



IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON EDUCATION SECTOR

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ABSTRACT The impact of pandemic COVID-19 is observed in almost every sector in the economy. The education sectors in all over the world are badly affected by this. It has enforced the world wide lock down which has created a very bad impact on the life of students. More than 30 crore learners have to study from home as all educational activities have been halted in India. The outbreak of COVID-19 has taught us that change is inescapable. It has worked as a catalyst for the educational institutions, schools and colleges to change the methodology and opt for platforms and techniques of digitalization which have never been used before. The education sector as well as students has been fighting to survive in this crisis with a different approach and trying to adopt digital methods to cope up with the challenges created due to this pandemic. This paper highlights some of the measures taken by Govt. of India to provide smooth and hassle free education in the country. Both the positive and negative impacts of COVID-19 have been discussed in this paper and some suggestions are also provided. The outcomes show that COVID-19 adversely affects schooling including, learning disturbances, and diminished admittance to training and examination offices, and expanded understudy obligations. The discoveries likewise show that numerous teachers and understudies depended on innovation to guarantee kept on the web education during the Coronavirus pandemic

KEYWORDS : Coronavirus, Education, School Terminations, Endeavours, Innovation, Computerized.

INTRODUCTION

On March 11, 2020 World Health Organization (WHO) declared Covid-19 as a pandemic. Coronavirus has influenced more than 4.5 million people around the world (WHO). In India, the primary influenced instance of Covid-19 was identified on 30 January 2020 in the territory of Kerala and the influenced had a movement history from Wuhan, China (Wikipedia). In India, the principal demise was accounted for on March 12, 2020 and the country noticed Janta Curfew for a day on March 22, 2020. India again noticed 14 hours Janta Curfew on March 24 to battle the Coronavirus pandemic and survey the nation's capacity to battle the infection. At that point, the first period of lockdown was declared by the Prime Minister on March 25, 2020 for 21 days. Observing the impacts of the infection, Indian Government has been expanding the lockdown time frame in various stages and the lockdown 5.0 was proclaimed on April 30 which is successful from first June to 30th June 2020. Hence, pandemic Covid-19 affected altogether on the schooling area. As indicated by the UNESCO report, Covid-19 has influenced almost 68% of complete world's understudy populace according to the information taken during midweek of June 2020. Flare-up of Covid-19 has affected about 1.2 billion understudies and adolescents over the globe by school and college terminations. In India more than 30 crore of students have been influenced by cross country lockdown for Covid-19 (Wikipedia). Most Governments around the globe have incidentally shut instructive foundations trying to control the spread of the pandemic Covid-19. Governments around the globe are putting forth attempts to decrease the quick effect of conclusion of instructive organizations especially for more helpless and distraught networks and attempting to encourage the progression of schooling for all utilizing distinctive advanced methods of learning. As indicated by an overview report of the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), Government of India, led on advanced education it was seen that there are 993 colleges, 39931 Colleges and 10725 independent organizations recorded on their entryway, which add to training (DNS Kumar, 2020). The Covid-19 pandemic instructed the whole society on how need is the mother of creation by permitting instructive foundations to embrace web based learning and present a virtual learning society. The pandemic has been directing the schooling area forward with mechanical development and headways. The pandemic has altogether upset the advanced education area. Countless Indian understudies who have selected numerous Universities abroad, particularly in most exceedingly awful influenced nations are presently leaving those nations and if the circumstance perseveres, over the long haul, there will be a critical decrease in the interest for global advanced education too. The on-going eruption of the Coronavirus pandemic extended the openings in the tutoring business around the world.

As at now, no nation or race over the world is sheltered from the Covid pandemic, and the entire world shows up overwhelmed by the speed of the spread and the overburdening effects of COVID-19. The Covid pandemic has no restrictions, and the effect is gigantic and fast. Simply inside scarcely any months of the scene of the affliction, it has unquestionably changed the lifestyles of the entire world with billions of people being constrained to 'stay at home', notice self-disengagements', and work and increase from home. It has limited the chance of people to move, trade or accomplice. Not simply has COVID-19 caused a flat out lockdowns in various countries over the world, yet it furthermore caused the death of thousands of people including, women, and the old. The law making body furthermore gave a public emergency in view of the creating number of new cases of Coronavirus in the country (Priscillia, 2020). The erupt of COVID-19 impacted all pieces of human activities generally going from guidance, research, sports, entertainment, transportation, love, party/associations, economy, associations, and legislative issues.

Without a doubt, the entire world was in a difficult situation on account of COVID-19 perils, the fact of the matter was attempting to oversee, and the tutoring territory remains one of the most really horrendous hit by Coronavirus erupts.

Objectives of the Study

The fundamental target of the investigation is to analyze the effect of COVID-19 on schooling. Therefore, the examination additionally researched the different difficulties that ruin proceeded/online instruction during the COVID-19 lockdown.

Literature review

The spread of Coronavirus negatively affected educational activities worldwide. The coronavirus pandemic affected educational methods, leading to the widespread closures of schools (Wikipedia, 2020b). It created serious disturbances in academic activities, as well as in career plans. As part of the global efforts to fight COVID-19, many countries across the world closed down schools in an attempt to contain the coronavirus pandemic. According to the UNESCO, over 100 countries implemented nationwide closures, impacting all over half of the world's student population (UNESCO, 2020a).

No doubts, unplanned school closures can cause severe problems for learners, educators, parents as well as society at large. It could negatively affect the academic interest and performance of students badly. The US Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (CDC) also expressed concerns about the implications of school closures. According to the CDC, "longer closures may result in more students congregating outside of schools. Quentin (2014), states that school

closing is very controversial, and it can have spill over effects on a large number of students in receiving schools. It affects the quality of teaching and learning and academic achievement particularly for students with special needs or those with learning difficulties that often requires more physical attention and guidance from the teachers. Though, technology can be used to solve some of the discrepancies from school closures, but it cannot replace the important effect of face-to-face interactions between students and teachers. Besides, many students do not have the necessary access to digital technologies which makes it harder to maximize the potentials of learning technology during school closures. However, against all odds, mathematical model and empirical analysis of reactive closures of schools in past pandemics indicates that it reduces the total number of cases in the community by one fourth and postpones the peak of the pandemic by a week or two, while proactive closures of school during pandemics remains one of the most beneficial interventions that can be employed to mitigate the impact of epidemic disease (Erika and Nicholas, 2020).

Effects of Coronavirus on School Closures

School closure implies the shutting down of schools because of the pandemic crises, work strikes, catastrophes or purposeful endeavours to reposition a school or check wrongdoings in a given environment. School terminations due to Covid has presented new issues like how to make the change to on the web and at-home learning, and how to cook for the individuals who depend on school for food and lodging security. School terminations for Covid will in general build pressures on understudies, instructors and guardians particularly those with restricted computerized abilities, training and assets for proceeded with training. It expands the weight on guardians to battle to accommodate the home, yet in addition to play out the management undertaking of guaranteeing that their youngsters gain from home. Extended school terminations may result to build pace of dropouts because of loss of interest and absence of assets to proceed. If not well overseen, school terminations can likewise expand the pace of violations, on the grounds that drawn out school terminations can prompt inaction which adds to negative companion impacts and youth contribution in wrongdoings. Training occupations were likewise influenced; numerous labourers bore separation and pay cuts from work during unscheduled school terminations.

As per UNESCO (2020b), a portion of the destructive impacts of school terminations for Covid are as per the following:

1. **Interrupted learning:** School provides important learning and when they are closed, students are deprived of opportunities for growth and development.
2. **Nutrition:** Many youngsters rely on free or discounted mid day meals provided at schools for healthy nutrition. This is compromised as a result of school closures for coronavirus.
3. **Unequal Access to digital learning portals:** lack of access to technology or good internet connectivity for continued learning during school closures mostly in remote areas
4. **Social Isolation:** Considering the fact that educational institutions are hubs for social activities and human interactions. School closures have deprived youth and children of some social communications and socializations that are essential to learning, and creativity.

Research activities were adversely influenced on the grounds that school terminations and lockdowns limit specialists' capacity to lead explores especially in circumstances whereby up close and personal connections with understudies and educators are required or admittance to class offices or exploration research centres were denied.

Many scholars proposed that closing schools are by all account not the only choice to alleviate Covid. They supported for specialists to give guardians some adaptability to pick what is best for their families, while executing more grounded moderation measures. To moderate the impacts that went with the terminations of schools, instructors and students needed to depend on utilization of mechanical devices and stages to guarantee proceeded with training.

Concept of Online Education

Online education is a common concept for teaching and learning online with the aid of technology tools and digital platforms. The success of online education depends on factors including, good internet connections, learning software, digital skills, availability and access to technology. Online education platforms are vital tools that support inclusive education and online learning. Online education has its roots in distance education and the emergence of digital

technologies that facilitate the efficient and reliable delivery of lectures, virtual classroom sessions and other instructional materials and activities via the internet (Onlineeducation.com, 2020). Technology is a key component of education in the 21st century but now in 2020 it has become an integral part of education sector. The increasing use of technology in education has modified teaching methodology from the traditional approach that often place them as dispensers of knowledge to a more flexible approach where they act more as facilitators, mentors and motivators to inspire students to participate and to learn. Technology facilitates Remote learning, Distance learning, Mobile learning, Distributed learning, Cooperative and Collaborative learning etc. Most aspect of education is going digital, and education stakeholders including students are confronted with the challenge of moving to online education. The use of appropriate educational technologies increases accessibility to learning techniques such as Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs), and multiple learning approaches to meet the need of diverse learners (Onyema et al., 2019).

There are broad ranges of online education tools/platforms that facilitate online education particularly in times of outbreaks like the Coronavirus pandemic.

Some of these technology tools/platforms are listed below:

1. GoToMeeting.com
2. Skype.com
3. Google Classroom/Open Online education (edu.google.com)
4. Youtube.com
5. zoom etc

The use of educational technologies facilitates online education, student-teacher interactions, and relationships. It enhances teaching and learning experiences, content creation, course sharing, assessments, and feedback. Educators can reach and interact with their students on the go from any location, and lectures can be fixed at any time of convenience. Knowledge of technology increases educators' and students' interest, competence, confidence, creativity, employability and output, and also prepares them for the future.

Challenges of Learning from Home

The Coronavirus pandemic has forced millions of learners to study and learn from home. This is not a new concept because the home has long been the epicentres of learning particularly for informal education. According to Education Task (2020), the majority of university learners still prefer to study in the comfort of their own homes because the learners tend to have everything at their disposal without leaving their chairs. However, the realities of receiving formal education from home is very challenging for many educators, learners and parents especially those in developing countries where the accessibility, availability and use of technology in education are not common. Apart from the cost of accessing online education, many other factors such as network issues, poor power supply, distractions, poor digital skills, inaccessibility and availability issues can also disturb smooth studying from home.

Because unequal access to technology is another serious concern for many countries, prolonged school closures could deprive millions of students' access to education specially those in developing countries, rural areas, and people with special needs. The challenges imposed by Coronavirus could be converted into an opportunity by learners to advance their problem solving skills and digital capabilities.

RESULT

The study tells the devastating effects of COVID-19 pandemic on education and the various obstacles that hinder students and instructors engagements in online education for smooth learning during the COVID-19 lockdown.

The results show that educational activities were badly affected due to the lockdowns. Some of the identified effects include; learning disruption, limited access to learning facilities such as labs, job losses in the education sector, research obstacles, and loss of learning interests among students. Coronavirus pandemic created multiple problems for education sector leading to decreased education opportunities for underprivileged learners and those in rural areas. It was found that Poor digital skills, School policies, Digital divide, Power cuts, Unavailability and accessibility, Network issues, Inadequate facilities, Lack of training etc. are the major obstacles for online education during the COVID-19 pandemic school closures.

More than 70% of the respondents agree that inadequate facilities such as lack of computer facility, internet access, were the major factors that limited their engagement in online education (Wikipedia).

The finding suggests the need for technology in education particularly in times of emergencies. This is in line with an earlier assertion by Onyema (2019), that integration of emerging technologies in education sector is no longer a choice, but a need of an hour all educators considering the changing learning environment, demands for change in teaching methodology, and the need to enhance creativity and innovations in learning. The study will contribute to the growing knowledge on Coronavirus effect on education sector and the need for technology in education sector.

CONCLUSION

The study establishes that the Coronavirus pandemic has adverse effects on education. Coronavirus affects research, scholarly projects, Staff proficient turn of events and occupations in the scholastic area and so forth. These impacts were felt by both instructive organizations, teachers, understudies and guardians and different partners in training. The examination stresses the requirement for selection of innovation in schooling, as an approach to check the impacts of Coronavirus and other future pandemics in training. Hence, the examination recognizes that the choice to close down schools for Coronavirus over the world might be painful, yet it is reasonable thinking about the pace of spread, and the perils forced by COVID-19 pandemic. The exceptional school terminations for Coronavirus stays an exercise and an admonition to the whole instructive world especially the individuals who are yet to receive arising learning advancements that help online training.

Scope of study

We can work on the mending policies which can be adopted to cure the harms created due to school closures. We also hope to investigate the effectiveness of virtual education during the COVID-19 lockdowns.

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