REPORT

"FUTURE OF ONLINE EDUCATION: ISSUES & CHALLENGES"

IQAC in collaboration with Alliant International University, USA organized Webinar on *Future of Online Education* **April 30, 2020 at 9:30 AM.**

Dr.Vibha Singh Chauhan, Principal welcomed Prof. Rachna Kumar, Dean, California School of Management & Leadership, on behalf of IQAC of Kirori Mal College. The Webinar saw participation of students and Faculty from Kirori Mal College, Bharati College, Dr.Bhim Rao Ambedkar College, Aditi Mahavidyalya, Rukmini Devi Institute of Advanced Studies, GGSIPU; Siliguri Institute of Technology, Ginni Devi Modi PG College, Modinagar; AKG College, Hapur, Alankar Mahila PG Mahavidyalya, Jaipur; Rawat College, Jaipur; SRS College, Meerut;, Vardhman College, Bijnor; CCS University, Meerut; Sharda University, NOIDA; Rajiv Gandhi University, Itanagar; Nature Learning Centre, Assam; Unity College, Dimapur; NSU, Kolkatta.
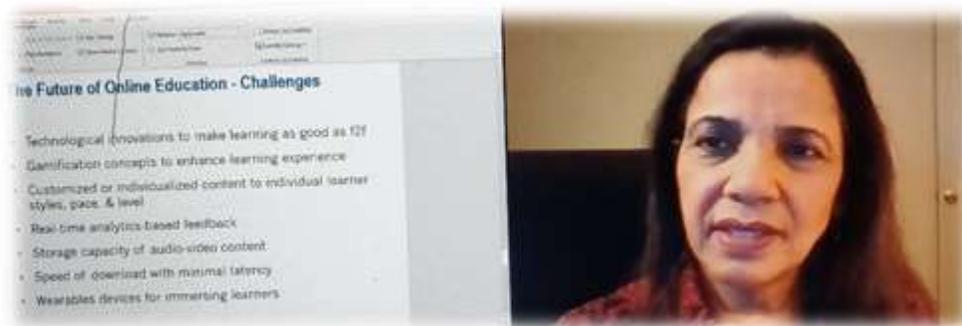
Prof. Rachna deliberated on Market size and growth of Online Education. E-learning market world wide is projected at US$ 243 billion by 2022. And India's online education market is projected at 1.96 billion with 9.6 million users by 2021. Indian market segment comprises Higher Education, Reskilling and Certification, Testing and coaching and lastly primary/secondary supplemental

education. The driving factors for online education includes access and availability of degrees and education; ease of education: convenience, open scheduling, time saving on commute; quality of education: reputed universities, geographically distant degrees; cost of education wherein tuition fees may sometimes be lower.

The present pandemic has forced institutions into adopting online teaching and learning modes.
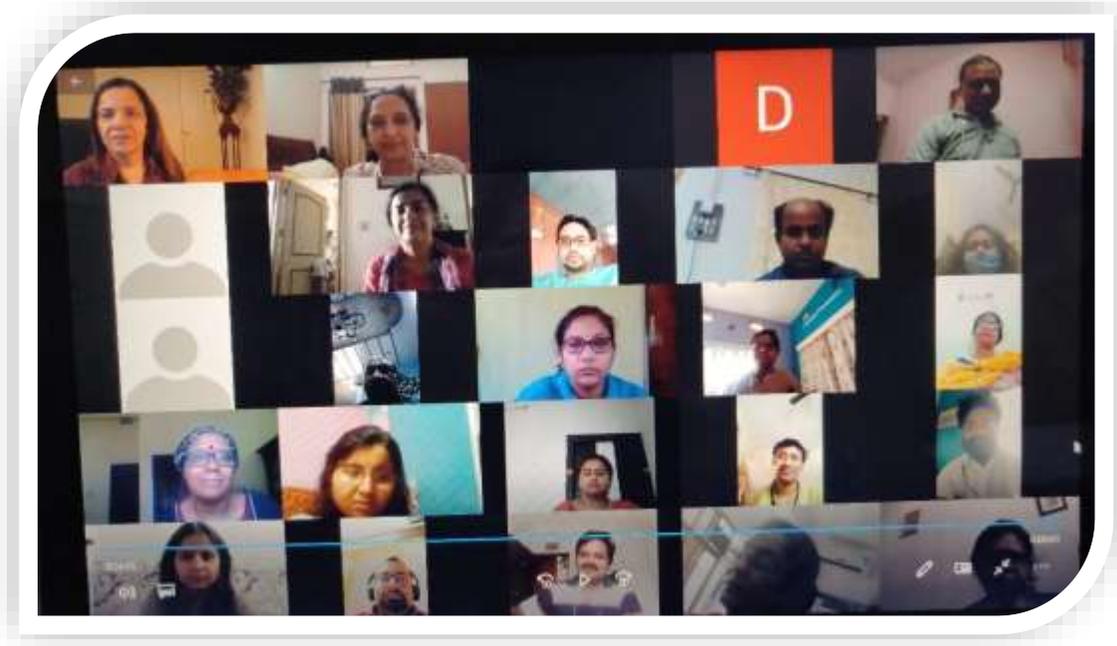
Face to face education is now being compared to remote education as an unintended experiment. There is no unanimity in agreement over whether Online education is better. It is accessible, flexible, affordable for remote students but it is inequitable for those with less technology and internet access. It is particularly hard for those students with learning distractions or disabilities. It definitely improves digital literacy and trains students to learn for a technologically advanced future world. But online education does not focus on social, emotional and networking aspects of the person. Several issues have to be addressed before we can adopt online education. More so, can online program incorporate a hybrid approach for diverse learners and user engagement?

The participants had numerous queries which were taken up by Prof. Rachna at the end of session. Some pertinent issues raised were: Challenges for the online education in rural areas, where people are not having proper internet as well as Digital equipment and technologies; how to ensure quality education through online mode specially for Researchers. Conducting Practical is a difficult task in an online education, specially the hardware- based laboratory. Teaching Mathematical sciences can also be a challenge in an online mode. Online education can provide a flexible schedule and environment for sure but in case of technical education it will remain somewhere incomplete without the practical laboratory experience.