

RESTRUCTURING OF EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM POST COVID-19 IN JHARKHAND

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Abstract:-

Education is the touchstone of the civilization and culture of a country as the social progress of the nation is gauged from the achievements in the field of education. Educational system is the driving force behind the national aims and objectives. In this era of scientific and technological progress, it has become a basic necessity for the quality of formation of human resource, with its multidimensional contribution towards economic, social and even ethical progress of a nation.

Unfortunately the very process of education is deeply hampered by a new global challenge in the form of a pandemic called COVID – 19, a deadly corona virus, which spreads from human to human contact. Coughing, sneezing and even touch, affecting nearly 1,20,532 people in India with 3,605 deaths, and 52,32, case in the world with 3,35,636 deaths as on May 22nd, 2020. This pandemic has led to lock down and social distancing worldwide. As its treatment or vaccine is not prepared till date, we shall have to learn and adapt to live and carry on our activities under the shadow of COVID -19.

As our educational system in schools and colleges is still largely dependent upon, traditional classrooms, the continuous process of education is deeply hampered by lockdowns stretching who have the most vulnerable ones are those students who have a poor marginalized background, who are not technology friendly, cannot afford smartphones and or live in remote areas which are dark or grey areas in network connectivity.

It is need of the hour to discuss and prepare strategies towards restructuring of our educational system post COVID – 19 pandemic.

Keywords: Educational, touchstone, pandemic, COVID -19, strategies.

Introduction

If money is the pivot around which this economic world revolves, then education is the empowerment which enlightens man, strengthens him to enable to earn money and make his both ends meet. But unfortunately, due to a disastrous pandemic called COVID – 19, spread all over the world and its ability to multiply in leaps and bound, with human to human contact and its deadly impact, societies all over the world have resorted to social – distancing and lockdowns which spans for months and may still force us to do for several more months. In this process, the worst hit area is the educational sector, in developing countries like India, where education is still class room based with social gathering of students in schools and colleges, which is not possible in the present scenario.

A possible solution could be online teaching, but it will create a further huge gap between the haves and the have nots. Students living in towns, cities, and in connectivity rich areas who can afford smart phones will poos per in terms of education, but those who are standing in the last line of prosperity, the have nots, and the students of far flung remote areas residing in dark or grey areas of mobile connectivity, or those poverty struck students who can't afford mobile phones will severely lag behind. It is they who need the education the most.

In this scenario it is the need of the hour to restructure our educational system post COVID- 19. This article identifies the problems that have arisen post COVID-19 and also suggest strategies to cope up with

those problems so that our educational system may be state of the art in this era of global challenges. Since this is a new threat to our civilization, so its natural that research in this field is nearly absent.

Literature Review:

Many articles related to restructuring of education system post COVID-19 are available both nationally and internationally, but quite a few suggest or match with the tribal conditions in Jharkhand.

1. School, skills and learning: The impact of COVID-19 on education.

By Simon burgess, Hans Henrick Sievertsen

01 April 2020.

The article discusses the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on schools, impact on education from the point of view of educated families who guide their children during home learning, but those uneducated parents, whose children are first generation learners face huge problems. The closure of schools, college have interrupted assessment of this year students as conducting exams are not possible in these circumstances.

As a solution it suggests that schools should postpone assessments for learning rather than skipping internal assessment for graduation it suggests to formulate policies for their entry into labour market, but the article is silent on details of those policies.

02. COVID-19, Pandemic: impact and strategies for education sector in India

ET Government.com

April 16, 2020, 09:45 1st

By Ria Chowdhary

The article opens up with importance of March as a crucial time for educational sector and the uncertainty of reopening E- learning solution are available to few private schools, however their low income counterparts have missed opportunities of learning and nutrition. The disruption of higher education is also disrupted which is a determinant of nations economic future. It suggest to improve and improvise open source digital learning solutions DIKSHA platforms, adoption of learning management software etc. It suggest to take immediate measures to mitigate effect of pandemic on jobs, internship, research work etc. It advice to adopt a well.

3. Impact of corona virus on Education in India

Jagran Josh. com

April 23, 2020

By Shikha Goyal

The article focuses in effect of COVID-19 pandemic on educational sector in India. It first deals with measures taken by educational institutions to fight against COVID-19, then its impact and concern during COVID-19. It then suggested possible alternatives or solutions the central and state Governments to take some measures to ensure the overall progress in the country. But it rarely speaks on what those measures should be.

Methodology

Literature reviews data and information from various website, news reporters, Government of India and govt. of Jharkhand health reports etc. have been analysed and compiled along with grass root understanding of the educational sector in the rural tribal belt of Jharkhand.

Strategies to restructure educational system post COVID-19 in Jharkhand:

COVID-19 Pandemic has multidimensional impact on human civilization globally. It has posed a crisis even graver than the world wars in terms of deaths, economy, educations, hampered social fabric, stressed relations between countries globally and may even be one of the main cause of world war 3. But the area which is struck most hard is the educational sector. People talk of digital e- solution in learning, online classes etc. but the ground reality in tribal belts of Jharkhand is that it has struck the poor vulnerable sections quit hard. Jobless parents, crippled economic activities ignorance towards the COVID-19 pandemic, hunger, media chronic diseases unattended due to overburdened, medic staff over stressed and means of communication almost crippled have forced the children towards scavenging and begging forget about digital learning, smart phones, and costly data charges in spite of poor signals. Ground reality is never – chilling. Here survival is at stake forget about education.

However what so ever be the condition, education is the silver lining behind the dark clouds of the sea of sorrows of the vulnerable sections of our brethren. Let us discuss about some of them:

(A) Short term strategies:

1. Doorstep delivery of nutritional food: The diallema before the poor is whether to starve to death or expose themselves to COVID-19. The poor choose the former and fall prey to COVID-19. The mass movement of labours from cities back to their hometowns was a live example of it which was a major cause of almost community level spread of COVID-19. Food is the first essential requirement. So doorstep delivery of dry rations is the need of the hour, to prepare physically and mentally fit students and to prevent the spread of pandemic.

2. Postpone the reopening of schools until the learners are vaccinated:

According to the survey conducted by local circles – a polling platform on issues of governance public and consumer internet – received more than 18,000 responses across 220 districts of the country. As many as 73 percent of the respondents don't want schools to reopen unless their states, districts and the country report zero covid cases for 21 days⁽²⁾

As of now it seems improbable but the parents would be fairly satisfied for sending their wards to school, if they are vaccinated for COVID-19.

3. Distributing smart phone or tabs to BPL families:

If online or digital leaning is a possible solution to COVID-19 like pandemic, then it has to be adopted with social justice, else the ever increasing gap between the haves and the have-nots will create a wide rift that will be tough to be filled in future. If distributing freebies could be in an election, manifesto what is the harm in implementing it for achieving universal education.

4. Free wifi facility for the whole state:

“Minimum Internet connectivity and data usages have become a requisite for the people in this digital age,” Arvind Kejriwal the CM of Delhi, said ⁽³⁾

When free Wifi can be provided to Delhi, whose per capita income is estimated at amount 3.89 lakh at current prices during 2019-20⁽⁴⁾ then what is the harm in providing it to the state of Jharkhand, whose per capita income stood at 76.02 thousand rupees in financial year 2019.⁽⁵⁾

Without free wifi digital learning will be unsuccessful in rural and tribal dominated state of Jharkhand, as the poor folk can barely afford the high data pack charges charged by the internet providers.

(B) Long-term strategies COVID-19 pandemic is no doubt the most deadly threat posed to mankind, but it cannot be denied that in today's world of biological warfare a nation ought to be prepared for similar challenges. It is rightly said, Those who sweat during peace, bleed less during wars. So we have to be prepared for the worst for this, some long term strategies are also required in the path of restructuring our educational system, post COVID-19.

1. Firstly, there has to be an accountability based responsibility on the bureaucrats involved in the process of administration and inspection of schools, with regards to strict adherence to standard operating procedures regards post COVID-19 reopening of schools, like, maintenance of social – distancing hand washing facilities, facilities of toilets, seating arrangements, sanitization drives etc. If these fields are left to school management alone then the nation is indeed inviting greater troubles. If accountability is fixed upon bureaucrats, then the things will work out properly, otherwise we all know that the fish starts rotting from its head:

2. Secondly, online successful completion of COVID-19 Response and preparedness like online course should be compulsory for teachers of all types of school as, they are directly and actively involved in the entire educational process.

3. Thirdly, Psychological assistance to the learners should be provided compulsorily, as they are the ones who have undergone a considerable amount of psychological stress during lock-downs and the closures of schools. Most of them would have been subject to mental and physical harassment from different quarters, in case they were left alone at home, and their parents hunting for daily bread throughout the day.

4. Fourthly, the entire educational system needs an overhauling, the obsolete black board need to be replaced with digital boards, courses should be digitally prepared online exams should replace the old exam pattern. The heavy load of books and copies ought to be replaced by the tablets, television channel should be provided 24*7 throughout the year, so that the learners may not have scarcity of academic support anytime anywhere

5. Fifth one, Wide technical gap within the learners and educators has to be breached with extensive and compulsory use of digital learning and training programmes intensively as well as extensively. Webinars on various subjects should be made a regular process, and the participation of teachers and students should be made compulsory.

6. Lastly, a Multi pronged strategy should be initiated like curbing dropout rates, failures, replacing the quantity of academic burden by quality, Maintain appropriate health and hygiene standards, Making the extracurricular activities, like singing, dancing, drama etc the mainstream subjects. Regular yoga classes in the prayer session of the school may also prove quite fruitful in relieving the learners of their stress and anxiety.

Conclusion:

COVID -19 pandemic is the result of Modern science viciating the natural processes. Challenges like these, has ever – increasing socio – economic adverse impacts especially on learners. To cope up with such challenges, we need a multidimensional all out effort in improvising our educational system with Modern scientific ways.

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