

## SHIFT FROM SMART CLASS ROOM TO ONLINE EDUCATION IN GEOGRAPHY

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### ABSTRACT

*ICT has become popular support system in teaching and learning tool in the last two decades. In the last decade smart class rooms were set up in schools and colleges to take support of ICT for education. Now suddenly in the month of March 2020, with the entry of COVID 19 in India and then subsequently with notifications of lock down, curfew etc. a sudden development has taken place all over India from School Level Education to University Level Education in various streams of Education. However it is very early to reach to conclusion to benefits of the shift from ICT to online education. Traditional methods of teaching and learning cannot be replaced completely, neither by ICT nor online education. None the less ICT has given strength to teaching and learning and online has become a substitute for temporary situation. Haryana Government has given links on Higher Education Department website for the help of the teachers and the students to use the curriculum related material for teaching and learning and Siksha Setu app for the help of both teacher and students. Present paper is an attempt to know about shift from ICT to online education in the Education of Geography subject among students and teachers while staying at home. Sample of 50 students has been taken. It has been found that the students under study are using online published maps, diagrams, books, vedios related to Geography subject for their course work related material from internet as a supplementary material but they are not creating learning material on powerpoint or microsoft word. Students coming from rural area or low economic backgrounds have less access to internet facility at their home. For basic curriculum learning students are using and relying on basic text books in lock down period.*

**Keywords:** Education, ICT, Online Education and Geography, Siksha Setu App.

### Introduction

**Education** - Education is the process of teaching, learning, training skills to human beings to prepare them for successful individual and social life. There have been different types of traditional and modern ways of teaching in India and in other countries of the world but the objective is to prepare better citizens or human beings.

**ICT (Information and Communication Technology)**- ICT stands for Information and Communication Technology. It is an umbrella term that includes all the technologies for communication of information.

It is a kind of technology that uses hardware and software and internet facilities to prepare teaching and learning material, storing it, exchanging, modifying, and retrieving. It processes the data in desired format and produce information in desired way.

It can be used in the classroom for teaching from one student to a group of large number of students in the formal teaching sector from pre-nursery, nursery, middle, secondary, Senior Secondary, college to university level in any language. It can be used teaching for Literacy level also. Recently, medical practitioners, Architects, general education teachers' legal practitioners and teacher's management are using this technology to understand the subject matter effectively and teaching students effectively in a large group. It is time saving paper saving. Teachers are using it for their work management such as attendance, preparing results etc. through apps.

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- **On Line Education:** Online education is medium of conveying instructions and knowledge with the help of internet from teachers to students and then taking feedback and solving their queries online.
- **Geography:** Broadly, it is a study of What, Where, Why, When and How.

### Introduction

ICT has become popular support system in teaching and learning tool in the last two decades. A decade ago, Education through satellite and in smart class room started with the help of digital tools. Now suddenly, with the entry of COVID 19 in India and then subsequently with notifications of lock down, curfew etc. a sudden development in the education sector ;i.e., education through internet/ online education has taken come up all over India from School level Education to University level Education in all the streams of Education.

The recent rapid growth of Technology calls for a change in system of teaching and learning delivery. Though technology is not a replacement for existing conventional method, yet availability can fortify the education process. Keengwe and Georgina 2012. Parallel to the advancement of information and communication, the approach and methods of teaching languages have also been further developed El- Ghalayini and El khalili 2012

Earlier researches reveal the advantages of use of ICT for teaching and learning of Geography subject. Geographical Information Systems (GIS) makes many geographical concepts easy to understand and present large amounts of unsorted, non-sequentially related data in sorted and readily accessible formats, so that students concentrate on interpretation and analysis of data. ICT enables higher level thinking skills, especially for pupils using GIS (West, 1999) Using GIS software enhances spatial awareness and decision-making skills (Audet and Paris, 1997; Taylor, 2003; West, 1999) Using simulations and modelling tools can lead to enhanced understanding of geographical topics such as erosion and agriculture (Cox and Abbott, 2003) Using digital photography in a classroom mapping activity helps develop recall, reflection and self-assessment skills (Storey, 2002) Interactive ICT such as email enables the exploration of a sense of place, through communicating with people as well as through pictorial features (Storey, 2002)

Studies support benefit of ICT for teachers also. Using GIS can significantly enhance geography teaching and learning environments (Audet and Paris, 1997) Digital photography allows teachers to record pupils' work undertaken on field trips and other learning outcomes not readily recorded in traditional ways (Storey, 2002). ICT increases capability of teachers to engage and motivate the students about geographical concepts in a better way (Halocha, 2002; Taylor, 2003)

With the help of GIS software, production and manipulation of maps has become easier. Large number of maps with wide range of scales can be prepared in less time, saving time for other learning and give better quality results. The internet facility improves access and availability to reliable geographical data and its sources (Taylor, 2003). GIS software can enable teachers to focus more closely on teaching geographical skills, in addition to developing a sense of location and place (Keiper, 1999) In a case study in Albania positive role of ICT was found in Albania. Difference in teaching and learning was told by teachers in Rural and Urban areas where difference in use of ICT was seen in rural and urban areas. (Zenelaj, Engiellushe 2013) Self taste learning.

### Need of the Study

Recently, in a decade or so this technology has become very popular among the students and teachers for saving time. With the onset of lock down circumstances and notification to stay at home and at the same time save education, government is promoting online education. Now it is time to measure the proportion of teachers and students using this technology.

### Study Area

Dronacharya Government College, Gurgaon is one of the oldest colleges located nearby in the centre of Gurgaon District. Gurgaon district is one of Urban district in Haryana state. According to 2011 census, total area of Gurgaon is 333 km<sup>2</sup> including 201.39 km<sup>2</sup> urban area and 131.83 km<sup>2</sup> rural area. Gurgaon has a population of 9,77,337 peoples. Area-wise it is biggest urban district in the state. Population density of the district is 3704 persons per km<sup>2</sup>. There are 5 sub districts in the district. Amongst them Gurgaon Urban is the most populous sub district with urban population of about 9.1 lakh and Farukh nagar Urban has lowest population amongst sub districts with urban population of nearly 14 thousand.

This district has six cities that comes under the district administration; i.e., Gurgaon (M Corp. + OG) Municipal Corporation and Out Growth; Gurgaon (M Corp.) Municipal Corporation; Sohna (MC), Hailey Mandi (MC), Pataudi (MC) and Farrukhnagar (MC) Municipal Committees.

**Objectives of Study**

- To understand the role of ICT and online education in Geography subject in teaching and learning for students.
- To understand the advantages and disadvantages of ICT and online education in teaching and learning of Geography subject for teachers and students.

**Methodology**

50 regular undergraduate pass course Geography students of Dronacharya Government College were selected under study before lockdown. Out of them nearly, 50 percent were from rural background. Out of them 20 were observed in 2018-19 session and now questioned with the help of Questionnaire and 30 were observed in 2019-20 session before lock down and during lockdown period. They were questioned in a group after explaining meaning of ICT. Thereafter, the data was compiled in the form of table for analysis. In the second stage study has been extended to whole Haryana, data of 65 students was collected through online Questionnaire in the first week of June, 2020 from college students.

**Questionnaire for Student still begging of the (1st week April,2020) Lockdown**

- Do you use ICT and Online education?
- Do you find it useful for Geography study course?
- Do you find it has some disadvantages?
- Do you create learning material on Microsoft excel, Word and PowerPoint for examination or otherwise?

**Results and Discussion**

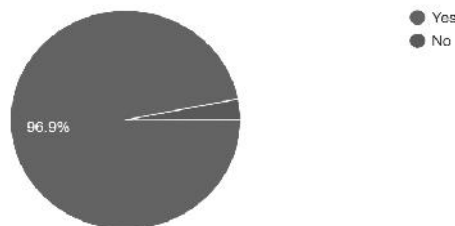
Question	Reply
Do you use ICT and online education?	All the 50 students were using ICT and online education.
Do you find it useful for Geography course work?	All the 50 found it useful for understanding Geography Course work. But 50% of them are using it like online learning side by side at home like classroom learning from videos. According to them it was useful as they could start and stop the video whenever they had time. They could repeat that if they could not understand in single run. They can share their material, locations and conversations. 90 percent use for atlas purpose where ever they need. 10 percent use GPS services for finding direction. Students coming from rural area and low economic background a have less access to internet facility at their home.
Do you say it is costly affair?	70 percent said it is costly.
Do you create learning material on Microsoft excel, Word and PowerPoint for examination or otherwise?	None was not creating learning material for themselves. They were using published material from internet as supplementary material. All were using text book as base material for course work and examination.

Source: Questionnaire based January-2020to 1st. week April-2020

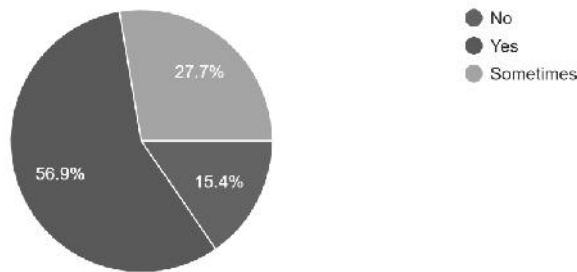
**Online Questionnaire based reply of 65 Geography Students during Lockdown 1st week of June, 2020**

**Questions with Reply**

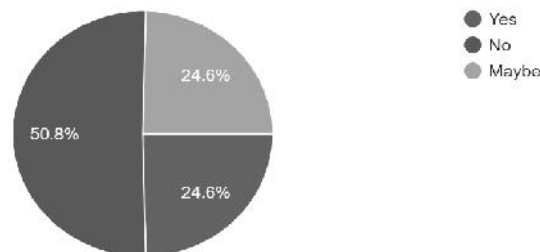
1. Are you a Geography Student?  
65 responses



2. Do you use ICT and Online education?  
65 responses



3. Do you find it has some disadvantages?  
65 responses



**1. What are disadvantages? Write.**

50.8 percent did find no disadvantages.

24.6 percent feels poor and unstable connection problem, network, bugs, glitches, Cheating/unfairness with them regarding attendance. Internet can lead children to accessing unsuitable sites,

Consuming lot of internet and mental peace due to heavy usage of data, less student-teacher interaction, health problems & audios are not clear to required degree, brings laziness, sometimes it affects your eyes and starts pain & irritation, fear of hacking of data and information in the phone, time related problems, boring, and hence find real class as always better than virtual class. They don't have any mode of taking class as they do not have any phone and laptop. Physical presence of the teacher is better and more effect than online learning.

Most of the teachers are not competent in providing online education. Even teachers of computer science and information technology are not competent, Lack of understanding.

more convenient, it also brought along privacy and security issues. From email hacking anticipation. Can't understand the concept properly online.

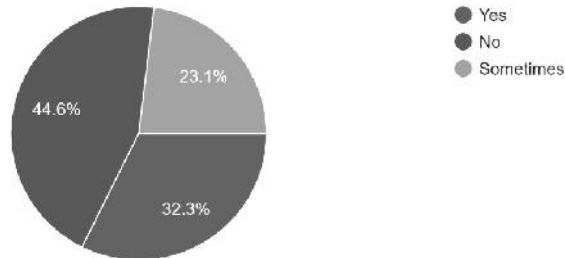
Practical work cannot be not done in online classes. Phone recharge problem

Sometime material is not available. Field work gets discouraged.

24.6 percent were not clear about disadvantages

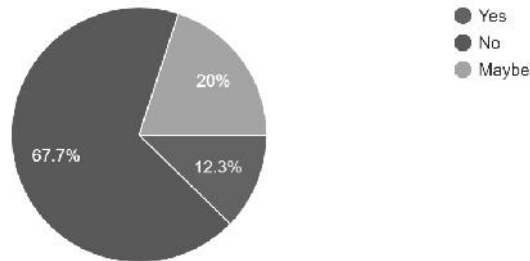
5. Do you create learning material as notes on Microsoft excel, Word and PowerPoint for examination time or otherwise?

65 responses



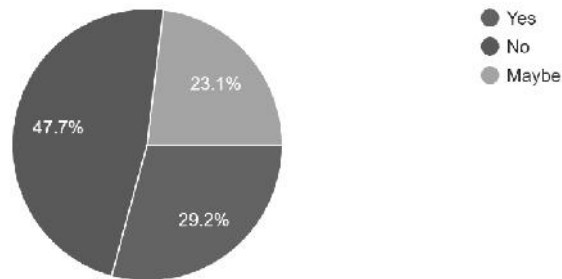
6. Do you find it costly?

65 responses



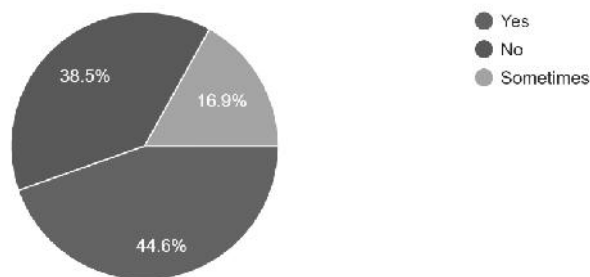
7. Do you find it is not good for your health?

65 responses



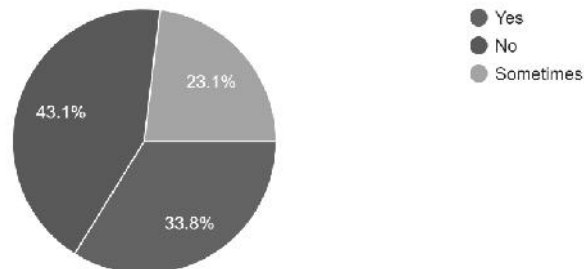
8. Do you feel online education with text book learning is better option than text book learning alone?

65 responses



9. Do you find Videos are better than Text Book learning?

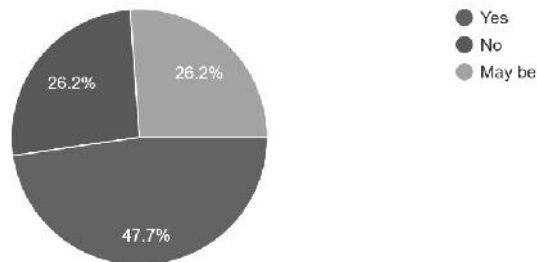
65 responses



Students have added PDF is helpful with Video. It is a way of learning without PDF it is not complete.

10. Do you find online learning can makes you more responsible citizens?

65 responses



### Summary and Conclusion

ICT can make geography more authentic and relevant. It gives to students more opportunity and exposure to supplement the material worldwide available anytime anywhere. Students from rural background and low economic background have lesser access to internet facility then urban. Though it will certainly improve quality education of Geography yet it is a costly affair. It is very early to reach to conclusion if online teaching is really beneficial or not.

**Limitation** Small Size sample is limitation of this study.

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