

# Covid-19 impact on Education in Jammu and Kashmir

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**ABSTRACT:-** In December 2019 a disease called Covid-19 which has pneumonia like symptoms was spreading throughout Wuhan City of China and with the blink of an eye it got spread through the rest of the world, and it has changed the course of human life like never before. Covid-19 caused by virus SARS-COV2 became a global threat and was declared as Pandemic by World Health Organisation(WHO) on March 11<sup>th</sup> 2020. Since then the disease has effected more than 31 crore world wide and more than 3.58 crores in India with total 55 lakh deaths .Genomic analysis of the virus SARS-COV-2 was found to be Phylogenetically similar to other bat originated Coronavirus like SARS- COV-1 and MERS-COV there by confirming that bats are the primary reservoir of the virus. The diseases spread by respiratory droplets contaminated surfaces and to limit the spread of Covid 19. The first measure was adopted was lockdown and social distancing. Lockdowns almost affected every sphere of human life. The stable and functional units of human life got disrupted and it crumbled the economic, social, educational and mental sphere of human life. Covid 19 Pandemic has forced many organisations to undergo significant transformation. Rethinking key elements of their business process and use of technology to maintain operations and education was one of them. This study offers an insight into many of the key issues and underlying complexities effecting education system in Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir

## I. INTRODUCTION:-

The UT of Jammu and Kashmir is a disturbed UT since 1990. Conflicts and hostilities have engulfed the totality of social dynamics in Kashmir. Every sector and every section of Kashmiri society has suffered and education was a major causality as a result of the conflict. Before Covid the UT of Jammu and Kashmir was in a complete lockdown since abrogation of Article 370 on August 5 2019. There was complete shutdown with no internet and its highest cost was paid by the students and in today's world internet is the

backbone of education and research. Already suffering and crumbling education system of the UT received further set back due to the arrival of Covid 19 Pandemic. Government ordered closure of Schools, Universities and Colleges as a measure to control the spread of the disease which is continuing till date completely or partially in some or other parts.

Education system is the critical determinant of the economic feature of the country and it has suffered the most during this Pandemic.

## Impact on Education:

Going to school is the best public policy tool available to raise skills. While school can be fun and full of physical and mental activities tend to increase social skills, awareness and improve overall wellbeing of the students. Even a relatively short period of missed school will have consequences for skill growth and it lowers learning abilities of a child. You can estimate the loss due to prolonged shutdown in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir firstly due to conflict and secondly due to this Pandemic Covid 19. This crisis has exposed the many inadequacies and inequalities in our education system. From access to the internet and smartphones, laptops needed for online education and the supportive environment needed to focus on learning up to the misalignment between the resources and needs. The Education system in Jammu and Kashmir has been fighting to survive the crisis and there seems no end to it. A way out of this crisis was carved in the form of online mode of teaching and learning and these E learning tools have played a crucial role during this Pandemic helping Schools and Universities facilitate student learning during the closure of the schools, colleges and universities, but the UT of Jammu and Kashmir was reeling under the whammy of slower internet speed and low broadband speed. Most of the learners didn't have an access to either smart phones or internet so they were left behind. My personal study of Government Boys Middle School Zoogiyar in Baramulla Kashmir 95% of the students didn't have smart

phones or internet and it applies to most of the students from various government schools in Jammu and Kashmir.

#### **Impact on students by online mode of learning:**

The switch from offline to online learning caused by Covid -19 is likely to affect negatively those children in primary and lower secondary classes who have higher difficulties in adapting to the new learning environment. The switch is also expected to exacerbate existing Educational inequalities, more vulnerable students such as for existence those from less advantaged backgrounds likely to fall behind during these uncertain times and those who are able to utilise the online mode of teaching and learning prolonged screen times and long duration of classes taking a toll on their physical and mental health and its effecting eye sights as well. Due to prolonged closure of schools students as well as parents are going through depressions and their mental health has suffered to a great extend, it also hampering the acquisition of new skills and knowledge to be employable and our UT of Jammu and Kashmir has the highest rate of unemployment which is **22.2%** much below the average national level and highest among the states. This crisis in Education will further increase and it is a matter of concern and it will hamper the growth of our UT and nation as well because education is a critical determinant of the economic future of the country.

#### **II. CONCLUSION:-**

The Educational institutions are yet to devise an effective measure to insulate the teaching learning process. There is no schools no routine or structure, no healthy recreation and no sense of safety or predictability which are essential for normal growth and emotional development, and it caused anxiety, panic attacks lack of confidence, suicidal thoughts and post-traumatic stress is growing among children, child psychologist says frequent disruption in formal schooling limited opportunities to socialise and erratic online schedules are leading to rise in depression and

behavioural issues among children. They are seeing their whole future at stake. The level of academic performance of the students is likely to drop due to no effective learning. Student's assessments are carried out online with a lot of trail and errors. uncertainty and confusion among the teachers, students and parents and most of the teachers in Jammu and Kashmir doesn't known any digital skills, a proper training should be provided to those teachers and broadly identified challenges with E-learning and accessibility, affordability, flexibility should be solved. Hence this Pandemic Covid 19 has crumbled the education system and the process of teaching and learning

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