



Online Classes due to Covid-19

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Why in News

The **lockdown** due to the **Covid-19 pandemic** has led to closing of educational institutes like schools, colleges and coaching institutions.

The educational institutes are thus switching to **e-learning**.

Key Points

- **Different e-learning Techniques Being Used**
 - The **Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan** has deployed its **SWAYAM Prabha portal** which has lectures on **DTH (direct-to-home)** and online, to help students.
 - Few states are **trying to tap Doordarshan** to remove access barriers.
- **e-learning** poses a **challenge** to teachers, students and their parents over **technology and access** that is why the **effectiveness** of the instructors (teachers) can **not be analysed** and also not every student is joining the virtual classes.
- **Challenges**
 - All of the students do not have laptops or tablet computers. Parents also use the computer for their work from home so children do not get a chance to use it.
 - Teachers are apprehensive about students using smartphones because of distracting apps.
 - Teachers too might have technical constraints and if teachers are equipped but the same might not be the case for the institutions.
 - The lockdown makes it worse for those who have technical problems in their devices.
 - Parents are finding it difficult to adjust to the online system. The added household work due to the absence of domestic help adds to their problem.
 - Most of the subjects like beauty culture, fashion design and tailoring, office management, travel and tourism, web design etc need practical learning so it is difficult to teach them from a distance.

- **Suggestions**

- Online classes offered as live teaching can be sustained only with a mix of activities, worksheets and interactive sessions.
- Teachers should have a structured plan which does not suffocate or burden them and also keep the students involved.
- All institutions will have to chalk out an infrastructure plan which can be used in such a crisis.
- Teachers need to be considerate about how children feel or what they are going through these days so an understanding should be developed.

SWAYAM Prabha

- It is an initiative of the **Ministry of Human Resources Development** to provide **32 High Quality Educational Channels** through DTH across the length and breadth of the country on 24X7 basis.
- It has **curriculum-based course content** covering diverse disciplines.
- This is primarily **aimed** at making **quality learning resources** accessible to remote areas where internet availability is still a challenge.
- The DTH channels are using the **GSAT-15 satellite** for programme telecasts.

Source: TH