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### **Webinar on "Learn,Lead, and Link-up:Knowledge Comes Closer with Social Distancing" organized by The Bengal Chamber on 10th April, 2020.**

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#### **Education sector worldwide is witnessing dynamic changes**

Kolkata, Apr 20 (UNI) The education sector worldwide is witnessing dynamic changes, where technology has played an important role in redefining education system and bringing classrooms closer in newer ways with COVID -19 effect.

With this backdrop, The Bengal Chamber had organized a Webinar , "Learn,Lead, and Link-up: Knowledge Comes Closer with Social Distancing" recently which saw participation of local and overseas dignitaries connected with the sector.

Dr. Suborno Bose, Chairperson, Education Committee, BCC&I & Chief Mentor, International Institute of Hotel Management opened the programme and stated, "This is going to stay. This is not something we are doing as a knee jerk reaction to COVID-19 menace. I think this has taught the educators a lot of things. I think we have leap frogged ten years ahead of times."

Prof (Dr.) Dhrubojyoti Chattopadhyay,Vice-Chancellor, Sister Nivedita University, said, "The challenges before all the educationists is how to maintain the academics. To reach its proper goals,we have to look after the new challenges and this new challenges is where we are now and it's about learning the new learning management system."

Simarpreet Singh, Director, JIS Group stated, "We have been following flip learning and blended learning since the last three years. And so when the lock down happened, our teachers were more equipped. I think the digital transformation is a future of learning. We are very keen to adapt to this. I'm sure after this lock down the distance learning will be 10x- 20x faster than other countries."

Miraj Digvijay Shah, Vice Chairman, The Bhawanipore Education Society observed, "I think that one of the positive effects of COVID has given us an opportunity and that India will pass the world ten years ahead in terms of the blended learning and the digital platform learning that will definitely have been a gift of COVID-19."

Amanjit Kaur, student, IIHM, Bangalore, stated, "There are many advantages but there are disadvantages as well. So the main disadvantage of online classes is the network. Everyone doesn't have Wi-Fi. Many people have network issues in India. In the month of October, we had several master classes. Many famous chefs across the globe taught us through online classes. So it is beneficial to all."

Prof. David Foskett, MBE CMA FIH BED(Hons) FRACA HMCCC, IIHM LONDON, in his special address stated, "The young people are digital natives. They have grown up with technology. They think differently about technology. And lecturers have to engage with the way young people are learning. The lecturers have to go on courses. We have to ease them gently in revolution because our consumers who are students want change because they are learning differently."

Prof. Saikat Maitra, Vice-Chancellor, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad University of Technology of West Bengal stated, "Government of India is also pushing those online education systems in significant aspects. The current situation compelled us to use all these digital resources in the best possible way. For online learning more enrolment of the foreign students by Premier institutes is very much possible if the digital contents developed by the institutes are of international quality. For digital education the trend will always increase in future."

Debanjan Chakrabarti, Director East and Northeast India, British Council, British Deputy High Commission, stated, "The two broad areas of higher education are mobility and research. We are looking towards a very large jump in numbers in this 2020. We organize a series of great talks and are moving much of it online".

Dr. Antonius Raghubansie, Director, Learning and Services, British Council India, stated, "We think our ambition in 2020 is to be able to meet via traditional print, digital face to face e-learning, English resources, our programs and partnerships. We expect to meet about 55 million people across India through our partners as well as have direct access."

Dr. David Graham, Sheffield Halem University, UK, stated, "From the UK's perspective what is happening is every university in the UK, 106 of them are close to online delivery. This will push us even closer to blended learning and flip classrooms. It's going to break down boundaries. Overseas institutions will be able to work more closely together. Aligning our technology could become more of the norm. There can be some new huge opportunities but the applied and technical subjects will never be replaced by virtual universities."

Rupkatha Sarkar, Principal, La Martiniere For Girls, said, "There is an acceptance for online education and thousands of teachers and professors and students are venturing into this academic cyberspace. But online learning is here to stay because it is an indicator that the world is moving and we have to adjust to the new realities of learning."

Bratati Bhattacharyya, Secretary General & CEO of Shikshayatan Foundation, stated, "There will be hybrid classes. What we need is connection. If you are able to connect to your students, then half of your job is done. If resources are available online there is no need to purchase it."

Chandrajit Banerjee, Proprietor, CB Classes, stated, "Definitely after this session, we will go for the best thing available in the market, be it online, be it in the content, as we are the educators. So that is the first change I expect after COVID-19. Artificial intelligence is going to play a major role in the assessment side."

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