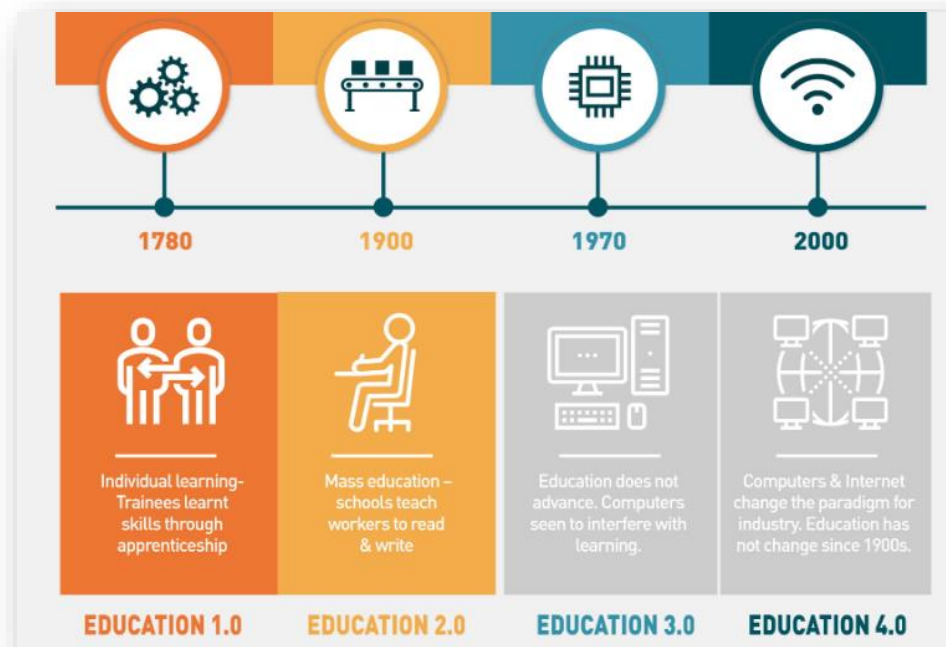


EDUCATION VERSION 4.0

The outbreak of Covid-19 has raged a battle on mobility leading to a global lockdown. With virtual living becoming the need of the hour, every sector of the economic and social category is attempting to recreate itself in the virtual world.

The most crucial sector that shapes up the future generations is seeing an evolution and we are seeing a **new face of Education – Education 4.0**



Education 4.0 is the byproduct of the internet age. Broadly speaking, Education 4.0 is a school of thought that encourages non-traditional teaching mediums like the internet through modes like massive online open courses or video chat to learn and educate themselves.

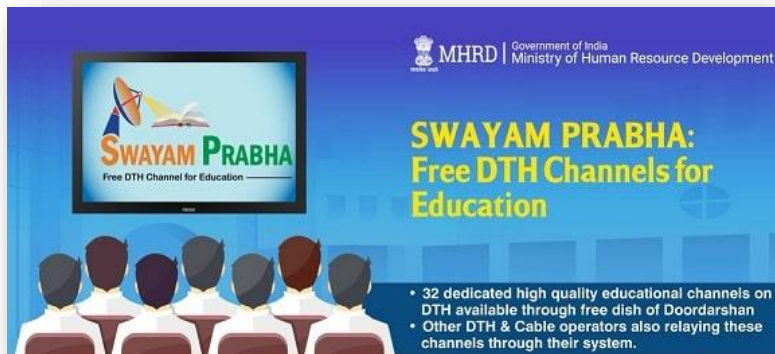
Although Education 4.0 was present before the pandemic hit the globe, however the *compulsive adaptation* of this arrangement within Indian Education system from urban to semi-rural areas hints that this may become the new norm of education

Thinking Hats spoke to parents of children and professionals engaged in 4.0 classes across various schools to get more insight of how India feels about this new system?

Despite the country being one of the major players in the world of E-Learning, there is still a large gap in computer literacy within the population. One of the many reasons for this is the lack of internet or poor internet connectivity and lack of appropriate bandwidth speed to enable the use of software or devices in certain regions such as the rural or semi-urban.

One solution to this obstacle by Maharashtra state education department is to use electronic media like television and radio to reach out to them.

THE ROLE OF GOVERNMENT



The department has booked *two slots each for two hours per day on Doordarshan as well as on MHRD's Swayam Prabha channel* to telecast lectures for students. At the same time, audio lectures are to be broadcasted through radio. This initiative not only provides access to education to students with no or poor internet and in remote areas but also to visually-impaired students

ALTHOUGH THIS APPROACH HAS CERTAIN ADVANTAGES SUCH AS -

- **NO THE HEAVY BRICK-FILLED BAGS:** weighty bags which puts a load on their spine, hampering their posture leading to slump and fatigue.
- **THE FLEXIBILITY OF TIME:** It allows the kids as well as the parents to catch up on their sleep and ensures the child is well-rested. An added bonus is the time they are **conserving** by avoiding the travel, traffic and pollution. It also provides the kids with the convenience to



complete the assignments at their own comfort.

- **HYGIENE** The contagion has made sanitation a top priority, and with kids at home, parents are reassured that the kids will have **access to healthy food and clean amenities.**

PARENTS' SPEAK:

“My child can get proper sleep as he does not have to get up early to reach school by 7am. He can use clean washrooms at home against

compromised cleanliness of school washrooms due to high number of students. ...also, we can avoid traffic and invest the travel time in other activities”- Shami Pednekar, Mumbai



Pune

- **MINIMUM DISRUPTION:** Online lectures and assignments have made it possible for parents and guardians to work peacefully at home. With children engaged on a visual platform with an adult professional, parents are more relaxed as they don't have to be at two places once.
- **INNOVATIVE PEDAGOGY:** Teachers become more trained and learned, they would take the **different learning paces of students into account** thus making sure every child understand rather than rote learns. The use of digital tools would further enable the teachers to provide **interactive and imaginative output.**

PARENTS' SPEAK:

“With this new approach in place, the teachers will try out new and different ways to teach...this could be a big step in Indian education system” - Aneak Dongre,

But where there is a boon there is a bane, and the education 4.0 has few parents as well as teaching professionals highlighting some disconcerting challenges -

ADDED DURATION OF SCREEN TIME:



Though the kids are learning, what troubles the parents about this system is the amount of time kids spend on the screen.

The majority of day kids are propped in front of a television or a mobile phone as they cannot venture out to play amid the lockdown. An **added duration of screen time** puts a red flag in the parent's mind about direct impact such as the strain to the eyes or indirect impact such as reduced attention span.

PARENTS' SPEAK:

“A disadvantage is the increased screen exposure which we are so relentlessly trying to avoid.”- Aarti Chitale, Mumbai

ABSENCE OF LEARNING ENVIRONMENT:

With learning at home, the lack of motivation and **ability to stay alert may be reduced leading for kids to be more dull and drowsy**. This could hamper the learning and education.

TEACHERS' SPEAK:

“Online teaching is good given the current situation however, students may become lazy and be more dependent on Computer rather use their mind.”-Akriti Seth, Mumbai*



MISSING OUT ON GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT:

The E-learning hinders the kids' personality growth as well as it restricts the interaction kids have with their peers during recess and other times in the school campus or outside where they exchange ideas or talk about current trends or events. This **curbs their ability to think creatively and critically as well as constrains their communication skills**.

PARENTS' SPEAK:

“There is a lack of interaction with classmates and friends as well as teachers. Also, difficulty in using the systems might impact their concentration and they could get disconnected from the class”- Ganesh M., Pune.

MORE DRAINING FOR TEACHERS:

Teachers and students alike are lost when it comes to using an online platform. With **limitation of technical knowledge and training**, both students and teachers find it challenging to operate the systems and troubleshoot problems if any arise leading to a waste in learning hours. Also, the lack of physical presence toughens the jobs of teachers when it comes to **maintaining decorum and discipline on the platform** as kids engage in chatting and using the internet for entertainment.

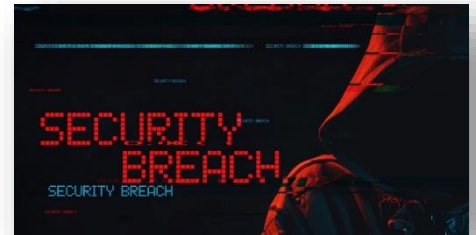


LACK OF SIGNIFICANCE OF LEARNING:

With no exams, kids **feel a lack of pressure**. A **lack of pressure is a disadvantage** in the sense that it causes children to abandon their studies more easily. Constant nudging by teachers may be undesirable for many, but it's an effective method for improving student retention.

CYBER SECURITY AND OTHER THREATS:

Kids may often try to explore more and use the online platform at their disposal for project and study work. Unable to control and monitor child's activity in the cyber world could make them fall prey to a plethora of viruses, phishing attacks, malware etc.



LITTLE ACCESSIBILITY TO DEVICES AND GOOD INTERNET:



In the metropolitans itself, **kids themselves do not possess personal laptops or phones**. These mediums of virtual connection are a shared commodity as a means of parental control, an **added issue arises with the connectivity** as the use of online platforms requires an **internet speed of approximately 1 to 1.5 Mbps**. The connectivity issues in a country like India with **lack of infrastructure to provide for the speed** results in loss of learning due to absence of the necessary bandwidth.

TEACHERS' SPEAK:

“Not every parents can accommodate online education in their house as ... and also all parents are not well educated to make them understand about online classes” -Prabha Joshi, Navi Mumbai.*

HOWEVER WITH CURRENT SCENARIO IN PLACE, THE NEW FACE OF EDUCATION IS HERE TO STAY. AND PARENTS, CHILDREN AND PROFESSIONALS ALIKE WOULD BENEFIT TO GET INTO THE BANDWAGON AND ENSURE THE RESOLVING THESE CHALLENGES BY USING ANTIVIRUS AND OTHER CYBERSECURITY MEASURES OR A PROTOCOL AND GUIDELINES IN PLACE FOR TRAINING AND APPROACH.

**Names have been changed as per request*