

An Impact of Covid-19 Pandemic on School Education in India

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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 analyze the Impact of COVID-19 on Indian Education System, focusing on education during online teaching and assessment of students getting online classes in this pandemic from settings at home.

Keywords: Covid-19, School, Education, Online Classes, Virtual Classes, Pandemic

I. INTRODUCTION

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. All educational activities like examinations, school admissions, entrance tests of various universities and competitive examinations, others, are being held during this period. As the days are passing by with

no immediate solution to stop this outbreak, the closure of schools and universities is hugely affecting the learning across the country. The structure of the Indian education system i.e. learning methodology, teaching techniques & assessment methodologies, is quite affected, most focus on virtual education to accomplish the set aims and objectives. But only a handful of schools and universities could adopt such methods and the low-income private and government schools are quite inefficient to adopt the same, thus resulting in a shutdown. resulting in a shift to online education with

Owing to the present scenario teaching is switching to the online platform. Sometimes some hurdles also come in online studying. Like internet connection failure, disturbances at home environment, so many students are not able to do the study on the online platform. Not only private schools are adopting e-learning platforms but even government schools also have to adopt e-learning platforms. Some online platforms are WebEx, Zoom, and Google classroom, Skype.

By adopting these technology tools, our education will move from a teacher-centric approach to a student-centric approach in the future. These online tools will help teachers and students to enhance their skills and develop their knowledge. Now we can say that this crisis is not only teaching us how to fight this pandemic but also teaching us, how to make our future. The government of India has launched various e-portal and apps to help the students like SWAYAM, DIKSHA PORTAL, E-PATHSHALA, SMILE, STEM-based portals and many more.

II. OBJECTIVES:

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

1. How the Indian education system is facing the Impact of COVID-19, and highlighting the role

played by teachers and students through online education

2. How the positive impact helpful to student, parents and school teachers in the scenario of the online education

3. How to reduce the negative impact of COVID-19 on students for their smooth education.

III. METHODOLOGY:

Data and information presented in the study are collected from various reports and articles 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 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.

DIGITAL INFRACTURE IN INDIA

Before the COVID-19 lockdown in India, no one estimated that the face of the Indian educational institutions could change so drastically. 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, which is definitely more challenging for the teachers to handle with this situation. The teachers also face challenges in designing effective lessons and changing of teaching when shifting to online learning; this can also be resolved through workshops and training.

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.

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.

- **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.
- **Improvement in collaborative work-** There is a new opportunity where collaborative teaching and learning can take on new forms.
- **Rise in online meetings-** The pandemic has created a massive rise in teleconferencing, virtual meetings, webinars and e-conferencing opportunities.
- **Enhanced digital literacy-** The pandemic situation induced people to learn and use digital technology and resulted in increasing the digital literacy.
- **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 WhatsApp or Facebook.
- **Worldwide exposure-** Educators and learners are getting opportunities to interact with peers from around the world. Learners adapted to an international community.
- **Better time management-** Students are able to manage their time more efficiently in online education during pandemics.
- **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:

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

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

IV. DATA ANALYSIS

According to the key indicators of Household Social Consumption on Education in India report, based on the 2019-20 NSSO, fewer than 15% of rural Indian households have internet access (as opposed to 42% urban Indian households).

Sr.No	State	Rural		Urban	
		Operate Computer (%)	Access Internet(%)	Operate Computer (%)	Access Internet(%)
1					
2	Andhra Pradesh	1.5	10.4	11.6	29.5
3	Assam	3.7	12.1	30.8	46.9
4	Bihar	2.7	12.5	22.0	38.6
5	Chhattisgarh	3.2	10.6	22.0	34.6
6	Delhi	NA	NA	34.7	55.8
7	Gujarat	4.4	21.1	20.8	49.1
8	Haryana	5.9	37.5	29.5	55.5
9	Himachal Pradesh	10.5	48.5	28.0	70.6
10	Jammu & Kashmir	3.5	27.5	16.1	57.7
11	Jharkhand	1.3	11.5	15.7	40.2
12	Karnataka	2.0	8.3	22.9	33.5
13	Kerala	20.1	46.9	27.5	56.4
14	Madhya Pradesh	2.3	9.7	17.2	35.4
15	Maharashtra	3.3	18.5	27.4	56.4
16	Odisha	1.8	5.8	17.2	35.4
17	Punjab	9.4	39.4	27.4	52.0
18	Rajasthan	6.4	18.5	26.7	31.2
19	Tamilnadu	11.6	14.4	26.5	57.1
20	Telangana	1.6	9.9	24.5	49.9
21	Uttarakhand	7.0	35.2	17.6	24.8
22	Uttar Pradesh	4.0	11.6	32.5	41.9

23	West Bengal	3.3	7.9	22.3	24.8
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Source: 75th round of National Sample survey conducted between July 2017 and June 2018

Group Statistics					
	Gender	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
How much do you satisfied with "online teaching" concept in this covid-19 situation?	Male	60	1.55	.502	.065
	Female	40	1.48	.506	.080
Do you feel that you have to study more in online teaching?	Male	60	1.93	.843	.109
	Female	40	1.83	1.217	.192
Do you find peaceful environment at home to study?	Male	60	3.99	1.092	.141
	Female	3.93	3.93	1.023	.162
Do you think that you have contributed towards prevention of spreading covid-19	Male	60	1.45	.502	.065
	Female	1.35	1.35	.483	.076
Do you think that online teaching concept will continue after this crisis?	Male	60	1.92	1.225	.158
	Female	1.90	1.90	1.081	.171
Do you feel that you need physical document or equipment to study from home?	Male	60	3.92	1.441	.186
	Female	40	3.03	1.476	.233
Do you feel like isolated during online learning?	Male	60	2.00	1.105	.143
	Female	40	1.80	1.091	.172
Are you feeling comfortable while studying at home in comparison to school?	Male	60	4.13	1.359	.175
	Female	40	3.48	1.601	.253
Do you feel that all ICT'S tools those you are using are sufficient to study online?	Male	60	2.33	1.489	.192
	Female	40	2.30	1.636	.259
Do you realize that most of the students don't have access to online education?	Male	60	1.45	.649	.084
	Female	40	1.45	.714	.113
Do you agree that online learning concept is suitable for all kinds of students?	Male	60	4.37	.938	.121
	Female	40	4.03	1.121	.177
Do you feel that monitoring of students is difficult in online teaching?	Male	60	1.73	.936	.121
	Female	40	1.53	.784	.124
Do you realize that you are facing some health issue while studying at home?	Male	60	2.87	.769	.099
	Female	40	2.00	1.038	.164
Do you feel that family responsibilities are increased while studying from home?	Male	60	2.18	1.172	.151
	Female	40	1.83	1.107	.175

In the Group Statistic table, the number of respondents (N), mean, standard deviation and standard error is represented for all the variables related with online teaching. Also from the table it is clear that the highest mean is recorded for the variable "Do you agree that online learning concept is suitable for all kinds of students?" for the male

group (4.37). The number of respondents for males is 60 and for female is 40.

HYPOTHESIS

- **H01:-**There is no significant difference between the perception of male and female

respondents about the impact of online teaching during covid-19 pandemic.

- **H11:-**There is a significant difference between the perception of male and female respondents about the impact of online teaching during covid-19 pandemic.

V. CONCLUSION:

COVID-19 has impacted immensely the education sector 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. 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 COVID19. As online practice is benefitting the students immensely, it should be continued after the lockdown. Further detailed statistical study may be undertaken to explore the impact of COVID-19 on education system of India.

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