ONLINE EDUCATION: TEACHING IN A TIME OF CHANGE

• Paper / Proposal Title:
Special education teaching with the emergence of COVID-19.

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• Abstract (300 words):
Special education has been a demanding task for both teachers and students even in a physical space with tactile knowledge of materials and surfaces to conceptualize a myriad of sensory experiences. This task has become more challenging, as catering to needs for each student online in relation to one’s individual mental, physical and emotional capabilities has proved to be an ordeal for academics in most virtual classrooms.

This paper, thus attempts to study the ways in which special education teaching was carried out before the pandemic and stay-at-home regulations and track the trajectory on which such teaching has transformed on virtual platforms.

Employing mixed methods such as surveys and case-studies and qualitative-intensive data from various teachers and students in special education, in this paper, I argue that the digital platforms can be an instrumental aid for students requiring special education
and how in certain situations can be the best method of teaching, especially students suffering through severe anxiety and self-image issues.

Taking into account; models from Gestalt psychology and cognitive sensitivity of students, the paper also proposed a curriculum framework that can be used/replicated by special education teachers who are working virtually, with the open-ended choice of modifying the framework according to the needs of one’s own cohort of students.

Keywords: Special education, virtual classrooms, curriculum framework

• Author(s) Biography (200 words each):

A trans-disciplinary artist and writer, Arshad uses text, research data and new media in his practice to render distinct sensibilities in the ever-changing contemporary dialogue. Arshad enjoys working with different processes and developing new connections through spatial interventions and conceptual explorations.

Arshad was also awarded a Global UGRAD Fellowship grant to study visual art in the USA. He also recently launched a platform by the name of The Roadside, in Lahore, Pakistan to introduce pop-up art shows to reinvigorate the existing gallery infrastructure in the city. Arshad has also been featured by various organizations such as Humble Arts Foundation, A1 Bazaar, Swiss Embassy in Pakistan and Alter Works.