

IMPACT OF COVID-19 EDUCATION IN INDIA

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Abstract:

The COVID-19 pandemic affected education sector drastically. It led to total closure of Schools, Colleges and Universities which affected on almost 94% of students worldwide. Due to sudden lockdown, there is transition of students and teachers to online teaching-learning mode. This situation had challenged the educational institution to shift into online mode which have been not used before. In India, around 250 million students were affected due to closures at the onset of lockdown induced by COVID-19. The pandemic posed several challenges which included an expected rise in dropouts, learning losses, and increase in digital divide. Many academic institutions have taught us that changes are inevitable. The Sudden shift in the teaching methods have shown wide inequalities in capacity of teachers, learning outcomes, digital infrastructure provided by the government and access to the technology to different sections of the students. Numerous educational institutions in India are not equipped with digital facilities right now to cope with online education system. This study is mainly focusing on impacts of COVID-19 on educational sector, positive and negative impact of COVID-19 on education sector, are the government efforts and policies are accessible and beneficial to all the students? Impact on Teaching and learning system during this pandemic.

Keywords: Covid-19 Pandemic, Education, Digital Infrastructure, Government Schemes

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Introduction:

Education plays a very important role but due to COVID-19 it had affected worst. The complete lockdown was implemented from 11, March 2020 as COVID-19 was declared as a Pandemic by WHO. According to the UNESCO report, it had affected more than 90% of total world's student population during 2020 which is now reduced drastically due to restriction imposed by the government by maintaining social distance, wearing mask, use of sanitizer etc. The lockdown in response to COVID-19 have interrupted educational institutes while the educational community have made a concerted efforts to maintain learning continuity during this period, students they had to rely on their own resources to continue learning through Internet, mobile etc. The Pandemic has disrupted the higher education sector as well, which is a critical determinant of a country's economic future. A large number of Indian students- second only to China – enrol in universities abroad, especially in countries worst affected by the pandemic, the U.S, UK etc. Many students of India have now been scared from leaving these countries. If the situation persists, in the long-run, there will be decrease in the demand for international higher education is expected. 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 the people.

Objectives:

- To study the impact of COVID-19 on education sector.
- To analyse various measures taken by the government for the education sector during this pandemic.
- To suggest measures should be taken to improve the teaching-learning system in India.

Impact of covid-19 on education:

Due to this pandemic, Asian nations got the chance to move toward an on-line teaching mode against creating the use of ancient teaching strategies to a brand new era. Some of the points mentioned below are positive impacts:

1. Rise in Mixed learning: Academic institutes had shifted to a model of mixed learning wherever each face-to-face delivery alongside a web model had become a norm. This may need all lecturers to become additional technology savvy and undergo some coaching to bring themselves to the amount that might be needed.
2. Learning management system to be the new norm: An excellent chance can open up for those corporations that are developing and strengthening learning management systems to be used by universities and schools. This has the potential to grow at an awfully quick pace, however, can need to be priced suitably to be used by all establishments.
3. Enhanced in Digital literacy: The pandemic state of affairs evoked folks to find out and create use of technology that resulted in increasing digital accomplishment.
4. Rise in cooperative work: The teaching community to an outsized extent has been terribly insulated and additional therefore during a country like the Asian nation. There is a brand new chance wherever cooperative teaching and learning will strive against new forms and may even be monetized.
5. Increased use of Soft-copy material: Due to lockdown, students were not able to take hard copies of study material so they make use of soft copies with the help of technology for their references.

Negative Impact of Covid-19 on Education:

The education sector has suffered a great deal thanks to this pandemic, it created several negative impacts on education and a few of them are pointed out below.

1. Digital Divide, Technology ability: Several students have restricted or no resources and access for this online education several of them are get affected it produces a way of the digital divide as all the scholars don't have similar resources to access. Technology ability is another drawback as most of them they are not technologically savvy.
2. Passive learning by students: The unexpected shift to online learning with none coming up with particularly in countries like the Asian nation wherever the backbone for online learning wasn't prepared and also the course of study wasn't designed for such a format has created the danger as most of our students are changed into passive learners and that they seem to be losing interest due to low levels of attention span.
3. Unprepared lecturers for online education: Online learning is a special type of methodology and not all teachers are good at it or at least not all of them were ready for this sudden transition from face-to-face learning to online learning. Thus, most of the lecturers are just conducting lectures on video platforms such as Zoom which cannot be real online learning in the absence of a dedicated online platform specifically designed for the aim.
4. Limited convenience of technological devices: Whereas we glance at the domain of digital learning, it's imperative to contemplate the supply of the proper device to each student for accessing digital content. Not a great deal as most of the individuals in rural don't have access to this digital content. Also knowledge of internet data packages, and their prices are often an enormous deterrent each for lecturers further as learners, particularly for socio-economic backward people. Several students either haven't got personal laptops/ smartphones or they are offered for a restricted time. Hence, the training remains restricted with the restricted convenience of technological devices.

5. **Shortage of Teachers:** Shortage of lecturers or the poor teacher-to-students magnitude relation in villages create another challenge towards creating learning entirely digital in such areas to form complete digitization of education in rural areas, this magnitude relation must be improved and an outsized range of masterly and well trained lecturers are needed so every and each student receives complete attention even throughout a web category whereas the modern online schoolroom solutions are designed to facilitate engagement and intuitiveness among students towards learning, a teacher's steering and a spotlight stay indispensable for learners.
6. **Impact on Employment:** Unemployment has increased within the pandemic. In the Asian nation, there is no accomplishment within the government sector. Urban unemployment has increased to 39% if the situation continues then people will struggle for food instead of education.

Initiatives of the government during this Pandemic:

1. **DIKSHA (one nation, one digital platform):** It is the nation's digital infrastructure for providing quality e-content for varsity education in states/UT and QR-coded energized textbooks for all grades available on it. Thirty-five of the thirty-six states and UT's wear boarded on the DIKSHA platform and contextualized the content as per the native would like.
2. **ONE CLASS, ONE TV CHANNEL- SWAYAM PRABHA TV CHANNELS:** The SWAYAM PRABHA is a group of 34 DTH channels devoted to telecasting of high-quality educational programs on 24*7 basis using the GAST satellite. Every day there will be new content for at least 4 hours which would be repeated 5 more times a day, allowing the students to choose the time of their convenience.
3. **SWAYAM:** It is the national online education platform hosting 1900 countries covering each college and better education in all told subjects as well as engineering, humanities, and social science, law, and management courses.
4. **NATIONAL REPOSITORY OF OPEN INSTRUCTIONAL RESOURCES:** With roughly 16000 registered users and 14527 e-learning resources, NROER is among a wonderful initiative launched by the Ministry of HRD. Students visiting NROR platform can get associate exposure to e-libraries, e-books, e-courses likelihood to participate in events online and theme primarily based education, except this students will access the websites in each Hindi and English Language.
5. **E-PATHSHALA:** Through this web-portal students from category first to twelfth are ready to access not less than 1886 audios, 2000 videos, 696 e-books and 504 Flip-books. The digital repository has been created out there by NCERT to create positive that the scholars don't miss out any vital thought to be tutored within the category. E-Pathshala is additionally out there in many languages just like the alternative digital platforms.

Challenges in Teaching and Learning:

Broadly identified challenges is accessibility, affordability, flexibility etc. Many countries have substantial availability of online education system but if we take into consideration developing countries like India were digital infrastructure is not so good. Hence it create a digital divide situation among the students as well as teachers. Most of the students didn't have enough resources for online education due to their economically backward condition. The online education poses a risk of increased screen time for learner. The level of academic performance of the students is drop. Students assessment is carried out with a lot of trial and error, uncertainty and confusion among the teachers and students. Increased spending additional time on virtual platforms have left the children vulnerable. Majority of students do not have access to smartphones, T.V, laptop due to less income of their parents because of closure of business and offices. Even most of the teachers are not familiar with online education as most of them are unaware how to make use of technology and get access to it. Hence, it is difficult to design a proper system to fit the learning needs and convenience of all the students.

Suggestions:

- Forward coming up with and time for preparation, as well as teacher coaching, college hygiene and building Student familiar with ICT may have created it easier for the education sector to adapt to high-school closures. Learning from this expertise is important for production a strategic response to similar emergencies within the future.
- Establishment of correct infrastructure is required in order that it will get equal access to any or all the scholars in low-cost, uninterrupted electricity to support technology use.
- Many on-line learning platforms provide multiple programmes on a similar subject with totally different levels of certifications, methodology and assessment parameters ought to improve the standard keeping see able of rise of the web learning platforms.
- The Schemes introduced by the government during this pandemic should reach to all the students across the world without any disparity and it should be easily accessible at minimum cost.

Conclusion:

COVID-19 has immensely affected to the education sector in India. It has created many challenges and opportunities to the educational sector. Many students and teachers have faced challenges in accessing the online due to huge cost of data packages, limited availability of internet bandwidth etc. Also, the income of the people is not sufficient to get access to this facility easily. Policy level intervention is required to improve this situation. The affordability and accessibility for all the learners of varied economic background should get easily accessible to this technological facilities. All the initiatives taken by the government should make sure that it is reaching to all the sections of students. It should make the online education creative, innovative by making use of friendly tools is another area of research and development. It is need of an hour for the educational institutions to strengthen their knowledge and information technology infrastructure to be ready for facing COVID-19 like situation.

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