

Dr. Ambedkar College, Deekshabhoomi, Nagpur.

Free National Webinar for Faculty & Students

Topic: "E-Teaching and E-Learning as an Evolving Pedagogy in Education: Issues and Challenges"

By

Organized by

Internal Quality and Assurance Cell (IQAC)

Date: 9th June 2020 **REPORT**

The National Webinar on the topic "E-Teaching and E-Learning as an Evolving Pedagogy in Education: Issues and Challenges" was conceived and organized by the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) of Dr. Ambedkar College, Deekshabhoomi, Nagpur with an intention to invite experts and participants across the nation on the same web platform for open discussion on the aforementioned topic of the webinar. The webinar was very well received nationally and more than 1000 participants were enrolled for same. It was aired via youtube live to be accessible to the wide audience at the same time. The beginning of the webinar was marked by a general welcome of all the participants and experts by the organizing secretary and IQAC Co-ordinator of Dr. Ambedkar College, Dr. Mrs. Hema Menon and the welcome address highlighting the nature and context of the webinar was given by Prof. R. V. Patil, Principal, Dr. Ambedkar College, Deekshabhoomi, Nagpur.

The tone of the webinar was set by the inaugural address delivered by Dr. Shashikala Wanjari, Vice Chancellor, SNDT Women's University, Mumbai. At the outset she coated famous philosopher Socrates defining education, "Education meaning, bringing out the ideas of universal value which are lacking in the mind of every man", thus highlighting the need of education even in the present situation of COVID-19 pandemic. In her deliberation to explain e-teaching and e-learning as evolving pedagogy giving reference to the article of Dr. Bhabani Shankar Nayak from Coventry University, UK, entitled, "Zooming the Death of Teachers and Teaching as Profession". Based on which she emphasized on the question that this article raises, whether online teaching will be really supporting us? The highlight of this question is the need to consider that it should not reduce the organic space between the teacher and the taught. Dr. Wanjari further argued that one should address the ultimate goal, which is certainly the learner outcome. Thus, the term "evolving" in the title of the present webinar, she said, highlights that e-learning and e-teaching as a process, and is so, expected to enhance the space, considering the limitations of the digital learning especially

related to the network issues. She concluded thanking the organizers and the Principal of Dr. Ambedkar College, Nagpur.

The Keynote address entitled, "Achieving Excellence in Higher Education by Blending E-Learning with Traditional Classrooms- Issues and Challenges" was delivered by Dr. Subhash Chaudhari, Acting Pro-Vice Chancellor, RTM Nagpur University, Nagpur. He gave a very comprehensive presentation on blended learning techniques and their importance in present and future learning. He highlighted about the convenience of digital learning due to extensive familiarity of digital devices to present generation of students. Also he added about the flexibility of e-learning to the students so that learning becomes available to the students at their expediency. He emphasized that instead of being skeptical about the digital gadgets which today are at the students' disposal we should make them aware that how these can be useful as learning tools in future. But at the same time he made everyone aware that it's difficult to control the unfair practices on the digital platform which should be addressed with caution. Also he recorded his concern about the additional cost that certain platforms may demand from the students while undergoing e-learning. So, Dr. Chaudhari advised that teachers should make some materials available digitally and he emphasized saying that e-learning makes the teacher to acquire the role of a facilitator. Dr. Chaudhari believed that e-learning increases the expanse of the learning for the student compared to traditional learning, extending it beyond the prescribed curriculum. He added recording his concern pertaining to the examination or evaluation pattern which should be adopted considering the digitized learning to make it a fruitful academic delivery method and to reach the desired outcome. He concluded saying that while going through the pandemic lockdown every teacher should equip them to develop e-learning and evaluation.

Lastly, The Academic Address by Dr. S. A. Pingle, S.N. Arts, D.J. Malpani and D. N. Sarda, Science College, Sangamner and the Founder member IQAC consortium of India on the topic, "E-Learning: Issues and Challenges" was conducted. Dr. Pingle made it clear right in the beginning that his talk will be addressing the immediate challenges faced by e-learning. He said that teachers were previously considered as the Knowledge center in traditional learning to distribute knowledge evenly among the students in their classroom lectures. Now, however the scenario has changed, the students are brought at the center stage of learning, consequently pushing the teacher to the periphery of learning sphere. This is due to the fact that the students these days have wide availability of resources at their disposal. To meet this requirement of digital learning presently the biggest concern is that Teachers of higher learning Institutes are not formally trained for Teaching, including e-learning and evaluations. But as now students have taken the center stage we should address the issue more seriously from the teacher's part as well. Therefore, Dr. Pingle believes that there should be a balance between classroom teaching and e-learning considering the present scenario. At the same time he raised concerns about certain issues with online learning like the Real-time discussion is at stake in present e-learning process. Highlighting such issues Dr. Pingle found that the elderly teachers say that compared to e-learning their traditional teaching pedagogy was more active. But as emphasized by earlier speakers Dr. Pingle also second the opinion that the teachers are now forced to change the focus from being the instructor to a facilitator. Achieving this one can reach personalization level of teaching framing the module to fit student's personal learning requirements which indeed was less probable in classroom teaching. Thereby giving the students a choice of learning topics of their interests and needs. He also warned the HEI teachers that the present change is going to drive a change in you so as to make yourself familiarized with advanced teaching and learning tools to keep your student's attention to what you deliver. This was also with the reference to older generation of teachers who are less well versed with the digital media platforms making it more challenging to them also because of their limited inclination towards digital technology. At the same time he highlighted that many students may not be proficient in using digital technology.

Dr. Pingle said that teachers should ensure that one follows the "netiquettes- etiquettes on the internet" while practicing e-learning so that students also learn the same eventually and be serious about this mode of learning. He believed that such requirements may be responsible for making Teachers reluctant to use the technology also he added that some teachers in the rural areas are not inclined towards e-teaching in order to conserve their bandwidth and limited data services available in the rural area. Dr. Pingle further added the need for inclusion of technical experts to get rid of the technical hitches during the online sessions to increase your reliability on digital platforms of learning.

Time management during digital learning also is valuable. Dr. Pingle asked to identify the time wasters and distractions during digital learning. Microlearning, he believed, becomes more important in time management, diving the load and doing small work but consistently. He added that one should have small bites of learning material to get effective knowledge percolation and we should not ask the students to be multitaskers. To achieve this he went on to explain Self motivation versus motivation as a key. Teacher's motivation towards elearning is necessary through ensuring student attendance during your class online. A teacher should ensure before your program is launched, the module should be well structured. Develop an e-connect in such a way that may be having some rewards for the students. Big problem is to deal with some students who are not interested for online content. Retrospection of the teacher is a key factor to be associated with the student's engagement to ensure content of your class is of utmost importance. One should not have static structure of your e-module. One should choose a platform that suits both the teacher and the students. And additionally, the presentation skills also matter the most. Dr. Pingle recorded that emotional connect with the students is also another concern in e-learning which is difficult to be resolved but alternative ways can be found like considering the blended learning to have the emotional connect.

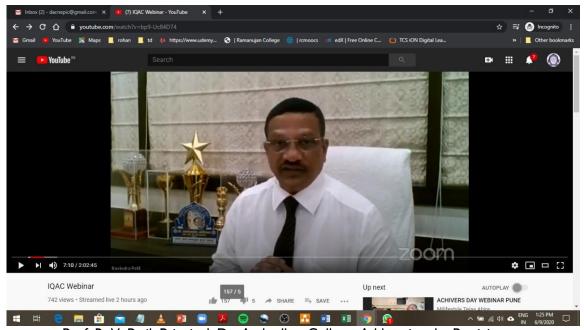
Dr. Pingle corroborated the view of Dr. Chaudhari that evaluation of the digital learning is an essential issue that is to be addressed. He added that it is not about marks but about learning. Taking the review from the learners can work to ensure the desired outcome. Limitations associated with descriptive answering still remains to be considered since most of the online assessment is objective. But considering that self-paced learning is important advantage of e-learning modules and as the student's span of concentrating on the content can vary this can be more effective form of learning from student's point of view. Uniformity of the online content with personalization is another advantage of e-learning. The areas thus a teacher has to address during designing an effective e-module must include review about their own Communication Skills, Content delivery, Digital literacy and the design.

At the end of his presentation Dr. Pingle talked about the Fear of "Technology trap" gripping

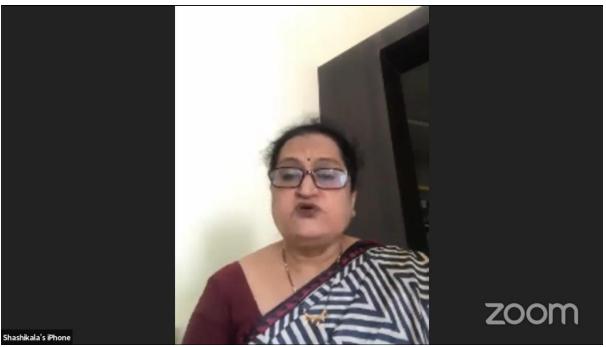
everyone's thought today highlighting it as the most important point of concern about elearning. However, according to Dr. Pingle this fear can be addressed through blended learning. He concluded his talk addressing some important questions from the participants. While addressing one such question from the participant from rural sector, he added that Tribal and rural learning is facing some important challenges but the e-learning system is not completely to replace the classroom learning but blended learning is the one that is to be promoted. So, according to Dr. Pingle learning in rural areas is not going to face any knowledge dearth rather can slowly increase the expanse of learning even for the students in rural areas since slowly the technological reach in tribal and rural areas is also going to be updated. Another concern raised by one participant faculty was about course completion in time with university exams, considering the attention span of the students if plan for econtent with shorter digital learning material. This may limit the students from completing their prescribed curriculum in time. Dr. Pingle addressed this saying that the time management needs to be critically regulated through blended learning to answer this issue. Also he highlighted that students self motivation in completion of curriculum within time can play the trick here.

The talk of Dr. Pingle was extremely well received among the participants and to applaud the same a formal vote of thanks was given by Dr. Shailesh Bahadure, Associate Professor and IQAC Member of Dr. Ambedkar college, Nagpur.

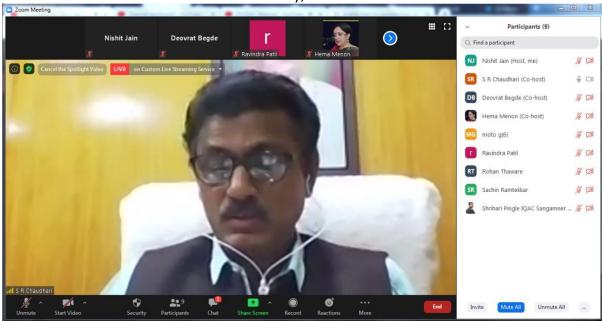
For seamless operation of all the digital services throughout the webinar, the technical expertise was obtained from Mr. Nishit Jain and Mr. Sachin Ramteke from Tristar Software solutions. Dr. A.P. Joshi, Dr. D.N. Begde, Dr. P.V. Nimbalkar, Mr. Rohan Thaware, Mr. Kamlesh Khairkar and Mr. Ashish Moraskar were present throughout the webinar form the IQAC of Dr. Ambedkar College, Nagpur.



Prof. R. V. Patil, Principal, Dr. Ambedkar College, Addressing the Participants



Inaugural address delivered by Dr. Shashikala Wanjari, Vice Chancellor, SNDT Women's University, Mumbai.



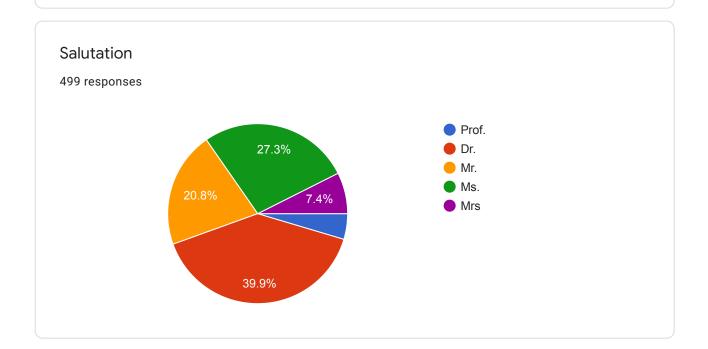
Keynote address by Dr. Subhash Chaudhari, Acting Pro-Vice Chancellor, RTM Nagpur University, Nagpur.



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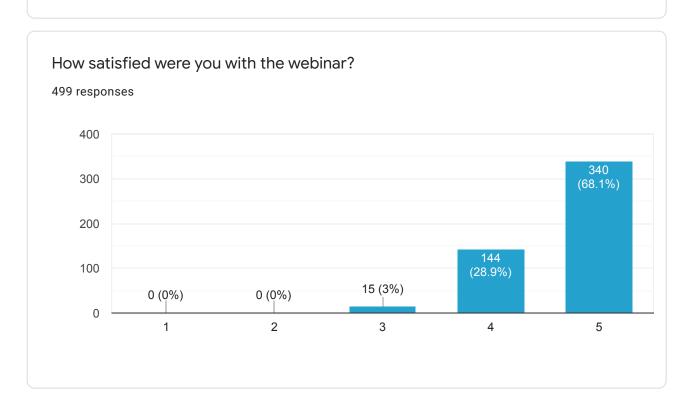
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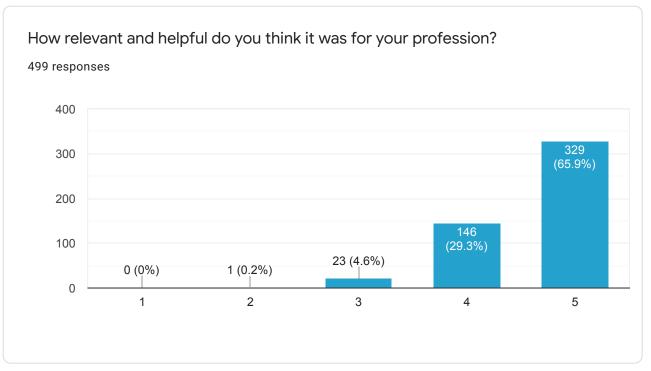
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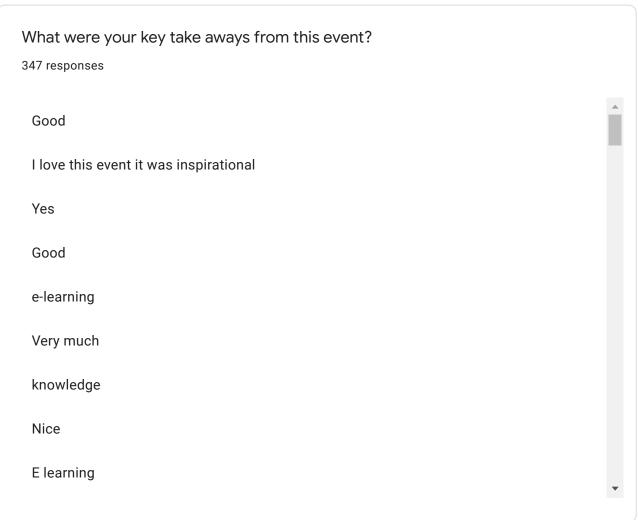
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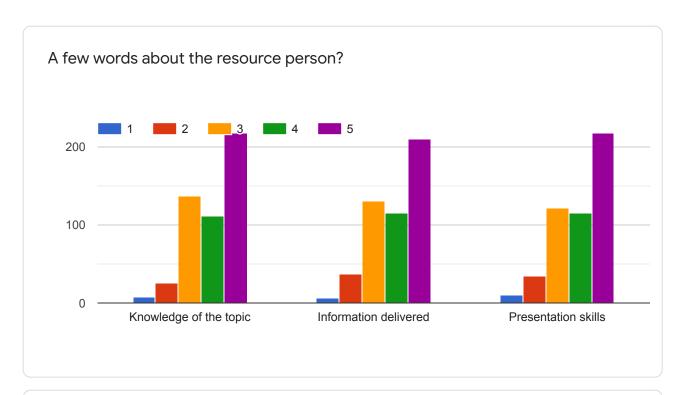


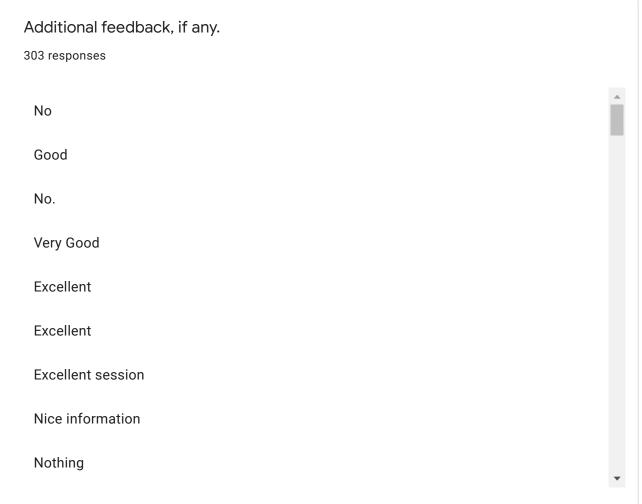














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