Pakistan Initiatives Of Remote E_Learning For The Enhancement Of Literacy Abilities Of Pupils During Covid 19

Dr. Siraj Ahmed Soomro¹, Amina Mangi², Farhana Qazi³, Junaid Ali Jalbani⁴

¹Ph.d Department of Pakistan Studies, Shah Abdul Latif University Khairpur, Pakistan.
²M.Phil Lecturer, Department of Pakistan Studies, Government Girls Degree College Shikarpur, Pakistan.
³M.A, M.Ed Assistant Professor, Department of Urdu, Government Girls Degree College Shikarpur, Pakistan.
⁴Ph.d Scholar Lecturer Pakistan studies, Shaheed Benazir Bhutto University, Shaheed Benazirabad, Pakistan.

ABSTRACT
The destruction of pandemic Covid-19 created health, socioeconomic and education turmoil throughout the world where the only solution to fight it to look forward with the only options are lockdown, quarantine, self-isolation and social distancing. SARS_COV_02 outcomes are very worst for the next 2 to 3 years or more. The alarming condition of Covid-19 in Pakistan to devise a comprehensive strategy to prevent the spread of disease resulted in the resumption of all educational institutions for about one and half years both public and private across the country. The strategy of MOFE of Pakistan to introduce home based e _learning programs to continue the education without any loss via internet and social media which become paramount source of education related information on e-tech learning to enhance the literal abilities of pupils. This study aimed to investigate the policies of Government of Pakistan subject related education and their response, efforts towards the improvement of students' literacy abilities and web based information seeking behavior during early,mid and ongoing spells of Covid-19 outbreak in Pakistan.


INTRODUCTION
On the globe, the Pandemic termed Covid-19 corona virus, In order to resolve the pandemic of Covid-19, the world has changes its plan to cope this infection corona virus and it effects not only the health but other subjects as well, of them is most affected is education. Educational institutions across the world now shifted online courses to replace the old one's traditional physical classes teaching style (Sohrab, Alsafi & Al jabair, 2020). The Ministry of
federal education in Pakistan has also begun a series of online courses in place of physical classes to support the policies, rules and regulations of the constitution to ensure the pupils' right to free education without any loss and influence of Covid-19 by remaining safe at home. Home based education towards the pupils given by the Ministry of Federal education of Pakistan was one of the great steps to ensure and facilitate at home by giving new programs at Tele-channels, YouTube, whatsapp messenger and Google class room apps like zoom, google meet etc to enhance the mentality and literacy abilities towards the way forward to the continuity of education where the whole world are practicing these e_exercises to engage the students for making secure their academic career. In the Corona virus outbreak, e-learning plays a leading role in education with such a vast education system in our country, it is an apparent provocation for online learning methods to satisfy the demands of the education sector. The researchers steer the frequent interruption that e-learning systems will serve better and fruitful results if fully implemented (Ristic $ self anovic, 2020). Some high institutes in developing countries have taken on the drift of e-learning recently compared to traditional learning, the e-learning procedure can be accessed any place and any time. There is vast financial savings and time as well to set down five advantages of e-learning as compatible, adaptable, personation and stronger retention and time plus cost saving. As it plays an essential part of children’s physical and mental, social development.

WHO declared Covid_19 as a pandemic on 11 February 2020, and SARS-COV-2 name chosen by International classification of disease (ICD) so the outbreak of Covid-19 commenced from the Wuhan city, Hubei province of china where the 1st case of novel corona recorded in late December 2019 which rapidly spread all over the world, about to 209 countries tasted this virus under their womb (WHO, 2020). These are perilous times for whole human race is in a state of war against an invisible, implacable and lethal enemy. Health system in many places are overwhelmed, it what Henry Kissinger calls’’ society dissolving effects’’ (Tariq Banuri, 2020). It could not be figure out that covid-19 pandemic impact on education, by some estimates about 190 countries went to school closure (Arshad Saeed, 2021).

1st spell of Covid-19
Unfortunately one of them is Pakistan; according to the Federal Ministry of health advisory by the National health institute of Pakistan reported 02 cases in Karachi and Islamabad in February 2020 respectively. Within two weeks of it, it reached 20 positive cases of Covid-19 with the highest rate in Sindh (figure No: 02). The 1st spell of Covid-19 was recorded at reaching 1000 patients on April twenty two 2020; it peaked in 53 days, which says it infected 5884 patients. On 14 June 2020 National command operation center recorded 22 percent of active cases, it is rising dangerously. During the 1st spell the British variant was found in the country. The Sindh and Punjab province was under the influence of the Covid-19 with highest confirmed cases 31869 and 31104 respectively (figure No 02). The confirmed cases were according to data of NCOC 84,353 and active cases were 52,455 and fatalities ratio was 21 percent in Pakistan.

**Provisional wise statistics during 1st spell in Pakistan**
The government of Pakistan announced the 2nd spell of Covid-19 which started from late October 2020 and peaked in 65 days when the numbers of active cases of patient were recorded about to 3,262. Pakistan reported the highest number of deaths during the 2nd spell of the novel corona virus pandemic. The Ministry of national health recorded the new British new variant of SARS COV_02 in Pakistan which had been detected in United Kingdom. According to the data of NCOC 111 fatalities per day as a dead list day were recorded and national positivity ratio was 6.07 percent and highest positivity ratio in Karachi about to 12 percent. The 2nd spell mainly affected southern Sindh. Its ratio went to 18 percent.
LITERATURE REVIEW

The main strategy of Government of Pakistan beyond this pandemic Covid-19 to continue and ensure the education of e learning based mediums for students of different category so e-learning defines learning activities that involve a systematic combination of co present face to face interactions technology mediated interactions between students, teachers and learning resources (Baldwin-Evins, 2006). To cope up these barriers of education during novel corona virus 2019, the ministry of federal education launched the following measures to encourage the pupils as they can boost up their literal abilities.

1) INITIATIVES OF GOP FOR THE EFFECTUAL OF REMOTE E-LEARNING
A) Strategy and modes:-
It cannot be denied that education is the key success for any nation to develop individuality of a person, it is play pivotal role for development of any country but due to scarcity of education in the Pakistan which is the the fifth most populous country has a low literacy rate 62.3 percent (2019) and in a south Asia 49.9 percent (2019) where the education department needs more attention. In Pakistan, the crucial time of Covid-19 has paralyzed the whole functional activities of her which becomes the barriers for the abilities of pupils under such an anxiety environment and to learn such an effective way of communication areas face to face process. With the higher increment of Covid-19 cases in Pakistan, it affected the socioeconomic and several other departments of her meltdown under Covid-19 pandemic, though GOP announced to shut the educational institute included schools, colleges and university either Governmental or non-governmental, vocational institutions and religious institutions on 31May 2020 to save the lives of children from this deadly virus, Sindh announced the closure of school from 27 February 2020 and smart lockdown as well, then the other provinces of Pakistan began same footing and closed school from 14 march 2020. The GOP has also postponed the examination of federal and its unit’s boards comprising university until 15 June 2020, though that decision smashed 40 million ongoing school pupils from grade 1 to 12. More than 1.6 billion student’s worldwide faced the closure of academics on 15th April 2020 including examinations of Cambridge and all other foreign examinations have been cancelled. About 160 countries of the world including the United States of America closed 130,000 schools affecting almost 57 million children, to curb the novel coronavirus and prevent the solution and save the careers of pupils. According to recent report of world bank that 19.1(30.1 percent) million children in Pakistan are drop out from school before to covid-19 socio economic impact on their families as well where the learning poverty was already touch the high ratio with 75 percent of 10 years olds cannot read and understand the text of written (UNESCO,2020). During 1st spells of Covid-19 in Pakistan (March to June 2020) Pakistan 300,000 schools were shut down due to corona virus 2019 pandemic, the federal ministry of education launched online teaching methods and learning abilities programs for pupils where already access of education was a problem in Pakistan (Geven, Koen 2020). Education adviser of a central government mentioned that 22.8 million of Pakistan over 70 million are out of school. The corona virus outbreak has exposed its profound technological inequalities. Over 50 million school and university going Pakistanis now risk falling behind. Ongoing pandemic covid-19 has stopped the school education system for an undeclared time (UNICEF, 2021).

The digital transformation were the only option in front of Pakistan Education ministry to adopt those measure in a favor of pupils for post Covid-19 effect to install the remote e learning and to protect and prepare to the students for returning to their schools and to continuity of the education with the help of tech based programs which designed via remote/blended e-learning with the positive steps by the Pakistan (federal education and professional training 2020) to safeguard from the flexibility of system from the future disastrous like novel coronavirus 19. Online education enabled both the teacher as well as the students to set their own learning pace plus provides the flexibility of setting a schedule that fits everyone’s agenda. A wide range of courses is here in Pakistan. E-learning is more cost effective than conventional education which interacts both instructor and learner methods of
traditional learning (Dr Memoona, Ailya Raza 2021). The uses of online resources thrived significantly among the resources at this time as many lecturers and pupils were able to reach for information and materials through online blogs, papers, websites and other related resources. Another benefit of the transition to online teaching is to opportunity for live cloud recordings of teachings meeting, lectures and other interactions. The opportunity of working remotely which allow both and students to continue engagements outside the confines of a traditional classroom. These actions are helping to alleviate the parents concerns about their children’s educational attainment b ensuring that school learning is largely undisturbed. Quarantine and infection made students highly affected to their mental psychology and physical disrupt so availing e learning is commendable and necessary, there are reasons to be concerned.

The key role of high authority of education for immediate response for loss of the education and the career of pupils to make effectiveness of online classes in remote learning methods for prolonged school closure. So on the vision of Premier Imran Khan Niazi of Pakistan; the MOFE has floated to use of technology a way forward and alternative of face to face classes teaching style into digital divide among the pupils. The MOFE signed with the federal directorate of education, knowledge platform, Tele-Tallem and Robot mea, radio schools programs. These programs are designed to enhance the academic and social skills of students and competence and encourage literacy skills acquisition like recognition of letter, vocabulary and syllabus. Thus MOFE with the help of Terrestrial TV started TELE school which broadcasted daily lessons from 14 April 2020 with following reasons. A) To check out the effectiveness of these TV programs and technology on pupils b) To asses literal level and behavior plus response of pupils to understand the education through these modes. Though Tele-Tallem based daily lessons on television from Grade 1 to 12 with different languages like English and Urdu for the ease way of communication for pupils hence it is broad casted on PTV and other cable networks and also these programs and lessons were also available on YouTube channels, Mobile applications in country wide during some weeks of school closure during Covid-19 outbreak. It has started with few subjects like Mathematics, English and Urdu along science subjects. The team of Tele-school made 30 seconds teaser videos, advertisements during TV programs, YouTube channel platforms to build interest of pupils. The Ministry of federal education started to assess the outcome of Tele school by conducting the Gallup Pakistan Rapid assessment of its Tele school initiative for quantitative assessment of educational stockholders with a 04 key aim to give awareness of tele-school initiative in Pakistan, to see viewership of tele_school among various segments and rating of viewers and last on to create strong loyalty of viewers towards e-learning steps in Pakistan (Kashif, Abbassi 2020). Apart from it, the Punjab government launched at a regional level initiative named Taleem ghar to support the education of Punjab students from Grade 1 to 10 with science subjects. Not only this content but the animated characters of Teachers were made to engage students to help content development of information through these animated teachers characters to ask quarries among pupils by pausing during lessons. The website design was set up by Taleem Ghar to easily accessed the schedule of time table of TV broadcasts on mobile app and links of lessons plus feedback of pupils for the purpose of awareness regarding Taleem
Punjab Government made announcements through mosques at each Tehsil to reach at home. The other state like Sindh Government has also launched SELD learning app by Muse and digital classroom by school education and literacy department with joint venture to UNICEF, Mera Sabaq private limited for establishing digital learning platforms to educate the pupils for continued e-learning without any loss. These all will be achieved by the GOP and their units with the effective coordination among them to enhance the education and planning emergencies. However, due to the exponential growth in corona virus, the minister of federal education further safety measures and decided to end the the academic year for all students from in public and private schools on 14 may 2020 in which to cancel the exams of classes 9\textsuperscript{th} to 12\textsuperscript{th} were promoted (Neelam,Yahya 2021).

**B) OTHER STOCKHOLDERS**

To support the ministry of education to develop the learning abilities of students with remote learning almost all the international bodies are working with the member states to help them to cope the current scenario of Covid-19.

**B_1): Emergency Measure During Covid-19 By Unicef:**

One of them were (UNICEF, 2020) who allocated a grant of USD 140,000 to Pakistan. According to data from the united nation educational scientific and cultural organization (2020) shows that 8.6 million students are enrolled in pre primary learning centers and 22.9 million at primary schools and 1.88 million at tertiary level institutions. (UNESCO, 2020) states that 87.4 per of 181 countries have closed their schools during Covid-19 and that affected their learning abilities. (UNESCO, 2020) also commenced under the theme of “Covid-19 educational disruption and response” is giving the compiling statistics about the closure of educational institutions from across the globe.

**B_2): The World Bank Response To Pakistan During Covid -19:**

On 21 March 2020 the World Bank gave an emergency fund for education for continuing learning agreed with the government of Pakistan. MOU signed with Pakistan television and World Bank technical team on 25 march 2020. Premier Imran khan inaugurated the Tele-school on 10april 2020. With the collaboration of (World Bank, 2020) and (UNICEF, 2020) and (UNESCO, 2020) gave PREP programs to support the education of children. Response, Recovery and reliance on education project Covid-19 funded by the World Bank with a total budget was USD 19.85. The main aim for this project is to improve the finance capacity to ensure the access of distance learning services like content and learning materials, secondly to protect teachers and pupil’s safety and expansion of sanitization campaigns for health and education.

The world bank 2020-2021 has also allocated the 200 million for the action to strengthen performances for inclusive and responsive education program (ASPIRE), its aim to support an all inclusive remote learning system targeting an estimated 19.1 million children who might to stay out of school due to economic pressure brought by pandemic novel corona virus, it also gave training for teachers and administrators on remote learning and digital access through free, public wifi hotspots. It also strengthens the coordination among the center and its
units of Pakistan to generate new investment in traditional and alternative education recovery for youth to cover the outbreak of Covid-19.

RESEARCH METHODS
The main purpose to the study of Pakistan initiatives of remote e learning for the enhancement of literacy abilities of pupils during Covid-19 is to explore the government programs as to concern for education by using the data which was based on Yılmaz Kaya, (2013) as a version. This research based on quantitative methods were used like Graphics, statistics (see figure no: 01, 02, 03, and 04) & (Source: Health advisory platform by National health institute) Covid_19 cases in Pakistan during 1st spell and 2nd spell and qualitative methods were applied to view by analyzing the data (verbal and non verbal interviews) and surveys, online platforms like Google scholars, whatsapp questionnaires.

ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION
The outbreak of corona virus shifted as a paradigm from classes to e-classes in the education system on the earth. This survey elaborates that Ministry of Federal education worked hard to implement such a comprehensive framework of digitalization to develop and facilitate pupils at one click by the instructors for the effectiveness of the education with the help of technology tools like wise initial programs by GOP were Radio schools, knowledge platforms, sabaq.pk, Sabaq Muse and Tallemabad (Neelam, Eijaz 2021). The other works were also appreciated by MOFE to enhance the abilities for the pupils by engaging them through animated videos, learning management reality and gamification. E-learning programs have provided an opportunity to surpass this challenge and enable uninterrupted access to resources. To support this MOFE had established a new distance learning wing to continue developing alternative modes of education. In spite of lockdowns in Covid-19, MOFE is to ensure learning activity continuity and for the effectiveness of e-learning from physical classes pattern.

RECOMMENDATIONS
1) Technology plays a pivotal role in the e-learning experience with this in the practical sense that we should be open to try new technology and digital platforms to ourselves. Take advantage of online training tutorials, demos and reviews to find the software accord to needs that always be emerging game changing e-learning trends that can be use on future technology projects.

2) Technology is more effective for learning when adults interact and co-view with young children.

3) There is an urgent need for digital libraries in educational institutions like schools, colleges and universities and to provide that institutions quality electronic resources to pupils for increasement their knowledge.
4) In the pandemic everyone asked to remain at home and the home environment may not be suitable for students in a learning process because most of the students lose their families members in this covid-19 pandemic. Therefore the need to make a transition of online education to reduce their stress and anxiety and to make them aware of how to fight and be bold in the pandemic by using SOP’S and psychological education as well. If the school re-open the guidelines given by WHO (2020) must be applied in School to universities to monitor the rapid testing by ensuring the effective policies on well being of pupils.

5) The high authorities should provide and increase their efforts to teach differently by providing via free training through social media like Google zoom, television, radio, and Newspaper etc to promote self learning and a variety of platforms to learn digital ways to connect pupils. Though online learning environments require these above training sessions for instructors.

6) The school/colleges should implement the e-services facility for parents to provide awareness and guidance regarding the technology tools and usage in the new era of Covid-19 that shown us critical graphs especially for schooling of girls. Additionally teachers can assist calling and texting them by telephonic. However, other issues are in a point that few families may share one computer; others may not own a computer. Though it needs to find ways to provide electronic based tools to needy families children to get education at every home.

7) Odd/even or alternative day’s formula should be implementing for pupils in this outbreak of corona as they could continue their learning process. Not only students but Teachers should pay extra attention to enhance their ideas and skills by giving them new tasks and activities.

8) The state government and provisional government are supposed to make reliable strategies for those low income students’ communities and some affected areas of far flung rural areas that does not have internet coverage and access of power of supply and e-resources of digitalization connectivity. Most students will have great difficulties in transitioning and accessing online education because of lack of internet access (World Bank, 2020). So the policy should make by GOP and their units to provide free access to internet connectivity, free of cost content or discounted rates like tablets, laptops, wifi-usb.

9) To strengthen relationships among teachers and students through live sessions with show and tell. Need to set a time each week for students to just connect and communicate.

10) All the stockholders are supposed to be available when required for comprehensive support and provide a new approach to delivering the learning process through an appropriately skilled team. This should involve a maintained, improved and standard communication regarding facilitation buy-in form (financial and technical level) all involved with assurance of minimal possible disruption to learning delivery.
11) The existing course should be altered with best design courses from scratch for e-learning approach both deliver and learner on method of shortening of syllabus with crash vision for meaning full information retention and skill acquisition with given to autonomy to pupils of all levels by providing them to make presentation on their choices, by selecting their own choices topics for upcoming examination so teacher should create healthy environment to ease students to discussion for mass education.

12) In a rapid circumstance of corona virus 2019 ,the earth changes into global technology to support e learning from inside to outside the classroom from paper to digital world so hybrid technology system e learning environment introduced to enhance the abilities through digital ways like ICT (intelligently challenging technologies) to use in the classroom. It would highly recommend to Pakistan to use ICT tools (web 2.0, Tumbler, web design, animation clay ,word processing) for the motivation of pupils, attainment of pupils to engage for subject learning with latest tools in the same footing of technology in the world graph.

CONCLUSION
The Covid-19 heavily impact on health, economic and education in Pakistan because most of the lockdowns happened during the 4th spell of corona virus in her state, it predicts, there will be more spells of Covid-19 in underdeveloped countries like Pakistan. Every problem learn us something, Covid-19 transforms world into global e learning, children’s/pupils changes their page towards electronic gadgets which will be more helpful in future disasters. The decision by the high authorities to shut down the educational institutes and opt the digital platforms by introducing the blended learning programs to enhance and increase the abilities by pushing them to digital divide a pace towards inclusive education for e learning motive to learn, live and stay connected. The immediate challenge for government of Pakistan is to stop the wide spread of Pandemic while minimizing life losses and protecting the poorest. Pakistan strictly increases the assets of technology departments with latest, upgraded tools to avoid education loss among pupils based on quality to return on online schooling. It is concluded that main perspective to study the Pakistan initiatives of remote e learning for the enhancement of literacy abilities of pupils during Covid-19 that throughout the pandemic of covid-19 has been growing reliance on the use of technology and pupils of Pakistan found have been found that they are facing numeric issues with e-classes because of ineffective connection, isolation, mentally disturbance and secondly GOP also face the hurdle to give right of education act to all in pandemic. The Government should remain focused on implementing the short term to long term educational structural reforms, other than blended learning programs should be made more effective to continue and provide best possible ways to provide enhanced teaching courses with teaching methods plus technology driven education which will make pupils to learn e-digital modern world for future work culture. This indicates a substantial and global digital divide that will pose for future as DIGITALIZATION OF EDUCATION.

REFERENCES


Khan, Dr Memoona Yasmin. (January 2021). Online learning and motivational strategies in the backdrop of covid-19: an EFL perspective on teachers and students perceptions at tertiary level in Pakistan https://doi.org/10.36902/sjers-vol4-iss1-2021(135-147)


WHO Director General’s opening remarks at the media briefing on covid 19(March 2020) [Google scholar].
