



Covid-19 and Its Impact on Education System

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INTRODUCTION

Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) is an infectious disease caused by SARS-COV-2 virus. Most of the people infected with the virus experience mild to moderate respiratory illness and recover without requiring special treatment. Older people and those with underlying medical conditions like Cardiovascular Disease, Diabetes, Chronic Respiratory Disease or Cancer are more likely to develop serious illness. The virus can spread from an infected person's mouth or nose in small liquid particles when they cough, sneeze, speak or breathe¹

The first case of COVID-19 in India were reported on 30 Jan.2020 in three towns of Kerala among three Indian medical students who had returned from Wuhan. Lockdowns were announced in Kerala on 23 March and in the rest of country on 25 March 2020.

In March 2020, a nationwide lockdown was imposed, forcing some schools and colleges to close and instructing students to abandon the usual classroom teaching style. On 16 March 2020, the Union Government ordered the closure of schools and colleges. On 18 March central board of secondary education released revised guidelines for examination centres incorporating social distancing measures. States across the country postponed or cancelled school examinations, younger students were either automatically promoted or promoted based on prior performance. Only few educational institutions in India have been able to effectively adapt to e-learning and remote learning²

This resulted in an immediate increase in innovation and technology, which the teachers used to finish the curriculum. However due to lack of infrastructure, productivity suffered. Remote learning was not available in every family. According to Global internet network research, just 24% of households had a consistent internet connection, while other remote areas remained unreachable. As a result, the government was forced to ensure that sufficient benefits and monetary funds were provided.

A second wave beginning in March 2021 was much more devastating than the first with shortages of vaccines, hospital beds, oxygen cylinders and other medical supplies in parts of the country.

Education is undeniably crucial in contributing to the country's welfare and an individual's growth, but it has been jeopardized by the emergency of Covid-19. It has had a huge impact on the lives of millions of kids. There has been a number of severe targets that have had to be met since the lockdown was implemented. Education was also

hampered by the economic crisis, which reduced its output. According to studies, the epidemic has denied almost 32 Crore students of an education. This is being referred to as national crisis with an increase in unemployment as a result.

According to ASER (Annual status of Education Report), they have demonstrated with verifiable data that parents even in rural areas have showed full interest in their children's education despite the minimal resources available to them. As a result this demonstrates a promising aspect of the educational system in terms of raising government awareness in order to meet their demands. On the plus side with the increased use of webinars, conferences things have definitely improved over time³

Govt. of India is taking all necessary steps to ensure that to face the challenges and threat posed by the growing pandemic of COVID-19 coronavirus. The most important factor in preventing the spread of virus locally is to empower the citizens with the right information and taking precautions as per the advisories being issued by ministry of Health & Family welfare.

A Study "Using student's experience to derive effectiveness of Covid-19 lockdown –induced emergency online learning at undergraduate level" was conducted by 'Afzalur Rahman' in Jan. 2021 with aimed that to assess the implementation mechanism of Covid-19 lockdown induced emergency online learning at undergraduate level in Assam. Data were collected from 132 undergraduate students at randomly from different colleges in Assam through questionnaire in Google form and concluded that 46.2% students perceive emergency online learning partially effective, 34% as effective and 19.7% as ineffective due to poor internet connectivity, irregular electricity, high cost data plans, lack of conducive environment at home⁴

IMPACT ON TEACHERS AND STUDENTS

Education is no exception. Students from privileged backgrounds supported by their parents and eager and able to learn could find their way to alternate learning opportunities. Those from disadvantaged backgrounds often remained shut out when their schools shut down.⁵

Due to online education both teachers and students are facing many difficulties like lack of basic facilities such as internet, electricity, conducive environment, external distractions during teaching were major issues noticed. In educational institutions there are lack of advanced technologies, lack of training, lack of technical support, lack of infrastructure, limited awareness of online teaching platform were observed. Online teaching-learning method also creates a big gap between urban and rural students.

RECOMMENDATION

Covid-19 pandemic reveals so many issues related online teaching learning activities. All educational institutes should be aware of importance of technology and should take serious measures to conduct technology driven education through the learning management system. It is recommended that educational system should have proper technology and also the teaching staff should know about the use of advance technology.

CONCLUSION

Covid-19 pandemic has affected educational systems worldwide, leading to the near total closures of schools, early childhood education. With schools closed, demand for online education platforms has increased. Efforts to slow the spread of Covid-19 through Non-Pharmaceutical interventions and preventive measures such as Social-Distancing and Self Isolation. Mathematically modeling has shown that transmission of an outbreak may be delayed by closing schools. However effectiveness depends on the contacts children maintain outside of schools. Additionally in some

cases the reopening of schools after a period has resulted in increased infection rates. This article aims to provide a comprehensive report on the impact of the covid-19 pandemic on education i.e on both teaching and learning activity.

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