



**HOW CORONA CRISIS WILL CHANGE THE IMPARTING  
OF EDUCATION**

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### Abstract

As social distancing becomes the norm of the day owing to the Covid-19 crisis, the traditional classroom method is no longer relevant or feasible at least for now. The development of technology has provided multiple ways to facilitate or enhance the teaching learning process. The internet has blurred the boundaries between countries and made all the teachers and learners of the world interconnected. New software enables video lectures, conferences, meetings and group messaging. Ample learning material is available online. This changes the role of a teacher from a mere impartor of knowledge to a guide, a coach and even a co-learner. The various sites and apps help the learners in gaining all the required information, acquiring new skills and appearing for examinations. There is no way that the imparting of education will remain the same henceforth. Teachers and learners have to be more accommodative and flexible to adapt themselves to the new opportunities created by the era of Technology.

### Keywords

Applications, Covid 19 Crisis, Education, Internet, Learner, Software, Teacher, Technology  
How corona crisis will change the imparting of education

Perhaps it will be found that the greatest hero owes the propriety of his conduct to the habit of encountering difficulties, and calling out with promptness the energies of his mind. (Godwin, Source: Online)

The corona virus has put us into a situation that is beyond our control. Everyday brings forth a new challenge we had never thought about or not prepared for. It has compelled us to put behind our knowledge of man as a social animal and has forced us to remain confined within the four walls of our homes, disrupting all social contact and meetings. Social distancing is the norm of the day and trying to navigate beyond the boundaries of individuals or at the most families is a taboo and even a crime now. But one thing the pandemic cannot take away from us are the 'energies of mind' as mentioned by William Godwin.

The Covid 19 situation has brought about a paradigm shift in our lives. Passivity and conformity are no longer available to us and living in our comfort zones is a thing of the past.



The new situation has necessitated that we adopt a new world view, do things differently and think completely out of the box. This is true for each and every area of life. We need to shop differently, communicate differently and take care of ourselves differently. And this applies to the most important area and activity of our lives i.e. education.

The traditional classroom method is the favourite one of teachers and students all over the world. Being face to face with students and developing a rapport through eye contact and personal presence is the ideal situation that a teacher thinks of. And the classroom environment inspires the student to be more attentive and active. It involves him / her completely and provides motivation to immediately discuss the topic or ask questions whenever s/he deems fit. This is, no doubt, a desirable situation. We have been accommodating new methods and technologies in education but the above described style is the most used and preferred one.

This traditional method can no longer be now relevant or at least always relevant from now on. This is because social distancing is no longer just a choice, but an inevitable factor for our survival. It is the measure implemented to reduce the face to face communication amongst individuals or groups. The possibility of the transmission of corona virus decreases if people stop socialising with each other. Lockdown is a harsh step taken by the authorities to limit the public activity in society as a result of which social distancing is put into practice.

It is since World War II that our world has not seen schools and educational institutions go into lockdown at around the same time and for the same reason. In a world today where, social distancing is much required and knowledge is a mouse-click away, the role of the educator must radically transform too. Coronavirus crisis is time for educators to create opportunities. The pandemic is reshaping education. Technology alone can lead us to solutions that can solve the new education related problems that have popped up due to the present situation.

Technology has reached to the core, and will continue to play a key role in educating the present and future generations. Generation Z, is a generation that has grown up in a globalized world. This generation includes the oldest of whom are now 25 years old. This generation cannot move without technology, where FOBA (Fear of Being Alone) and FOMO (Fear of Missing Out) express their expectation of instant communication and feedback. They



are highly affected by and some even addicted to apps like Instant Messenger, Snapchat and WhatsApp. These apps can become instrumental in the current remote learning. Generation Alpha is the generation that is born entirely into the twenty first century and for whom social media is a way of life. According to a Dell Technologies report,

85% of the jobs in 2030 that Generation Z and Alpha will enter into have not been invented yet ... 65% of primary-school children today will be working in job types that do not exist yet. (Source: Online)

Our global outlook may undergo a complete transformation in this crisis. And it may also bring us to the realisation that we need to modify education thoroughly to prepare our young learners for their future career and employment. In spite of the physical isolation, technology has brought the entire world together and made everyone connected through internet. Collaborative skills are absolutely essential in today's youth to connect to people and countries far away and grab learning and job opportunities. In the current scenario, where work from home looks desirable and comfortable, we can connect to individuals or institutions worldwide for education and work.

The classroom where the teacher bestows knowledge and understanding is an outdated classroom. Everything is accessible on the net and the student needs an educator who does not just lecture, but facilitates knowledge by interweaving and suggesting the updates available on the websites. The educator has to be accommodative, flexible and open to innovative suggestions by even students who keep learning innovative ideas and skills through the internet and devices. Creativity, critical thinking and adaptability are the new virtues that are needed in the teacher.

With the large volume of data available online such as songs, books, blogs, videos, Wikipedia, etc, we can deduce for sure that the teacher cannot be a mere imparter of knowledge or information. A teacher with a book in is / her hand cannot be the teacher for the present times. The teacher is a guide, a coach with books, online sources, presentations, audio lectures, video clips and games that collaborates with students for the learning process.

In addition to creating resources, technology keeps the students engaged and interested with an array of images, audios and videos to support the understanding of text. Students also



interact with a wider audience with the help of internet and hence they remain active. They can learn at their own pace instead of trying to catch up with their entire class. Technology and devices are user friendly and today's generation is inherently tech savvy. Due to such reasons, it is very easy to incorporate new technological advances in the field of education.

Students not only have access to their own teachers, but also to the teachers and experts worldwide. A lot of institutions are displaying their lecture notes, PPTs and even full text books online to benefit students everywhere. New software are available to implement newer ways of teaching – learning process. Zoom is one cloud-based software. It enables video conferences, online meetings and messaging for a variety of sectors including education. Meetings can be created with the help of id and password. Other software such as Skype, Google Hangouts, ezTalks Cloud Meeting, Join.me, GoToMeeting, Adobe Connect, Ekiga, etc are also available for the same. Many online courses are conducted by various sites. One can gain or update knowledge about a particular subject or topic or acquire an absolutely new skill by pursuing short term or long-term courses available on these sites. Coursera, Lynda.com, Udemy, Udacity, Khan Academy, Codecademy, Bloc, iversity, Skillshare, General Assembly, Swayam, Moodle etc are some of the top online sites for this purpose. Thomas Frey remarks,

Every day, thousands of emerging technologies spring to life, thousands of researchers make new discoveries, and thousands of new trends start to reveal themselves. As we move down the path of advancing technology, our relationship with the future has never been clearer; making this both the most exciting and scariest time to be alive, in all human history. (Futurist Thomas Frey, Source: Online)

Technology can also aid students with special needs. It can help us create special resources and equipment for students with disabilities. Customisation is possible with the use of technology. Students' databases can be prepared and teachers can guide them accordingly. The progress of each student can be tracked. Different evaluation methods in accordance with the teaching methodology can be employed.



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With the exponential growth of knowledge, information and technology, we need to radically change the way we teach, the way we learn, the way we educate. This new era of social distancing due to Corona Crisis and unprecedented growth of technology will create a new virtual space for learning that will transcend the limits of time, space and individuals.

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