

The Dark Side of an Online Learning Ecosystem During The COVID-19 Pandemic

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Abstract

The ongoing COVID- 19 pandemic has had a pervasive influence across the globe. To fight against the virus, a complete lockdown was imposed all over the world. Such move had impacted the education sector. Globally, most educational institutions have transformed into e-learning eco-systems, shifting away from the well-known traditional forms. This paper has two-folded aims, under the contextual setting of the pandemic. Firstly, it aims to find out the challenges faced by the students and instructors in an online learning eco-system. Secondly, will such a transformed eco-system sustain in the future? We delved into these questions through a qualitative inquiry. Semi-structured interviews were conducted among the instructors and students, in India and Maldives. We found out that both instructors and students faced plethora of challenges due to online learning such as lack of enthusiasm, less engagement, forcefully getting transformed to online learning etc. Based on these challenges through coding and thematic analysis we identified one central theme which is Failure of Online Learning Ecosystem due to the outbreak of Covid 19.

Keywords: Online Learning, COVID-19 Pandemic, Sustainable Learning Environment, Student engagement, Sudden Transition