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Digital world of Education System

Good side effect of COVID-19 Pandemic

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COVID-19 Pandemic creates new era of learning for teachers as well as students and provide new heights to Education System by giving biggest challenge to all of us. This pandemic put down the entire education system on ventilator. Then we accept and adopt online education system to give breathing to teaching learning process. And as a result we are doing so many experiments and using advanced technologies. This is actually the demand of new era. Although forcefully we are using latest technology in education system but this is giving new heights and new scopes to our education system. We can see that suddenly education break all the barriers and came across globally. Now Education can be defined as its broader meaning that anybody can learn anything from anywhere.

Key words: Education system, Teachers, Students, COVID-19.

The broad meaning of education indicates **any kind of learning experiences from birth to death of an individual**. Education is regarded as life-long having no barriers of age, class, sex, time and place. COVID-19 Pandemic gives us lifetime experience in all the aspects of life. The development of any nation is impossible without education; it acts as a key element for the development of mind of a person. A developed mind can only innovate and come up with new ideas and thoughts for a nation's development. We all know that "health is wealth." i.e. health is everything a person wishes to have. A healthy poor person is richer than a rich person who has an unhealthy body.

Now a day whole world is fighting with a COVID 19 pandemic. COVID- 19 is also known as corona virus disease here CO stands for corona, VI stands for virus and 19 because of this infection have come in 2019. It was originated in China in December 2019. The first case was found in Wuhan city of china and after that, it spread in the province of China. Right in the blink of an eye, it was transmitted to all other parts of the world. The WHO declared suddenly happened a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) On 30 January 2020 and after that when this epidemic was transformed in mostly all countries WHO announced COVID-19 as pandemic on 12 March 2020.

Most of the governments of all nations have decided to temporarily close all schools, colleges and universities to diminish the spreading of COVID 19. Educational institutions cannot maintain social distancing. Therefore it is compulsory to temporary closure of schools and all education institutions to maintain social distancing. 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.

Indian government has announced the lockdown and closure of educational institutions as a logical solution to enforce social distancing within communities. 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 classroom study, the present scenario has made the functioning of the educational institutions go very difficult.

All educational activities like examinations, 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 learning across the country. The structure of the Indian education system 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.

Mukesh Rawal (jan20210) conduct a study on analysis of COVID-19 Impacts On Indian Education System. The overall objective of this study was as following: i. How the Indian education system is facing the Impact of COVID-19, and highlighting the role played by teachers and students through online education. ii. How the positive impact helpful to student, parents and school teachers in the scenario of the online education. iii. How to reduce the negative impact of COVID-19 on education. Data and information presented in the study were collected from various reports and articles published by national and international agencies on impact of COVID-19 pandemic. Information is also collected from various authentic websites. Some journals were also referred for the collection of information relating to the impact of pandemic on education system. Before the COVID-19 lockdown in India, no one estimated that the face of the Indian educational institutions could change so drastically. Schools that never allowed students to carry an electronic gadget turned into learning centers for online classes. Both teachers and students are getting familiar to this new normal, which is definitely more challenging for the teachers to handle with this situation. The teachers also face challenges in designing effective lessons and changing of teaching when shifting to online learning; this can also be resolved through workshops and training.

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 in India operate without electricity. This suggests that while students from families with better means of living can easily bridge the transition to remote learning, students from underprivileged backgrounds are likely to accede to inefficiency and a lack of adaptation, either because of the inaccessibility of the technology or the low education of their parents to guide them through tech-savvy applications. Non-availability of technical infrastructure and irregular interrupted internet connectivity all across India is the biggest challenge in front of the students and teachers. **CHALANGING SITUATION FOR TEACHERSAND STUDENTS:**

Both teachers and students are facing many hurdles during online education. At home, a lack of basic facilities, external distraction and family interruption during teaching were major issues noticed. Educational institution 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 noticed. Teachers also faced technical difficulties. The difficulties were grouped under a lack of technical support; it included a lack of technical infrastructure, limited awareness of online teaching platforms and security concerns. Teachers' personal problems including a lack of technical knowledge, course integration with technology are damper their engagement in online teaching. But whatever situation is occurred we should take this as a challenge and an opportunity. This is the time for teacher and students to prove that we are true learners and we will find the way out beyond all negative situations during this pandemic and we will create a new era of teaching-learning world with our willpower and dedication. We have to change negative situation in to a positive situation by taking this as a challenge.

POSITIVE EFFECT 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.

1. 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.
2. Improvement in collaborative work- There is a new opportunity where collaborative teaching and learning can take on new forms.
3. Rise in online meetings- The pandemic has created a massive rise in teleconferencing, virtual meetings, webinars and e-conferencing opportunities.
4. Enhanced digital literacy- The pandemic situation induced people to learn and use digital technology and resulted in increasing the digital literacy.
5. 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 What's App or Face book.
6. Worldwide exposure- Educators and learners are getting opportunities to interact with peers from around the world. Learners adapted to an international community.
7. Better time management- Students are able to manage their time more efficiently in online education during pandemics.
8. 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 EFFECTS ON EDUCATION:

Indian education system has suffered a lot due to the outbreak of COVID-19. It has created many negative impacts on education and some of them are as pointed below:

1. Educational activity hampered- Schools are closed and classes have been suspended. Different boards have already postponed the annual examinations and entrance tests across India.
2. 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 learning to online learning.
3. 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.
4. 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, 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.
5. Create Difference: This online teaching-learning method creates a big gap between rich/poor and urban/rural students.

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.

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. 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.

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 COVID- 19. 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.

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