A REVIEW ON THE REPERCUSSIONS OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON INDIAN EDUCATION SYSTEM

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Abstract: Conventional methods of learning were used in Indian educational institutions such as schools, colleges, and universities, and students followed a convectional structure for face-to-face contact or attending lectures in the classroom before the COVID-19 pandemic.The globe was shaken by the sudden outbreak of COVID-19, a fatal virus caused by (SARS-Cov-2). This situation posed a challenge to the whole educational system throughout the world, forcing instructors to switch to an online method as soon as possible. Coronavirus had been an influence on India's face-to-face education systems. As a result, India should modify their education system according to the situation and improve its virtual classroom infrastructures to change the planning of the Academic Curriculum for Evaluation and Assessment of the student through digital education. Therefore, India implements their new Academic planning for digital education from traditional one in a very short period. Although the various instant decision had taken such as postponed board and entrance exam, cancellation of board exams and given a mass promotion to the students during this Pandemic of COVID – 19. The purpose of this paper is to examine the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic on India's educational system. In this study, we examine the current state of the educational system, New pedagogical and educational tendencies in posts COVID-19 and its impact on students' careers.

*Index terms***: Coronavirus, Education, Outbreak of disease, Digital learning, Career, Post COVID situation.**

I. INTRODUCTION:

The COVID - 19 pandemic has swept the globe especially in the field of Education. The World Health Organization (WHO) declared coronavirus (COVID-19) a pandemic on March 11, 2020, after it spread to 114 nations in three months and infected more than 118,000 individuals worldwide (WHO, 2020). On December 31, 2019, the Wuhan Municipal Health Commission in Hubei Province, China, reported the first COVID-19 case.(WHO, n.d.) A pandemic disease has been spreading rapidly in India from the second week of March 2020. The first instance of the COVID-19 pandemic was recorded on January 30, 2020, in Kerala, and the person who was infected had traveled to Wuhan, China(Res et al., 2020). It has afflicted over 4.5 million people all across the world (WHO) (Jena, 2020). As of January 12, 2021, around 825 million students across the world are affected by school closures as a result of the epidemic (School closures caused by Coronavirus (COVID-19). *UNESCO*).Every country's development is based on education; hence education is critical to all countries' development and growth.The lockdown has caused the regular academic schedule to be disrupted mostly students in primary and high schools because their interactions with their teachers are blocked off due to online platforms (Tadesse & Muluye, 2020). Several issues have impacted the education system, ranging from changes in the education curriculum to the closure of schools owing due to major pandemic diseases (Owusu-Fordjour et al., 2015).

Furthermore, to contain the spread of the COVID -19 pandemic, most governments throughout the world have temporarily closed educational institutions. In India, Schools and institutions have been closed for almost a year to prevent the spread of COVID -19 which affects students from all walks of life(Tadesse& Muluye, 2020). According to the UNESCO research, around 14 crore primary children and 13 crore secondary students are affected in India which make most afflicted level in India. In such conditions Parents, students, and teachers had taken all benefits from distance learning solutions, which include platforms, educational applications, and resources. Massive open online course platforms, digital learning management systems, and self-directed learning content (UNESCO, 2020a). However, due to a lack of internet access, information technology, instructional resources, and digital media, many people are unable to use the internet which makes distance learning more difficult for teachers, students, and Parent(Nasir Mustafa, 2020). India is one of the developing countries that offer classes via radio, television, and online channels. The poorest families and pupils, on the other hand, do not have access to radio, television, or other gadgets to

access resources and learn at home. As a result, some developing countries provide resources to the poorest pupils, such as textbooks, radios, equipment, and study guides(Nasir Mustafa, 2020).

Many educational institutions have been forced to cancel courses, tests, internships, and other activities due to the lockdown, opting instead for online delivery. Therefore, academic activities at all levels, including the delay of board exams, college examinations, and even Competitive exams like the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) for engineering and the National Eligibility and Entrance Test (NEET) for medical school (Google – The print). Initially, instructors and Students were perplexed and unsure on how to proceed and cope with the situation created by the unexpected catastrophe that necessitated. However, later on, everyone understood that the lockdown had taught them a lot about how to deal with pandemics. As a result, COVID -19 has presented educational institutions with numerous difficulties and chances to improve their technical knowledge and infrastructure (Jena, 2020).

This paper aims to shed light on the COVID-19 pandemic's influence on schools and colleges, the Impact of COVID – 19 on students, parents, and teachers, good and bad effects on students' future, academic achievement, major selection. An article about the obstacles and opportunities of online learning, as well as the education system before and after the COVID-19 pandemic, has been reviewed and discussed.

II. Impact of COVID – 19 on the education system of India:

The government of India has closed all educational institutions on 16 March 2020 as a part of statewide lockdown, which affects learners from elementary school students to doctoral students. Not only for students, teachers, and families, school closures have far-reaching economic and cultural consequences. For underprivileged children and their families, the impact was more severe, including disruptions in learning, poor nutrition, childcare issues, and a financial cost to families who were unable to work(Verma& Prakash, 2020). According to UNESCO, nearly 32 crore students in India, including those in schools and institutions, are affected due to COVID-19(Waral& Sajan, 2020). COVID-19 influences all aspects of the educational system, including examinations and evaluations, the start of a new semester or term, and the possibility of extension of the academic year (Tadesse & Muluye, 2020).

2.1 Impact of COVID – 19 on Teachers and Students:

Many educational institutions have been forced to cancel courses, tests, internships, and other activities due to the lockdown and choose to teach on the online platform.In the initial stage, students and teachers are facing many problem and confused that how to overcame with the issue of this unexpected catastrophe that stoped all the instructional activities. However, later on, everyone understood that the lockdown had taught them a lot about how to deal with pandemics (Jena, 2020).

2.1.1 Negative Impact:

The sudden change to online learning without any forethought, particularly in countries like India where the backbone for online learning was not ready and the curriculum was not planned for such a format, has put the majority of our children at risk of becoming passive learners with low attention spans(Waral& Sajan, 2020). Entrance tests have already been postponed , many boards canceled Examination of Academic year2020-21 and admission procedure for new Academic Session has been delayed and took longer time due to the second wave of COVID-19.Children study online from more than one year of schooling as a result of the lockdown, which would exacerbate the lack of continuity in education which makes it difficult for students to return to school for traditional education after such a long break(Jena, 2020). Because of the digital learning method, primary students were the most affected group. On digital platforms, they find the understanding and learning process to be rather challenging. Many students' parents are unable to run digital platforms and are not able to convince their children to learn through online platforms, as a result of which their children's fundamental education has been severely impacted.

All teachers aren't conversant with digital appliances and they weren't prepared for thequick move from face-to-face to online schooling. Most lecturers deliver lectures via video platforms such as Zoom, Google Meet, and others, which may not constitute true online learning in the absence of a specific online learning platform(Jena, 2020). A teacher has challenges in the area of technology as well as a lack of infrastructure(Balaji et al., 2020).Teachers put forth a lot of effort to adopt this new style of teaching, and they give it their all when it comes to sharing knowledge with students on a digital platform.

2.1.2 Positive Impact:

Any disruptive development is likely to bring with it some new prospects that will reshape the global higher education system(Waral& Sajan, 2020). Use of telephonic and digital conferences, online meeting webinar, and digital learning has been enhanced due to COVID - 19 pendemic. As a result of the pendemic, People were forced to study and utilise digital technologies which raising digital learning in students(Jena, 2020). During the pandemic, students in online education are better equipped to manage their time and get more time for self-study. Educators and students can interact with people from all around the world. Learners suited to a global environment.

This new form of teaching allows teachers to communicate with their students more efficiently and effectively, especially during a pandemic, using chat groups, video meetings, voting, and document sharing. As a result, it is expected that the integration of information technology into education would speed even more.

III. The consequences of online learning on mental and physical well-being:

School and university closures harm the mental and physical health of students, parents, and instructors all across the world , especially in developing countries. (UNESCO, 2020b) . Due to the COVID-19 pandemic situation, students have to adopt a new system of education particularly in India because they are not habituated to online education. Many people are experiencing worry, dread, and anxiety as a result of the coronavirus lockdown, such as a dread of dying or a fear of their family's death (Sahu, 2020). This stress may have an impact on student's mental and physical health. The pandemic may have a significant impact on

the careers of this year's higher education undergraduate students, or they may not be able to graduate(Tadesse& Muluye, 2020). Students have been perplexed for a long time about a variety of issues, including how they will give exams, how they will be evaluated, and how much their career will be affected due to mass promotion in an academic year. Students' health is also affected by Disruption to Sleeping & Eating Patterns, Increased Social Isolation, Concerns About Academic Performance, Increased Class Workload, Changes in the Living Environment, Financial Difficulties, Depressive Thoughts, Suicidal Thoughts(Son et al., 2020).

IV. Impact of COVID – 19 on Student's career:

Young students usually study for entrance exams or submit admission tests at this time, choose which Indian universities to attend, and plan additional education courses abroad. The current scenario, on the other hand, is far from normal (Mathivanan et al., 2021). According to a UNESCO report over 32 crores of students of schools & colleges were hit by the COVID-19. Exams have been canceled and Students are mass promoted for further study. Students are stressed & worried about their further study and career options. However, the Education ministries of India are ready with their strategies of assessment of students for mass promotion. Mass promotion leads to many problems such as delaying results, extend entrance exams which will be directly affected the upcoming academic year, confuse in choosing their career options due to lack of knowledge.

Moreover, half of the students (53.3%) said they were having trouble paying their fees. Students were eager to help in combating the COVID-19 problem, with 54% willing to help through online awareness and 40.1 percent willing to help in the field(Sehgal et al., 2021).

But as we know that every coin has two faces, If one side student's career is affected then other side students get lots of opportunities in education and practical experience through skill development programs by attending many webinars and e-Conferences are more likely to be off the table for a while, which may help them advance in their careers (Mathivanan et al., 2021). The education stakeholders and government of India have investigated the potential of Open and Distance Learning (ODL) through the use of various digital technologies which help to sharpen their knowledge that boost their careers.

V. New pedagogical and educational tendencies-Posts COVID-19:

Pedagogy as a strategy, an approach, a process, and a method that would assist to make teaching and learning successful in the true sense should be reconsidered during and after the pandemic-driven lockdown in India(Bordoloi et al., 2021). In the initial phase of the COVID-19 pandemic, there is a chance that the old educational system may be revisited soon but as a core, digital learning is taking the lead, and a number of new technologies are gaining traction around the world. In the aftermath of a disease epidemic, a mix of e-learning and traditional face-to-face teaching with assistance from academic institutions and the education technology sector may be witnessed. In the post-pandemic period, the educational system will undergo significant adjustments. Therefore, all the schools and Universities of India will get a better opportunity to modify their academic teaching and learning by using digital learning into the traditional pattern of education. Universities will develop resources in the post-COVID-19 setting to enable hybrid multi-model delivery for enhanced student experience. There will be no clear or defined borders in the learning rooms. Learning will take place in a new method, according to a new guideline. There will be new methods of learning as well as new information. Even after the influence of Covid-19 and other factors, social isolation will persist. Many activities will be subject to restrictions in the future. For example, college fun, sports, gyms, competitions, and other activities will be disrupted for a while, resulting in a significant reduction in student physical activity(Patil& Luhar, 2021). Experts and industry may work together to provide training programs that are both practical and applicable. It is acknowledged that industries will move in this new uncertain climate, with some declining and others emerging.

Because we live in the technological age, there are several opportunities: learning innovation, ease of production, acceptance of the worldwide social environment, provision of new resources and knowledge, and improved access to information. As technology progresses, it is becoming increasingly visible in schools, colleges, and institutions throughout the world. Information and communication technology, like oxygen, plays an important part in human life. Technology is not being used to replace conventional learning methodologies; rather, it is being used to enhance new learning abilities and approaches. (Koli, 2020)

Conclusion:

COVID-19 is a pandemic sickness produced by a virus that also affects the education systems of almost all countries. Education is the foundation of any country's growth. But due to the long time impact of COVID-19 Indian education system faced many difficulties such as breakage of the traditional education system and shifting to the digital platform, Assessment and evaluation of students, an unplanned decision has to take according to the situation of COVID-19. However, over a lengthy period, we develop a new style of learning. If one side student career is affected due to COVID -19 on the other side students also get various opportunities like attending workshops, seminars, internships on the online platform, they start reading E-learning books and aware of new technology. From schools to colleges in India, educational institutions may turn this current difficulty into a blessing in disguise by making digital education a priority. In the future, all learners will be required to participate in a significant portion of the learning process.Overall, we conclude that COVID-19 Pendemic gives as great oppourtunity to modify our education system and get new way of education which comprise our traditional way of classes with digital wellbeing.In order to be ready for COVID-19 pandemic, educational institutions must maintain their information technology infrastructure and knowledge at all time. During a COVID-19 pandemic, India should devise innovative methods to guarantee that all children have feasible access to education. The use of e-learning is greatly benefiting to education sector so that it should be continued after the COVID – 19 pandemic in India.

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