



Impact of COVID-19 on Education Sector

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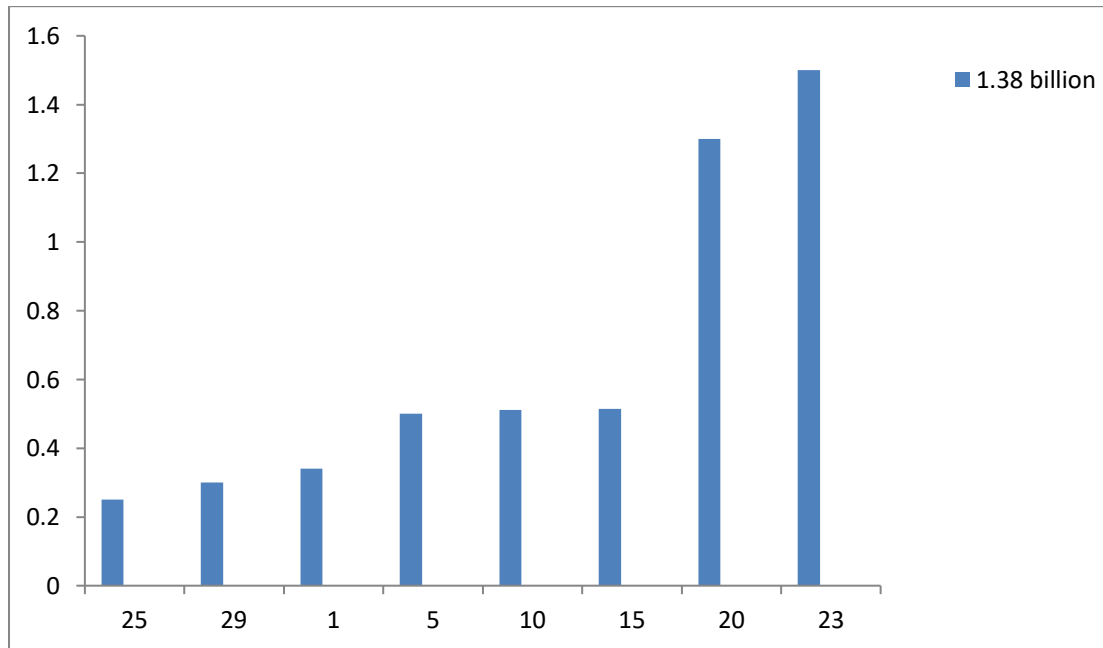
ABSTRACT

Covid-19 Pandemic affected world economy so badly that Indian economy has also not remained untouched by this. Covid-19 Pandemic affected several sectors of India and Education is one of those sectors that are badly impacted by this Crisis. According to a report, In India a maximum of 250 Million students was affected due to closure of schools and universities. The Covid-19 Pandemic makes one thing very clear to all the economies whether economy at International level or National level that their education system is not efficient enough to face the bad impact of such crisis. This Pandemic makes it necessary to provide the education digitally which requires efficient Networking system, Computer system and supportive environment (includes support from teachers and parents) but our system is not accordingly updated. Because of this improper system, around $1/3^{\text{rd}}$ of the students are unable to continue their learning remotely. The huge impact of the crisis is on private schools, universities. As due to covid-19 pandemic many private schools and universities have to close their premises because they were unable to bear the losses anymore caused by covid-19 pandemic. Covid-19 pandemic also leads the international mobility of the students from host country to their home country and the same was the result of shutting down of schools and universities. During this period some schools and universities still managed to continue to provide the education through many software such as Google meet, Zoom & so on. The only benefit resulted with covid-19 pandemic is that parents, teacher as well as students starts getting used to this new way of teaching and learning.

Covid-19 crisis has shifted entire education system from physical teaching-learning to remote teaching-learning. As per UNESCO, 186 countries in the ending of April 2020 have introduced nationwide closure as a result of it; it affected around 73.8% of total registered students.

Impact of Covid-19 on Global Education

Government of worldwide shutting down the schools as well as universities for controlling the spreadness of covid-19 further more. As a result of it more than billions of students are unable to go to school or university.



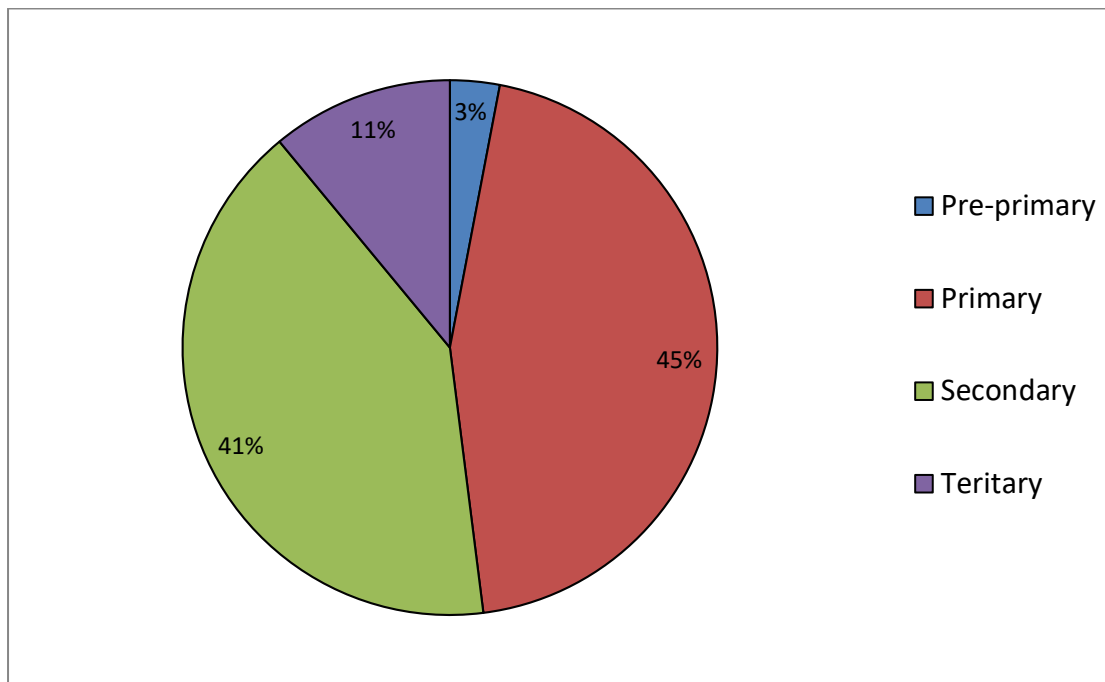
Source <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2020/03/infogr...>

Figures above related with students enrolled at pre – primary, lower – secondary, tertiary level.

Due to country wide closure 1,379,344,914 students or we can say 80% of the students throughout the world kept out of educational institution. If talked about the closure at localized level 284 million students were being affected.

Impact of Covid-19 on Indian students

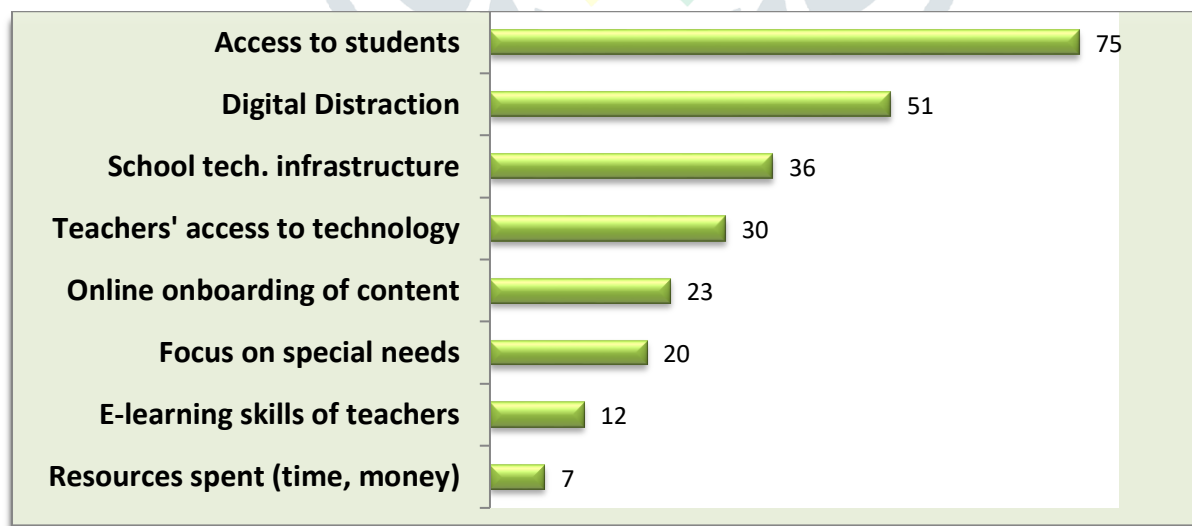
In India due to school closure students around 250 million were affected.



Source <https://www.televisory.com/blogs/-/blogs/covid-19-pandemic-disrupts-india-s-face-to-face-medium-of-teaching>

Challenges Faced By Teachers in Remote Teaching

It becomes very challenging to the teachers to study a class of 40 to 50 students through mobile phone or some other devices especially when the Internet connection and power supply is poor. Accordingly 1.5x teachers on an average found more difficulty in teaching in rural sector than teaching in urban sector.



Source

<https://www.unicef.org/rosa/media/file/Ind...>

Poor mobile connectivity and internet connectivity in India

Mobile phone 99% users both in rural and urban areas who are 12+ years use their mobile phones to access internet.

Internet Only 32% of population of rural and only 54% of population of 12+ years had access of internet.

Broadband connection 24% of household has broadband connections.

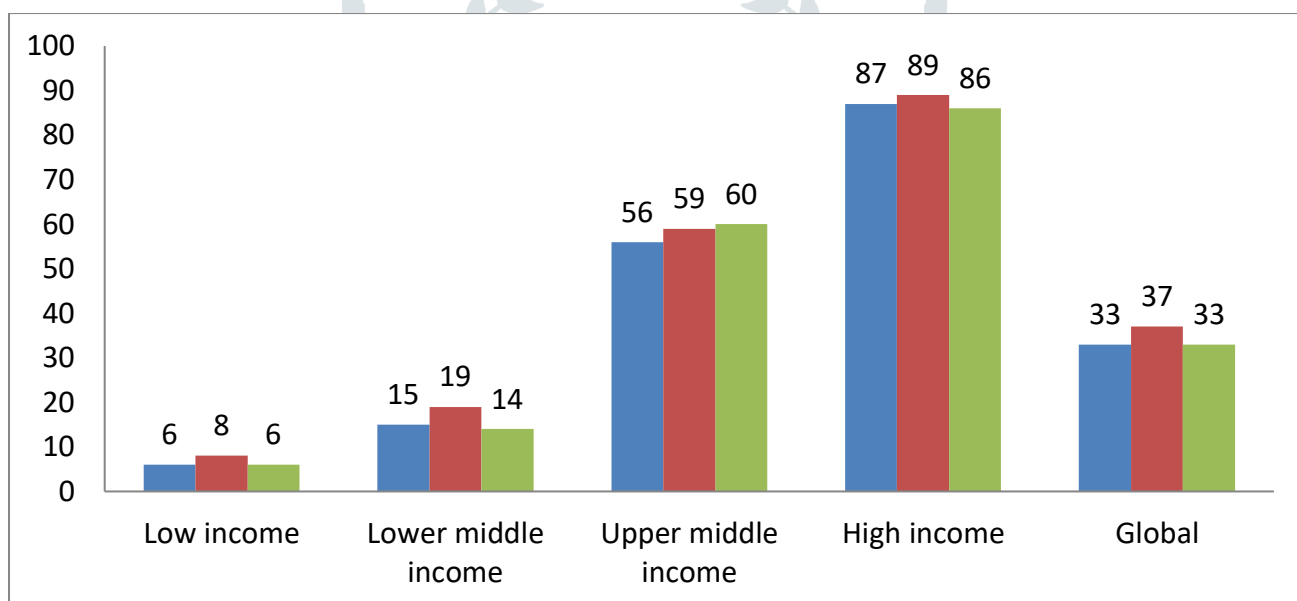
Other devices Only 11% of household of India have other computer devices for example:- Tablet, Laptop & so on.

Parents are reluctant to pay fees for online classes

According to a report most of the parents are unable to pay school fee because of sudden financial crisis. Those parents who are able to pay even they do not pay, finds that online classes provides no benefit to their children and the same is unnecessary. This kind of reluctance by many parents leads the closure of schools and some of universities as well.

Unequal access to technology

Unequal access to technology resulted in disturbed classes and learning sessions. Globally 2/3rd of children and adults aged 25 years or less do not have internet connection at their home. We can show this through a figure by comparing it with wealth of different countries.



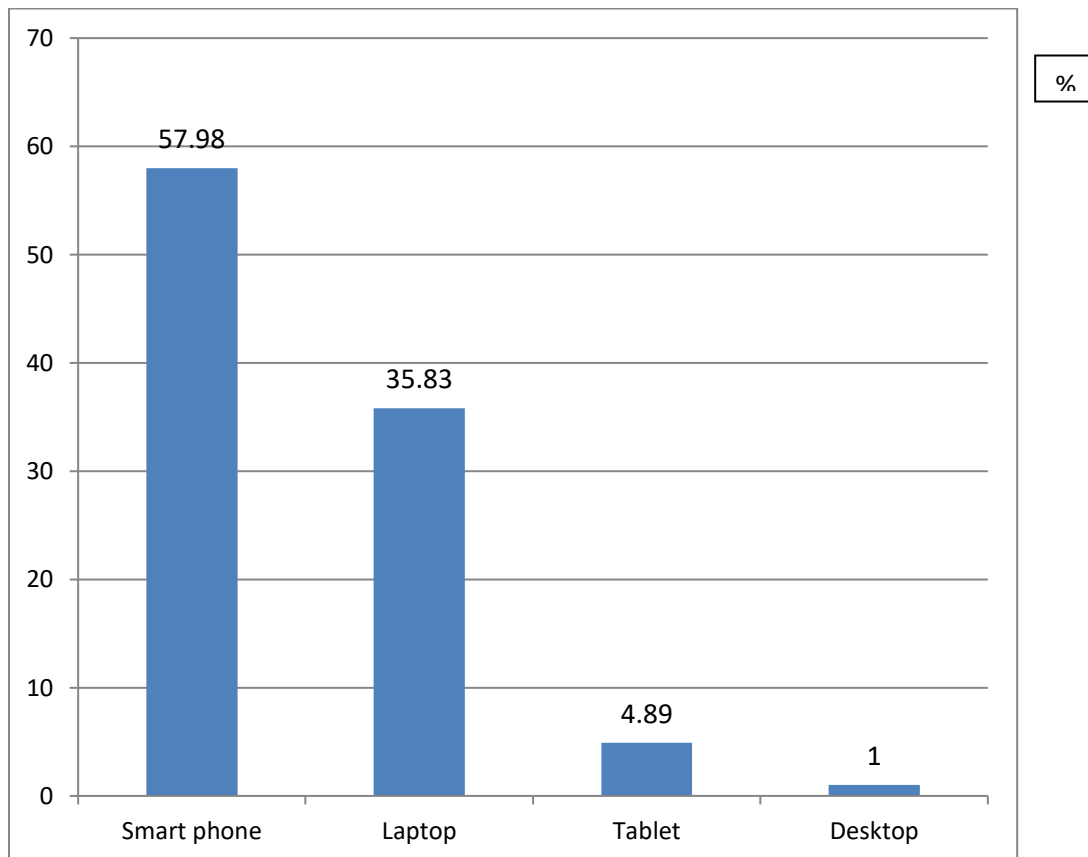
Source

<https://www.itu.int › ITU-D › publications › UNICEF>

Acc. to the figure above only 6% have internet connection in less income countries but 87% of children and young people of high income countries have internet connection.

Unequal access to educational resources

Acc. to a recent study, devices preferred by the most of the students for attending their classes were:-



Source <https://www.frontiersin.org › fvets.2020.594261 › full>

Digital unpreparedness of teacher and student

In a country like India maximum percentage of teachers and students are not well known with technological tools. It took so long to teachers and students to get used to thing mode of teaching- learning. This kind of unpreparedness results in poor teaching and learning.

Steps should be taken for minimizing the Impact of COVID-19 on Education Sector

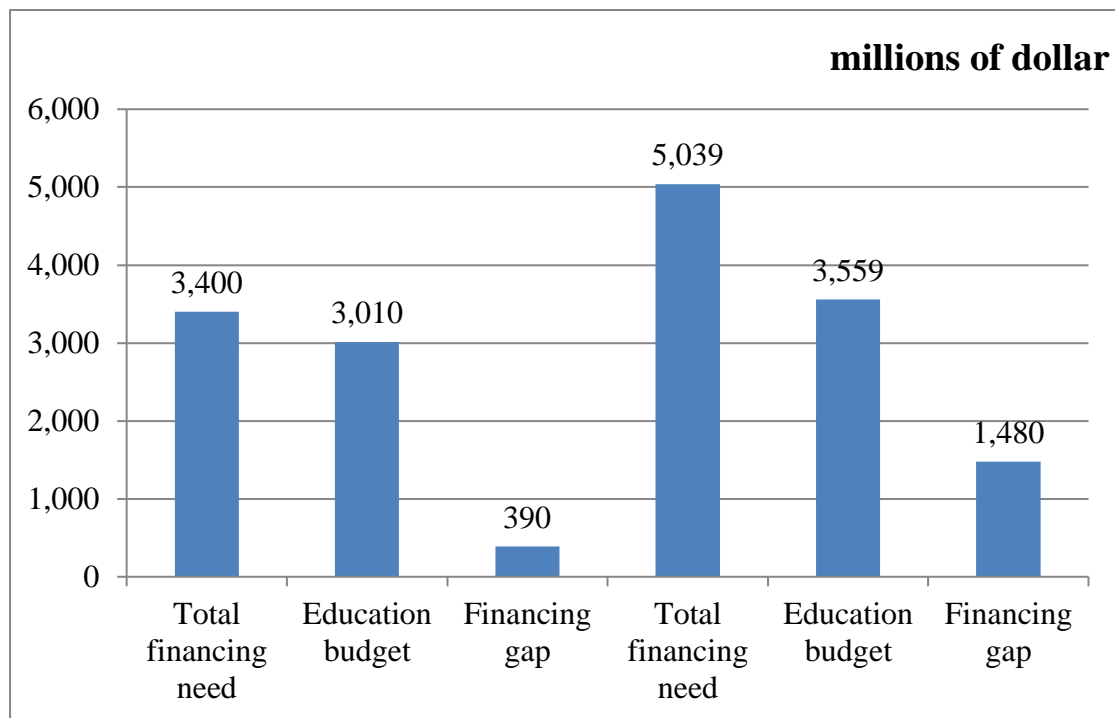
Prepare as well as implement some programs for recovering learning loss

The purpose of such program by the government is to identify those students who were really suffered by this crisis and are really needed to get back their expected level of learning target. Such programs can help the students to bring their confidence back and can recover their learning loss as fast as possible.

Increase education funding

Government should increase in the education fund in order to provide the equal & quality education and an education that must be free from any kind of violence so that children can learn without any pressure. International community and national authorities can preserve a share for financing expenditure related to education by following way: in domestic savings keep a separate reserve for education spending, make the strong formal relationship with international authorities in order to get the help in case of debt crisis.

- Figure below presents impact of covid19 on education expenditure

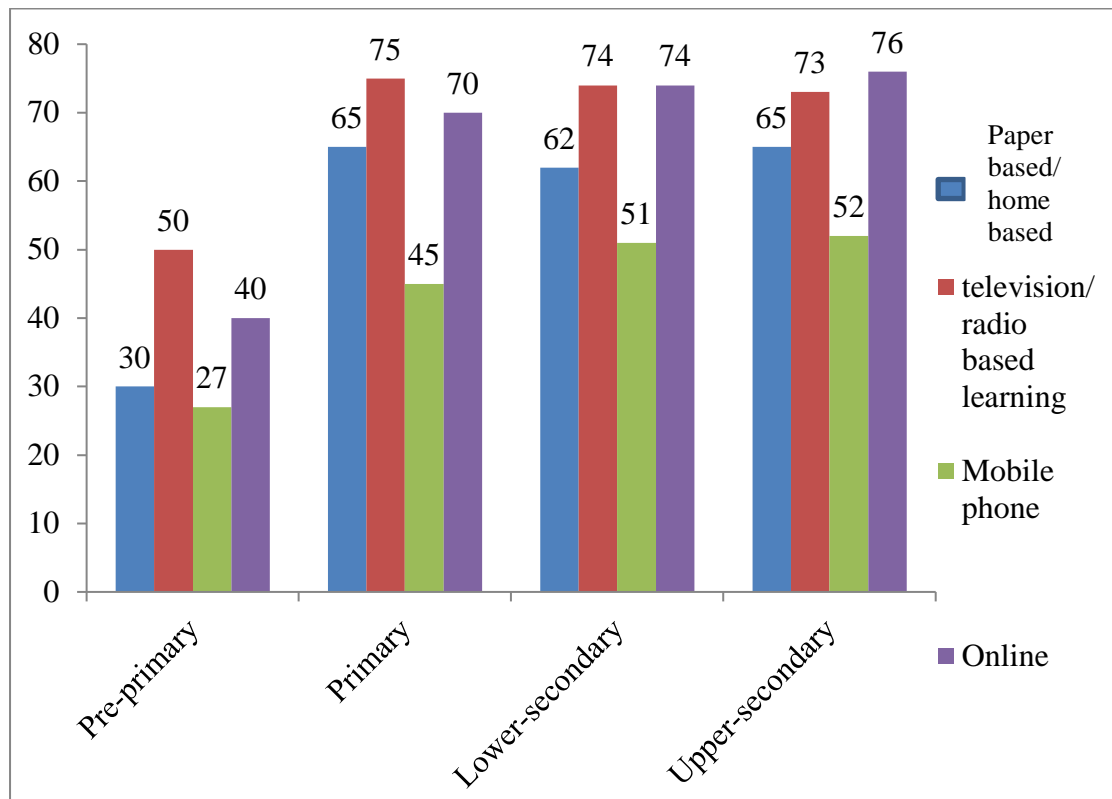


Source <https://www.un.org › uploads › sites › 2020/08>

In the year 2015 the gap between the finance needed and finance available for education is 390 which increases to 1480 in the year 2020 due to covid-19.

Support teachers' needs equally

Teachers played the most important role during the covid-19 pandemic so it becomes very necessary to support their needs. For the effective remote learning it is important to address the teachers' needs. During the period of covid-19 pandemic, teachers were suddenly asked to provide education digitally even without proper ICT skills, internet connectivity & so on. It becomes very difficult to worldwide teachers to suddenly adapt this new way of teaching-learning. We can show the following through a survey conducted by UNESCO in may-June 2020.



Source <https://www.un.org › uploads › sites › 2020/08>

Figure above shows the proportion of teachers needed to carry on study by education level and distance learning method (percentage affected by group)

Improving ICT skills of teachers and students

One of the modes to mitigate effect of covid-19 on education is to improve and enhance the knowledge of using the digital tools by the teachers as well as by the students. The same can be done by arranging training sessions, through online workshops etc. This step is very important because it had been seen that only few teachers were known the ICT skills but most of them were unprepared to use the online platforms and digital tools.

Policies introduced by Government of India to support online education

Pm e Vidya

To make India as an “atmanirbharbharat” govt. of India launched a policy called “Pm e vidya”. It includes the following:

- **DIKSHA (one nation one digital platform): -**

Government of India launched a program called DIKSHA in order to provide digital education. Under this content of the books in online form are available which is created by state or national level organizations. On DIKSHA e-content can be available to users in 32 different Indian

languages like in Hindi, English, Punjabi, Marathi & so on. The e-content on DIKSHA is available for the classes 1st to 12th. Users can download the DIKSHA app through Google play store; it is one of the top rated free education app.

- **Access through TV channels (one class one TV channel):-**

In India most of the students does not have the access of internet so the ministry of education launched a policy called SwayamPrabha. In swayamprabha the e-content is provided through TV channels by coordinating with airtel andTata sky& so on. Students can have live interaction with the experts through Skype. It comes into force from 1st September 2020.

Conclusion

The conclusion of this research paper is that the impact of covid-19 pandemic on education is unexpected going with, it leads the closure of schools for temporary period of time. But despite all of these many organizations and government are making great efforts to mitigate the effect of pandemic on education like government of India published national education policy 2020 in which main focus is on the digital education. We know that the covid-19 pandemic leaves the huge mark on education but if sincere efforts made then this loss can be minimized for this government of India needs to improve digital infrastructure and provide the internet access to all the students. SwayamPrabha is a great initiative taken by the Government by broadcasting educational content on TVchannels. In short we can say that with the support of government, teachers, parents, and students we can overcome all these hurdles created due to covid-19 pandemic.

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