ARTS AND HUMANITIES IN THE POST PANDEMIC ERA: TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCES AND TRENDS IN THE FIELDS OF EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

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Abstract:
The pandemic has changed lives of almost every person in the world. It has changed the way of learning and executing research too. The various new trends we observed in the searches especially in the Art and Humanities educational fields. Right from choosing the problem statement, collecting information, execution and till the completion of research, impact of pandemic related subjects can be observed. In the current research paper, a researcher aims to find out the topics and trends that occurred in the researches in the post pandemic era. This study has a glance on change in educational systems, research topics and trends change, and other affected areas of educational trends. In this study, researcher aimed to monitor the trends and topics and hence, the study also has some limitations too. Researcher kept its limitation and scope around the Art and Humanities stream of education.

Keywords: Post pandemic, Trends & Topics in research, Art & Humanities, Impact of pandemic

Introduction:
The major population of the world was quarantined because of the severe outbreak of Covid-19. Not only the population of the countries suffered but its impacts also can be simulated by the educational system, institutions, and learning teaching methods too. The impact also can be seen on researches. Many researchers started their research on COVID 19 or some or the other way about pandemic; hence, we also can notice the topics and trends changing accordingly.

Despite the fact that it has become relevant and widespread in recent decades, the mass transfer of the educational system into online mode. Pandemic and post pandemic has changed the whole educational system a lot. The use of digital platforms increased due to social distancing norms and nationwide lockdowns. People all over the world had to adjust to new ways of e-learning.

Also, post-pandemic has presented an opportunity to rethink higher education. It has helped to enable online learning and teaching methods which can be noticed in the researches too.

Review of Related Research
To gain the glimpses of previous and recent research work done on the topic, researcher collected following few reviews. While reviewing the previous and current data and related researches to collect the data for this particular study, it is observed that all new research scholars are swayed with the burning trends and research titles which especially revolve around the topic of pandemic and post-pandemic.

The post-pandemic sheds the light on the educational system and how students adapted to online education in the context of a crisis. Online learning is the future and will undoubtedly replace land-based learning in the future. Rapid developments in technology have made distance education easy. [1]

Most of the terms (online learning, open learning, web-based learning, computer-mediated learning, blended learning, m-learning for ex.) have in common the ability to use a computer connected to a network that offers the possibility to learn from anywhere, anytime in any rhythm with any means.[2]

As the phenomenon is broad, multifaceted and pervasive, this broad scope has the potential to develop an inventory of possible research topics and parallel strands of domain-specific projects. For instance, posts published on the PanMeMic website have already led to a collaborative initiative in higher education, with a focus on the role that students jointly across the globe can play in researching the effects of COVID-19 on communication and interaction. [3]

Online Learning:
During coronavirus (COVID-19) spread, an increasing trend of online learning has another perspective of educational psychologists. There are major barriers to quality learning that should be taken into account. The five considerations are presented for schools and teachers like "Load Reduction Instructions", selection of learning material, motivation and self-management for students, connective instructions to improve the students' ability and providing the appropriate and professional support to students. The research will help to develop and deliver better online learning to optimize students' learning. [4]

The challenge to higher education has emerged as a basic problem of technology support and online instruction. The impact of a pandemic on entrepreneurship education is considerably high. Since technical tools are important in teaching, it demands additional scholarship for resource development. It highlights the necessity of the development of tools. Online learning requires to improvise the capacity of effective teaching in the online format. (Liguori E. W., Winkler C., 2020) [5]

To face challenges in online learning, researches have focused on ease of learning programs. "An initiative is taken for flexible online learning with new concept "Disrupted classes, undisrupted learning." It aims to customize courses to meet the needs of learners and offer an educational

environment. Flexible learning is focused on time, content and tools flexibility. Various dimensions of flexibility are defined in terms of learning resources and tools, teaching and learning methods, and services for teachers and students. The support system with cooperation between enterprises and schools with the government is highlighted." [6]

During online learning some new habits with increasing internet use are spotted. Thus impact of the online platforms in terms of chatting, videos, gaming is important.
As restrictions during a pandemic tend to remote working, e-learning and online collaboration platforms, new habits in people are highlighting the role of the Internet. The University in Italy, PoliTO, analyzed campus traffic for collaboration and remote working platforms usage. E-learning is more dependent on remote teaching acceptance. During online teaching, students have gained interest in teaching. Increasing traffic volume and download performance are effective in online teaching systems. The Internet has successfully survived challenges to maintain learning and university operations. [7]

E-learning is effective when it is accepted by students. It should reach students in the proper way. Face to face learning directly interacts with students. E-learning has reached them. "Remote learning is satisfactory and towards a positive approach in students. Major aspects of success include technology and learning materials with assessment. Appropriate communication and technical support are very helpful in delivering learning content successfully. [8] [9]

Research in Social Sciences and Humanities:
Digital technology has emerged as widespread and long term technology in research. Research should be global in terms of publications to reach maximum peoples.

Thus, research in the social sciences and the humanities needs to extend methods of research performance monitoring. The research publication is diverted to international researchers, regional or national scientists or scholars, and the non-scholarly public. Monographs play an important role in publication for all. The social sciences and the humanities should represent distinct authors to involve a broader set of topics and research style changes. Publication and citation in the social sciences and humanities need heterogeneity to achieve global acceptance. [10]

E-journals in the Humanities are supported with designing a new model today. Digital technology has changed the workflow of traditional production. But they are lagging behind the Scientific, Technical and Medical fields. They are traditionally available in printed form, and innovation in digital technologies is restricted due to a lack of investment in e-journals. E-journals are beneficial for Precision, speed, and Long term access. Open access to e-journals promotes economic sustainability, use, and growth. [11]

Therefore use of digital technology in research and publication will certainly make change and inspire growth of research in social sciences and humanities.

Education and Research Policies:

Today, global knowledge is influenced by supranational political powers. Thus, large funding for arts and humanities research is provided by states. For education policy, education scholars are taking into account the implications of globalization with global flows of trade, investment, and wealth. They consider examining new spatiality and motilities, ideas, labor, people, and images. These educational policies traveling from nation to state, nation to nation, and international organizations are pertinent to global governance. Education policies of "polycentric world politics" largely tend to think of education in economic terms. In contrast, "transnational sub-politics" have social goals and a richer view of education. In fact, it is difficult to separate education and economic policy. [12] [13]

Effect of Education and Research Policies:
The global knowledge economy has directed funding towards science and technology. Higher Education and Research and Development in these fields are the first priority. Traditional humanities and creative arts faculties in educational policies are in question. "Innovation in the knowledge economy is typically theorized". The policy considers the new economy, knowledge society, and the information economy. [14]

Challenges for Researchers in pandemic:
Researchers worked in the digital field to collect and analyze data using different online survey tools. Isolation criteria for avoiding in-person interactions are accomplished with existing online interactions, phone or Skype interviews, and digital sources of social research. [15]
"Researchers have expressed a number of concerns that artificial intelligence in exchange for the rapid acquisition and effective use of a variety of information by a person will help to do levelling of the spiritual and emotional sphere of a person. Undoubtedly, these issues require a number of studies and are relevant in a pandemic, crisis society" [16] "Despite the fact that it has become relevant and widespread in recent decades, the mass transfer of the educational system into online mode has caused a number of problems, difficulties and risks." [17]

It is obvious that humanity is experiencing a large-scale crisis of the current generation, the consequences of which are difficult to be predicted. The crisis nature of the situation is exacerbated by the fact that the intervention of the COVID-19 virus can serve as a dress rehearsal for the following crises: economic, political, climatic, sanitary, [18] and so on.

Contributions of Arts and Humanities:
Arts and culture are the roots of societies that enrich our lives and help to spread awareness about humanities. During pandemics, arts and culture helped a lot of lives to stay lively, motivated, and happy. As many people struggled through mental illness, arts, movies, music, literature, etc., helped to stay in a good spirit. Arts and culture directly connect to the souls and therefore are the best way to spread awareness and happiness in society through social media at the time of the pandemic. This is one of the reasons elders address that supporting arts and culture is about supporting humanity itself. According to recent research on arts and humanities, "The arts have been a key component of the pandemic response because of, among other things, the ability of arts organizations and grassroots groups to address wellbeing, mental health and social support issues arising from the reorientation of resources during the pandemic. These

organizations are local and community-based and serve those whom larger organizations might struggle to reach. Participation in arts and arts-based activities has enabled communities to survive and reform and reduced feelings of isolation". [19]

Executives and prominent industry figures with a particular interest in art have already made efforts to support it. However these initiatives largely stem from the founder's or leader's passion, companies can also support the arts by acknowledging its link to their broader business and principles. Also by positioning these initiatives as a commitment by the whole organization, they become conducive to long-term, suitable operations, and progress. "As in environment economics, nonmarket values for humanities arts and social science impacts can be used in cost-benefit analyses (CBA) and may potentially tip the balance in favor of humanities arts and social science investment. There have also been efforts to position HASS-based creativity as a vital input in the commercial innovation process, thus making HASS research more developed of market goods and services. Still, viewing HASS research through an innovation lens is not without its problem [20]. As modes of inquiry, the arts and humanities help us to understand these crises and their contexts and translate knowledge into solutions for social impact. If universities are to play a leading role in fostering cultural understanding and advancing democracy and social justice especially at moments of great uncertainty they must invest in research and creative practices that provide insight into the human dimensions of these pressing challenges.

Current Scenario
The pandemic has galvanized artists and stakeholders in creative industries to find new ways of doing culture, with tremendous advances in digital innovation and rethinking approaches to how to reach out to the audience through digital and analog media. [21]

The online mode of learning is easily accessible and can even reach rural and remote areas. It is considered to be a relatively cheaper mode of education in terms of the low cost of transportations accommodations and the overall cost of institution-based learning. Flexibility is another interesting aspect of online learning a learner can schedule or plan their time for completion of courses available online. The cost structure of online learning is another factor, online courses prove a more affordable option than traditional ones and there are no commuting costs, and sometimes required course materials such as textbooks are available at no cost. As reported by India today "Over the past two decades, there have been two fundamental notions that have shaped this ever-evolving relationship. The first, roughly corresponding to the first decade of the 21st century, was a nearly-universal belief in the emancipatory potential of emerging technologies and a social willingness to accept new technologically induced disruptions. The second perspective, corresponding to the second decade, was the antithesis of the first – a "tech-lash" or skepticism about the role of emerging technologies in our social lives and a growing degree of suspicion about the intent and actions of "big tech" and "strong states". [22] but the challenge goes beyond this. Just as individuals are beginning to learn that not all work requires formal office spaces, businesses may well realize that not all operations require humans. The rapid adoption of AI and robotics energized amid the pandemic could accelerate a process that governments and policy-makers have been concerned about for years – technology-induced unemployment.

Humanities, in the field of Education, are the holistic study of the human society and world from a perspective that is both objective and subjective critically. The field includes subjects like history, English, philosophy, etc. It is a curriculum where students and researchers get to investigate humans and apply several critical methods to help and form a thesis upon the history of man, human cruelty, morality and ethos. Conceptual analysis, experimental approaches as well as textual criticism play a major role in disintegrating the layers of what humanity has come to be, to date. Certain disciplines categorize social sciences such as economics, psychology, political science, sociology, etc along with this field of study which requires more quantitative approaches to interpret and form theoretical arguments which are further researched upon to materialize into the thesis.

The field of Humanities has been known to enhance the critical thinking ability of a person through their field of studies. In the wake of the Corona Virus, the researches in the Humanities Education Field has gone up as people have come to reassess their values and the companies are on the lookout for individuals who are analytic thinkers and are empathetic at the same time. Post-COVID, with the crash in the world economy, socio-political balance, the countries are facing major challenges. Areas such as economic growth, ageing and increasing population, poverty and productivity have taken a major hit. This has increased the researches in the field to come up with more complete and "well-rounded" individuals who can amalgamate creative thinking with analytical thinking in any area. Professor Garza, in the Latin American University, has predicted a need for stronger leadership which has to lead to an increase in the research of the Humanities Field, to perform against the complex problems which have been accelerated by the COVID. The need is more for a study that includes the whole picture, along with science and technology. One of the major reasons, according to Prof. Garza, is that Arts addresses a person's spiritual dimension, since, societies cannot be fed on innovation, productivity, entrepreneurship and AI".

The world has seen an upsurge in a huge number of epidemiological, laboratory and clinical studies to help the countries figure out the best way to manage the ongoing virus outbreak. Along with the increase in the mortality rates and the healthcare system facing major downfall, socio-economic life has been affected majorly for people all around the globe. Thus, the need for and an increase in the social and economic impacts of the pandemic is necessary to help the policymakers plan ahead towards a better future that mitigates the current socio-economic problems. The decreasing economy and increasing unemployment have alienated people socially, pushing them towards a constricted freedom of movement and has reduced the democratic aspect of a government regarding making decisions of the country. The research in social science has been boosted to understand microscopically, the impacts of the COVID-19. Some of these researches address certain government policy impacts and provide empirical evidence on their effects and others have provided insights that are theoretical in nature into why some social changes have taken place. Certain other researchers have provided an analysis that can be compared across different countries of the world. The holistic research area in fields of Humanities; sociology, human geography, anthropology, etc. have been boosted, post COVID-19.

Research areas such as the Political economy of health have posed certain questions to refine the area of study in the future. Questions such as the comparative study of different governments and how they have tackled the COVID situation has been given primary importance. The measures which had been taken, how social distancing has impacted trade, commerce and business, the question of increased unemployment have also been addressed in the topic of research. The long term impacts of the government response around the world in terms of a pandemic and outbreak and economic crisis has also found their importance. One most important issue has taken the place in certain research papers- the problem and the psychology of "panic buying". Certain researches have addressed the underpinning reasons for the panic buying and its impact on the underprivileged that have not been successful enough to carry out buying common items of livelihood, out of panic. The democratic governments have been faced with the question of the socio-political and ethical effects of the contingency measures on freedom and democracy.

The psychological field has faced the biggest research opportunity right after the socio-politico-economic fields. The significant psychological effects on the exposed groups such as students, children and health workers show a probability of them contracting Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and other symptoms of distress, Thus, the research through the symptoms of distress in people maintaining social distance and quarantine has increased to give the students a better understanding of the effects of a pandemic on a person's psyche. Studies have been conducted, as a result, to collect empirical data on the pandemic effects and the ways of interventions based on technical grounds. Suicide Awareness Voices of Education (2020), and several other research articles have spoken about the psychological effects of estrangement, quarantine, pandemic and social distancing and how they can have deadly consequences such as the rise of suicide cases, especially with people facing economic problems and are under stressful conditions in an affected area. Thus the advancement of research in the field of psychology has some of the distinguished thesis about how to study and manage the psychological aspect of a human being, especially after going through a "pandemic that shook the world".

Concluding Remarks:
Although the pandemic was catastrophic, it has led ways to broader research in the field of Humanities in the aforementioned aspects, and more. We have also seen people taking the path of self-healing psychologically, through liberal Arts; painting, cooking, dancing, recitation, music and other forms of studies of humanities. The researchers conducted on each of the Humanities subjects shall lead way for the future generation to analytically study and have a better understanding of how to balance critical thinking and empathy to fight a battle that shuts the world.

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