IMPACT OF COVID -19 ON INDIAN EDUCATION SYSTEM

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Abstract: Education is the most important weapon for every nation to progress and flourish. Due to Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, The Indian education system is facing major challenges. There is a major setback to the systematic method of classroom learning further leading academicians, parents and students face multiple issues in adapting to the present situation. With this background an attempt is made to know how COVID -19 is creating challenges amongst Institutions, Academicians, Students and Parents. It also focuses on challenges faced during technology adoption, education, learning process, student's engagement and the awareness of parents through the pandemic.

Keywords: COVID-19, Virtual learning, Institutions, Faculty, Students, Parents.

I. INTRODUCTION

The COVID-19 is a novel illness linked to the identical family of viruses as SARS - Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome and some types of a common cold. The acronym of COVID-19 is CO for corona, VI for the virus, and D for the disease. The indications of COVID-19 can contain cough, high fever and shortness of breath. In severe cases, the infection can cause pneumonia or breathing problems or even death. The infection is transferred through direct contact with respiratory drops of an infected person-generated over sneezing and coughing. People can also be infected by touching surfaces tainted with the virus and touching their faces and the virus can enter the human body through eyes, nose and mouth.

Due to this deadly pandemic, the Indian government had to call for a "Janatha Curfew" where people had to adhere to home quarantine for 21 days. The sudden lockdown eventually led every sector to suffer losses. Schools and colleges shut down momentarily impacting the education system. It created a major transformation from systematic classroom learning to online learning. The rush towards virtual learning posed major challenges in adopting new technology were poorly resourced educational institutions suffered coping up with the trend. Faculties who lack technical knowledge faced issues in adopting a new set of online teaching skills, students had to suffer infrastructural issues such as substandard internet connectivity, lack of modern gadgets, and on the other hand, parents had to cope up with domestic chores, working from home and monitoring children during online classes.

1. *OBJECTIVE*

The sole purpose of this study is to comprehend the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak on Indian educational institutions, teaching fraternity, students and parents.

2. *RESEARCH METHODOLOGY*

The study has been done on the basis of secondary data in order to know the impact of COVID – 19 on the Indian education system. The data for the study has been extracted from works of previous literature, related websites and research articles.

3. *REVIEW OF LITERATURE*

Ms Veena Shenoy et al. (2020) focused on the adoption of modern technology in teaching and learning process and the engagement of students and experience of faculties towards virtual classroom during Covid19 pandemic in Bangalore. This study discusses about the positive side of virtual learning on students and faculty. Authors found that the involvement of students was higher than regular classes and faculties seem to be more creative adopting modern technology.

Amber Murrey et al. 2020 though there are many advantages due to the adoption of modern technology in the educational system, it also pushed lecturers to face many hurdles like racism, retrenchment and exploitation. They have to be very efficient for their surveillance and go through humiliation like Zoom bombing. They opined the critical pedagogies had to face challenges to teach efficiently in this situation and to push against the exploitations on them.

Crawford et al. 2020 this paper is focused on challenges faced by the global higher education community and the authors gave us the insight on inter- period higher education responses to Covid-19 and adoption of technology across 20 countries. Many Universities and Governments are trying to implement pedagogical learning during this pandemic situation and make digital learning simpler.

Dr. Pravat Kumar Jena 2020 mentioned in the research about the importance of online education during the pandemic situation. In order to keep students, educated Government initiated many online courses and platform under MHRD and UGC for school students, UG and PG students. He also suggested that the government should consider providing free online course materials, open internet access and free digital gadgets to all students to encourage online education.

Dr. Pravat Kumar Jena 2020 researcher in his article discussed both favorable and harmful impacts of COVID–19 on Indian education system. He mentioned that Indian students are not well equipped in terms of technology to adopt online education; on the other hand, The Indian government is trying to come up with a solution to resolve these issues and reach remote areas and minority groups for better education.

Dr. Zamira Hyseni Duraku and Dr. Linda Hoxha 2020 in this paper explored perceived anxiety and stress among students, their lifestyle and attitude towards online learning. The outcome of the study is the majority of the student's exhibit mild psychological, perceived stress, and somatic anxiety. Providing emotional support to students during this pandemic time might reduce the anxiety and stress level.

Utsav Raj 2020 the author has done a literature review of ten papers to understand the effect of Covid-19 on Indian education system and he concluded that currently the Indian education system is not ready to Opt online education due to poor Indian Infratech and needs to improvise on Internet, electricity and E-learning facilities.

Waqar M. Naqvi1, Arti Sahu 2020 Covid-19 has posed challenges on global education system due to social distancing and rate at which the virus spread pushed schools and colleges towards closure. In this study authors tapped on adverse effects of pandemic and mentioned the roles of UNESCO, World Bank and the response of Chinese universities to cope up from this situation.

4. *MEANING OF ONLINE EDUCATION*

Online education is the process of teaching and learning that is delivered and conducted by the use of a technological platform over the internet. It is media-based; it can be both synchronous and asynchronous which can be erudite through electronic media and the internet.

5. *IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON FOLLOWING FRATERNITY*

The unexpected rapid changes in the field of education left everyone anxious, the regular classrooms were replaced by virtual classrooms, adoption to modern teaching and learning was definitely challenging.

6.1 IMPACT ON EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

People are resistant to changes irrespective of the outcomes but when the change becomes mandatory, they must accept it and the real challenge begins from here. Being academicians, it is important to keep up the process. The Government and Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) hurriedly broadcasted that online teaching or virtual learning would be conducted by Educational Institutions. While some of the affluent private universities accepted online teaching but the state-run public universities had to face immense practical problems.

CHALLENGES TO INSTITUTIONS

Financial crisis-
Due to the effect of COVID-19 educational institution had to adopt modern technology to deliver the lecture, while it was easy for private universities to accept the transition as compared to public universities.

Technical skill amongst faculties-
Providing modern technology for faculty members during pandemic turned out to be a nightmare for educational institutions and training technologically unskilled faculties to adopt the online mode of teaching was very difficult.

Reduced Admissions-
Parents and students were hesitant to enrol courses leaving universities to face the crisis. Tests for admissions will be offered online and at home, and institutions will have to transform to teaching online which makes a fall in admissions and the process very complex.

Lack of cooperation from parents-
Working parents found it difficult to manage children at home meanwhile they are hesitant to pay high tuition fees for online classes. On the other hand, parents from rural background found difficulties in providing necessary gadgets and an internet connection to their kids.

Fall in admissions of International Students-
Many Institutions rely on tuition fees paid by international students. However, due to a pandemic such students were barred from entering India which created a void both financially and in terms of student diversity.

6.2 IMPACT ON FACULTY MEMBERS

Educators play a very crucial role in shaping the future of students and the sudden transition to online education made faculties grapple with the situation where they had no notice about their schools and colleges closing and shifting to online learning. They had difficulties in adopting modern technology to deliver effective content and courses to engage the students.

CHALLENGES TO FACULTY MEMBERS

Lack of infrastructure facilities-
Few financially stable institutions could set up infrastructures for the faculty members to carry a smooth functioning of classes from home, but this is not the case among many institutions and faculties couldn't deliver the online classes effectively.

Lack of technological skills-
Not every educator has an understanding/will to adopt the technology. They face difficulties in creating online content and deliver it effectively. Given the short notice, they can't even enrol to some courses or get trained to improvise their technological skills.

Difficulties in content delivering-
Delivering the class and reaching students in mass is quite challenging to educators because not every student has internet connectivity or the devices which supports the connectivity, holding classes for hours together and creating interest among students is thought-provoking.

Engaging the students-
Given the new environment, it is easy for students to get distracted and pay less attention during sessions. Students might be online but not be very proactive and might miss out on key concepts taught. Faculty have to get really creative, inculcate new ways of teaching to ensure students stay focused and involved.

Fear of layoffs-
The Covid-19 pandemic has triggered pay cuts and layoffs across many sectors in India not leaving educational sector behind. Managements say they do not have enough funds to pay for the teachers because admissions have dropped and online classes reduce the teaching hours as more students can be fit into a session. This eventually leads to less staff reduction.

6.3 IMPACT ON STUDENTS
Schools and colleges are shut and students are stranded at home with limited contact with friends and faculties virtually. All the known and recognized boards have cancelled or postponed the entrance and semester examinations leaving students in dilemma about their future plans.

CHALLENGES TO STUDENTS
Uncertainty with respect to future-
Students are uncertain about their future because of their further education or jobs rely on the results of the current year. Due to COVID - 19 almost all the educational institutions are closed and postponed the examinations. Students are perplexed about their carrier and future education.

Disruption of education-
Due to COVID -19 there is certainly a disruption in the normal education system, even educators are trying to provide good resources to the students through online classes that won't suffice the multidisciplinary learning just like classroom learning.

Poor internet connectivity or networks-
Most of the Indian students reside in a rural region where they lack access to advanced gadgets or internet connectivity which is a primary requisite online class. Due to social distancing, they can't even share the minimum resources with their friends.

Lack of support from parents-
Most of the rural parents are uneducated and the urban parents are busy working from home, students need homeschooling or the support from parents which is quite difficult in providing them with good content.

Banks are hesitant to provide educational loans-
Due to COVID-19 pandemic banks are under financial pressure and few of them are variations of providing educational loans for students to pursue studies in India and abroad at an affordable rate of interest.

6.4 IMPACT ON PARENTS-
Parents are anxious about their child's future and few of them don't think online classes are effective and homeschooling is best for their wards; on the other hand, few parents feel they are not well equipped and educated to support their kid's e-learning.

CHALLENGES TO PARENTS
Managing a busy schedule-
Due to Covid-19 parents started working from home and they find it difficult to manage kid's online sessions, manage household work and office work simultaneously. They can't focus on kids with full attention.

Illiteracy among parents-
The Majority of Indian parents are from a rural background and are illiterates but they want their children to attend school to get an education. Since the schools and colleges are shut, parents find it difficult to teach kids at home and help them with modern gadgets.

Keeping their kids involved-
Parents play a major role to keep their kids understand the seriousness of COVID-19 and not let them outside to play with other kids or they cannot take them for outings, parents have to cultivate different talents like storytelling, dancing, playing, indoor-playing etc. with their kids to keep them involved in one or the other activities.

COVID frontline warriors-
Corona warriors like doctors, nurses, policemen, delivery persons, cleaners and many volunteers who stood strong in serving the nation to fight against Coronavirus literally had to stay away from their family and work all day long. These real-life heroes had to manage their work and maintain distance from their family and kids was a real challenge.

Financial crisis-
Many parents are going through a financial crisis due to Lockdown. The smooth running of the business has come to a halt, few of them lost jobs, and they are finding it difficult to get education loans. Parents think it is 'not value for money' to pay lakhs for online education as they consider it is not effective as class education.

7. Conclusion and Recommendations
From the study it can be concluded that COVID – 19 has definitely created problems to Indian educational system, the smooth functioning of classroom learning has shifted to online learning leaving educational institutions, students, faculties and parents to go through many hurdles in adopting new technology, virtual model of teaching and learning, managing work and ensuring children are adept and engaged. Institutions can also look at the larger picture to analyze how they could marry the old traditional way of teaching with the modern technologically advanced way of coaching. It will be much easier to cope with the situation if the Government provides better internet connectivity, proper power supply and educate people about the functionality and importance of virtual learning.

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