Analyzing the Effectiveness of Distance Education During Crisis Situations

MMK Rowel, ADAI Gunasekara, GAI Uwanthika

Department of Computer Science, Faculty of Computing, General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University, Ratmalana, Sri Lanka

Abstract. With the development of the world, people have realized the significance of learning. Education is recognized as a prominent fundamental right of all human beings and it should be free and fair. People who belong to rural communities have also started using modern technologies for education. Distance education also known as distance learning is a method of disseminating knowledge when students and teachers are separated. Although the concept of distance education gives a full idea of the opportunities it can offer, it has some shortcomings that need to be considered. Despite the drawbacks, distance learning has become the best solution for the younger generation in education even in times of crisis. A crisis such as public health crisis and environmental crisis will always negatively affect the ongoing procedure of a country including the education sector. Education can be a linked-to crisis in three main stages such as in crisis prevention, a crisis as well as in the post-crisis. The most recent crisis that affected the education system is the pandemic caused by COVID-19. As a result, education is conducted online instead of traditional education. The impact of such crises can be interpreted as barriers to education. Hence, the younger generation has started relying on technology as a solution for these kinds of barriers. This study provides the effectiveness of distance learning during the above mentioned three stages of crises. Furthermore, the advantages, as well as the disadvantages, will be critically analyzed in this study.

Keywords: Distance Education, Distance Learning, Crisis Situation, Traditional Education