



Influence of COVID-19 on Indian Education System-An analysis

MUJAMMIL PASHA

M.com, M.Phil., PGDBA,

Department of P.G. Studies in Commerce,
Government Arts College (Autonomous),
Chitradurga, Karnataka.

ABSTRACT:

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected the educational system worldwide, leading to the near- total closures of schools, universities and colleges. Most governments around the world decide to have temporarily closed educational institutions in an attempt to reduce the spread of COVID19. 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 twice in past two years 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 influences of COVID-19 on Indian Education system are observed.

This paper aims to analyze the influence 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, Education system, Pandemic, UNESCO, online classes.

INTRODUCTION:

Indian Government has announced the lockdown and closure of educational establishments as a logical solution to enforce social distancing within the people. 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 schoolroom teaching, the present scenario has made the functioning of the educational organizations go very difficult.

All educational events like examinations, assessments, 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 education across the country. The structure of the Indian education arrangement i.e. learning methodology, teaching techniques & assessment methodologies, is quite affected, resulting in a shift to online education with 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.

LITERATURE REVIEW:

According to the analytics India magazine report (2020) COVID-19 pandemic online education may not be a sustainable solution in India despite of free courses.

Grey Atom: the co-founder of Ed-Tech firm summarizes that, although online learning has become unavoidable, we won't be successful until we realize that online teaching doesn't mean having the entire classroom on Zoom and continuing with the same delivery method. This may be subtle point but it has profound consequences.

Ashutosh Kumar: Co- founder of testbook.com highlights that Teachers in India need to be trained in online learning and be comfortable in creating and delivering digital content. According to Ankush Singla, co-founder of Coding Ninjas comments that, Despite of the usage of quality content and native advertising tools, the technology tools has just only multiplied by the numbers but not by the market size in the cities of Tier 2 and Tier 3 in India. The reason for this is not the content itself, but socio-economic challenges, including lack of infrastructure and deployment of internet facilities, leading to limited or no internet connectivity for learners. Moreover, the gap in technological devices and methods for new users that have little to zero understanding remains uncertain. Furthermore, the absence of digital literacy and knowledge about digital payment procedures to sign up for online programs is yet another challenge.

OBJECTIVES

The main objective of this study is to analyze the influence of COVID-19 on Indian Education System. In precise:

- a. In what way the Indian education system is facing the Influence of COVID-19, and highlighting the role played by teachers and students through online teaching and learning.
- b. By what means the positive impact helpful to student, parents and school teachers in the scenario of the online tutoring.

- c. How to reduce the negative influence of COVID-19 on students for their smooth learning.

METHODOLOGY:

The facts and figures presented in the analysis are collected from various reports and articles published by national and international organizations on impact of COVID-19 pandemic. Information is also collected from various reliable websites. Some journals are also referred relating to influence of COVID-19 on educational system are referred.

NEED FOR THE STUDY:

In general every organization has strengths and weaknesses. Exploiting the strengths and minimizing weaknesses in order to utilize the opportunity to move forward should be the objective. The main purpose of this study is to analyze the influence of COVID-19 on the Indian education system. It covers the influence of COVID-19 on Higher education organizations concentrating rural and urban students.

INDIAN DIGITAL INFRACTURE:

Formerly to the COVID-19 lockdown in India, no one appraised that the aspect of the Indian educational establishments could change so extremely. Schools and colleges that never allowed students to carry mobiles and Tablets turned into learning centers for virtual classes. Both teachers and students are getting familiar to this new standard, which is definitely more challenging for the teachers to handle with this situation. The educators also face challenges in designing effective lessons and changing of teaching methods when shifting to digital learning; which was resolved through training and workshops.

According to the key indicators of Household Social Consumption on Education in India report, based on the 2017-18 NSSO, fewer than 15% of rural Indian households have internet access (as opposed to 42% urban Indian households).

Sl. No	State	Rural		Urban	
		Operate Computer (%)	Access Internet (%)	Operate Computer (%)	Access Internet (%)
1	Andhra Pradesh	1.5	10.4	11.6	29.5
2	Assam	3.7	12.1	30.8	46.9
3	Bihar	2.7	12.5	20.0	38.6
4	Chhattisgarh	3.2	10.6	22.0	34.6
5	Delhi	NA	NA	34.7	55.8
6	Gujarat	4.4	21.1	20.1	49.1
7	Haryana	5.9	37.1	29.5	55.5
8	Himachal Pradesh	10.5	48.6	28.3	70.6
9	Jammu & Kashmir	3.5	28.7	16.0	57.7
10	Jharkhand	1.3	11.9	15.6	40.2
11	Karnataka	2.0	8.3	22.9	33.5
12	Kerala	20.1	46.9	27.5	56.4

13	Madhya Pradesh	2.3	9.7	17.2	35.4
14	Maharashtra	3.3	18.5	27.4	52.0
15	Odisha	1.8	5.8	17.2	31.2
16	Punjab	9.4	39.4	26.7	57.1
17	Rajasthan	6.4	18.5	26.6	49.9
18	Tamilnadu	11.6	14.4	24.7	24.8
19	Telangana	1.6	9.9	17.6	41.9
20	Uttarakhand	7.0	35.2	32.5	64.3
21	Uttar Pradesh	4.0	11.6	22.3	41.0
22	West Bengal	3.3	7.9	23.0	36.0

Source: 75th round of National Sample survey conducted between July 2017 and June 2018

Availability of electricity is a significant challenge to taking advantage of education online. In a recent 2017-18 survey, the Ministry of Rural Development found that only 47% of Indian households receive more than 12 hours of electricity and more than 36% of schools and colleges in India operate without electricity. This suggests that while students from families with high standard of living can easily bridge the transition to remote learning, students from underprivileged backgrounds are likely to comply with inefficiency and a lack of adaptation, either because of the unreachability of the technology or the less education of their parents to guide them through electronic gadgets and their applications. Non-availability of technical infrastructure and unbalanced internet connectivity across India is the major challenge before the students and teachers.

INFLUENCE ON TEACHERS AND STUDENTS:

Teachers as well as students are facing many obstacles during online education. At home, a lack of basic facilities, external disruption and family interruption during teaching learning were foremost issues observed. Educational organizations 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 observed. Teachers also encountered technical challenges. The challenges were grouped as, lack of technical support; it included a lack of digital infrastructure, inadequate awareness of online teaching platforms and security concerns. Teachers' personal glitches including lack of technical understanding, course integration with technology are hindrance their involvement in digital teaching and learning

Positive influence on education system:

With the outbreak of COVID-19 has generated many negative impacts on education, educational organizations of India have accepted the tasks and trying their best to provide unified support services to the students during the pandemic. The Indian education system has exploited the opportunities for shifting from traditional system to the digital era. The following are the positive impacts to be considered;

- Develop the use of digital 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 digital and soft copy materials for reference.

- Improvement in collaborative work- There is a new opportunity where collaborative teaching and learning can take in new methods.
- Evolution of online meetings- The pandemic has created a massive growth in teleconferencing, virtual meetings, and 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 Whats-App or Facebook etc.
- Worldwide exposure- Educators and learners are getting opportunities to interact with peers from around the world. Learners adapted to an international community.
- Enhanced time management- Students is 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 chosen 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 influence on education system:

The education system in India has suffered a lot due to the epidemic of COVID-19. It has given rise to many negative impacts on education system which includes:

- Educational activities are hindered- Schools and colleges are closed and classes have been suspended. Different boards have already put off their annual examinations and entrance tests across India.
- Not prepared for by the teachers and students - Teachers and students are not prepared for virtual learning; they were not ready for this sudden switch from face to face learning to digital 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, digital 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.
- Build Differences: This online teaching-learning method created a gap between urban and rural students.

RESEARCH RESULTS:

Corona pandemic has affected the entire globe, especially on educational sector. Because of this pandemic, educational organizations are on a huge loss. It has distressed the basic routine study of students. Everyone in the country is not being able to afford electronic gadgets for digital classes. Salaries and payments have been interrupted. Final year students are suffering a huge loss of time and employment. Use of mobiles and laptops

are not comfortable for students of lower ages. Parent's attention is demanded in higher scale. COVID 19 has deviated the chart of educational statistics in a huge way.

Online technology must be able to increase opportunities for students to access higher education, increase retention rates, and increase learning quality in order to result good outcomes. Due to pandemic teachers took online classes as well as live streaming classes and doubt clearing classes by using Google meet you-tube etc. Some of the examinations were conducted online and all the assignments and projects are submitted through e-portal.

POSSIBLE SUGGESTIONS:

It is recommended that educational establishments should use technology in all aspects of teaching and learning. This pandemic shows the partnership between technology and education is going to stay forever. One more suggestion is that education organizations 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.

CONCLUSION:

The world has been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic in various ways. The lack of information, the need for accurate information and the speed with which it is disseminated are important, as this pandemic requires the cooperation of entire populations. COVID-19 has influenced immensely the education segment of India. Though it has created many challenges, various opportunities are also evolved. The Indian Government and different stakeholders of education have explored the possibility of Open and Distance learning by adopting different digital technologies to cope up with the crunch 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 employ digital technology to create a gainful position for millions of young students in India. It is need of the hour for the educational organizations to strengthen their knowledge and Information Technology infrastructure to be ready for facing COVID-19 like situations. 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 influence of COVID-19 on education system of India.

REFERENCES:

1. Geological Survey of India <https://www.gsi.gov.in>.
2. Office of the Registrar General & Census Commissioner, India <https://censusindia.gov.in>.
3. <https://en.unesco.org/covid19/educationresponse>.

4. <https://www.indiatodayin.cdn.ampproject.org/v/s/www.indiatoday.in/amp/education-today/featurephilia/story/covid-19-impact-digital-education-conventional-education>.
5. http://www.educationinsider.net/detail_news.php?id=1326.
6. <http://www.education.ie/en/Schools-Colleges/Information/Information-Communications-Technology-ICT-in-Schools/Digital-Strategy-for-Schools/Building-Towards-a-Learning-Society-A-National-Digital-Strategy-for-Schools-Consultative-Paper.pdf>.
7. Indian Medical Association <https://www.ima-india.org/ima/>
8. John E. Ataguba, Kenneth O. Ojo, Hyacinth E. Ichoku. Explaining socio-economic inequalities in immunization coverage in Nigeria; Health Policy And Planning (The Journal of health policy and systems research)
9. Healthcare Access in Rural Communities; Rural Health Information Hub.
10. Joseph L Mathew; Inequity in Childhood Immunization in India: A Systematic Review; Indian Pediatrics <https://www.indianpediatrics.net/mar2012/mar-203-223.html>.
11. Brandon Downs; Primary Care and How it Affects Health Care Costs; Business Benefits Group <https://www.bbgbroker.com/primary-care-and-how-it-affects-health-care-costs/>
12. Jacqueline LaPointe; How Broader Primary Care Teams Can Decrease Healthcare Cost <https://revcycleintelligence.com/news/how-broader-primary-care-teams-can-decrease-healthcare-costs>.

