

Education Technology tested positive, for growth

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In the 21st century, parenting has taken a new holistic approach and parents want the all round development and improvement for their little ones. Whether it's acing a violin lesson or mastering a strenuous sport like swimming, people want the best for their children. Indulging in various activities helps teenagers with their time management and at the same time help them savor these leisure pursuits. This gives them a sense of commitment to the thing they're interested in, which helps them in the long run. But who could have foreseen that a time will come that the gathering of even half a football team will be prohibited by law and the pools will be as dry as a bone even on a peak summer day in the month of May. COVID 19 has indirectly affected the lives of every single one of us and though the lockdown has given us plenty of time, we have nothing to do. This is when the online institutions like Udemy, Coursera, etc walk in. With courses ranging from photography and painting to courses that will catch the eye of that soul fond of coding and developing, excess screen time being a blessing for him. Fitness freaks or intellectual geeks, there's a perfect range of online skills to be mastered by either of them. We all talk of killing time, while time kills us slowly. So why not use it for our own benefit? Platforms like Khan academy and Edx are completely free and users can browse content on a broad spectrum and diverse fields of subjects. Teenagers and even workaholics, who loved to keep themselves engaged all the time, are beneficiaries of such institutions. Though these sites were quite prevalent before this pandemic, they have gained much more prominence in the recent times and the unavailability of any other activity option has augmented the scale of the use of such educational services. With the average online time being the all time high, solely due to solitary confinement, people are always on the look for a productive alternative to aimless internet surfing. People wanted it and ivy leagues heard it, many ivy universities are now providing free online courses on a wide range of topics to keep everyone occupied this pandemic.



Zoom has already become the most popular app in the Apple App Store the last week only by being a medium for online classes, with millions of downloads on a diverse range of platforms. It is a much contrasting scenario from the pre-pandemic period, when it had only 56000 downloads. Zoom, Teamlink and even Google classroom have become the only viable option for office workers and students, considering all the safety norms. While all the other sectors in the world are firing their employees due to the lack of sufficient reserves and inflow of capital, this sector has generated a great demand for freelance tutors and operators. Feels like parallel universe? Together with the forces of the teachers and online teaching technology, masterminds have fabricated an online education system, though not a perfect one, is an appreciable one. Thanks to these online institutions, individuals preparing for any competitive exam, have one less reason to scratch their heads about. As we know that everything in life can't be flawless, online college class has its both pros and cons. So pros first, how many of you just wake up 5 mins before your class starts, still somnolent and still be on time for your lecture? How many of you have faked a network glitch to escape a presentation? Moreover, those hilarious moments when a teacher accidentally disconnects adds to your euphoria and that online classroom instantly becomes a group video call for those long overdue conversations. For all its pros, online classes are like a double edged sword. Now as we talk of the cons, think about those cricket matches you played everyday after your classes and those baseless fights during the game, which you miss badly.



That loquacious girl or boy of the class is surely having a hard time coping with classes, so void of conversations and social interaction. Since we are totally on a break, we don't feel the significance of those lunch breaks and campus walks anymore. Last but not the least, excess time in front of a screen can make you depressed and can be a major cause of your anxiety, having deleterious effects on your mental health and overall well being. That heterodox student of the class, who used to seize every opportunity to question the professor, probably misses all those debates and counters. With work from home now becoming a culture and social distancing a norm, post lockdown, it should be safe to assume that Educational sectors may witness a shift to online mode till the time a proper vaccine is available to the common. Education technology is skyrocketing besides the number of COVID-19 cases and at a very right time, when all university campus activity is at its nadir. Nobody can say for sure when things will get back to normal, or whether it will ever get back to the stage like it was before this upheaval as even our experts are mystified. The flow all kind of divergent data about this virus from every corner of the world adds to this ambiguity and utter confusion. Till then, we have to resort to what we have, amending the way we function and make the most out of the resources we have our hands on! Apps which no one had ever heard of and online institutions of minimal importance, pre pandemic, have now become the biggest dominant force in the world, paving a whole new way for expansion and growth.

