

Teacher's perspective

The Shift To Screens

The impact of online education on the students.

The spring of 2020 forced the people of the world to confront the serious implications of Covid 19. The aftermath of this realisation was the nationwide lockdown which led to the shutting down of schools and the conversion to online education.

The benefit of this is that students can study wherever they want; there is no need to travel to a campus. Students can reap the benefit of viewing their lessons several times. Although a lecture is only delivered once, online resources are accessible at all times. Students benefit financially from the reduction in high fees and travel costs. Many have honed their creative skills, seeking to find work and careers that they are passionate about. The increase in the rise of small businesses and blogs run by teenagers is remarkable. They have chosen to represent their innovative streak, helping others in their growth along with them.

Despite these advantages, there are some significant disadvantages to using online education. The perks are offset by the increased demand for a personal computer, home Internet access, and paper and print cartridges. The continued use of online teaching may result in dehumanisation, meaning that the repetitive nature of connecting to the Internet to do work may lead to people being perceived as automatons rather than people. Sitting for hours staring at screens creates many eyesight problems, headaches and not to mention strained backs and necks trying to find a comfortable position. This often leads to demotivation and lack of concentration. The increase in online teaching deprives the users of face-to-face contact which can be seen leading to a lack of in-group experiences and social touch. Teachers cannot rely on classroom theatrics to convey ideas to students. Sometimes, the curriculum required cannot be found or used online and computer crashes prevent students from accessing classes.

Quoting Charles Darwin, these were truly the best of times and the worst of times. The lockdown, despite its many drawbacks, helped students in realising their best selves and the online school has provided self-direction in students. We can say with conviction that this period strengthened students to cope with rapid change and taught them many life lessons.

Ms. Kavita Tank | Teacher, Bishop Cotton Girls School, Bangalore.



Riddles to solve

- ✓ What has hands and a face, but can't hold anything or smile?
- ✓ It belongs to you, but your friends use it more. What is it?
- ✓ Kate's mother has three children: Snap, Crackle and ___?



Riddles answers on Page 21