

An analysis of COVID-19 Impacts On Indian Education System

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ABSTRACT

Indian education system is still not mature at both the urban and rural area. Mid-day 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 analyse the impact of COVID-19 on our Indian Education System and how setting of online classes and different were taken by different groups of students during this period at their homes.

I.INTRODUCTION

The COVID-19 as a pandemic was declared by the WHO on 11 March 2020. This outbreak pandemic was evolved in Wuhan city of China and has affected many countries. The pandemic has significantly disrupted the growth of countries where the cases of novel coronavirus are reported. In order to reduce the crowd, countries are taking various

measures such as lockdown, workplace non-attendance, school closure, suspension of transport facilities etc. For controlling the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, educational institutions have been temporarily closed by most of the countries around the world. Over 90 per cent student population of the world are affected by this closure nationwide. India is also suffering from the pandemic. In order to control the infection of COVID-19, Indian government has taken various measures such as on 22 March 2020, first Janta Curfew was announced by the Prime minister of India. Later on 21 days lockdown was announced by the prime minister of India to control the cases of COVID-19. On 14 April 2020, further the lockdown was extended by the Indian government till 3 may 2020.

This decision is affecting the various sectors in the country. The education sector is also affected by the lockdown which is a critical determinant of the economic future of the country. As per the directives of the government, all school, colleges and universities are closed. Whole education system is disrupted by this covid pandemic. The purpose of this paper is to state the effects of lockdown on schools, universities, teachers and parent.

II. OBJECTIVES

1. To analyze the Impact of COVID-19 on Indian Education System.
2. To analyze merits and demerits of online learning.
3. How to reduce the negative impact of COVID-19 on students for their smooth education.
4. To analyze Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, & Challenges (SWOC) of e-learning modes in the time of crisis

1. Impact of Covid19 on Education:

Corona virus that originated in China, spread at an alarming rate throughout the world, took lives in thousands and put its adverse effects on millions. The endeavors of every developed country in terms of health system have resulted in failure. Benjamin Franklin, one of the founding fathers of United States of America has wisely analyzed that an investment in education pays the best interest. This analysis of Franklin about investment should be an eye-opener for policy makers or rulers. As education a basic right of an individual is in pitiable form in India. The new entry of Covid-19 has changed the scenario. Lockdown is pivotal and effective step taken by the rulers. But at the same time around more than 200 countries in the world, majority of them are investing huge amounts of money in education sector to uplift their countries by boosting diligent ones who yearn to prove their valor in any field. In our country unfortunately this sector is run by bureaucrats selected by ruling parties who have no experience. The more we bureaucratize the education system the more it will fall down. The trauma can be solved only by establishing modern systems equipped with scientific technologies and scrupulous teachers. This will definitely yield paramount mountains and help in solidification of education system. Without investing there will be no change and if done it should be utilized in a proper-proper manner. There is a Chinese proverb which says that if you want to live for more than hundred years then you have only one option to educate people. I hope effective and

pivotal steps will be taken to overcome the high lightened problems which have not been taken yet.

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.

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

The education sector was one of those sectors which suffered a lot during the outbreak of this severe COVID-19. It has somewhere created new ideas in this field but has left many scars and negative impacts on education and Indian Education System. Some of them are as pointed below:

- a) Educational activity hampered-** Schools are closed and classes have been suspended from functioning. Different boards have already postponed the annual examinations and

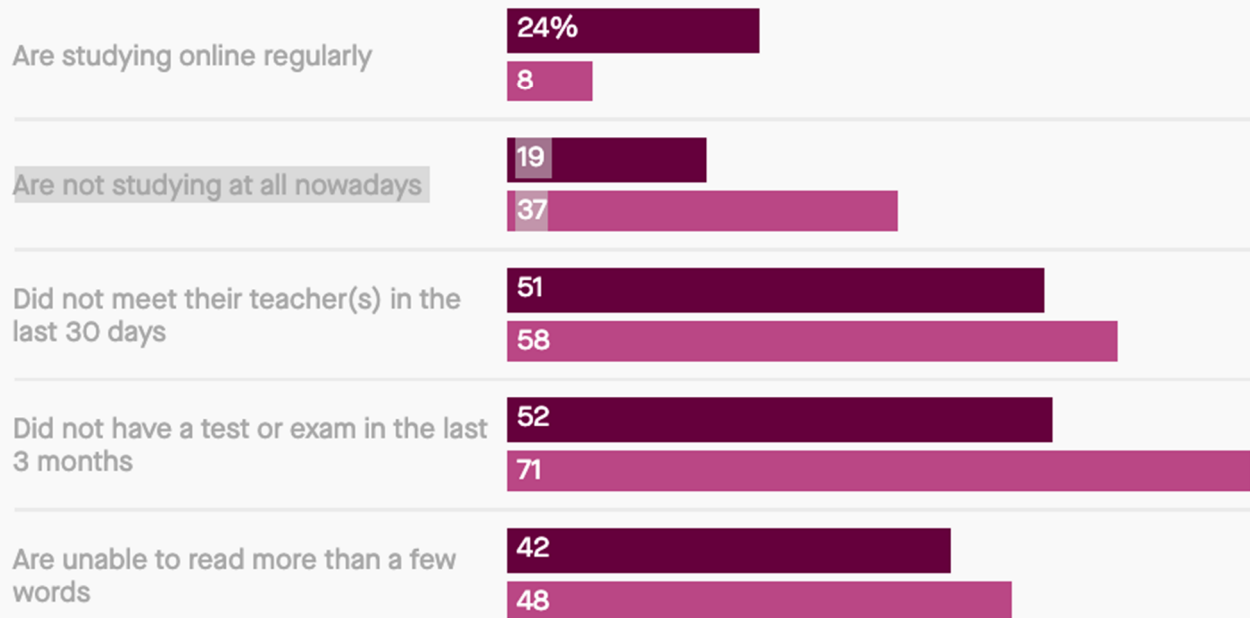
entrance tests across India. The educational activity was completely blocked from functioning.

- b) 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 online learning. The new technologies were not known to many teachers as well as students. The sudden change created huge rucus for teachers as well.
- c) Parent's role-** In urban area some educated parents are able to guide but there were other parents as well who didn't have the adequate level of education needed to teach children in the house. The children of such parents also suffered due to this sudden shift.
- d) 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, 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.
- e) Create Difference-** This online teaching-learning method create big gap between rich and poor. The kids of the poor families were not capable of affording mobiles and internet for their education which made them suffer and lag due to insufficient resources.

How Covid-19 has impacted schoolchildren from India's underprivileged households

% of children who...

■ Urban ■ Rural



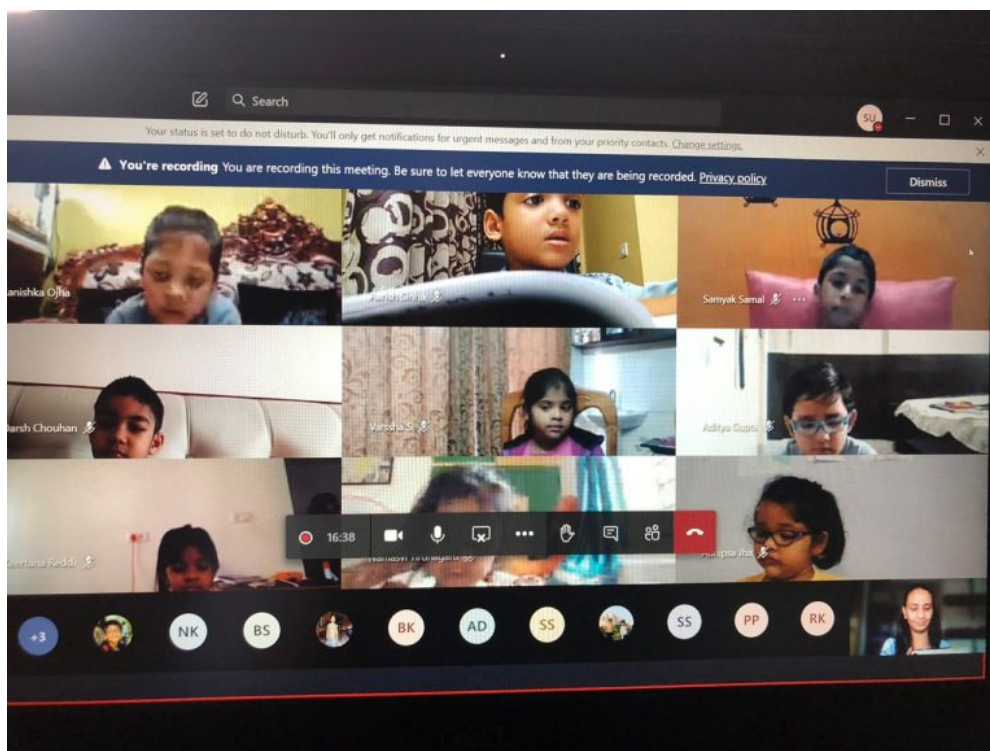
Quartz | qz.com | Data: The School Survey 2021

2. Online Learning: Advantages and Disadvantages

Let us tell you about some of the major advantages of conduction online classes during the pandemic:

Convenience at its peak!

You cannot deny the fact that online classes are way more convenient than physical classes. You can dress the way you want, you can access the class from any part of the world and you can also record the class for future reference. Physical classes can become uncomfortable for many students but also we cannot deny the fact that they could be more impactful. It is safer in times of the pandemic, ensuring social distancing. Now that is a big relief!



Record Now. Refer Later.

The biggest advantage of having class online is that you can record all classes and refer to them later when you are studying. Physical classes do not allow that, you have to take notes and there is a high possibility of missing out on things. Online classes are the best way to record everything and each point said by the teacher, enabling students to go back to it whenever they want to. Each class becomes timeless with the help of the internet.

Cost-Effective for Schools and Colleges.

Online classes are cost-effective because it totally eliminates the cost of maintaining the physical location. Institutes stopped investing money in maintaining large areas of their physical properties and started investing in online tools which were way less expensive. It reduces worries immediately as the

huge amount of money is saved and can be invested in giving better education. There will be no travel expenses for the students and teachers that some might not be able to afford. The cost of printing materials, paperback study materials and booking an instructor can be eliminated completely as everything is available online.

Embrace Technology like a professional!

We know it was difficult for many teachers and students to adjust to technology. Eventually, everybody learnt and are now aware of the various things a laptop or a computer can do for you. The best part of online classes is you become Tech Savvy and there are ample things to learn. From attending classes through video calls to recording those videos to many more such interesting things were learnt by many for the first time. From accessing study material to giving a test online, so much was taught through the online education concept.

It surely helped everyone grow their online skills but nothing is perfect. Online education came with a few difficulties as well. Let us see the disadvantages that came in with Online Education.

Online Education is the future!

The world is now aware of the fact that online education in school days is possible and everybody has now accepted it. As this pandemic gets over it is possible that schools will continue to conduct online classes as it gives the schools and students the convenience of keeping track of everything at all times.

No paperwork and no maintenance is a time-saving and cost-effective way of hosting education. This is the new normal and schools like APWS are trying their best to incorporate the best teaching practices. Help your child make the most out of online learning by choosing the perfect school that offers a little more holistic development.

Disadvantages Of Online Education During Covid-19

The making of socially awkward people.

While the convenience and cost-effectiveness of online education are working in favour, zero social interaction can be a problem. Not physically connecting to classmates or teachers can leave the kid unaware of the advantages of physically attending class. The students are becoming more comfortable in their cocoon. This could eventually lead to social awkwardness and a lack of the ability to interact with people in a normal way.

Budget concerns!

The biggest disadvantage faced by the parents was the massive expense of buying laptops.

Many not so well-to-do parents had to spend savings to buy laptops as it became mandatory for the students to be able to have classes with ease. It was definitely a hit on the budget!

Technical Issues at All Times.

Internet issues, laptops not working and no electricity are just a few problems to name. These are some of the problems that students and teachers often face and are helpless. There are no such solutions for it. A hotspot is not strong enough while installing a generator is expensive so students did miss classes automatically.

Attention Span Keeps Fluctuating!

You cannot deny the school students are capable of taking advantage of the whole situation and being less attentive during the class.

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 critical trends that can be followed is the need to have a combined approach to online learning with increase in investment on the upgrading of the technology infrastructure of educational institutions. Stress needs to be given to training the teachers. All higher 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 recommended that educational institutions should use technology in all aspects. This pandemic shows the partnership between technology and education is going to stay forever.

One more suggestion is that education Institutes can divide the courses into conventional teaching and online teaching, it will help in inculcating the technology into the classrooms. Online teaching will increase digital literacy among teachers and students which will increase their exposure and learning and making them more employable for the digital world-leading thereby contributing to social sustainability.

IV. 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.

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. 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

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