Online Education during Covid-19 Pandemic

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The novel coronavirus "SARS-CoV-2" has spread like a wild fire across the globe and has caused unprecedented loss of human lives and suffering to millions since its inception back in 2019. Ever since this happened, we are struggling to cope up with the "new-normal" ways of life in almost every aspect of our daily activities. Nothing was proved to be more efficacious to combat this tiny foe than to prevent its spreading. Every nation thus has tried to implement measures to confine theinfection. Physical distancing is one of the key methods that helps to keep the pandemic at bay. In lieu of that, places that provides mass congregation like academic institutions were shut in many countries around the world including Bangladesh.Bangladesh shut all its educational institutions from March 17. The standard framework of education, as we know it, changes its landscape overnight. The electronic system of learning has replaced the on-campus method in majority of the cases[1].

Aside from the economy, the sector which is harmed worst by the outbreak of Covid-19 is the education sector. Educational institutions initiated online classes from April till now. There are economic reasons as well as humanitarian reasons for ensuring the continuity of education through technology. A break in education for a lengthy period or the long part of an academic year is a receivable loss for late-stage economies in a slow-growth phase. To ensure an interrupted education system among the studentsthe teachers in continuingonline classes[1]. Online education is a sort of education where students use their homecomputers or laptops or smartphones through the internet, staying away from their academic institutions.

In this circumstance, distance learning has achieved so much priority in the education system; media like Zoom, Google Meet, Google Classroom etc. video communication systems has gained massive popularity during theselockdown days[1].

Digital education system can bring many benefits for teachers and learners to aid in teaching and learning. Students are more interested in self learning and they agree that online courses are more suitable to them. They also do not need additional preparation to join themselves online and thus in any situation, they can be ready to join the class regardless of their time and location. The online class has also created a strong bond between students and teachers[1].

The upsurge of this online education has helped to maintain the learning curve but not without its downsides. Students and teachers face several challenges on the online classrooms. Firstly, connecting with online classrooms is their first experience, so it has been observed that they have difficulty adapting appropriately to this trend. Secondly, internet facilities are still scarce in rural areas and still now it is very expensive. Thirdly, some technical problems related to computer and smartphone management such as low literacy, required to download some apps like Zoom, Google Meet, Google Classroom, FoxFi, Audiobook, etc. Fourthly, time management is an important topic; for example, Zoom can connect people online for 40 minutes but due to some technical hurdles students take time to respond in time. Fifthly, it is difficult for teachers to manage everyone's notes and employ them in their materials[1].

The uncertainty of the duration of the pandemic makes it hard to go back to classrooms any sooner. Vaccination can enhance the restoration

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of physical classes but that too will take some time[3]. Till then, online learning method is a tangible way out to solve the educational crisis[4].

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