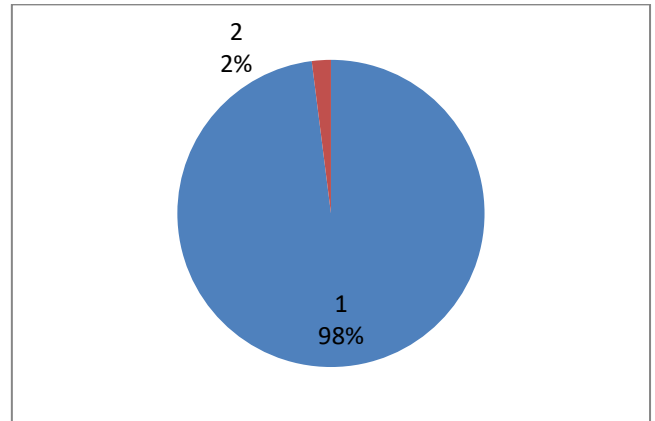
Chart : 2 the rate of problems due to poor connectivity

82% of the respondents are facing connectivity issues. Most rooral and tribal areas are still far away from the internet connnection.

*The entire limitations of viruality:

The virtual class room is completely an e-learning system whose main purpose is to facilitate the educators and the students to impart and prceive education online over the internet. It allows all the facilities to convey their messages and face to face interaction and teaching process by the way of webinars, audios , videos web presentations, text chats and so on. It allows anybody to learn and work together from any where, without any geographical boarder. But still it has somany drawbacks some of them are as under;

- Lack of control over the students / class room:
  Its very hard to conduct the virtual classes especially at the school level as there is no physiological control over the students.

- Limited control over the learning atmosphere:
  Different students belongs to different culture and different family background and surroundings. All students might become uniform while under the single roof of a class room but it is very hard to control the students over online as they are listening it from different environment aswell. The home environment is mostly not best suited for attending a virtual classroom session. Family members are often actively engaging in their own activities in the same room. In fact lack of private space is an important issue for students from smaller households.

- Lack of real time experience:
  This is the most important aspect of virtual facilities and major draw backs too. When ever the tutor is imparting the lectures its very hard to get the on time feedbacks and replys while comparing to the real class room facility. Students never can enjoy the the full stuff of a lecturing over the screen and vice versa.

- The risk to traditional bond of students-teacher relationship:
  Its very tough to create a good and healthy teacher students relationship over internet when comparing to the real class room especially its happening in the case of new comers or nwely admitted faculties / students.

- Delay in feedback and response:
  Due to the lack of real time experience it is very dreamy one to get back the real time spontaneous feedbacks and communication in between teacher and students as well as among the students. Class rooms always need the lively interactions and lesson based activities and experiments. But the spontaneous communication and response is missing some more over the virtual class rooms.
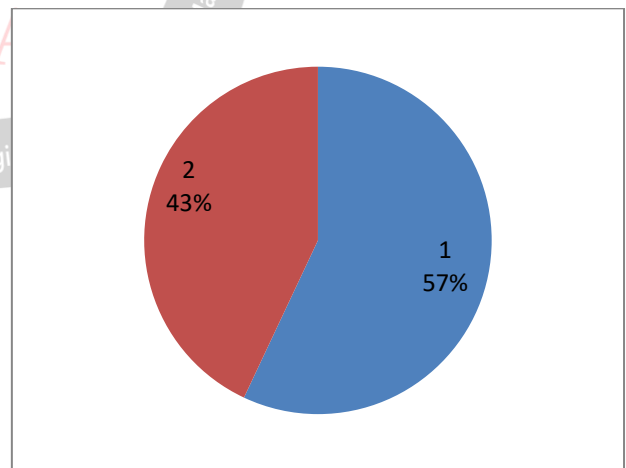
Chart 3: the problem of virtuality

98% of respondents are facing the bottlenecks of virtuality. Online classes are not free from the drawbacks of virtuality.

*lack of pedagological improvement:

It was the main problem which was faced at the initial stages to impart the lessons over the internet. The state Kerala following a very traditional text book based lesson plans. But it was very confusing one to implimentit over the internet and the burdon of highly volumed syllabus was also a main issue to the teachers and students , as there is no much times are available over the internet. The vast syllabus is the one of the unsolved problem in e-learning program. Universities and school authorities need to reconsider a revision of syllabus while executing their pedagogic style. Trying to teach students the vast extensive syllabus through online platforms will not yield the desired results.
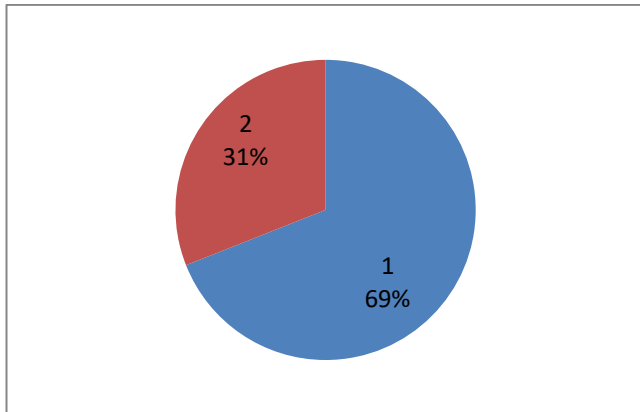
Chart 4: The need for pedagological improvements

57% of the rspondents are wishing to have a syllabus cut and pedagological improvements. It was the main issue to complete the entire syllebus with in the short span of time as this is restricted the time period of class hours of on lines.

*Time consuming:

The another challenging factor of online class is the time. The teachers need to take much more time and effort on lesson plans and its preparation over the electronic gadgets

and as the same the students are also worried about the time as they need to upload their academic works over internet in the form of audio recording, videos and so on...
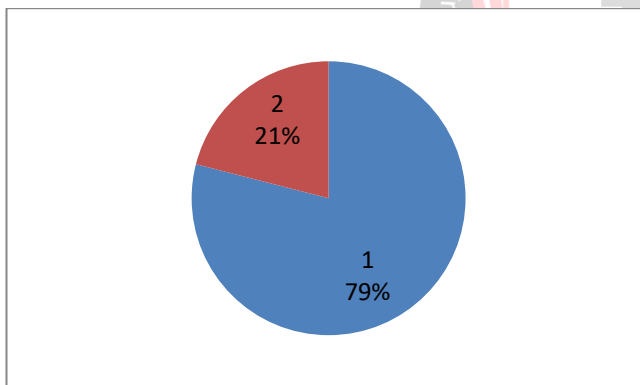
Chart no: 5 higher time consumption level

69% of the respondents are felt as it take much more time than the real class room facility. Students take much more struggles to grasp the ideas and also to pick up the notes as well. And also the teachers are facing struggles to complete tne works with in time.

*Lack of training and technical knowhow:

Lack of providing proper inductions and mentoring on the usage of technical aspects and the lack of technical proficiency among teachers aswell as students make more troubles on online class program which is luanched suddenly over the state.

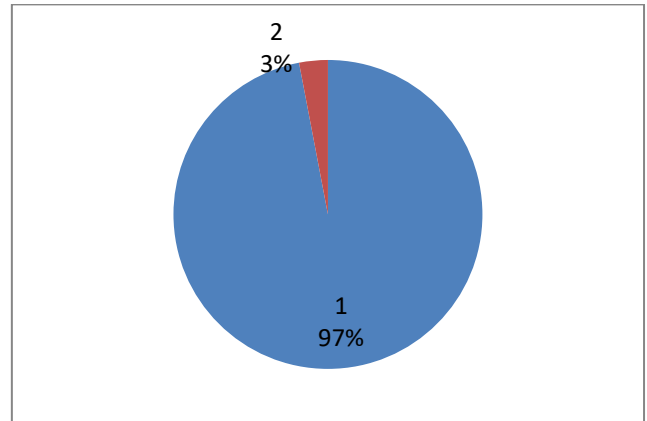**Chart: 7 Lack of training and tecknical kow how**

Only 21% of the teachers are agreed with the commend of lack of training and technical know how. Rest of them are satisfied with the technical training and support programs that they recieved for the virtual class.

* Couldn't apply in physical education and extra curricular activities:

Physical education is much more important in the modern education. From the kinter garden itself onwards students and tutors are paying much more time on the physical excersises and extra curricular activities like skating, swimming,badmintons,karatte etc.... But its quite impossible to train such physical activities over internet.

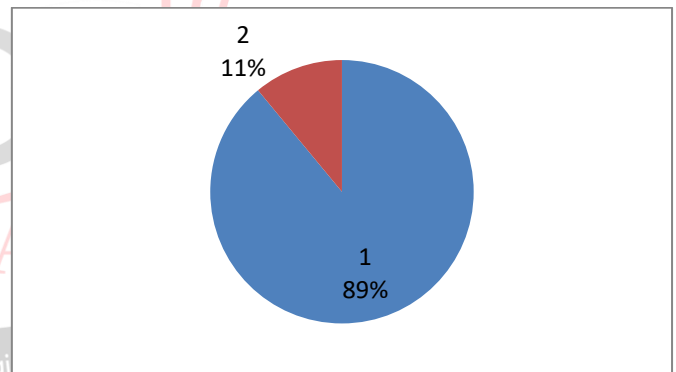**Chart :8 Difficulties on physical education**

97% of the population are agreed the fact that its some more difficult to practice the extra carricular activities and physical activities over internet. The practical implimentation of curricular activities became the most inevitable part of the online programme.

*Higher rate of drop outs:

The rate of droping out of the classes are at its peack level on screen based educatio. Which is more in primary level of students as they are ssitting at their own homes and attending the classes from the   most comfortable zone which is provoking the students to leave thier classes.

Chart 9: The rate of drope out

89% of the respondents agreed on the fact that most of the students are relectant to listen the online classes. This became the complete beyond the controll of teachers to ensure the presence of candidates on classes lively.

IV.   CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION FOR FURTHER STUDIES

In the wake of covid 19 pandemic the educational industries are likely to witness a full stuff electronic and advanced virtual class room experiences. But as it is the initial stages there are still existing some sort of challenges and risks.on the basis of this study i can recommend some basic facilities to be improved like;government have to ensure more connectivity facilities and also haveto distribute the gadgets for the needy students. Concerned institutions have to arrange more and more training and mentoring facilities to the educators and also to the students so it will help them to the easy usage of devices aswell as the applications. The

virtual classes has its own limitations , the availability of time for taking the class is lesser than the real classroom. It would be more better to reduces the syllabuses and the academic burdens. The recommendation for further studies have emerged during this research is to verify whether there is any differences is existing in male and female group in the easiness of thechnology usage and leve of training needed for these two groups,as there is a myth existing that men are more user friendly with technology. I also suggesting that its need to take a long journey to follow the virtual classes permenantly in our state as stiil lots of area dreaming the electric connectivity and mobile towers.

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