

Post Covid19 Higher education In India: Need for a Paradigm Shift

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The whole world is suffering from this Covid19 pandemic. Each and every one is shocked and worried about future higher education in India and abroad. Our life is totally changed after this pandemic. History says that after every 100 years, there is repetition of epidemic in this world. In 1918, there was Spanish Flue, due to which lakhs of people died worldwide. Now we are also facing same situation. Since the outbreak of Covid19, lakhs of people got infected and died in this pandemic also. We all are worried about the future generation and prospects of higher education. What scenario will be there? What new changes will take place due to this Pandemic, declared by World Health Organization (WHO). The world is battling COVID-19 and economies across the globe have declared a lockdown.

We all are now locked in at home. We are worried about future. Will there be paradigm shift in higher education. One virus has brought us together to think about future. The concept of higher education will definitely change; there will be definitely a paradigm shift. The traditional method of teaching will definitely change. The demand for online courses will increase. It is said, "Necessity is the mother of invention." It is truly applicable to present situation. We are after invention of new methods for teaching in higher education. The relationship between teachers and students will change. The virtual classes will increase in future. The teachers should be innovative. Otherwise survival will be difficult.

The teachers should have commitment, confidence and competence. We should have multidimensional approach. There will be development of knowledge society. We have R.U.S.A., New Education Policy. There are many issues, skill development through education, imparting knowledge to students. We have to deal with it.

Then how to deal with it? What strategies we should adopt to tackle with these issues. Talent and excellence are very essential parts of our teaching fraternity. There are so many challenges in front of us. NAAC is always giving importance to quality enhancement in higher education. Education sector should be corporatized as the need of the time, I think. Demand from market will also change. Teachers have to become multiple task performers. He should not limit himself only to chalk and talk role. He should do multiple tasks at a time.

What to be done? – What are remedies for this Pandemic situation? E-learning is not same as traditional learning. It does not mean, to replace teachers. E-pathshala, swayam, digi or remote learning options are there in future for students. There will be use of artificial intelligence in teaching in future. We should focus on capacity building. Many times we ask a question, why you should do research? What is the purpose? We should focus on quality in research. Quality and competence should go hand in hand. We should try to focus on competency. There should be competency based education.

Globalisation of higher education is inevitable. We should accept this fact. We have to adopt and create our own concepts like Make in India, Swadeshi and ‘Aatmanirbhar’. We should create our own brand in higher education. Higher education should be de-indinized. Higher education must change according to the changing paradigm shift. IIT/IIM institutes also demand for subjects from social sciences.

The role of teachers will definitely change in the paradigm shift. They must improve their profile. Today’s world is the age of blended learning. We should create our own brand. We have to accept the changes in higher education. If you do not change, it is difficult to survive in this global era. We have to sensitize our students and empower them to be in the present scenario. An education institute should become a ‘learning center’.

Distance learning will be in demand in future. Teachers should focus eligibility qualities of teaching. One to one teaching is also important. Some people think that online teaching is a temporary adjustment. But Covid 19 like situation may be there in future, we do not know. Or we have to make it a habit to live with CORONA for next few months.

The teachers can make use of MOODLE, google classroom in teaching. They can create e-content for students. Many changes will take place in future. We all should be ready to accept these changes. So, at the outset we can say that paradigm shift in higher education is inevitable and we all must be ready to accept this.

References:

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