

Covid-19 Pandemic: Impact and Strategies for Educationsector in India

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ABSTRACT

The corona virus disease (COVID-19) pandemic has quickly spread to various countries, with many cases having been reported worldwide. The closure of educational institutions due to preventive measures against the spread of COVID-19 has affected the education, well-being, and functioning of all parties involved in and benefiting from the education system in the world. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic is being seen in every education sector around the world. The education sector of India as well as the world has been hit hard by this. The lockdown has had a negative effect on students' lives worldwide. Around 32 crore people in India stopped moving schools and colleges around the country due to the pandemic. The education sector has been fighting to survive the crises with a different approach, by digitizing the challenges. This paper discusses some of the government's measures taken in order to improve the situation. India plans to provide seamless education for its citizens so that everyone can have access to the best possible education.

Keyword: COVID-19, Impact , Strategies, Education

Introduction

The pandemic Covid-19 has unfolded over the entire and compelled human society to hold social distancing. It has considerably disrupted the schooling quarter which is a vital determinant of a country's economic future. On February 11, 2020, the World Health or (WHO) proposed a legitimate title for the virus as COVI-19, an acronym for Corona virus disease 2019. It was first identified in Wuhan, China on December 31, 2019. The first death via COVID-19 used to be sixty one -year old man in Wuhan, China on January 11, 2020. WHO declared COVID-19 as a pandemic on March 11, 2020. The first case of COVI-19 pandemic in India used to be said on 30 January 2020 in the kingdom of Kerala and the affected had a tour history from Wuhan, China (Wikipedia). The first death due to COVID-19 was said in India on March 12, 2020. It has affected extra than 4.5 million people internationally (WHO). According to the UNESCO record, it had affected extra than 90% of the whole world's college student population for the duration of mid-April 2020 which is now reduced to almost 67% for the duration of June 2020. The outbreak of COVID-19 has impacted more than one hundred twenty crores of college students and childhood throughout the planet. In India, greater than 32 crores of college students have been affected by quite a number limit and the nationwide lockdown for COVID-19. As per the UNESCO report, about 14 crores of foremost and thirteen crores of secondary students are affected which are two primarily affected ranges in India.

After looking at the coronavirus pandemic situation, the WHO cautioned holding social distancing as the first prevention step. So, each u. s. a . commenced the motion of lockdown to separate the contaminated

people. The training sectors which include schools, faculties, and universities emerge as closed. Classes were suspended and all examinations of school, schools, and universities such as entrance tests postponed indefinitely. Thus, the lockdown destroyed the schedules of each student. . Though it is a top-notch state of affairs in the records of education, COVID-19 has created many opportunities to come out of the rigorous classroom instructing mannequins to a new technology of digital model. Sometime in the 2nd week of March, kingdom governments across the country began shutting down colleges and colleges temporarily as a measure to contain the spread of the novel coronavirus. It's shut for a month and there is no walk in the park when they will reopen. This is a fundamental time for the training sector—board examinations, nursery college admissions, entrance assessments of various universities, and competitive examinations, amongst others, are all held for the duration of this period. As the days pass with the aid of no instant solution to give up the outbreak of Covid-19, faculty and college closures will now not solely have a nonpermanent influence on the continuity of gaining knowledge for more than 285 million young inexperienced persons in India however additionally engender far-reaching economic and societal consequences.

The structure of schooling and learning, including instructing and evaluation methodologies, was once the first to be affected by these closures. Only a handful of non-public schools ought to adopt online educating methods. Their low-income non-public and government college counterparts, on the other hand, have completely shut down for now not having access to e-learning solutions. The students, in addition to the ignored opportunities for learning, no longer have to get the right of entry to healthful meals at some point in this time and are concerned with financial and social stress. The pandemic has drastically disrupted the greater training quarter as well, which is an essential determinant of a country's economic future. A giant number of Indian students—second only to China—enroll in universities abroad, particularly in international locations worst affected with the aid of the pandemic, the US, UK, Australia, and China. Many such students have now been barred from leaving these countries. If the state of affairs persists, in the long run, a decline in the demand for global greater training is expected. The bigger concern, however, on everybody's idea is the effect of the disease on the employment rate. Recent graduates in India are fearing withdrawal of job presence from corporates because of the modern situation. The Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy's estimates on unemployment shot up from 8.4% in mid-March to 23% in early April and the urban unemployment fee to 30.9%. The lockdown has compelled many instructional institutions to cancel their lessons examinations, and internships and to pick online modes. Initially, the education and the students were pretty confused and didn't understand how to cope with the state of affairs of this surprising crisis that compelled the closure of the instructional activities. But later on, all realized that the lockdown has taught so many lessons to control the emergence of such a pandemic. Thus, COVID-19 has created many challenges and opportunities for the educational institute to improve their technological Knowledge and infrastructure (Pravat 2020). The lockdown has given them a ray of hope for teachers and college students to continue their academic things to do online. The teacher assigned work to students through internet-delivered lectures via live video conferencing with the use of distinct Apps like Zoom, Google meets Facebook, YouTube, and Skype. There is a WhatsApp team of guardians, teachers, students, and mothers and fathers for preparation for college to maintain all their training online. The lockdown has accelerated the adoption of digital technology. It has provided a danger to advance new and extended professional skills/Knowledge via online learning in a greater environment-friendly and productive way. Online

studying is a fantastic answer for the duration of this pandemic COVID-19 scenario (Pravat,2020). The same is the situation that occurs in India place no longer every scholar is well geared up with the high-speed web and digital gadgets and are alongside these strains of suffer. Numerous improve academic institutions in India are not also geared up with digital facilities proper now to reproduction up with sudden change from traditional education set up to the on-line education system.

The current research paper targeted the following objectives:

- To enlighten a range of measures taken with the aid of Govt. of India for the schooling sector during this pandemic.
- To highlights more than a few high-quality effect of Covid-19 on education.
- To enlist some negative effects of Covid-19 and to put some positive hints for continuing training during the pandemic situation.

Methodology:

Data and data in the current study are accumulated from a range of reports prepared through countrywide and international agencies on the Covid-19 pandemic. Information is amassed from a range of actual websites. Some journals and e-contents bearing on to the influence of COVID-19 on the academic system are referred.

Initiatives of Govt. of India on Education during Covid-19

To Prevent spread of pandemic COVID-19, THE Government of India has taken number of preventive measures. The union government declared a countrywide lock-down of all educational institutions on 16 March 2020 throughout India. Central Board of Secondary Education (CBCE) Postponed all examinations of secondary and higher secondary schools on March 18,2020 throughout India. CBCE released revised guidelines for examination center to conduct examinations by maintaining a distance of at least 1 meter between the students taking the exam with a class not having more than 24 students. If the rooms of the examination center are small then the students should be divided into different rooms accordingly. The union Public Service Commission (UPSC) postponed the interview for the Civil Service Examination 2019 (Wikipedia).Similarly the most of the state Governments and other educational boards postponed examination due to outbreak of COVID-19. Govt. of India discovered one day nationwide Janta-curfew on March 22 and put in force lockdown from March 25, 2020, onwards in different phases. Govt. Govt. of India has been extending lockdown periods from time adopting different strategies to fight with the pandemic but educational Institutions remained closed continuously. The lockdown 6.0 was declared on June 29, which is nice from 1st July to thirty-first July 2020 with some much less restriction in different areas except for education. Almost all state authorities ministries have taken measures to ensure that the tutorial things to do of schools and colleges do now not abate at some stage in the lockdown period. They have prompted the colleges to keep all their classes online. The lockdown has accelerated adoption of digital Technology.it has provided a chance to develop new and improved professional skills/knowledge through online learning in more efficient and productive way.Online learning is the best solution during this pandemic COVID-19 scenario (Pravat, 2020b). So, digital India is imaginative and prescient of the government is rising as a quintessential device for fixing the present crisis due to Covid-19. It is a fact that technology-based training is more obvious with all respect. Looking at this venture of faculties and colleges being shut, authorities of India, as nicely as

state governments and non-public players have undertaken proper initiatives. The Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) has made a number of arrangements, consisting of online portals and educational channels thru Direct Home TV, and Radios for students to continue learning. During lockdown, college students are using popular social media tools like WhatsApp, Zoom, Google meet, Telegram, YouTube live, Facebook live, etc. for online education learning system. ICT initiative of MHRD (broacher- <https://mhrd.gov.in/ict-initiatives>) is a unique platform that combines all digital resources for online education. The digital initiatives of MHRD for secondary as nicely as higher education all through COVID-19 are listed below:

Secondary Education:

Diksha portal consists of e-Learning content material for students, teachers, and mothers and fathers aligned to the curriculum, including video lessons, worksheets, textbooks, and assessments. Under the coaching of its countrywide boards of training (CBSE) and NCERT, the content has been created by more than 250 instructors who teach in more than one language. The app is reachable to use offline. It has more than 80,000 e-Books for instructions 1 to 12 created by CBSE, NCERT in multiple languages. The contents can additionally be considered through QR codes on textbooks. The app can be downloaded from IOS and Google Play Store. Website: <https://diksha.gov.in> or <https://seshaqun.gov.in/shaqun>

- **E1-Pathshala** is an e-Learning app with the aid of NCERT for lessons 1 to 12 in more than one language. The app houses books, videos, audio, etc. aimed at students, educators, and parents in a couple of languages including Hindi, Urdu, and English. In this net portal, NCERT has deployed 1886 audios, 2000 videos, 696 e-Books, and 504 Flip Books for classes 1 to 12 in unique languages. Mobile Apps are available. Website: <http://epathshala.nic.in> or <http://epathshala.gov.in>

The National Repository of Open Educational Resources (NROER) portal affords a host of sources for college students and teachers in more than one language along with books, interactive modules, and movies inclusive of a host of STEM-based games. Content is mapped to the curriculum for instructions 1-12, such as aligned assets for teachers. It has a complete of 14527 archives which include 401 collections, 2779 documents, 1345 interactive, 1664 audios, 2586 pix, and 6153 movies in different languages. Website: <http://nroer.gov.in/welcome>.

Higher Education

- **Swayam Prabha** has 32 DTH TV channels transmitting academic content on a 24 x 7 basis. These channels are reachable for viewing all across the country with the use of DD Free Dish Set Top Box and Antenna. The channel schedule and different small prints are available in the portal. The channels cover both school education (classes 9 to 12) and higher education (undergraduate, postgraduate, engineering Out-of-school children, vocational guides, and instructor training) in arts, science, commerce, performing arts, social sciences and humanities subjects, engineering, technology, law, Enhance the use of a tender copy of mastering material: In the lockdown scenario students have been not able to accumulate the difficult copies of find out about substances and as a result most of the students used of smooth copies materials for reference medicine, agriculture. Website: <https://swayamprabha.gov.in/>

- **Swayam** is the countrywide online schooling platform internet hosting 1900 publications overlaying both schools (classes 9 to 12) and higher education (undergraduate, submit graduate programs) in all subjects including engineering, humanities, social sciences, regulation, and management courses. The unique feature is that it is built-in with conventional education. Credit transfers are possible for SWAYAM guides (max. 20%). Website: <https://swayam.gov.in/>
- **PG Pathshala** is for postgraduate students. Postgraduate students can get the right of entry to this platform for e-books, and online courses and learn about materials at some point during this lockdown period. The significance of this platform is that college students can get entry to these amenities without having a net for the total day. Website: <https://epgp.inflibnet.ac.in/>

The positive affect of COVID-19 on education:

Though the outbreak of COVID-19 has created many bad effects on education, educational institutions of India have everyday the challenges and making an attempt their excellent to furnish seamless support services to the college students all through the pandemic. Indian schooling devices got the opportunity for transformation from a typical system to a new era. The following points may additionally be considered as positive impacts.

- **Move toward Blended Learning:** COVID-19 has accelerated the adoption of digital technologies to supply education. Educational establishments moved towards the blended mode of learning. It encouraged all instructors and college students to grow to be greater technological know-how savvy. New methods of shipping and assessments of gaining knowledge of opened mammoth possibilities for a principal transformation in the place of curriculum development and pedagogy. It also offers access to large swimming pools for rookies at a time.
- **Rise in use of Learning Management Systems:** Use of learning management structures by educational institutions became a great demand. It opened a gorgeous chance for the companies that have been creating and strengthening studying management structures for use in educational institutions (Mishra, 2020).
- **Rise in online meetings-** The pandemic has created a huge upward jab in teleconferencing, virtual meetings, and webinars and e-conferencing opportunities.
- **Improvement in collaborative work-** There is a new opportunity where collaborative teaching and studying can take on new forms. Collaborations can additionally happen among faculty/teachers across the world to advantage each other (Mishra, 2020).

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 WhatsApp or Facebook

- **Worldwide exposure:** Educators and learners are getting opportunities to interact with peers from around the world. Learners adapted to an international community.
- **Better time management:** Students are able to manage their time more efficiently in online education during pandemics.
- **Demand for Open and Distance Learning (ODL):** During the pandemic situation most of the students preferred ODL mode as it encourages self-learning providing opportunities to learn from diverse resources and customized learning as per their needs. Negative an effect of COVID-19 on

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

- **Educational recreation hampered:** Classes have been suspended and exams at one-of-a-kind levels postponed. Different boards have already postponed the annual examinations and entrance tests. Admission manner got delayed. Due to continuity in lockdown, students suffered a loss of almost 3 months of the full educational yr of 2020-21 which is going to similarly deteriorate the situation of continuity in training and the as college students would face a good deal subject in resuming training again after a massive gap.

Impact on employment: Most of the recruitment acquired postponed due to COVID-19 Placements. for students may also additionally be affected with groups delaying the on boarding of students. The unemployment rate is predicted to be extended due to this pandemic. In India, there is no recruitment in Govt. sector and clean graduates are concerned about withdrawing their job afford from non-public sectors due to the fact of the current situation. The Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy's estimates on unemployment shot up from 8.4% in mid-March to 23% in early April and the city unemployment fee to 30.9% (Educationasia.in). When the unemployment will increase then the training regularly decreases as people war for food instead than education.

Unprepared teachers/students for online education: Not all teachers/students four are precise at it or at least now not all of them had been prepared for this unexpected transition from face-to-face gaining knowledge of to online learning. Most of the teachers are simply conducting lectures on video structures such as Zoom, Google meet, etc. which may also no longer be actual online studying except any committed online studying platform.

Reduced international employment opportunity- Some may lose their jobs in other nations and the skip-out students may additionally no longer get their jobs in backyard India due to restrictions induced through COVID-19. Many Indians might have again home after losing their jobs to distant places due to COVID-19. Hence, the clean college students who are likely to enter the job market rapidly might also face difficulty in getting suitable employment. Many college students who have already acquired jobs via campus interviews may not be able to be part of their jobs due to lockdown. The Indians who have been doing their jobs abroad may lose their jobs. Recent graduates in India are additionally fearing for withdrawal of job offers from corporate sectors due to the fact of movement restrictions in the modern pandemic situation.

Increased responsibility of dad and mom to train their wards: Some trained mother and father are able to guide however some may no longer have the ample degree of schooling wanted to teach kids in the house.

- **Loss of nutrition due to school closure:** Mid-day foods is a school meal program of the The government of India is designed to provide higher nutritional meals to school-age children nationwide. The closure of faculties has serious implications on the daily diet of college students as the mid-day meal schemes have temporarily been shut. Various studies have pointed out that mid-day meals are also an essential contributing factor to elevated enrolment in the schools.
- **Access to the digital world:** As many students have confined or no net access and many students may no longer be in a position to afford computers, laptop computers, or helping cellular phones in

their homes, online teaching-learning may also create a digital divide among students. The lockdown has hit the poor students very difficult in India as most of them are unable to discover online getting to know in accordance to various reports. Thus the online teaching-learning technique throughout pandemic COVID-19 may enhance the hole between rich/poor and urban/rural.

- **Access to world education:** The pandemic has significantly disrupted the higher training sector. A giant number of Indian college students who are enrolled in many Universities abroad, mainly in worst affected nations are now leaving these nations and if the scenario persists, in the long run, there will be a giant decline in the demand for international greater education.
- **Payment of Schools, and Colleges fee acquired delayed:** During this lockdown, most of the mothers and fathers will be facing the unemployment state of affairs so they may no longer be in a position to pay the fee for that specific time period periods which can also have an effect on the private institutes. Suggestions:

Suggestions:

- India needs to develop innovative techniques to make certain that all youth should have sustainable access to learning through pandemic COVID-19. The Indian policies must encompass various individuals from diverse backgrounds which include far-off regions, marginalized, and minority corporations for effective delivery.
- Immediate measures are required to lessen the results of the pandemic on job offers, internship programs, and research projects.
- Many online learning platforms provide more than one program on identical topics with different levels of certifications, methodology, and evaluation parameters. So, the excellence of programs may fluctuate across different online learning platforms. Therefore, the establishment of first-rate assurance mechanisms and a nice benchmark for online learning programs should be developed and offered by Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in India preserving in view of the speedy increase of the online learning platforms.
- Across the globe, Indian typical expertise is nicely acknowledged for its scientific innovations, values and advantages to advance sustainable applied sciences and medicines and this understanding structures in different fields have to be Integrated with a present-day mainstream higher training system.
- Govt. and instructional institutes have to format to proceed the educational activities while maintaining social distancing. 30-40% of college students and teachers may also attend schools/colleges in two shifts per day to lift on instructional activities by means of obeying suggestions for COVID-19.
- At current times, getting entry technological know-how and the internet is a pressing requirement. So, the digital capabilities and the required infrastructure ought to reach the remotest and poorest communities to facilitate the students to continue their education in the course of the pandemics. There is a want to deploy public funds to restore the internet gap and make certain that college students proceed to analyze digitally. The state governments/private companies ought to come up with thoughts to tackle this trouble of digital education.

Some significant problems related to distance getting-to-know strategies like the availability and access to digital devices with internet connectivity, the need for safe mastering spaces, growing capabilities for

teachers, families, and college students to operate and navigate digital devices, and engaging lesson plans for disabled college students and different marginalized businesses be addressed via Govt. and the stakeholders.

Conclusion:

COVID-19 has impacted immensely to the education quarter of India. Though it has created many challenges, various opportunities are additionally evolved. The Indian Govt. and distinctive stakeholders of education have explored the opportunity of Open and Distance studying (ODL) by means of adopting different digital applied sciences to cope with the current disaster of COVID-19. India is now not utterly outfitted to make training attain all corners of the kingdom by digital platforms. The students who aren't privileged like the others will suffer due to the present desire for digital platforms. But universities and the government of India are relentlessly trying to come up with a solution to unravel this problem. The precedence should be to utilize digital technological know-how to create an advantageous position for millions of young students in India. It is the need of the hour for educational institutions to strengthen their know-how and Information Technology infrastructure to be prepared for facing COVID-19 like situations.

Even if the COVID-19 crisis stretches longer, there is a pressing want to take efforts on maximum utilization of online systems so that students now not only whole their degree in this tutorial year but additionally get equipped for the future digital-oriented environment. The concept of "work from home" has higher relevance in such pandemic scenarios to limit unfold of COVID-19. India should develop creative strategies to make sure that all youngsters should have a sustainable get right of entry to learning during pandemic COVID-19. The Indian insurance policies ought to encompass a variety of men and women from diverse backgrounds including remote regions, and marginalized and minority organizations for fantastic transport of education. As online exercise is benefitting the college students immensely, it needs to have persevered after the lockdown. Further unique statistical studies can also be undertaken to explore the impact of COVID-19 on training machine of India.

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