A Study on Digital Divide Stark Differences in the Right of Online Learning During Pandemic In India

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ABSTRACT
The ongoing pandemic has never been an unidimensional one which not only startled the health and economic sectors but also the educational sector ,can't get away with the ongoing crisis without addressing the later one. PRAGYATA guidelines with regard to online education ensures continuity in their school education even when everyone embraces the fact "New normal" denoting the life aftermath of COVID . Lack of digital infrastructure caused a serious impediment to digital learning and only 23.8% of Indian houses had access to the internet which left the remaining majority of the households in the state of real quandary . Digital divide is continuation of an already existing socio economic divide in society.The main objective is to study about the digital divide during pandemic and to analyse the digital infrastructure of an Indian education system.This study used primary data which has been collected from 200 respondents with convenient sampling.The results observed from the analysis revealed that the unequal access to technology give rise to digital divide among students. NEP should focus on digital infrastructure.
KEY WORDS: *Education, policy, infrastructure, digital, COVID 19*

I. INTRODUCTION

The ongoing pandemic has never been an unidimensional one which not only startled the health and economic sectors but also the educational sector ,can't get away with the ongoing crisis without addressing the later one. This covid gave us an opportunity to unleash our hidden class differences among the society where we used to selectively opt not to pitch for it ,but on the other hand it provided impetus to adopt new tutelage method when we couldn't proceed with the conventional way of teaching and this posed a serious question whether we really have an infrastructural development to adopt ourselves to the digital way of teaching ,when government pretends that we are digitally equipped by advocating India's digital India initiatives.

PRAGYATA guidelines with regard to online education ensures continuity in their school education even when everyone embraces the fact "New normal" denoting the life aftermath of COVID . It presents several advantages over face to face classroom, indirectly giving approval to the new form of inequality disguised as a digital Education . It is totally in contrary with the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act .

Lack of digital infrastructure caused a serious impediment to digital learning and only 23.8% of Indian houses had access to the internet which left the remaining majority of the households in the state of real quandary . Digital divide is continuation of an already existing socio economic divide in society . NEP2020 lays a special focus on developing digital infrastructure and the National Educational Technology forum involves a capacity development programme which helps in developing e-content and shares best practises and leveraging technology.

Countries like Rwanda and Kenya waived internet charge for their students and Even Asian countries like Bhutan and krygz republic providing additional data for rendering access to the online education. To provide free internet access to the students, countries like Croatia and Egypt approached telecommunication companies. El Salvador facilities for broadcasting educational content in television for students. In India, This intricate situation was mishandled by the government by not giving initial attention to the educational sector because they have only issue guidelines after the courts urged to do so and serious problem is apparently government was never prepared for developing a digital infrastructure which put parents in the state of quandary by pushing them to the corner to buy a devices for accessing to the digital Education. Apart from students ,there is a question popped up in our mind ,do teaching professionals really equipped to adapt them to the challenges , still so many cases pending before the court regarding their appointment.The main aim of the research is to study about the digital divide during pandemic

II. OBJECTIVES :

To study about the digital divide during pandemic
To analyse the digital infrastructure of an Indian education system.
To study about the feasibility of the guidelines issued by the central government in mitigating the digital divide.
To study about online learning
To study about pragyata guidelines

III. REVIEW OF LITERATURE :

The author gave his definition for digital divide which has often been referred to internet access as it affects or reinforces fundamental economic and social inequalities and discussed how digital divide can influence Indian scenario and concluded that the role not only bridging divide and also will form a well informed literate society.**(Panda et al,2003)** Author described the phenomenon of digital divide and observed its challenges and initiatives of bringing digital divide by giving very special emphasis to digital libraries.**(T Abraham,2008)** The purpose is to reformulate a conceptualisation of digital divide and its relationship to education by building paradigm shift towards digital education not based on equality of physical access but on equity of access.**(Gorski,2008)** Author explained the term digital divide encompasses inadequate funding and lack of digital infrastructure and internet skills hinder expansion and use of digital resource.**(Jyoti,2020)** Author identified Digital divide further exacerbated inequalities between countries and reintroduced fundamental economic and social divides . **(Singh.K et.al,2012**) The education sector is fighting to survive the crisis with a different approach and digitising the challenges to face the threat of the pandemic.**(Jena,2020)** The switch to online and digital education formats like rise of remote forms of teaching and learning as consequences of mass closure of schools and colleges.**(Williamson,2020)** It has changed the traditional system of teaching and assessments conducted were online which put another barrier in front of the teachers and find it difficult in assessing the students performance.**(Joshi et al,2020)** Many faculties within the country switched to online classes but one in four students unable to connect lack of infrastructure.**(Raj 2020)** Network issues , lack of training and lack of awareness are the major challenges faced by the students and teacher**.(Al Qureshi 2018)** Lack of awareness was the most important reason and didn't adapt to the virtual classes which creates a lack of interest among the students. Asking doubt concepts would fade away with regards to the use of virtual classes.**(Amit Kumar Arora,2020)** The process of imparting education has gone through a sea change and technology has taken almost in all fields . Online classes came as a path breaker for the future online studies.**(Sprague.D 2009)** Radical changes needed in the educational sector because of the biggest impact of lockdown caused education in a detrimental way as we were completely reliant upon Traditional method of education before the pandemic.**(Sprague.D,2007)** It has been apparent that in the past several years , online education emerged as a powerful contender for the next new education policy.**(Lone A.Z,2010)** Learning outcomes came opposed to face to face interaction like lack of confidence in using information and communication technology which ultimately decreased students' satisfaction in learning.**(Kuo et al.)** The unprecedented growth of the number of online courses posed a significant challenge to all stakeholders in education. One of the major problems in online classes is dropout.**(Gaytan.J,2015)** Teachers face myriad challenges posed by the world of education. Urgent needs in front of the teachers are integration of technology and continuous pressure in improving students achievement. **(Cochrane.K,2016)** Giving effective online feedback is an important skill for the educators which will help as a guide for the learner development and learning exercise.**(Bonnel,2008)** Online education is growing rapidly . But the little doubt continues to expand whether it encompasses the majority into higher education when they offer courses.**(Mayadas et al,2009)** Instructors ,parents and public authorities astonished by dropout rate and have grown in all educational level and enhanced the educational value .**(Martinez ority et.al,2008)**

IV.   MATERIALS AND METHODS

The research paper is based on the empirical research. The sampling method used in this research is simple random sampling. The survey includes questionnaire which was raised to various age groups of people including students, working people, old aged people. The total responses is 206. The number of respondents were and it involves the concept of presumption of dowry deaths. This research includes independent variables and dependent variables. The demographic questions which includes name, age, gender, educational qualifications, income ere the independent variables used in the survey. The dependent variables is analysed with independent variables of age and educational qualifications . This paper also uses the primary and secondary data collected from the net sources, books, research papers and articles. The data analysis is made with the help of some technical tools such as correlated tools and percentage analysis.
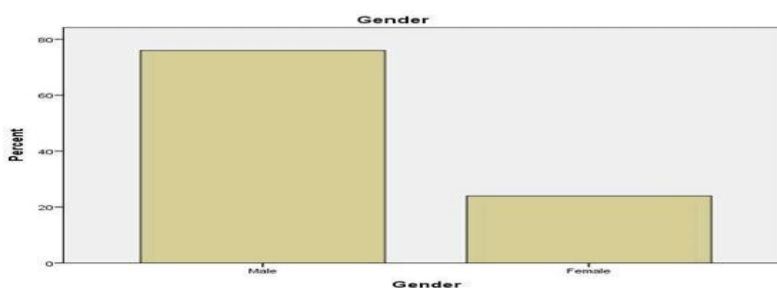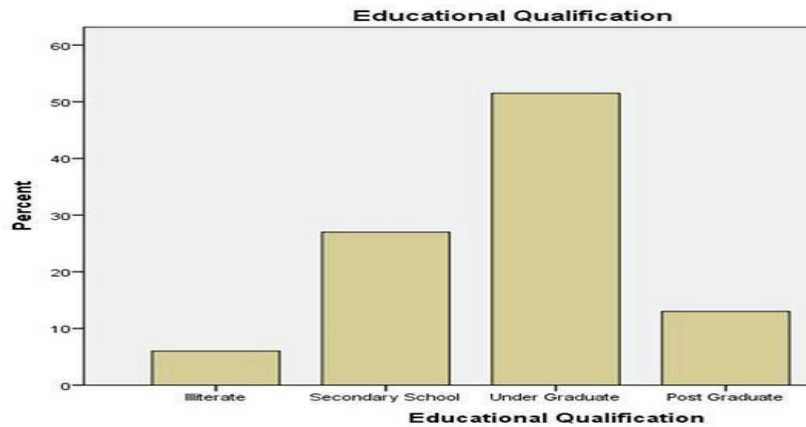
ANALYSIS

FIGURE 1
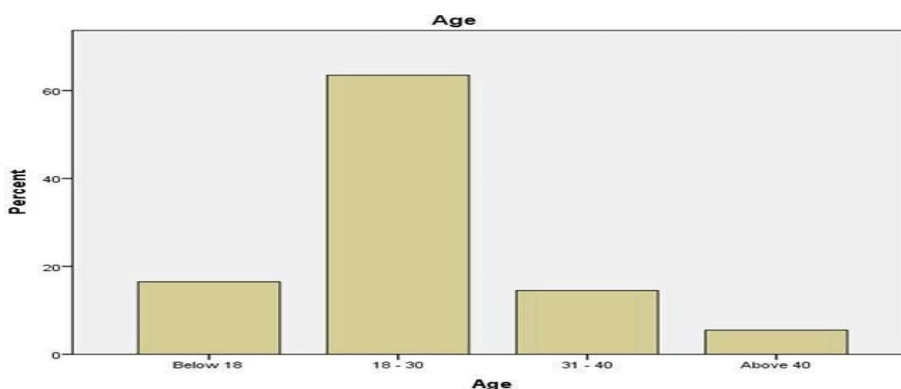
Legend : fig 1, shows the responses collected for this research topic are divided based on their age difference. About 65 percent of total respondents are between the ages 18-30 years. 18 percent of respondents are below 18 years, 10 percent of respondents are above 40 Years and 15 percent of respondents are between 31-40 years.
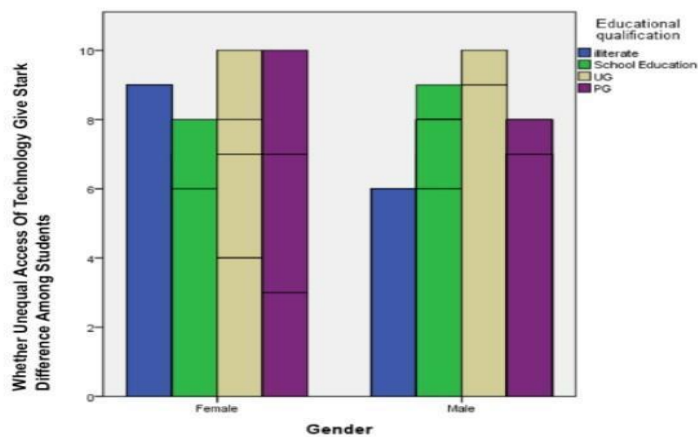
FIGURE 2

Legend: fig.2, shows the responses collected for this research topic are divided based on their gender. About 77 percent of total respondents are male and the rest 23 percent of the Respondents are found to be female
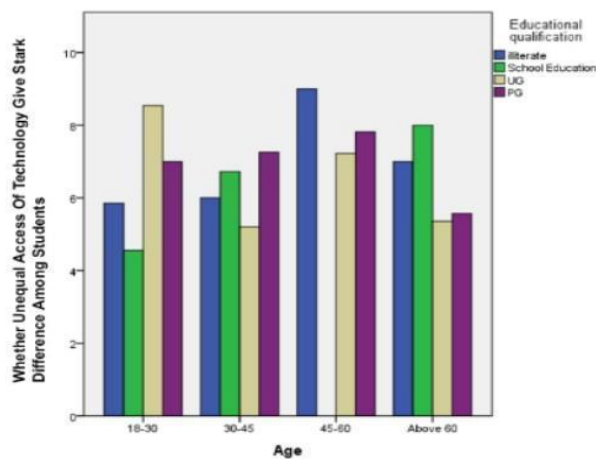
FIGURE 3

Legend: Fig 3 shows the responses collected for this research topic are divided based on their educational qualification. About 50 percent of total respondents Under-Graduate, 25 percent are Higher-Secondary qualified, 15 percent are Post-Graduates, 7 percent are illiterates and the rest 3 percent of the Respondents are Ph.D. holders.
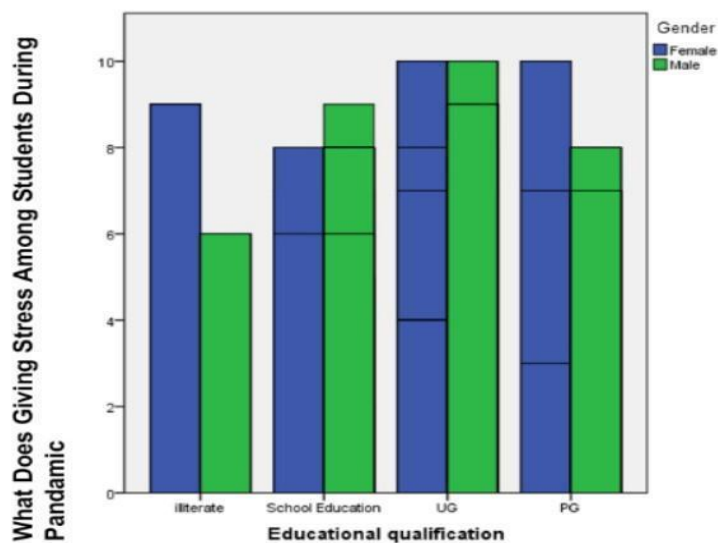
FIGURE 4

Legend: Fig. 4 Shows about the age and educational qualification distribution and their opinion regarding the announcement issued by the technology give stark.
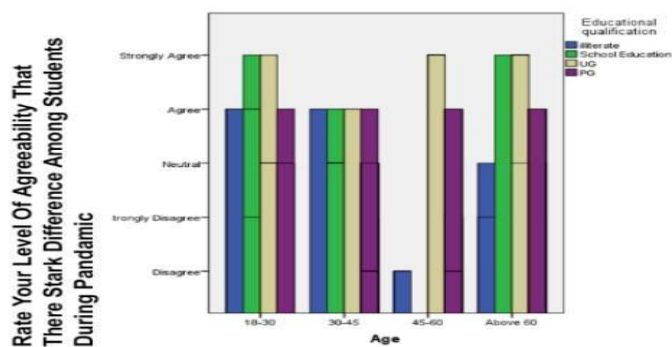
FIGURE5 5

Legend: Fig. 5 Shows about the gender and educational qualification distribution and their opinion regarding the announcement issued by the unequal access to technology.
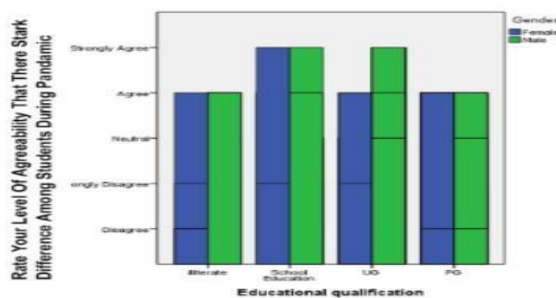
FIGURE 6

Legend: Fig. 6 Shows about the educational qualification and gender distribution and their opinion regarding the announcement issued by the students during pandemic.

FIGURE 7

Legend: Fig. 7 Shows about the age and educational qualification distribution and their opinion regarding the announcement issued by the government reduced digital divide

FIGURE 8

Legend: Fig. 8 Shows about the educational qualification and gender distribution and their opinion regarding the announcement issued by the government reduced digital divide

V.   RESULT

In figure 4 , Respondents from the age group between 18-30 who have completed / doing UG degree , answered that the announcement issued by the government reduce digital divide between students. In figure 5, Male respondents who completed / doing UG have concluded that the efficiency of the guidelines is enough to mitigate the digital divide .In figure 6, Respondents who belong to the age group 18-30 completed /doing school education have agreed that unequal access to technology give rise to digital divide among students

In figure 7, Female respondents from the educational qualification group have concluded that announcement made by the government in mitigating digital divide is inefficient whereas Male respondents from the Educational group UG have rated the guidelines as efficient In Figure 8, Both Male and female respondents belong to the age group 30-45 have answered that unequal access to technology give rise to digital divide.

VI.   DISCUSSION

Respondents from the age group between 18-30 who have completed / doing UG degree , answered that the announcement issued by the government reduced digital divide between students. This could be the reason that UG students have access to digital divide which lead them to conclude the effectiveness of guidelines. (Figure 4) Male respondents who completed / doing UG have concluded that the efficiency of the guidelines is enough to mitigate the digital divide . The reason could be the same as mentioned in figure 1 . (Figure 5) Respondents who belong to the age group 18-30 completed /doing school education have agreed that unequal access to technology give rise to digital divide among students. This could be the reason that amidst pandemic ,have seen news surfaced regarding suicide of some students because of their inability to buy digital goods.(Figure 6) Female respondents from the educational qualification group have concluded that the announcement made by the government in mitigating digital divide is inefficient whereas Male respondents from the Educational group UG have rated the guidelines as efficient . This could be the reason that still gender disparity is very common in Indian households(Figure 7) Majority of the Respondents which includes both male and female respondents who have completed school education or undergoing school Education have agreed that unequal access of technology give rise to the digital divide. This could be the reason that most of the schools affected because of this unequal access.(Figure 8) Both Male and female respondents belonging to the age group 30-45 have answered that unequal access to technology gives rise to digital divide. This could be the reason that pandemic created financial stress on parents that indirectly impacted students Education.(Figure 9)

LIMITATION
The major limitation of the study is COVID restrictions and never allowed researchers to personally address the respondents which hindered researchers from giving preface to our research frame before accepting their responses but it never affected the research results.

VII.   CONCLUSION:

The ongoing pandemic has never been an unidimensional one which not only startled the health and economic sectors but also the educational sector ,can't get away with the ongoing crisis without addressing the later one. The main objective is to study about the digital divide during a pandemic and to analyse the digital infrastructure of an Indian education system..The results observed from the analysis revealed that the unequal access to technology gives rise to digital divide among students. India echoed unanimously for digital India but only Concentrated on the economic and health sector. NEP should focus on digital infrastructure.

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PLAGIARISM CERTIFICATE

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ABSTRACT
The ongoing pandemic has never been an unidimensional one which not only startled the health and economic sectors but also the educational sector ,can't get away with the ongoing crisis without addressing the later one. The main objective is to study about the digital divide during pandemic and to analyse the digital infrastructure of an Indian education system.This study used primary data which has been collected from 200 respondents with convenient sampling.The results observed from the analysis revealed that the unequal access to technology give rise to digital divide among students. NEP should focus on digital infrastructure.
INTRODUCTION
The ongoing pandemic has never been an unidimensional one which not only startled the health and economic sectors but also the educational sector ,can't get away with the ongoing crisis without addressing the later one. This covid gave us an opportunity to unleash our hidden class differences among the society where we used to selectively opt not to pitch for it ,but on the other hand it provided impetus to adopt new tutelage method when we couldn't proceed with the conventional way of teaching and this posed a serious question whether we really have an infrastructural development to adopt ourselves to the digital way of teaching ,when government pretends that we are digitally equipped by advocating India's digital India initiatives.
PRAGYATA guidelines with regard to the online education ensures continuity in their school education even when we everyone embraces the fact "New normal" denoting the life aftermath of COVID . It presents several advantages over face to face classroom, indirectly giving approval to the new form of inequality disguised as a digital Education . It is totally in contrary with the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act .
Lack of digital infrastructure caused a serious impediment to digital learning and only 23.8% of Indian houses had access to the internet which left the remaining majority of the households in the state of real quandary . Digital divide is continuation of an already existing socio economic divide in society . NEP2020 lays a special focus on developing digital infrastructure and National Educational Technology forum involves in capacity development programme which helps in developing e-content and shares a best practises and leveraging technology.
Countries like Rwanda and Kenya waived internet charge for their students and Even Asian countries like Bhutan and krygz republic providing additional data for rendering access to the online education. To provide free internet access to the students, countries like Croatia and Egypt approached telecommunication companies. El Salvador facilities for broadcasting educational content in television for students. In India, This intricate situation was mishandled by the government by not giving initial attention to the educational sector because they have only issue guidelines after the courts urged to do so and serious problem is apparently government was never prepared for developing a digital infrastructure which put parents in the state of quandary by pushing them to the corner to buy a devices for accessing to the digital Education. Apart from students ,there is a question popped up in our mind ,do teaching professionals really equipped to adapt them to the challenges , still so many cases pending before the court regarding their appointment.
OBJECTIVES :
To study about the digital divide during pandemic
To analyse the digital infrastructure of an Indian education system.
To study about the feasibility of the guidelines issued by the central government in mitigating the digital divide.

Teachers face myriad challenges posed by the world of education. Urgent needs in front of the teachers are integration of technology and continuous pressure in improving students achievement. (Cochrane.K,2016)
Giving effective online feedback is an important skill for the educators which will help as a guide for the learner

development and learning exercise.(Bonnel,2008)
Online education is growing rapidly . But the little doubt continues to expand whether it encompasses the majority into higher education when they offer courses.(Mayadas et al,2009)
Instructors ,parents and public authorities astonished by dropout rate and have grown in all educational level and enhanced the educational value .(Martinez ority et.al,2008)
MATERIALS AND METHODS
The study deals with empirical research i.e., non-doctrinal study. It deals with both primary as well as secondary sources of data and various secondary sources like books, articles, research papers etc. were used as reference. The study deals with survey methods and the main tool for analysing the results is SPSS. The method of collecting is through a direct survey method by people's opinion and answers to the questionnaires.

Sampling Method
Random sampling method was used for the purpose of this collection of responses for this study.
Sample Size
There are a total of 200 samples collected with regard to this study.
Independent Variable
Age, gender and educational qualification.
DEPENDENT VARIABLE

The announcement made by the government in reducing the digital divide .
In your opinion , do you agree that the unequal access to technology give rise to digital divide among students.

Sources	Similarity
COVIDWISE - Apps on Google Play COVIDWISE is the official COVID-19 exposure notification app for the Commonwealth of Virginia's Department of Health (VDH). The app was developed in ... https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=gov.vdh.exposurenotification	13%
JET - Leibold Giving effective online feedback is an important skill for educators to develop because it guides the learner's development. https://uncw.edu/jet/articles/vol15_1/leibold.html	5%
A STUDY ON MAINTENANCE OF PUBLIC PROPERTY WITH ... MATERIALS AND METHODS The study deals with empirical research I.e non-doctrinal study. It deals with both primary as well as secondary source of data and various secondary sources like books, articles, research papers etc. were used as reference. https://acadpubl.eu/hub/2018-120-5/1/41.pdf	4%

PLAGIARISM SCAN REPORT

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Characters	5106	Excluded URL	

9% Plagiarism	**91%** Unique	**3** Plagiarized Sentences	**30** Unique Sentences

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REVIEW OF LITERATURE :

The author gave his definition for digital divide which has often been referred to internet access as it affects or reinforces fundamental economic and social inequalities and discussed how digital divide can influence Indian scenario and concluded that the role not only bridging divide and also will form a well informed literate society.(Panda et al,2003)
Author described the phenomenon of digital divide and observed its challenges and initiatives of bringing digital divide by giving very special emphasis to digital libraries.(T Abraham,2008)
The purpose is to reformulate a conceptualisation of digital divide and its relationship to education by building paradigm shift towards digital education not based on equality of physical access but on equity of access.(Gorski,2008)
Author explained the term digital divide encompasses inadequate funding and lack of digital infrastructure and internet skills hinder expansion and use of digital resource.(Jyoti,2020)
Author identified Digital divide further exacerbated inequalities between countries and reintroduced fundamental economic and social divides . (Singh.K et.al,2012)
The education sector is fighting to survive the crisis with a different approach and digitising the challenges to face the threat of the pandemic.(Jena,2020)
The switch to online and digital education formats like rise of remote forms of teaching and learning as consequences of mass closure of schools and colleges.(Williamson,2020)
It has changed the traditional system of teaching and assessments conducted were online which put another barrier in front of the teachers and find it difficult in assessing the students performance.(Joshi et al,2020)
Many faculties within the country switched to online classes but one in four students unable to connect lack of infrastructure.(Raj,2020)
Network issues , lack of training and lack of awareness are the major challenges faced by the students and teacher.(Al Qureshi.E,2018)
Lack of awareness was the most important reason and didn't adapt to the virtual classes which creates a lack of interest among the students. Asking doubt concepts would fade away with regards to the use of virtual classes.((Amit Kumar Arora,2020)
The process of imparting education has gone through a sea change and technology has taken almost in all fields . Online classes came as a path breaker for the future online studies.(Sprague.D,2009)
Radical changes needed in the educational sector because of the biggest impact of lockdown caused education in a detrimental way as we were completely reliant upon Traditional method of education before the pandemic.((Sprague.D,2007)
It has been apparent that in the past several years , online education emerged as a powerful contender for the next new education policy.((Lone A.Z,2010)
Learning outcomes came opposed to face to face interaction like lack of confidence in using information and communication technology which ultimately decreased students' satisfaction in learning.(Kuo et al.)
The unprecedented growth of the number of online courses posed a significant challenge to all stakeholders in education. One of the major problems in online classes is dropout.(Gaytan.J,2015)
Teachers face myriad challenges posed by the world of education. Urgent needs in front of the teachers are integration of technology and continuous pressure in improving students achievement. (Cochrane.K,2016)
Giving effective online feedback is an important skill for the educators which will help as a guide for the learner

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PLAGIARISM SCAN REPORT

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0% Plagiarism	100% Unique	0 Plagiarized Sentences	16 Unique Sentences

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DISCUSSION
Respondents from the age group between 18-30 who have completed / doing UG degree , answered that the announcement issued by the government reduced digital divide between students. This could be the reason that UG students have access to digital divide which lead them to conclude the effectiveness of guidelines. (Figure 4)
Male respondents who completed / doing UG have concluded that the efficiency of the guidelines is enough to mitigate the digital divide . The reason could be the same as mentioned in figure 1 . (Figure 5)
Respondents who belong to the age group 18-30 completed /doing school education have agreed that unequal access to technology give rise to digital divide among students. This could be the reason that amidst pandemic ,have seen news surfaced regarding suicide of some students because of their inability to buy digital goods.(Figure 6)
Female respondents from the educational qualification group have concluded that announcement made by the government in mitigating digital divide is inefficient whereas Male respondents from the Educational group UG have rated the guidelines as efficient . This could be the reason that still gender disparity is very common in Indian households(Figure 7)
Majority of the Respondents which includes both male and female respondents who have completed school education or undergoing school Education have agreed that unequal access of technology give rise to digital divide. This could be the reason that most of the schools affected because of this unequal access.(Figure 8)
Both Male and female respondents belong to the age group 30-45 have answered that unequal access to technology give rise to digital divide. This could be the reason that pandemic created financial stress on parents that indirectly impacted students Education.(Figure 9)

CONCLUSION
The ongoing pandemic has never been an unidimensional one which not only startled the health and economic sectors but also the educational sector ,can't get away with the ongoing crisis without addressing the later one. The main objective is to study about the digital divide during pandemic and to analyse the digital infrastructure of an Indian education system..The results observed from the analysis revealed that the unequal access to technology give rise to digital divide among students. India echoed unanimously for digital India but only Concentrated on economic and health sector. NEP should focus on digital infrastructure.

Sources	Similarity