

Engaging Learners during Online Teaching

Ruchie Sah¹, Mridu Sah²

¹Assistant Professor, Shri Ram Murti Smarak College of Engineering Technology & Research, Bareilly

²Student, SRM Institute of Science & Technology, Kattankulathur, Chennai

Abstract

All the great things may not start from your comfort zone. Also, it is undeniable and something very usual that one needs to step out from the comfort zone to achieve something big. But Nature has its own plans. The way it taught everyone recently during the pandemic, to step out of the comfort zones. It has also given a chance to achieve whatever plans people had from their very own comfortable dwellings i.e., their very own homes. WORK FROM HOME is something that is on everyone's mouth in the present times when the world is hit hard by a pandemic known as COVID 19 that can be expanded as Corona Virus in December 19. The pandemic brought down every aspect of human productivity and made it confined to their own homes. We have seen the world-famous names such as Walt Disney, Bill Gates and many more who started their journey from their own very homes and now we are stuck in a scenario where we have no other option but to eat at home, work at home, work from home. the kids had no more parks but they need to study at home and play at home. Working from home is not only by choice but also a necessity or the need of the hour. Equally important is to keep the students involved and engaged in the online classes. The paper discusses various measures for the same. This paper is a case study of how teachers gradually shifted to online teaching and the challenges they had to face while engaging learners while working from Home.

Keywords: Covid-19, Work from home, Teaching, online classes, video lectures.

Management Insight (2020). DOI: 10.21844/mijia.16.1.10

Introduction

Work from Home is something that is on everyone's tongue in the present times when the world is hit hard by a pandemic known as COVID 19 that can be expanded as Corona Virus in December 19. People are getting ample of time for the things they have always wanted to do but time became a major issue. The teachers of many institutes have now got the time to be double productive with the same input. Could we ever imagine teaching our kids online by creating our video lectures which we send them to study and the same video lectures are being used to be posted online on our own blogs and YouTube channels. On the smarter side if you're smart enough to upload them on YouTube first and then sending the link to your students. It's like BOOM to have 100 views in a day. Even the students are much curious to like and subscribe these videos. So, one can easily

Corresponding Author: Ruchie Sah¹, Shri Ram Murti Smarak College of Engineering Technology & Research, Bareilly, E-mail: ruchieagar007@gmail.com

How to cite this article: Sah, R., Sah, M., (2020), Engaging Learners during Online Teaching. Management Insight, 16(2) 70-73

Source of support: Nil

Conflict of interest: None

Received: 05.04.2021; **Accepted:** 11.06.2021; **Published:** 14.07.2021

achieve a great number of followers on their blogs if using the time wisely.

Catalytic development of the online teaching need and solutions

Since lockdown started from last week of March 2020, teachers initially started online classes by creating WhatsApp group and did practice teaching in which rudimentary concepts were taught. After a week or so new syllabus started to be taught and most of the teachers were themselves able to use - Voice chat for interaction, Text chat for

Instructional exchange, Google form and Survey monkey-based home work and assignments. In a few days all other teachers picked up the methods and started teaching without any difficulty. During summer vacation tenure various Online Conferences were organized by the school for the teachers and also organized by CBSE and Publishers to ensure that teachers use standard methods of online teaching. During this vacation time, teachers prepared their online content and equipped themselves with white boards, pen tablets, Mobile Camera etc in the best possible manner. Further online classes again resumed in its full swing from May 18, 2020 in which teachers are now acting as proficient online tutors and there is no technical challenge Infront of them.

Entrepreneurial Attitude of Teachers and Use of Bring Your Own Device System – Boyd Culture

Teachers have shown entrepreneurship attitude towards their profession and have equipped themselves with all I.T related system at their home and have been learning about more tools by seeing demonstrations from each other. The school academic persons are conveyed that they will be provided with all facilities like pen tablets or broadband if required and since teachers are following BYOD Concept (bring your own device) so such requirement has not arisen so far.

Catering To the Immediate Need of The Students and Keeping Them Engaged

Senior and board class students and their parents have expressed positive feedback about effective and efficient online teaching going on. Since students of these classes are handled by a strong team of PGTs who are comfortable in adopting IT skills easily.

Teachers training to equip them with i.t tools, apps and pedagogical techniques to increase their gold fish like short attention span

In school online conferences with shared white board interfaces, CBSE training specifically for online teaching and additional trainings from publishers are experienced by the teachers and its effect is visible in the quality and quantity of content delivered by the teachers through messaging and emailing platforms.

Several attempts and brain storming to run school physically by following social distancing kept on happening but no permission was granted by the authorities

Several meetings at various phases of the lock down have happened and infrastructural support for sanitation and social distancing is planned. Staggered attendance is common idea which has come up in all meeting held during schools HMC meeting as well as meeting held at school and interschool interactions among school heads. However, statutory instructions were awaited from the concerned authority and suggestions from South Point are also expected.

About course pooling, remedial and ensuring effectiveness of the efficient teaching

Properly trained teachers ensured that learning outcome is achieved the students develop gradually to adopt to more self-studies, flip activities, take part in various quizzes, exchange of emails for assessments

Takeaways From the Various Trainings Which Helped Teachers to Effectively Engage Students in Teaching Learning Activities Were as Follows:

In the first training many new software were introduced to engage learners and to make interaction with students more effective. The

software can be learnt by using them and seeing their user manual videos.

In the beginning teachers only got aware about the name and uses of Software but were still ignorant about the operation. Few of the information hence gained are as follows-

1. University of Alberta has LEARN ALBERTA portal for Open Education Resource.
2. Leverage on training students to self-evaluate, teacher's role will be to facilitate Self Evaluation by making self-assessment tools.
3. Making students able to develop Metacognition (ability to understand through own thought process).
4. Ellen Watson is the trainer from University of Alberta; Maria Mathai is the moderator of the meet (from CBSE - India)
5. The link of the PowerPoint Presentations of this trainer is provided for accessing at our own pace <https://bit.ly/ewatson-cbse>
6. Self-assessment strategies:
 - (A) Reflect on their learning.
 - (B) Quizzes (Google form/quiz, proprofs, quizlet.com)
 - (C) Socrative Software and other polling software. (It's free for pre-listed schools only, else are paid service)
 - (D) Mentimeter is INTERACTIVE PRESENTATION MAKING SOFTWARE, can be repurposed as another polling software like Socrative Software. It helps to collect responses while teaching.
 - (E) Padlet = Helps to collect Exit Tickets.
 - (F) What is the MUDDIEST point? (Most clear part of any taught topic, required to be re-clarified.)
 - (G) Flipgrid students can send password-protected videos as presentation asked from the students
 - (H) Voki: Short Video reflection or Audio reflection by the students who don't want to show up their face publicly.
 - (I) For writing skills testing - GOOGLE DOCS and GOOGLE FORMS are the best so far.
 - (J) K - W - L CHART = KNOW, WANT TO KNOW, AND LEARNT CHART. to design content for teaching. It is good method to "TRAIN THE MIND" of the students to do self-learning & self-evaluation.
 - (K) Anticipation guide. (True or false) conceptual questions to know what the students know and need to be taught.
 - (L) Calibration Check: how do you think you are doing? how well are you understanding? thumbs up / thumbs down/ no response.
 - (M) What students think is not being done, due to which they aren't learning well? response to be collected by the teacher, assessment to be done by the students themselves considering their own strength and weakness.
 - (O) Online learning readiness quiz. (a search word) to find the online learning readiness quiz to motivate students to attend online quizzes by making their

meta-cognition aware of "Reason and Purpose About Why They Should Attend Online Classes".

- (P) Peer Review Rubric Sheet can be made other students can review peer mates' work and give feedback and interact. This will engage.
- (Q) Proctoring System: to monitor students to see, who is writing the examination? It is expensive but can be managed.
- (R) Moodle can be used for making learning management system in the school, but teachers' original content should be there.
- (S) In addition to all technology - intuitive approach of teachers can do the magic above all.
- (T) The available templates set a procedure; it is good but flexibility is also important.
- (U) Justified blend of both Synchronous and Asynchronous mode of teaching as well as assessment should be there.

Revisiting the role of a teacher as a career guide and counsellor

In the second training it was a just that subject teachers were expected to talk a little about the career options related to each topic which they teach and make students clear about career, job , vocation, aptitude, interest and alternative options in a particular stream, for which teachers should read columns in the magazines and newspapers where career related information are shared, and the same should be shared with the students relating the same with the text book topics.

Conclusion:

The lockdown has been again imposed during the second wave. Though teachers are now much equipped and confident, they are still missing their usual classroom. A number of training programmes are being arranged to train teachers to enhance the engagement of students during online classes, the emotional connect that is build in the offline classes is unparallel. Experts have predicted onset of third wave of COVID within six to eight weeks. Meanwhile teachers are doing their best to do justice with their profession

References

- <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s40670-020-01116-7>
- <https://www.google.com/amp/s/elearningindustry.com/9-tried-tested-tips-engage-remote-learners/amp>
- <https://www.literacyworldwide.org/blog/literacy-now/2021/01/29/keeping-your-students-engaged-in-the-virtual-classroom>
- <https://m.economictimes.com/magazines/panache/work-from-home-has-been-successful-during-covid-19-lockdown-what-next/articleshow/75470580.cms>
- <https://www.alberta.ca/online-learning.aspx>
- <https://thetrainingpool.net/virtual-classroom-v-online-training/>
- <https://truscribe.com/attention-span/>
- <https://cft.vanderbilt.edu/guides-sub-pages/metacognition/>
- https://saylordotorg.github.io/text_leading-with-cultural-intelligence/s06-02-what-is-metacognition.html
- <https://thelearningcoach.com/learning/metacognition-and-learning/>
- <https://www.museum-ed.org/pedagogical-techniques-for-being-a-more-effective-teacher/>