

# A Study on the Role of Modern Education Apps on Students

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## Abstract

Education and Development are two entities that cannot be separated from each other. Education is a process of learning, something that continues throughout our lives. Considerable work has been accomplished by economists, academicians, social scientist to determine and measure the role and effect of education in the development process. India has the great heritage of knowledge since time immemorial. Knowledge has been flowing from one generation to the other since centuries. It is one of the oldest education systems in the world and is respected, rewarded in all capacities. However education is not restricted to scriptures and text books alone. Innovation and Technology have become predominant in every sector including education. People in India are also becoming tech friendly especially with the advent of Smart phone which has made education innovative and has enhanced the learning experience of every student. Thus it is rather compulsory for the education sector to adapt to the dynamic environment to keep pace with the competitive world. The impact of both technology and digitization on students and teachers of today's generation is a topic to be exploited and analyzed. The researchers in the paper have tried to analyze the effects and the roles of modern apps like LinkedIn, Unacademy, Coursera, TED etc. in the students' academic exercise.

**Keywords:** LinkedIn, Unacademy, Coursera, TED

"Change does not necessarily assure progress, but progress implacably requires change. Education is essential to change, for education creates both new wants and the ability to satisfy them" (Henry S Commager).

## Introduction

Education has always known to be a key factor for development in a country. Educated minds and its exploitation have not only improved the conditions of their homeland but of other countries as well. Education is a lever which raises the economic and the social status of an individual. Education standard of people also decides the economic status of the country and therefore providing the basic education to its people becomes the mandatory duty of the government. Education and development are

words that clearly go hand in hand, and one is incomplete without the other. India became one of the 135 countries to make education one of the fundamental rights which came into force on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010 under Article 21A.

The art of imparting knowledge has been evolving since the Gurukula Education system where the students or shishya stayed with the guru or within the guru's vicinity. Gurukula strikingly resembled a residential schooling system, where shishyas had to stay with the Guru to attain supreme knowledge while performing the daily chores with their Guru. These daily chores taught the shishyas, self-discipline and the ideal way of leading one's life. In a Gurukula, the students are completely disconnected from their families, making it their homes. Shishyas also

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offered gurdakshina to their Gurus, as a token of their love, respect and appreciation. In our Indian Mythologies such as Ramayana and the Mahabharata we have so many incidents on Guru Shishya relation. Dronacharya Kautilya are still considered eminent gurus in our mythology and history. During the kingdom of Guptas, education was seen flourishing. Institutions such as Nalanda, Taxila and Vikramaditya were seen blooming. These institutions had students not only from different parts of India but also from neighboring countries like China, Korea and others.

During the middle ages the Madrasa concept became prevalent. Especially with the establishment of the Mughal empire. Apart from teaching the traditional Islamic Education, Educators also taught science, humanities and various other subjects. Special mention may be made of Akbar under whose reign subjects like medicine, geography and science got equal attention. The concept of Riyazi which is in modern time's private tuitions was also in vogue during Mughal times. The education system under the British Raj predominantly followed the Western curriculum with English as the chosen language to teach. Several Universities such as Government Colleges, Aligarh Muslim University and others were incepted during the British Raj in India. The education system became more universal and on par with nation's system's and teaching methodologies. With Independence the education scenario in India changed completely. To give a brief on the Education System in India after Independence the National Policy on Education was introduced in 1968. Few recommendations which are noteworthy here are

- Introduction of the Primary Education
- Introduction of the three language Formula
- Introduction of regional language in higher education
- Agricultural, Industrial and adult education in different parts of India.
- National Council of Educational Research and Training at National Level and State Council of Educational Research and Training were established.
- To determine the standard of higher education University Grants Commission was established.
- Several Industrial Training Institutes, Polytechnics, Engineering colleges and Medical and Dental Colleges were established.

Development of human resources depends largely on education which in turn leads to nation building. Technology plays a major role in the era of Globalization. It has indeed changed the way people lived their lives. According to the 93<sup>rd</sup> Amendment Act education for all has been made compulsory. Sarva Shiksha Abhyan has been launched to fulfill the obligation of Elementary Education.

It was in the year 2004 that Information and Communication Technology was introduced in various schools in India to

inculcate the habit of using Technology while learning. Therefore Information and Communication Technology is the only solution for most of the developing nations to introduce some breakthroughs in different spheres especially Education. Innovative ideas and practical solutions are the two aims of Digital India an innovation of our Honorable Prime Minister. From teaching methodologies to learning platforms, technology sure has a place in it all. With the country swiftly moving towards complete digitization, it is vital that students, teachers and the citizens of this vast country understand the impact of technology in education. The concept of Smart classrooms also came into existence. It was a thorough transformation from tailor made lessons by the Gurus to Shishya to Shishyas tailoring themselves to fit into the relevant context. The education system in India also has expanded its horizons with the Digital India Program launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi Ji. Education has gone beyond class rooms and formal text books and lecture in India today. The Ministry and the Central Government have taken lot of initiatives to strengthen the All India Council for Technical Education. Some of the programs which are worth mentioning here are SWAYAM and SAKSHAM.

Swayam: It is a program initiated by the Ministry of Human Resource Development to fulfill three cardinal principles access, equity and quality. The aim of this program is to bring into the mainstream of knowledge economy those disadvantaged section of the society who were till now untouched. All the courses are interactive and have been prepared by the best teachers and anyone anytime can access it.

Saksham: The Saksham Yuva scheme was launched by the Government of Harayana in 2016 to give allowance to the unemployed graduates of the state.

Unnat Bharat Abhiyan: Launched in 2018 by the Ministry of Human Resource and Development ministry the government reiterated the hopes and dreams of Mahatma Gandhi who once said that India lives in villages. The Indian Institute of Technology Delhi created the required technology to take the development process to the rural areas.

Udaan: A scheme launched for girl students by the Central Board of Secondary Education with the guidance of Ministry of Human Resource Development. The aim of this programme is to bridge the gap between school education and Engineering entrance Examinations.

By exploring the various learning platforms such as Unacademy, TED, Coursera learning Apps one can clearly understand the direction in which today's youth are moving in terms of education and why technology has a major part in today's education system or whether they have become parts of their academic exercise. A brief review of all the

probable apps used by the students of city colleges will give a good idea of what these apps are used for or whether these apps have any role to play in their academic exercise.

## TED

TED stands for Technology Entertainment Design. The organization runs on the slogan “ideas worth spreading” Though TED was initially started to bring together people from technological back grounds, it soon came to include other aspects such as philosophers, scientists and philanthropists. TED however never stayed away from its core purpose of “ideas worth spreading” it may have started out with technology enthusiasts but it later felt the need to include any idea worth spreading. The TED Talks today is a community platform where people with different ideas, philosophies, technological breakthroughs as well as every day solutions come to share what they have learnt and believe, from which others too can benefit. People from all works of life, in all age groups can view TED Talks to gain inspiration and new ideas. TED Talks in the course of time has also become a platform for eminent personalities to not only showcase their life’s works but also get recognized by big brands who find it more easier to just pick up such candidates and allow them spear head entire divisions. TED Prize is one such program from TED itself which has included a cash prize of \$ 1 million for speakers who stand apart in their works to enable them to jump start what they are struggling with to something which they only dreamed off.

The TED organization has different sub heads, each created for the purpose of identifying, evaluating and supporting persons of eminence. They are as follows:

- TED PRIZE
- TED.COM
- TED CONFERENCES
- TED GLOBAL
- TED TRANSLATORS
- TED x
- TED FELLOWS
- TED-Ed
- TED MED
- TED WOMAN
- TED YOUTH
- TED BOOKS
- Ted Ed Clubs
- TED Salon
- TED RADIO HOUR

(Free for the People Looking for Inspiration)

## Coursera

Coursera is an online platform designed by two Stanford Professors to expand and extend the student base from the Stanford classroom to whoever wanted to learn. Coursera is partnered with more than 150 Universities around the

world. In short it’s a platform which gives an opportunity to do comprehensive distance learning. It creates a bridge to fill the gap created between the learning experience of students who have the means to go abroad and spend that kind of money and those who can’t afford but still have the urge to learn but have access to only distance learning courses which many times don’t give the candidate the weightage to land a job. Using online tools such as interactive videos, lecture videos, language options as well as other forms of teaching for people with disabilities Coursera gives an extra boost to distance learning previously not available. Coursera is a for profit academic online platform. Coursera however will not be responsible if the said course selected by the user is not recognized by the Universities in their respective countries as well as in the countries where the candidates are planning to use them to support their job prospects.

(Free and Paid Courses Available)

## Unacademy

UNACADEMY is a Bengaluru (India) based online platform created with the sole purpose of cracking competitive exams for admission in the various academic courses as well as job opportunities held by the Government of India. Teaching concepts cover general knowledge, technical explanations, historical events, mathematical formulas in the form of videos by lecturers, videos of presentations, videos of engineering concepts in both English as well as regional languages. All videos as well as course content on the UNACADEMY website cannot be downloaded for offline use and can be accessed only by candidates who have created an ID, enrolled and paid for the course content.

(All Courses are Paid)

## Duolingo

As the same suggests “DUOLINGO” is an online platform for learning the different languages of the world. It’s a comprehensive learning platform involving READING, WRITING, and LISTENING AND SPEAKING. Unlike other fields of learning, language learning can be done anywhere, during a break or while travelling. It does require a certain time commitment but unless career driven it can be done like a hobby.

(Totally Free)

## EDx

EDx like Coursera is an an online platform but created by Harvard University and MIT. It can be simply said to be another online platform with all the features offered by Coursera with some differences based on user experience as well as number of courses available in each. Ed ex is both a for profit and non-profit academic online platform. Like Coursera candidates choosing courses from Universities

and other educational content from EDx have to verify them in terms of its recognition by home universities or companies where they hope to be placed.

(Free and Paid Courses Available)

### Geeksforgeeks

GEEKSFORGEES is an online platform created for the sole purpose of cracking jobs in the world of Information Technology. Based in Noida (India) they also have classroom courses where candidates are taught in person by a lecturer. A fundamental feature seen in this platform is that all online courses are free whereas all lectures taken in person are charged a course fee.

(Online Free and Paid Classroom Courses Available)

### Review of literature

Ms Neelam Singh and Mr Himanshu Singh in their article titled 'Education Sector and it is one of the hurdles in Digital India' published in Kaav International Journal of Economics Commerce and Business Management (ISSN:2348-4969 IMPACT FACTOR(2017-.7.8902). Digital India initiative has revolutionized the entire education scenario in India. It has gone beyond the class room and lecture concepts. In the study the researchers have emphasized the role of Central and State Governments in providing the required infrastructure in bringing about the conducive atmosphere for the students all round development. The researchers have also mentioned about the initiatives introduced by the Ministry of Human Resource Development in 2014.

Another study Digital Education: Scope and Challenges of a Developing Society by Satish Bisla gives a clear picture of how India as a country has come a long way from 12% of literacy to 74% according to 2011 census but the author is of the opinion that India has a long way to go. In spite of all the initiative under Sarva Siksha Abhiyan problems of accessibility and affordability are the major problems that keep the children away from the basic education. He has presented a report of the survey conducted by a Delhi based NGO Pratham which conducted a survey among school children across 500 districts and presented a very gloomy picture. The author is of the opinion that quality of education in government run school is not up to the standard especially with a skewed teacher student ration.

In his paper "Role of Technology in Indian Education (DOI: 10.7763/IPEDR.2014.V79.2) Chinmoy Goswami explained the role of Technology while teaching and what kind of impact it has on students as well on the teachers. He also correlated the two concepts of education policy with economic development by providing comprehensive information on the three approaches namely 'The Technology Literacy Approach', 'The knowledge deepening approach' and 'The Knowledge creation approach'. He

also listed down the various technology based teaching tools and explained its utility and functionality in a given classroom setup. The study also discussed the various challenges of using education technology in India. A few of the several challenges were the limited access to computer hardware and software in educational institutes, lack of knowledge in how to integrate education and technology and many others. He concluded his paper by saying that the amalgamation of technology and education can indeed bring a lot of positive change both from the students and from the teacher's point of view. He further stated that the amalgamation of technology and education can make the learning even more interesting and intriguing for the readers. Finally he recommended the introduction of computer based learning right from junior class to make the students more familiar and comfortable with education technology.

An Ahmad, M Nisa (2016) in their study titled "The Significance of Educational Technology in Teaching Learning process" spoke in length about the various advantages of educational technology which clearly is the present and the future. The researchers listed down the various advantages of educational technology and the most highlighted one was the savings factor, where the researchers explained how educational technology could effectively reduce and replace infrastructure in terms of books, lab equipment and others.

Jineet Doshi, in his paper on ICT based solutions for education in rural India- A case study published in the Global Humanitarian Technology Conference (GHTC), 2014 and IEEE explored the various ICT solutions implemented in India and how it actually created an impact. The researcher spoke in detail about the establishment of connected grid of tablet computers and Wi-Fi devices in three schools namely Sarvodaya Parivar Trust School, Jasoda Narrotam Ashram Shada, and Government School of Vavar where students were taught using interactive multimedia applications. By the end of the paper the researcher suggested ideas that could be implemented along with the already existing ones. For instance the researcher suggested the teachers to start teaching communicative English first as that could make the students more familiar with the language, in turn helping them understand the others subjects better. The researchers concluded by saying that ICT is indeed is one of the greatest tools ever found and could drive the country's educational heights.

### Objectives of the Study

- To understand the reach and assess the impact of using education apps on students in higher education in Chennai.
- To get an insight into the reasons these students uses these apps.



- To understand whether the culminations of these apps technology has really made knowledge receiving easy and lucid.

### Research Methodology

A combination of Survey method and Descriptive analysis method has been used in the paper. Theories that the researchers have used in this paper to act as a conceptual background and a framework to contextualize the findings.

The Uses and Gratifications theory offers a strong theoretical background and to a great extent these education apps fulfills user's need of conceptual understanding, knowledge gaining, interest (Blumer and Katz, (1974, LaRose, Mastro

& Eastin 2001; Rosengren, Palmgreen & Wenner, 1985.

Again Constructionism by (Seymour Papert) which adds an extra feather to Constructivism by asserting that effectiveness in learning happens only when knowledge gained through online resources or apps are interpreted analyzed and processed by human brain.

Based on review that has focused on ICT and impact on students the researchers have focused on variables like impact of using modern education apps, student's satisfaction when they use these apps and also the quality and relevance of the content that these apps provide. Let us now look at the questions in the questionnaire distributed among city college students 200 respondents..

### Questionnaire

Age ☐

Gender ☐

Educational Qualification:

UG ☐

PG ☐

1. Do you use online platforms like education Apps?

Yes ☐

No ☐

2. What apps do you use for your studies?

Coursera

☐

TED

☐

Unacademy

☐

Duolingo

☐

EDx

☐

Geeksforgeeks App

☐

Any other please specify

☐

3. How frequently do you use these apps?

Always

☐

Thrice in a week

☐

Twice in a week

☐

Once in a week

☐

Never

☐

4. How do you think these apps help you?

Understanding Concepts

☐

Live Case Studies

☐

Practice Tests

☐

Can be used anywhere and anytime

☐

Free accessibility

☐

Better Resources

☐

Better Knowledge Retention

☐

5. Do you mind spending money for courses offered by these apps?

6. Do you think these apps have the capacity of active participation than the traditional lecture method? If Yes, write two reasons?

7. How do you verify the authenticity of the content provided by these apps?

From your peers

☐

From the reviews

☐

From your Educational Institutions

☐

Any other source

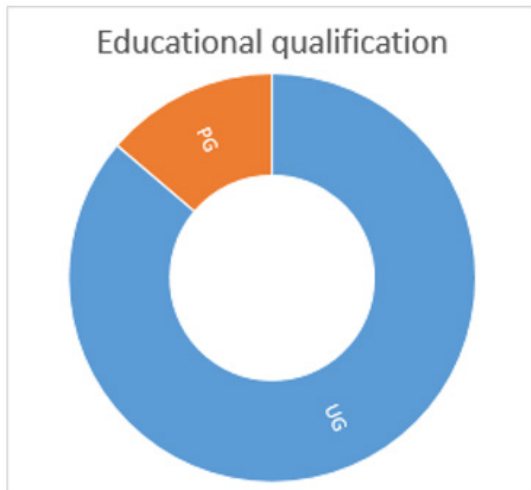
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## The Analysis

Educational Qualification

UG

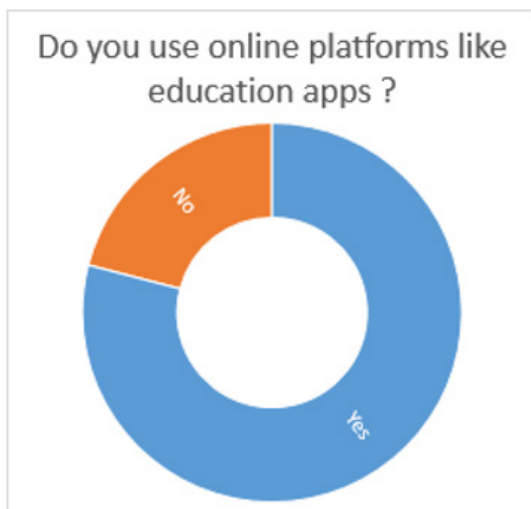
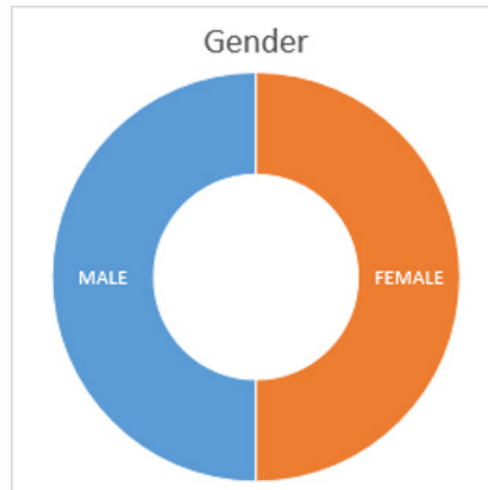
PG



Gender

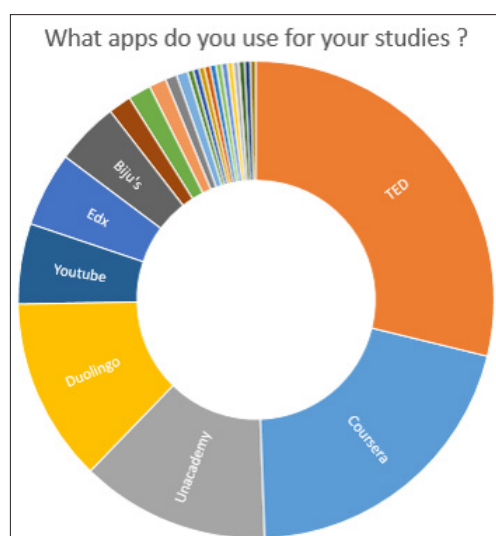
Male

Female



Do you use online platforms like education apps ?

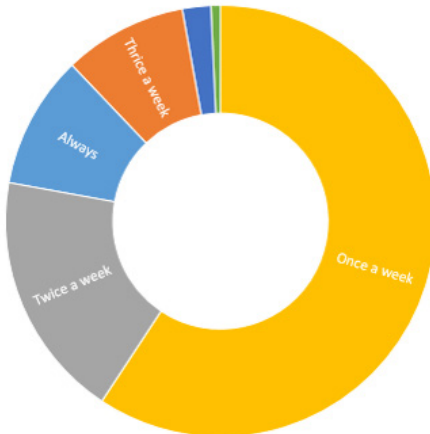
In the study it was found that TED, Coursera, Unacademy, Duolingo, Edx, biju's and youtube are the widest searched and used apps. Also a point to be noted is that though all other apps are connected to their own parent websites, they all seem to use Youtube to make their reach wider.



What apps do you use for studies ?

A lot of students admitted to using the above mentioned apps but surprisingly a good number of students still believe in the traditional classroom education imparted by teachers and all are not swayed by the influx of so many apps.

How frequently do you use these apps ?



#### Frequency of usage ?

In frequency of usage we found that those who seriously access such apps update themselves every week, a few of them are always connected.

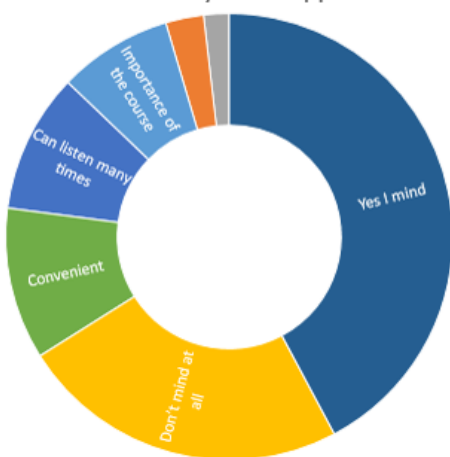
How do you think these apps help you ?



#### Use of these apps ?

This generation is able to access everything on their mobile devices which make it very easy to access from anywhere, also data in the form of videos, presentations etc. prove to make it easier to understand and remember.

Do you mind spending money for courses by these apps ?



#### Paid and free apps?

Students are willing to pay only if the course is really worth it, recognized and makes a difference in their studies. Otherwise most don't trust such apps however authentic they may be.



### Apps Authenticity

Reviews as in people's experiences are the best source of verifying the authenticity of apps, but it can also be misleading if someone wants to deliberately create negative publicity. Peers and the institutions too are verified sources.

### Conclusion

It is indeed a widely accepted fact that digital technologies and communication have the potential to strengthen and reform the education system in India. The culmination of technology and education has benefited both the students and the teachers' community.

Students who form the majority of Generation Z are hugely dependent on technological tools for educational purpose. Majority of them depend on online platforms to gather information, which clearly tells the importance and significance of technology in their lives. Students also listed down their most preferred online platforms that they use to educate themselves. YouTube being a video sharing website made it to the top. The selection of Google in the list of top three online platforms to educate one also seems highly valid, because of the search engine's vast collection of information on a wide range of objects and theories. However one thing that the researchers have noted in the survey conducted that students are very careful while investing for a new app. They go by reviews and only when they are fully convinced that they agree to pay the amount for a paid app. The concept of the earth being flat in terms of literacy rate and technology awareness is indeed true, thanks to the effective and appropriate usage of technology in the education sector. It has made the education world smaller and more accessible, where students can attain the zenith of the education platform anywhere and at any time.

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