



E – Teaching of Music --Its Challenges,Advantages and Disadvantages

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ABSTRACT

With advent of high speed internet and availability of video conferencing apps as well as messaging apps, the field of E – Teaching has emerged as a unique method for present times. The article discusses the aspects with its use in imparting Music education, the experiences shared. An analysis of available capabilities and short coming with respect to knees in music teaching are discussed. The response of students is also discussed. In effect the extent to which E teaching of Music is presently possible is evaluated here.

ARTICLE

In this times of high speed internet and connectivity to even remote areas of country the method of E Classes has suddenly risen. Popular e- video conference applications Skype, Webex,and Google hangout have become available as paid or free app usable on mobile,iPad and laptops. In addition,WhatsApp, FaceTime and Messenger such messaging service have become easily available on mobiles. So an opportunity to impart E learning similar to class room is now possible. From earlier times we have initially Skype and WebEx meets to cater to this demand and used extensively in industry and university. Google hangout, is within reach of most if not all students and teachers. Let us consider this with respect of teaching in context of Music field both Vocal and Instrumental.

In our experience E Teaching Vocal Music on WhatsApp & Skype with present commonly available mobiles, laptops and iPad, E classes have been taken. In this the theory has been given Eresource in form of copies of reference notes and Vocal renditions on line as well as self-recordings. We have asked students to learn and respond with their singing. It is observed that the quality of singing in online meet is not good enough. When we asked the students to record and send clips of singing it is better, but still required to improve. In one time the students find difficult to catch the tones and the finenuances in Raagsinging. Listening to their recordedvocal Raagclips sent these are somewhat better but not still satisfactory leaving much to be desired.



But I salute the students that they have put much efforts and enthusiastically responded in E Teaching. You will agree it is difficult to convey the subtle variations in Raagnotes which can best be done in face to face interaction only. Performing arts require that each student be carefully listened and guided. Thereafter he / she can practice and become perfect. To bring about this teaching we still have to develop an expertise in possible teaching exercises for E learning and at same time better applications needed to overcome these limitations. E learning can support strongly the normal teaching in colleges and other centers. I am sure in field of instrumental music similar scenario is seen

Today as a best in E Learning, we can introduce student to selected presentations of legends, masters and gurus available with internet, our personal archives, digital libraries in university colleges and perhaps the world wide web. The ease with which this can be done with minimal time of search, it is indeed a very big advantage today. Although such consultation on internet is free to large extent but it may require some money in case of using publicly open digital libraries.

This method of E teaching can be very useful in promoting our traditional Gharana Singing which is slowly losing its students and influence. This is a very valuable¹ asset in field of music and can be easily supported in E learning for benefit of gharana, student and community as a whole. We may impart music teaching in limited but specialized exposure to students in colleges with patronizing by local institutional organization of colleges and university by making this part of curriculum.²

E learning has some peculiar disadvantages when used for performing arts subjects like music. Unlike in a regular student- teacher classroom under university college, the E -Teacher that while his online teaching, the student is seriously listening to him and not engaging in other work. This will obviously lead to a fall in student performance.

From another curriculum point of view E Learning cannot be 100 % substitute to normal classes. The students need to come to college and be participant in other academic and cultural activities to develop their personality attributes required for teamwork, mutual adjustment, tolerances, emotional developments, group efforts. They need to participate in activities develop a general understanding of societies, its conducts and also job opportunities. Involvement in activities like Sports, dramatics, NCC, NSS, and cultural tours are means by which they are exposed to many new aspects of life which cannot be achieved with E – learning. However, the skills obtained in E Learning can be employed to create videos and E



campaigns on Instagram, Twitter and such handles with which the students can complement these activities and also later can use in their profiles for jobs.

The danger of sole dependence on E learning in music is that as a student he / she is in a young formative stage of life. If They daily puts all effort to learn something by sitting in front of computer, Ipad, mobile for long times it can lead to them getting affected psychologically by way of producing eyesight problem, headaches, hypertension, anxiety, depression and such. Student of music is also required to develop and refine his music skills for which a peaceful, encouraging and at times a competitive environment is required wherein say a vocal music student interacts with maestro or pupils of other music skills Like Tabla, harmonium, sitar, etc. This can be done easily in a class or room but not so properly in E Environment. It is also important to understand that with all the video / audio modulation software available we may dramatically improve our music recordings but the limitations in a student's performance can be gauged only when face to face interaction with teacher is there, or listening or singing live is done.

The Skills and free apps for E Teaching via Meetings messaging are still in beginning stages (Google hangout, Webex, WhatsApp etc.) In these applications it is still required to improve further so that the atmosphere of a class is created. A teacher would be effective if he able to see all people at once and all can interact with each other. This is used with limitations video conferencing apps. Hence a personal protocol only one person at a time can speak so that rest of people can listen with clarity. Therefore, rest have to wait till turn is given to speak. In such a scenario it is acceptable to hold a meeting but not so suitable in E Learning or E musical meet because simultaneous interaction among participation required in Music which will not be possible properly.

In industry other Apps Like Skype, WebEx meet, etc. are there are all paid Apps. However, all these apps depend on their use for High mbps connections Internet. So these meets are possible in certain places where this high speed internet is available. The near future when load on internet for so many increased meetings (by other Users), E Education begin, then it is expected that E Learning meets will get affected. Hence we need to limit E Learning to perhaps few hours per week.

To conclude briefly, E teaching has good scope in use of E- resources for reference teaching in Music, For research and self-Studies by students. In a limited but consistent use it can be employed for teaching certain aspects in music specially for distance learning, disabled people and maestro and Gharana music. For it to be used more often we are limited by capabilities of



apps for the meet, their costs and limitations in internet availability and speed at places of participant stay

¹Masikpatrika , Sangeet Shikshan of gharana , Nov 1990,p 486

²JotiSangeet , Nov 1990 pg no7 Sangeet Ratnavali