COVID-19 PANDEMIC: IMPACT AND STRATEGIES FOR EDUCATION SECTOR IN INDIA
A CASE ANALYSIS

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Abstract:

This study examines and exploring the impact of a COVID crisis on education sector. The Education Institutions are anticipating   different types of alternative strategies to open their institutions. Education System is suffering a lot to tackle the problems. After analysing different cases, this study suggested that the government needs to formulate a New Education Policy, Encourage online education, development of massive broad cast learning through TV, Radio and make school environment free from infection.

KEYWORDS: Covid Crisis, New Education Policy, online education through TV and Radio.

ACHILD WITH OUT EDUCATION IS A BIRD WITHOUT WINGS

Introduction

Corona virus pandemic has been significantly affecting various sectors in India including oil and gas, automobiles, aviation, agriculture, retail, education etc (**GOYAL, APR 23, 2020**)The corona virus disease (COVID-19) has spread to many countries and territories. People can be infected by this virus by touching face (**e.g., eyes, nose, mont**h) when they touch surfaces of contaminated with the virus .all the preventions have been taking even though COVID-19 has been continuously spreading in all communities.

On March 24,2020 Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi ordered   First nationwide lockdown for three weeks as a measure not to spread of the novel corona virus in India. All the organisations   are truly followed the order including schools and colleges too.

With some recommendations of state governments and other advisory committees on 14 April, Prime minister Narendra Modi extended the nationwide lockdown until 3 May, that is Second lockdown. with little relaxations Government of India extended nationwide lockdown by two weeks until 17 May. based on zone analysis lockdown extended till 31 May. In Fourth lock down many organisations have got relaxation to open their business.

The Government of India did not given permission to schools and colleges to open.

FACTS ABOUT COVID-19

What is COVID-19?

COVID-19 is a pandemic disease . 'CO' stands for corona, 'VI' for virus, and 'D' for disease. Formerly, this disease was referred to as '2019 novel corona virus' or '2019-nCoV.' The COVID-19 virus like types of common cold but badly affects Respiratory   system. (**Key Messages and Actions forCOVID-19 and Control in Schools, 2020**)

What are the symptoms of COVID-19?

Fever, Cough and Shortness of breath are main Symptoms. These symptoms are similar to the flu (influenza) or the common cold, which are a lot more common than COVID-19. This is why testing is required to confirm if someone has COVID-19.

How does COVID-19 spread?

Transmission of the COVID-19 virus can occur by direct contact with infected people and indirect contact with surfaces in the immediate environment or with objects used on the infected person (e.g., stethoscope or thermometer)) (**World Health Organisation**)
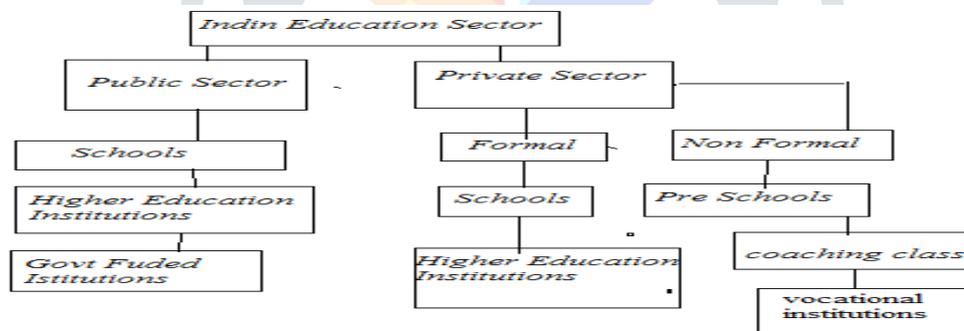
Who is most at risk?

People of all ages can be infected by the new corona virus (**2019-nCoV**). Older people, and people with pre-existing medical conditions (such as asthma, diabetes, heart disease) appear to be more vulnerable to becoming severely ill with the virus.. (**World Health Organisation**)

Education Sector in India

Education has reached a key position in the knowledge society both at national and international level as well (**singh, 2015**). India has largest and most complex education system with 1.5 million schools, 8.7 million primary and secondary teachers and more than 260 million enrolments (**Lightfoot, July 2019**).Primary school enrolment in the 6-14 age range is over 96% in rural India (**ASER report, 2012**) . Education sector in India is a mix of government-operated & privately operated educational institutions. Some other allied education products & services providers are also existed (**Sabnavis, June 25, 2018**)

Indian Education sector – Segmentation

Source: care ratings

K12:

K-12 is abbreviated as Kindergarten to the 12th grade. It covers primary and secondary education. The target puple for this segment is from the age of 3-17 years. The K-12 institutions are broadly classified into:

1. Government-owned

2. Privately-owned but government-aided

3. Privately-owned but unaided

K-12 scenario in India Privately-owned schools are dominated the government. (**Sabnavis, June 25, 2018**)

The structure of schooling and learning, including teaching and assessment methodologies, was the first to be affected by these closures (**April 16, 2020)**

Corporate schools could adopt online teaching methods. The students who are studying they can access e-learning class. The private and government schools have completely shut down because of unable to maintain e-learning classes. The students of these institutions are missing opportunities of learning, having healthy meals during this covid time (impact and strategies for education sector in India **(April 16, 2020)**

Framework for Reopening Schools Decisions

International scenario:

1. To tackle the COVID problems, that the government needs to prepare of the educational information superhighway, consider that equipping teachers and students with standardized home-based teaching/learning equipment so that ensure that to enhance academic research through online education .Conduct online teacher training session include the development of massive online education(**Zhang, 2020)**

2. Maintaining physical distancing until the number of new cases declines for at least 14 consecutive days (**Weingarten**)

3. Ensure conditions that reduce disease transmission, safeguard essential services and supplies and promote healthy behaviour. This includes access to soap and clean water for safe hand washing, procedures on when staff or students feel unwell, protocols on social distancing and good hygiene practices. (**New guidelines provide roadmap for safe reopening of schools, 2020)**

4. Suspending Classes Without Stopping Learning Policy **(Zhang, 2020)**

5. In every country schools play a fabulous role in the development of children's emotional, social and intellectual development. In the same way that school closures were highly disruptive during covid age . United Nations 'educational body, the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, calls for consultation with parents, teachers, students and communities before schools reopen. This provides the confidence and trust necessary for the financing and operating of safe school reopening. **(When Should a School Reopen?, 2020)**

Indian Scenario:

1. Schools should be re open. Students and Teachers communities are coping with each other to fight with this   pandemic. (**UNESDOC, APRIL20**)

2. The education system needs an innovative pattern or policy to set the functions of govt schools. As we have faced challenges in the past everyone should learn living together with corona .Delhi govt is inviting New ideas which help us to come out of this crisis (thulika, 2020)**Delhi Education Minister Manish Sisodia through the online platform**. (Delhi govt seeks suggestions for reopening schools post lockdown, 2020)

3. In Tamilnadu The Manachanallur Government Model Girls Higher Secondary School is taking up virtual classless for X class pupil with the help of **ZOOM application** .About 200 students are joined the virtual classroom with excitement and enthusiasm . The school hosts six study sessions at two-time slots each day for 200 students. All students were eager to learn by interacting through Zoom application (**Government school students take up online classes, 2020).**

4. Schools should be reopen with the help of following precautionary measures a. Each section   shall be divided into two batches (A batch and B batch) of 20-25 children per batch.

5. Physical distancing shall be ensured in class rooms among students.

6. School should run in two shifts (A batch: morning shift - 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.; B batch: noon shift -- 12.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.)

7. Classes shall be conducted from Monday to Friday only on shift basis

8. Ensure Different interval/break time for each (**KUMAR, 2020)**

9. Maharashtra is the worst-affected state by Covid-19. The educational institutions & technological institutions are adversely affected by covid -19.The next academic year will be delayed as a result, the number of students & teachers will decline. (**Chaturvedi, 2020)**

10. The Karnataka Secondary Education Examination Board (KSEEB), draft guidelines, and suggested that the schools shall made responsible for arrangements to maintain social distancing among students . Arrange three students on a bench(**Govt issues guidelines for reopening of schools, 2020)**

Suggestions of the Study:

Following suggestions are made from this study

Schools should reopen

From the this study the other state govt are recommending the following measures in order to reopen the govt schools

1. Access to soap and clean water for safe hand washing

2. Arrangements to Maintain Social Distancing Among Students

3. Arrange Three Students On A Bench

4. Classes Shall Be Conducted From Monday To Friday Only On Shift Basis

5. School Should Run In Two Shifts

6. Suspending Classes Without Stopping Learning Policy

7. Online Learning Platforms

8. E-Learning

9. Set a New Education Policy

Conclusion of the Study:

The objective of the study as exploring the strategies to reopen schools over this covid age. The study finds that with the help of power supply, digital skills of teachers and students, internet connectivity is necessary to explore digital learning. Govt should provide broadcasting classes through TV. Broadcasted on National Radio and National TV channels to assist learners during school closures... All classes broadcasted on TV are also broadcasted on the Radio.

Central Government and State needs to discuss and develop strategy, which is applicable and acceptable by the educational institutions, parents, teachers and students and ensure that overall progress in the country.

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