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Impact of Covid-19 on Education in India: A Review

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Abstract:

It is observed by world that, the impact of COVID 19 pandemic is in every sector. Education sector of India are badly affected by COVID 19. It has imposed the worldwide lock down and creating very bad effect on the students' life. Nearly 32 crore students stopped to move schools and colleges in India. Moreover COVID 19 has taught to all of us that change is unavoidable. It has worked as a mechanism for the educational institutions to grow and opt for platforms with technologies, which have not been used before. The education sector has been fighting to survive the crises with a different approach. This paper highlights how COVID 19 impacted on education in the country, both the positive and negative impacts on education. After that some fruitful suggestions are also made by the researcher to carry out educational activities during the pandemic situation. During lockdown Schools, colleges, and universities are closed to control the spread of the coronavirus. Covid pandemics brings difficulties for students, teachers, and parents. So, distance learning is a solution to continue the education system. However, the lack of network infrastructures, computers, and internet access is challenging distance learning in developing countries. This paper aims to review the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the education system in India. Hence, design a strategy to use educational technology, zero-fee internet educational resources, free online learning resources, and broadcasts teaching. During closures, educational institutions design curriculum, prepare teaching-learning strategies for post-coronavirus. The educational institutions design strategies to recover lost learning and return students to school when schools reopen. Coronavirus has been impacting the face-to-face education system. Therefore, India should enhance broadcast teaching, online teaching, and virtual class infrastructures.

Keywords: Educations sector, Coronavirus, Covid19 Pandemic, positive and negative impact

1. Introduction:

The Covid-19 pandemic impacts on global health, economic, human and social life, as well as education system, industrial sectors, agriculture etc. spheres of the world economy. Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), including universities, colleges and other institutions in tertiary education, are no exception. Indjikian and Siegel (2005) suggest that investment in ICT mostly has a positive impact on

education therefore developing countries can increase the probability of catching up to more advanced countries through more investment in IT and Internet-based technologies. Dr Tracey A. Conlon and others (2020) asserts that crisis has highlighted the many strengths of e-learning in medical education, but similarly its limitations for clinical teaching. Many skills unable be taught remotely. The disruptive and potentially transformative impact of Covid-19 on undergraduate medical education is likely to be profound.

The paper is based on analysis of review with careful consideration of the quality of the information sources. Appropriate and relevant literature has been reviewed from reliable sources to make rigorous, conscientious and effective arguments and highlights how COVID 19 impacted on education in the country, both the positive and negative impacts on education. After that some fruitful suggestions are also made by the researcher to carry out educational activities during the pandemic situation.

2. Impact of Covid-19 on Education in India:

The spread of the COVID-19 pandemic temporarily closed the child-cares, nursery, primary and secondary schools, colleges, and universities to control the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. The impact of COVID-19 on students as well as teachers and parents. COVID-19 affects all over the education system, teaching-learning, examinations and evaluation, starting of new academic year.

2.1 Impact on student, teacher, and parent's Life:

Forty-one percent of our population is below 20 years of age. This makes up for a sizeable chunk of the school-going population in need of education and skills for a robust workforce in the future. Nearly 1.5 million schools were shut in India for 315 days, a significant part of 2020 and early 2021, due to the pandemic impacting about 250 million children. 82% of children across 5 Indian States have lost at least one specific mathematical ability, such as identifying numbers, performing operations or problem solving, when compared to last year. Similarly, 92% of children, on an average, have lost at least one specific language ability such as oral expression, reading fluency, writing skill and reading comprehension, compared to the previous year . This is seen uniformly across all classes. **(Amir Ullah Khan, 2021)**

Students have suffered a lot due to the closure of schools since the last two years as they have forgotten to read and write. Their writing speed has also decreased to a great extent. In addition to this, due to online classes many studies have got addicted to playing games on their mobile phones which also adds up to the weakening of their academic base. (Kashinath D Bhoir, March 2022)

Mental and Physical Health

Due to covid-19 closures schools, colleges and higher educational institutions negatively affect the moral, mental and physical health of children, students, parents, and teachers.

Changes in student's behavior post-lock-down due to reasons like: They miss their friends, teachers and the togetherness of sharing and caring in school. They are living in homes where they are not accepted for who they are. Many are living in abuse and neglect. Many students have shown psychological imbalance as they are never herd and understood. (Dr. Sanghamitra Banerjee, 2021)

Due to lack of interaction with teachers and peers students have also lost the emotional equilibrium which is also responsible for their academic loss. Since we have started coming to schools, we are working on improving the basic concepts among the students. In addition to this, due to online classes many students couldn't study due to not having mobile phones. We are now focusing on improving the language base of the students which is most important," (Adds Bhoir, 2022)

3. **Positive and Negative Impact on Education system:**

Positive impact of covid-19 pandemic on education system:

- **Hybrid learning mode has emerged:**

Hybrid learning mode has been adopted by most of the educational institutes which has encouraged to teachers as well as students to educate with modern technology. Education systems began to differentiate with the big breakthroughs. After the covid-19 pandemic, will distance education no longer be used? Will there be a return to the old system? The opinions of the experts on this subject are that the education will be carried out with a hybrid model.

- **Digital Literacy has improved:**

Contribution of digitalization in today's education system have become important. As various technological advancements are emerging to cope with situation, communication with students and teacher in teaching-learning process comes to the forefront in the transformation of digital literacy of education system. The amount of digitally literate teachers and students is also improved. Which benefits for teachers to work in collaboration with other teachers, helps students to complete their tasks by online collaboration with other classmates. This digital literacy also leads to provide worldwide opportunity to students and teachers, educator and researcher to interact with the globally.

- **Increased use of Learning Management Systems (LMS):**

During COVID-19 pandemic school, colleges, educational institutions and universities can carry on with their education through use of LMS. The. Schools, colleges, and universities are shifting away from the four-wall classrooms to the digital space where they can teach or study within their own home.

- **Improved in Time Management System:**

During the pandemic Most of the students determined their own individual plans. Students are attending online lectures, hence more attention to time management and ways to overcome challenges

more efficiently compared to the offline mode. It helps students to utilize their saved time in other hobbies and more studies.

- **Increased demand of Distance Education:**

During the covid-19 pandemic online education platforms are encouraging for self-learning and providing prominent options like certification courses therefore the demand of distance learning courses has been extremely increased.

Negative impact of covid-19 pandemic on education system:

- **Training for teachers about online education :**

Before covid-19 pandemic many teachers unknown about online education therefore training of online education to teachers was a challenging part of teacher training. While using different online platforms to taking online lectures and creating digital content; there were several technical challenges faced by teachers and students also.

- **Hampered Educational activities:**

As an effect of COVID-19, many school and college students have lost 2-3 months of academic year from their curriculum. This caused loss of interest in education for students, as well as some teachers suffered economically during the period. As result of this loss of time, schools and colleges revised the schedule and as a result quality of education hampered.

- **Increase in parent's responsibility:**

Due to online education, their parents only observing to students sitting at home. Teachers had and have limitations over monitoring during online teaching as well as assessment. As a result, the discipline, which students learn at physical education, has been impacted severely.

- **Online education: Challenges faced by rural communities**

Due to unavailability of mobile, laptop, computer etc. devises as well as strong networks, and maintenance of educational equipment many challenges faced by students as well as teachers of rural communities

- **Decline reading and writing skills:**

The new challenge comes with new solutions; for online lecture delivery, decrease reading and writing skill of the students as well as teachers.

- **Technology Training became a challenge:**

Applications like Zoom, Google meet, Cisco WebEx were used. Educators as well as learners needed to train themselves with these options. This was not an easy task for all. While using different online platforms to taking online lectures and creating digital content; there were several technical challenges

faced by not only teachers but also by the students. To learn new application and to use it at the same time of teaching was one of the difficult task faced by educators. Controls like screen sharing, using white board was difficult at first. Need of proper hardware equipment and good internet connectivity was an added requirement.

4. Education System Post COVID-19 Pandemic:

Educational institutions reopened and going to become normal? Another question is that 'What if the current system is the "new normal"?' In India, there are a lot of initiatives taken by Ministry of Human Resource Development for secondary and higher education; some of them are listed below:

e-Learning:

This is an e-learning platform created by NCERT. Apps is available in various language the study materials e.g. videos, audios, e-book etc., helps to students as well as educators and parents to understand how the platform work.

Diksha Mobile App:

The DIKSHA platform offers engaging learning material, relevant to the prescribed school curriculum, to teachers, students and parents. Download the DIKSHA app and scan QR codes in your textbooks for easy access to all your lessons.

SWYAM:

SWAYAM is a programme launched by Government of India and designed to achieve the three cardinal principles of Education Policy viz., access, equity and quality which has more than 1900 different courses. More than 1,000 specially chosen faculty and teachers from across the country have participated in preparing these courses.. The objective of SWYAM is to take the best teaching learning resources to all, including the most disadvantaged which is free of cost to the learners, however learners wanting a SWAYAM certificate should register for the final proctored exams that come at a fee and attend in-person at designated centres on specified dates.

Recommendations:

The educational institutions design curriculum, prepare teaching-learning strategies for post-covid19 pandemic for internship, research programs etc. Methodology, certification, assessment parameters have to be revised and shall be modified according to the requirements of the current situation. In order to strengthen the backbone of e-learning the government should come up with creative strategies to make the education accessible to each and every student especially for those who come from rural area, marginalised, underprivileged and remote sections of the society.

The educational institutions should design effective educational strategies to recover loss of during the covid-19 pandemic and return students to school when schools reopen. Coronavirus has been

impacting the face-to-face education system. Therefore, India should enhance broadcast teaching, online teaching, and virtual class infrastructures.

Conclusion:

The COVID-19 pandemic affected on the role of educational systems – and particularly vocational education In India, most of schools, colleges, educational institutions and universities are closed for control the spread of the COVID-19. However, distance learning is challenging in India because many parents have not themselves been to school, lack of ICT infrastructures, computers, radio, and television. The poor and digitally-illiterate families with lower educational levels children with poor learning motivation are more suffering in this situation and this increases inequality. Students in most rural areas may be forced to fully support their families in cattle herding and farming therefore rural school students pushed far behind due to Covid 19 pandemic. Also, girl students from low-income families can be at a higher risk of sexual abuse, and forced labor, and early marriage.

During the COVID-19 pandemic government researchers, curriculum designers, education officers, and educational institutions work together to transform the education system. The COVID-19 pandemic impacted all students and teachers adopt suitable pedagogy and platform for teaching and learning online. So, governments should scale network infrastructure and internet connectivity across urban and rural areas. The India should design a strategy to scale educational technology, establish zero-rating educational resources on the internet, prepare digital teaching and learning resources, utilizing free online learning resources, mobile learning, radio and television teaching, and grow-up ICT infrastructures

Schools, colleges, educational institution and universities should design curriculum, prepare learning strategies and techniques for post-COVID-19, and transform the education system itself. Post COVID-19, the schools and universities design strategies and methods to recover lost portions, ensure children return to school when schools reopen, and scale online learning infrastructures.

Finally, Pandemic brought more stress and depression to the educational system and it has given us the opportunity tackle new challenges. We have adapted a lot of technologies and trained ourselves for become education system new normal. We cannot perfectly say when situation be mild down but we can predict our ability to face it with experience.

Conflicts of Interest:

The authors declare no conflicts of interest regarding the publication of this paper.

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