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# Effect Of Covid-19 On Indian Education System

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## Abstract:

Indian education system is still not mature at both the urban and rural area. Midday meal is the program organized to attract the students to get education. Under these circumstances government-imposed nation wise lockdown on March 25th, 2020 to combat COVID-19, has made severe impact on the education system. India has the world's second largest school system, after China. According to UNESCO, 63 million teachers were affected in 165 countries. A total of 1.3 billion learners around the world were not able to attend schools or universities, and approximately 320 million learners are affected in India alone. It has changed the traditional education system to the educational technologies model in which teaching and assessments are conducted online. Both the positive and negative impacts of COVID-19 on Indian Education system are observed. This paper aims to identify the difficulties and challenges faced by teachers during online teaching and the impact of COVID pandemic on Indian education system. Also, various concerns related to online education are illustrated and suggestions for government, stakeholders, and teachers are also given.

**Key words:** COVID-19, Virtual learning, Institutions, Faculty, Students, Parents.

## Introduction:

The COVID-19 is a novel illness linked to the identical family of viruses as SARS - severe acute respiratory syndrome and some types of a common cold. The acronym of COVID-19 is CO for corona, VI for the virus, and D for the disease. The indications of COVID-19 can contain cough, high fever and shortness of breath. In severe cases, the infection can cause pneumonia or breathing problems or even death. The infection is transferred through direct contact with respiratory drops of an infected person-generated over sneezing and coughing. People can also be infected by touching surfaces tainted with the virus and touching their faces and the virus can enter the human body through eyes, nose and mouth. Due to this deadly pandemic, the Indian government had to call for a "Janatha Curfew" where people had to adhere to home quarantine for 21 days. Indian government has announced the lockdown and closure of educational institutions as a logical solution to enforce social distancing within communities. The nationwide lockdown has had a tremendous impact on the education system of the country, especially for students from rural areas. Since the Indian education system is dominated by classroom study, the present scenario has made the functioning of the educational institutions go very difficult.

In India, the COVID-19 outbreak has been declared an epidemic in all its states and union territories. To combat COVID-19, lockdown was imposed on March 25, 2020 which has adversely affected the education system in the country. It has changed the traditional education system to the educational technologies (EdTechs) model, where teaching and assessments are conducted online. An inevitable consequence of the COVID-19 outbreak fell upon the education system. It has induced panic, stress, and confusion regarding the present and future of education as the teaching was disrupted by the pandemic to a large extent and consequently, anxiety has been raised among students, parents, and teachers. As per the UNESCO report, this pandemic has impacted around 120 crores of students across the globe. In India, more than 32 crores of students have been affected by the various restrictions and the nationwide lockdown in which around 27 crores of primary and secondary school students are affected. The COVID-19 pandemic has created the largest disruption of education systems in history, affecting nearly 1.6 billion learners in more than 190 countries and all continents. Closures of schools and other learning spaces have impacted 94 per cent of the world's student population, up to 99 per cent in low and lower-middle income countries. The crisis is exacerbating pre-existing education disparities by reducing the opportunities for many of the most vulnerable children, youth, and adults – those living in poor or rural areas, girls, refugees, persons with disabilities and forcibly displaced persons – to continue their learning. Learning losses also threaten to extend beyond this generation and erase decades of progress, not least in support of girls and young women's educational access and retention. Some 23.8 million additional children and youth (from pre-primary to tertiary) may drop out or not have access to school next year due to the pandemic's economic impact alone.

### **Objective**

The overall objective of this study is to analyse the Impact of COVID-19 on Indian Education System. In particular, this study will examine:

- i. How the Indian education system is facing the Impact of COVID-19, and highlighting the role played by teachers and students through online education
- ii. How the positive impact helpful to student, parents and school teachers in the scenario of the online education
- iii. How to reduce the negative impact of COVID-19 on students for their smooth education.

### **Research Methodology**

The study has been done on the basis of secondary data in order to know the impact of COVID – 19 on the Indian education system. The data for the study has been extracted from works of previous literature, related websites and research articles.

### **Purpose Of the Study**

All systems have strengths and weaknesses. Maximizing strengths and minimizing weaknesses in order not to miss the opportunity to move forward should be the goal. The

main purpose of the study is to analyze the impact of COVID-19 on the Indian education system. It covers the impact of COVID-19 on rural and urban students, Higher education Institutions.

### **Impact Of Covid-19 Pandemic on Education**

People are resistant to changes irrespective of the outcomes but when the change becomes mandatory, they must accept it and the real challenge begins from here. Being academicians, it is important to keep up the process. The Government and Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) hurriedly broadcasted that online teaching or virtual learning would be conducted by Educational Institutions. While some of the affluent private universities accepted online teaching but the state-run public universities had to face immense practical problems. During COVID 19, education is going through different problems and unprecedented concerns. Multiple positive or negative impacts can be seen due to lockdowns which forced us to think about how we can strengthen the education sector by developing 21st-century skills in teachers and learners so that they can easily meet with future demands.

### **Challenges To Institutions**

**Financial crisis-** Technical skill amongst faculties- Reduced Admissions- Due to the effect of COVID-19 educational institution had to adopt modern technology to deliver the lecture, while it was easy for private universities to accept the transition as compared to public universities.

**Technical skill amongst faculties-** Providing modern technology for faculty members during pandemic turned out to be a nightmare for educational institutions and training technologically unskilled faculties to adopt the online mode of teaching was very difficult.

**Reduced Admissions-** Parents and students were hesitant to enrol courses leaving universities to face the crisis. Tests for admissions will be offered online and at home, and institutions will have to transform to teaching online which makes a fall in admissions and the process very complex.

**Lack of cooperation from parents-** Working parents found it difficult to manage children at home meanwhile they are hesitant to pay high tuition fees for online classes. On the other hand, parents from rural background found difficulties in providing necessary gadgets and an internet connection to their kids.

**Fall in admissions of International Students-** Many Institutions rely on tuition fees paid by international students. However, due to a pandemic such students were barred from entering India which created a void both financially and in terms of student diversity.

### **Impact On Teachers and Students**

Both teachers and students are facing many hurdles during online education. At home, a lack of basic facilities, external distraction and family interruption during teaching were major issues noticed. Educational institution support barriers such as the budget for

purchasing advanced technologies, a lack of training, a lack of technical support and a lack of clarity and direction were also noticed. Teachers also faced technical difficulties. The difficulties were grouped under a lack of technical support; it included a lack of technical infrastructure, limited awareness of online teaching platforms and security concerns. Teachers' personal problems including a lack of technical knowledge, course integration with technology are damper their engagement in online teaching.

### **Challenges To Students**

- Uncertainty with respect to future- Students are uncertain about their future because of their further education or jobs rely on the results of the current year. Due to COVID 19 almost all the educational institutions are closed and postponed the examinations. Students are perplexed about their carrier and future education.
- Disruption of education- Due to COVID -19 there is certainly a disruption in the normal education system, even educators are trying to provide good resources to the students through online classes that won't suffice the multidisciplinary learning just like classroom learning.
- Poor internet connectivity or networks- Most of the Indian students reside in a rural region where they lack access to advanced gadgets or internet connectivity which is a primary requisite online class. Due to social distancing, they can't even share the minimum resources with their friends.
- Lack of support from parents- Most of the rural parents are uneducated and the urban parents are busy working from home, students need homeschooling or the support from parents which is quite difficult in providing them with good content.
- Banks are hesitant to provide educational loans- Due to COVID-19 pandemic banks are under financial pressure and few of them are variations of providing educational loans for students to pursue studies in India and abroad at an affordable rate of interest.

### **Positive Impacts on Education System**

Though the outbreak of COVID-19 has created many negative impacts on education, educational institutions of India have accepted the challenges and trying their best to provide seamless support services to the students during the pandemic. Indian education system got the opportunity for transformation from traditional system to a new era. The following points may be considered as the positive impacts:

1. Improvement in collaborative work- There is a new opportunity where collaborative teaching and learning can take on new forms.
2. Rise in online meetings- The pandemic has created a massive rise in teleconferencing, virtual meetings, and webinars and e-conferencing opportunities.
3. Enhanced digital literacy- The pandemic situation induced people to learn and use digital technology and resulted in increasing the digital literacy.

4. Better time management- Students are able to manage their time more efficiently in online education during pandemics.
5. Skill Enhancement: Teachers are juggling with ICT tools to manage their online classes and also developing their skills especially technical skills so that they can easily facilitate the positive digital learning environment according to their students' needs. Despite the huge challenge, they enrolled themselves in the number of MOOCs (massive open online courses) offered by various learning platforms like Swayam, Coursera, edX, and Future Learn, etc.
6. The emergence of a new model of learning: The pandemic presents a good chance for education institutions to implement another pedagogy that utilizes digital and ICT tools to facilitate academic activities while teaching remotely. Current conditions demand thinking about new modes of learning without compromising the quality of education. Over the period we will be forced to go in such a form of education that is the amalgamation of offline (face to face, traditional, in- campus learning) and online learning that is 'Blended Learning'. Therefore, it may be the mode of learning soon. The use of open educational practices may grow and open education may be preferred for getting knowledge globally.

#### **Negative impact on education system:**

Indian education system has suffered a lot due to the outbreak of COVID-19. It has created many negative impacts on education and some of them are as pointed below:

1. Educational activity hampered- Schools are closed and classes have been suspended. Different boards have already postponed the annual examinations and entrance tests across India.
2. Parents' role- In urban area some educated parents are able to guide but some may not have the adequate level of education needed to teach children in the house.
3. Digital gadgets: Especially in rural area many students have limited or no internet access and many students may not be able to afford computer, laptop or supporting mobile phones in their homes, online teaching-learning may create a digital divide among students. The lockdown has hit the poor students very hard in India as most of them are unable to explore online learning according to various reports.
4. Missing of Real Touch: Online teaching and learning is not real. But online teaching is most similar to touching someone with gloves. Touching someone with gloves can not make them feel of reality. Some argue that nothing compares to real. It's OK to use gloves during the pandemic time, the same way it's OK to use online teaching in times of disruption. Not forever, as we are real people, real teachers dealing with real students. We need real learning space for developing emotional and social attributes among the students.

#### **Government's Digital initiatives during Pandemic**

The Ministry of Education, India has taken various steps to educate many of the school students during the lockdown. Several online portals and educational TV channels, Radio programmes have started for students to continue learning at their home. Many social media tools like WhatsApp YouTube live etc. for online teaching-learning are also started for the training of teachers and students. The digital initiatives of MHRD for education during COVID-19 are listed as below:

- ✓ **Vidya Daan:** It is a national program of DIKSHA to ensure quality education for school students from various states/UTs of India. Individuals, educationists, subject experts from government and non-government organisations may donate/contribute e-learning resources (lesson plan, videos, quiz, etc.) for school education, to ensure quality learning under the Creative Commons license framework.
- ✓ **Diksha:** Diksha portal and application contains e-content for teachers and students according to the various state board curriculum for classes 1 to 12. This e-content includes textbooks, video, and worksheets and also evaluation modules in various languages and created by more than 250 teachers across the nation under the guidance of CBSE and NCERT. The application can be easily downloaded from the Google play store and can be used online and offline as well.
- ✓ **SWAYAM:** SWAYAM is the national online education platform hosting more than 1800 MOOCs covering both schools (classes 9 to 12) and higher education in all subjects. A credit transfer is a unique feature for SWAYAM courses. During the pandemic, 92 massive open online courses for grades 9 to 12 are uploaded on the SWAYAM portal and it is a matter of pride that approx 1.5 crore students have enrolled in these courses. They can access all the course modules - text, videos, and assessment questions, etc.
- ✓ **Swayam Prabha:** Swayam Prabha DTH channels are meant to reach and facilitate those who do not have some kind of internet facilities or digital devices. 32 channels are started to telecast quality educational programmes by efficient teachers under the guidance of MHRD. Channels are set aside for school education and higher education separately to the telecast of live interactive sessions. The Department of School Education and Literacy is also tied up with various private DTH operators like Tata Sky & Airtel. Soon, the number of TV channels for school education will increase from 5 to 12 to transform into 'one class, one channel'

## Conclusion

COVID-19 has impacted immensely the education system of India. Though it has created many challenges, various opportunities are also evolved. The Indian Govt. and different stakeholders of education have explored the possibility of Open and Distance learning by adopting different digital technologies to cope up with the present crisis of COVID-19. COVID-19 has impacted immensely the education sector of India. From the study it can be concluded that COVID – 19 has definitely created problems to Indian educational system, the smooth functioning of classroom learning has shifted to online learning leaving

educational institutions, students, faculties and parents to go through many hurdles in adopting new technology, virtual model of teaching and learning, managing work and ensuring children are adept and engaged. Institutions can also look at the larger picture to analyze how they could marry the old traditional way of teaching with the modern technologically advanced way of coaching. It will be much easier to cope with the situation if the Government provides better internet connectivity, proper power supply and educate people about the functionality and importance of virtual learning.

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