



Covid-19: Impact on Indian higher educations

Dr Sangeeta Mathur
Associate Professor
School of Arts and Humanities
Career Point University
Kota

Covid-19 has greatly affected the education system of India. According to a report by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), the education of about 32 crore students in India has been affected by the Corona epidemic, which includes 15.81 crore girls and 162.5 million boys. Globally, this pandemic has affected the education of 157 crore students from 193 countries of the world, which is 91.3 percent of the students enrolled at various levels¹

A discussion of this huge impact on education reveals many changes and challenges. This effect can become an integral part of our educational system in post-corona times, most importantly, schools and colleges will have to invest in permanent technical infrastructure after the corona pandemic and the lockdown implemented due to it. In this, the training of teachers will focus on the skills to work in a digital environment. In higher educational institutions, the examination will be conducted online instead of traditional methods.

After the passing of Covid -19, if we study the emerging dimensions in the field of education, it can be seen that due to the Covid -19 epidemic, more number of people are studying through digital medium and short duration courses are also becoming popular. There is difficulty in adopting these changes, but they are also giving examples of new ideas in the field of education, as well as the effect of digital medium in the higher education world is going to be long.²

Due to the pressure of Corona, digital medium will be used more for studying in schools and colleges. The use of apps like WhatsApp, Zoom, Team and e-mail will increase to achieve educational goals. Academic institutions will develop such a structure in which teachers and students can read and learn even when they are outside the academic campus. Institutions will invest in such permanent technical infrastructure through which quality online education can be delivered. It will also attract foreign investment.

Based on the methods being adopted in different countries, higher educational institutions will assess the students through online mode instead of the traditional mode of examination. The problems related to online education in the country will have to be removed. The reach of internet and information technology is very limited. It is difficult right now to have good speed internet availability in the country.

As of 2021, only 42 per cent of urban and 15 per cent of rural households have internet access. If those who use the Internet once in a month are considered to be connected to the Internet, then only 34 percent of urban and 11 percent of rural people use the Internet. Smartphones have not yet reached the hands of every student. The COVID-19 global pandemic has affected the decision of more than 48 percent of Indian students who wish to study abroad. A report by a British company specialising in analysing higher education institutions around the world and ranking these institutions has said that the return on investment in expensive studies abroad is low and employment opportunities after Covid -19. Due to lack of opportunities, the plans of students to study abroad have been affected.

Today the number of people reaching the universities of India is very less. The gross enrolment ratio in higher education is only 27.1 percent, which is lower than most countries.³

This is a better opportunity for the educational institutions of the country, we have to further improve the level of academic quality in our country so that the students of the country are disillusioned with foreign studies. Like an agile organisation, our educational institutions should rise further on the post corona occasion and the people associated with the education world should learn the most creative ways of the art of digital delivery, an effect of the corona pandemic is also that the future of higher education institutions There is expected to be a fundamental change in the way we operate.

1. <https://www.ndtv.com/education/gross-enrolment-ratio-in-higher-education-improves-in-2019-20-aishe-report>
(<https://en.unesco.org/covid19/educationresponse>)
2. <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/education-plus-development/2021/08/23/how-has-education-technology-impacted-student-learning-in-india-during-covid-19/>
3. (<https://www.ndtv.com/education/gross-enrolment-ratio-in-higher-education-improves-in-2019-20-aishe-report>)