

Here's how online teaching can reshape education in rural India

Online education plays a crucial role in the current setting, where every student (especially in rural areas) doesn't have equal access to educational infrastructure. It levels the playing field¹ for all students by providing them an equal and accessible platform to receive education.

India is home to 30 million children in the age group of 0-18 years with a considerable number of students residing in rural settings. The status of education in the rustic villages of India is deplorable, evidently.

There are several challenges faced by children and students alike, including archaic teaching methods, shortage of teachers, poor teacher-to-students ratio and outdated teaching material.

Although with the surge in digitisation of education during recent times, it has become plausible to mitigate the above-mentioned challenges. Providing multimedia teaching tools to teachers and students and utilizing smart-classroom equipment like virtual classrooms, digital boards², digital teaching systems, digital content, digital language labs, etc can help teachers boost education scenarios in rural settings.

At the same time, digitisation of education can make it feasible for one teacher to deliver information remotely across various locations via virtual classrooms.

Although the teachers and students in rural India have become accepting to the implementation of technology to deliver quality education, the basic ground realities pose as a barrier in the way of complete digitization of education [...]

With the current scenario of Covid-19, it has become the need of the hour to resort to modern means of learning since most of



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the educational institutes have been shut since the end of March.

There's a looming uncertainty about when the schools, universities and colleges can resume³ functioning at a normal capacity. At such time, focus has been shifted to virtual education and online learning that provide limitless opportunities to students to receive education remotely.

With the synergy of the public and private sector in education, rural areas have been equipped with multimedia teaching tools, digital classrooms and have facilities to learn through e-lectures. This partnership is also helping mitigate the problem of the shortage of teachers in schools.

Kiran DHAM, CEO, Globus Infocom,
India Today, June 2020

1. make more equal 2. tableau blanc interactif 3. start again