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Ref No : IJCRT/Vol 8 / Issue 5 /381

(16)

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Registration ID : IJCRT_194914
Paper ID : IJCRT2005381
Title of Paper : E-CLASS, AN ALTERNATIVE OF CLASSROOM TEACHING: A SOCIOLOGICAL STUDY ON THE EFFECTIVENESS OF ONLINE TEACHING-LEARNING, ITS PROSPECTS AND CHALLENGES IN HIGHER EDUCATION DURING LOCKDOWN PERIOD IN WEST BENGAL, INDIA
Impact Factor : 7.97 (Calculate by Google Scholar) | License by Creative Common 3.0
Publication Date: 26-May-2020
DOI :
Published in : Volume 8 | Issue 5 | May 2020
Page No : 2902-2910
Published URL : http://www.ijcrt.org/viewfull.php?&p_id=IJCRT2005381
Authors : Sujay Sain, Dipika Saha
Notification : UGC Approved Journal No: 49023 (18)

Thank you very much for publishing your article in IJCRT.

Editor In Chief
International Journal of Creative Research Thoughts - IJCRT
(ISSN: 2320-2882)

ISSN 2320-2882 IJCRT
International Journal of Creative Research Thoughts(IJCRT)

# E-CLASS, AN ALTERNATIVE OF CLASSROOM TEACHING

*A Sociological Study on The Effectiveness of Online Teaching-Learning, Its Prospects and Challenges in Higher Education During Lockdown Period in West Bengal, India*

[1]Sujay Sain, [2]Dipika Saha

[1]Assistant Professor in Sociology and Head, Department of Sociology,

[2]State Aided College Teacher and Guest Faculty member St. Xavier's College, Burdwan

[1] Department of Sociology, [2] Department of Sociology

[1] Chhatna Chandidas Mahavidyalaya, Chhatna, Bankura, West Bengal, India

[2] Dr. Gourmohan Roy College, Manteswar, Purba Bardhaman, West Bengal, India  and  St. Xavier's College , Burdwan, Purba Bardhaman, West Bengal, India

**Abstract:** *It is our misfortune that the whole world is in trouble due to attack of Corona virus. In these circumstances both teachers and students are facing some real problem of imparting and acquiring knowledge. E-learning is the only solution to cope up with the situation; however it is not very easy for both teachers and students to make them prepare for this new kind of e-class because the situation is not very conducive. Society is passing through a crisis situation and the entire institutional system is closed. Due to long term lockdown both teachers and students have no options other than e-class for completion of their course. But rural poor students of backward section of society who are 1st generation learner are in absolute crisis because either they have no Smartphone to participate in this modern format of teaching-learning or have no internet facility in their remote location.*

**Key words:** E-class, Online class, E-learning, Online teaching-learning, Social Media Learning.

## I. Introduction

People are bound to stay at home and bound to obey disciplinary practice creates a huge shock in the life. Because people never have experienced such life, everybody is facing some psychological and mental pressure due to restrictions in their normal life. People have to change their lifestyle and regular practices in this "risk society"(Ritzer, 1996) with full of uncertainty. People have to do most of the work in virtual world. Social relationship is also maintained through this virtual world. By staying at home people are always fighting within invisible enemy which has enormous power.  Total picture of the society has changed overnight. Because of its invisibility, risk is everywhere and people have lost their faith, confidence and trust on others.

In such an abnormal situation, starting e-class  for disseminating knowledge is very difficult for each and every institutions, for teachers and for students also who are accepting such knowledge because e-Learning is not at all a regular practice in most of the higher educational institutions in West Bengal and in India except some superior an excellent higher educational institutions. Therefore, by and large all the higher educational institutions are imparting knowledge through conventional process of classroom teaching and students are also very comfortable with this process of teaching-learning method. Both teachers and students of higher education are very helpless in this kind of abnormal situation. Restrictions have been imposed by both State and Central governments as a measure to control the speed of Corona virus in community. Students and teachers are not allowed to go outside the home and they are not able to use broadband and cyber cafes to get better internet facilities for educational purpose. In such a situation continuing e-class through 4G or 3G mobile internet service is a terrible job for both students and teachers because the speed is very low and in some rural areas it is absent. Due to poor network or absent of internet service in some rural remote areas students are unable to get the facility of e-learning provided by their institutions. Apart from that students from poor economic background and remote localities are facing more problem than urban areas and students of better economic background because a few students of poor economic background have no Smartphone and they could not able to attend any e-classes in this lock down period. Purchasing Smartphone for a group of students who stands in the lower economic strata of a society is a luxury. For them it is not an equipment of e-Learning rather it is a item of lavishness and identity of status for poor families who are unable to find adequate food grains for their family members. E-Learning is not new to India in the sphere of higher education, rather it is an ongoing process in different distance-learning system where institutions provide e-Learning material to their