

# Review of: "Online learning during the COVID-19 pandemic, lessons learned and what's next?"

Alok Srivastava<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> CMS

**Potential competing interests:** No potential competing interests to declare.

The article is very timely and relevant. Some suggestions to provide more clarity to the readers include,

1. In the beginning of the article, if author can define 'online learning', 'digital learning' and the difference between the two. My understanding is that this paper's focus is on online learning and not use of other digital mediums/platforms to access e-content available for learning purpose in absence of in-person classroom teaching/learning.
2. Paper may also elaborate on effects of online learning on mental health of students, (not limited to effect of COVID-19 pandemic and lockdown and closure of educational institutions). Adverse effects of online learning could be for reasons such as more screen-time; poor internet connectivity; cost of data packs; non-availability of e-resources for learning purposes or non-availability of digital device to use for learning purpose, particularly for marginalized and poor income families; instances of cybercrime and bullying due to spending more time on digital device for learning and socializing purposes may also be discussed.
3. In the conclusion section, author may look in to discussing the opportunity of upscaling the use of online/e-learning, as a blended or hybrid mode of teaching-learning, with all safeguards measures. May critically discuss the pros and cons of online learning in future/normal times, minus COVID pandemic like situation, which could be a one-off emergency scenario, we all faced. At the same time, discussing challenges of creating e-resource materials for different streams- humanities, science, commerce etc., and in different languages, among others, may make the paper more rich in content.
4. Paper's objectives and methodological approach followed should come up more clearly.