



Research Paper

Impact of COVID-19 on Indian Education System

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Abstract

Education is the building block of any country; it builds knowledge, skills, practice and mind of the people. Any country cannot afford the discontinuation of its education system. Indian education system is still not mature at both the urban and rural vicinity. Under these situation government imposed nation wise lockdown on March 25th, 2020 to combat COVID-19, has made extreme impact on the education system. Health is also a major concern for any country and keeping its countrymen healthy is the responsibility of the nation's authorities. The outbreak of the corona virus (COVID-19) has declared by WHO a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC). In this paper, we are discussing about covid-19 and its impact on education in the Indian context. This research paper to be discussed above impact of Covid-19 on Indian Education System.

Keywords: Covid-19, Education, Online Classes and Virtual Classes

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I. Introduction:

India is the second largest school system country in the world, after China. As per UNESCO, sixty three million teachers were affected in a hundred sixty five countries. A total of 1.3 billion learners around the world were not able to go to schools or universities, and about three hundred twenty million learners are affected in India alone. It has modified the conventional 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 determined. This paper goal to analyze the Impact of COVID-19 on Indian Education System, focusing on education during online teaching and evaluation of students getting online classes in this pandemic from settings at home.

The spread of pandemic Corona virus has critically disrupted each aspects of human existence such as education. It has created remarkable test on education. In many educational institutions around the world, campuses are closed and teaching-learning has moved online. Globalization has slowed down significantly. In India, about thirty two crore learners stopped to move schools/colleges and about all educational activities brought to an end. Despite of these kind of demanding situations, the Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) have reacted positively and managed to ensure the continuity of teaching-learning, research and service to the society with some tools and techniques at some stage in the pandemic.

All educational activities like school admissions, examinations, entrance tests of various universities and competitive examinations, etc., are being held during this pandemic period. As the days are passing by with no immediate solution to end this outbreak, the closure of schools and universities is hugely affecting the learning across the nation. The formation of the Indian education system i.e. learning methodology, teaching techniques and assessment methodologies, is quite affected, resulting in a shift to online education with most focus on virtual education to accomplish the set aims and objectives. But most effective a handful of schools and universities could adopt such techniques and the low-income non-public and government schools are pretty inefficient to adopt the same, for that reason resulting in a shutdown.

Objectives

1. To analyses the Impact of COVID-19 on Indian education system.
2. To evaluate how the positive impact helpful to teachers, student and their parents in the scenario of the online education.
3. To know how to reduce the negative impact of COVID-19 on students for their smooth education.

II. Methodology

COVID-19 related data and information presented in the study are collected from various reports, articles and research papers published by national and international agencies on impact of COVID-19 pandemic. Information is also collected from various authentic websites. Some journals are also referred relating to impact of COVID-19 on educational system are referred.

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 object 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.

Digital Infrastructure in India

Before the COVID-19 lockdown in India, no one predicted that the face of the Indian educational institutions may want to change so appreciably. Schools that never allowed students to carry an electronic gadget turned into learning centers for online classes. Both teachers and students are getting familiar to this new normal, that is surely greater tough for the teachers to handle with this position. The teachers also face challenges in designing effective lessons and changing of teaching when shifting to online learning; this may also be resolved thru workshops and training.

Impact on Teachers and Students

Both teachers and students are facing many hurdles all through online education. At home, a lack of basic facilities, external distraction and family interruption during teaching were foremost troubles observed. Educational organization support limitations inclusive of the budget for buying advanced technologies, a lack of training, a lack of technical support and a lack of clarity and direction were additionally noticed. Teachers additionally 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.

Positive Impact 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.

- I. **Develop the use of soft copy of learning material-** In lockdown situation, students were not able to collect the hard copies of study materials and hence most of the students used soft copy materials for reference.
- II. **Improvement in collaborative work-** There is a new opportunity where collaborative teaching and learning can take on new forms.
- III. **Rise in online meetings-** The pandemic has created a massive rise in teleconferencing, virtual meetings, webinars, and e-conferencing opportunities.
- IV. **Enhanced digital literacy-** The pandemic situation induced people to learn and use digital technology and resulted in increasing the digital literacy.
- V. **Improved the use of electronic media for sharing information-** Learning materials are shared among the students easily and the related queries are resolved through e-mail, SMS, phone calls and using different social medias like Whats App or Facebook.
- VI. **Worldwide exposure-** Educators and learners are getting opportunities to interact with peers from around the world. Learners adapted to an international community.
- VII. **Better time management-** Students are able to manage their time more efficiently in online education during pandemics.
- VIII. **Demand for Open and Distance Learning-** During the pandemic situation, most of the students preferred Open and Distance Learning mode as it encourages self- learning providing opportunities to learn from diverse resources and customized learning as per their needs.

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:

- I. **Educational activity hampered-** Schools are closed and classes have been suspended. Different boards have already postponed the annual examinations and entrance tests across India.

II. **Unpreparedness of teachers and students** - Teachers and students are unprepared for online education; they were not ready for this sudden transition from face to face learning to online learning.

III. **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.

IV. **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.

V. **Create Difference:** This online teaching-learning method creates a big gap between rich vs. poor and urban vs. rural students.

III. Observation and Recommendation

This pandemic has revealed some of the major loopholes in the Indian education system. The closure of schools has made a severe impact on marginalized students.

One of the crucial tendencies that can be observed is the need to have a combined method to online learning with increase in investment on the upgrading of the technology infrastructure of educational institutions. Stress desires to be given to education the academics. All education institutes now are aware of the importance of technology and should take serious measures to conduct technology-driven education through the learning management system. It is suggested that educational institutions ought to use technology in all aspects. This pandemic shows the partnership between technology and education is going to stay all the time.

1. India have to accept the full technology for improvement of education.

2. The Indian Government must enact sound legal guidelines for private schools so that there can be no exploitation with the teachers.

3. Internet is a fundamental right of citizen so it it need to be open for all with none discrimination.

4. India need to make investment more and more on education.

5. The schools should start class work of internet for students so, that during any crisis they can use it well for education.

6. The teachers should take training of accessing internet and electronic devices.

IV. Conclusion

COVID-19 has impacted immensely the education sector of India. Though it has created many demanding situations, numerous opportunities also are developed. The Indian Government and different stakeholders of education have explored the possibility of Open and Distance learning by adopting different digital technologies to manage up with the present crisis of COVID-19. India is not fully equipped to make education reach all corners of the nation via digital platforms. The students who aren't privileged like the others will suffer due to the present choice of digital platforms. The priority should be to utilize digital technology to create an advantageous position for millions of young students in India. It is need of the hour for the educational institutions to strengthen their knowledge and Information Technology infrastructure to be ready for facing COVID-19 like situations.

Even if the COVID-19 crisis stretches longer, there is an urgent need to take efforts on maximum utilization of online platforms. India should develop creative strategies to ensure that all children must have sustainable access to learning during pandemic COVID- 19.

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