EDUCATION DURING THE PANDEMIC

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Abstract: This article describes how schools in Uzbekistan managed online education during the pandemic and how meaningful have students spent their time in quarantine.
Key words: Online lessons, pandemic, broadcast, "online school", quarantine.

Introduction

As in 2020 a viral issue,COVID-19, has loomed all over the planet, people encountered unexpected conditions which entirely transformed the way they live. All employees and students, including children, have transitioned their work and studies into online mode, stunting interaction with outsiders and avoiding unnecessary "trips" to street except shopping for food and medicine. Clearly all humans were in quarantine in order to escape from signs of disease.

Obviously,in that conditions, all schools approached their educative programs in a a new "distant" form. In other words school students were obliged to continue their studies online and it had been organised new project for students to support the quality of their distance learning.

Online lessons

In 20.01.2020 Ministry of Public Education of The Republic of Uzbekistan declared that " in order to escape from the new corona virus infection
strain among children and young people and to prevent the risk of spreading the disease, Ministry of Health and Sanitation-considering epidemiological peace and community- declared that from 24th of January the educational curriculum in schools will be continued in online mode".[1]

In order to ensure the stability of effective education during the pandemic, the project "onlayn maktab"("online school") was created to provide online lessons for students of all grades. Video lessons by "online school" were broadcasted via National television channels of the television and radio company and the schedule of transmitted lessons were announced through the Telegram channel of "online school". So pupils of all grades had to stay at home and continue their studies by simply watching a TV.

The duration of online lessons were about 20 minutes. As in online lessons teachers are unable to check homework or make extra intriguing activities,the whole 20 minutes of the lessons were spent to explain the new theme of particular subject. These lessons were broadcasted through three different channels- one for 1-4grades, other for 5-8grades and last one for 9-11grades. Besides the online lessons, all these TV channels have broadcasted videos of different useful and educative sources like "edu kids". The "Edu kids" is interactive educational program, main purpose of which is to enlarge student's knowledge. These program creates diverse contents on interesting and self-help topics.[2] Animated colorful content attracts the attention of all ages and helps to effectively gain the information. So it enabled students to watch educative videos after the lessons which were useful resource for self-development.Furthermore in order to encourage all school students to read more books in their free time, these TV channels have also broadcasted the list of "1000 must have read books".

What school students and teachers did during the quarantine?

As a graduate school student in 2022-2023, I was curious to reveal how positively teenager students and some senior staff members in schools reacted to confined conditions and which activity was much more prevalent between them during the quarantine period.

According to surveys on how quarantine days were effective for teens in my school, an inconclusive thought emerges. Despite, roughly all students were happy to stay at home, avoiding daily visits to school, majorities were desperately frustrated unable to see their classmates everyday and enjoy a face-to-face talks with them.

Along with educational performance, in "boring" days of the quarantine many students were able to discover new healthy habits. For me, as an instance, variety of tutorial videos on You Tube become an inspiration to try a painting as a new hobby. After catching some painting tricks and techniques, I've started to experiment them on a piece of canvas by using "unique" items like sponge. A simple sponge, which is mainly utilised to wash any surface, can also be applied on painting in order to create fluent and naturalistic transition of colours. In addition,I also have noticed a huge improvement in my cooking skills- as it was a big deal for me to prepare different meals 2-3 times a day- like many female students in my school. But when it comes to male ones, altering "boring hours" by playing video games, particularly playing a PUBG mobile was most dispersed activity among them.

Senior staff members of my school, including teachers, were mostly busy with house works behind the online working hours. Considering that most teachers in my school are women, it's obvious that completing most duties at home is still their responsibility.

For teachers, even though, working online was convenient and took a little time, it was still hard to manage their curriculum properly as explaining a particular theme wasn't as efficient as in offline school lessons. Particularly, it was really challenging for math teachers to explain new themes and the process of solving hard math equations and graphs, as in online mode they were unable to detect student's understanding.

On the other hand, one of the most crusial task for teachers wasn't not solely to explain a new theme or check homework, but engaging students in a variety of activities (sports, arts, reading books) were also their responsibility.

As the most prevalent and convenient social media platform for people of my region was "Telegram", many purchased that. Particularly for school staff it was a main resource to exchange information. For instance: pupils were able to get and send their homework to this platform and assessed by teachers. Moreover,for most teachers it was also easy to send videos which they have prepared to explain an upcoming theme of curriculum.

Conclusion

It was just a small example of how schools in Uzbekistan have managed their studies during the quarantine and how school students have spent their time in that period.

References

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