



**ORIGINAL RESEARCH PAPER**

**Education**

**EDUCATIONAL CHALLENGES FOR THE GOVERNMENT PRIMARY SCHOOL TEACHERS AND STUDENTS OF GUJARAT STATE IN THIS ERA OF PANDEMIC.”**

**KEY WORDS:** Challenges, Study Materials, Hygiene

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**ABSTRACT**

During these days people of all the countries of this world are living under the mental pressure and fear of Covid-19 virus. Thousands of people have died owing to the dangerous virus, against which no proper medication is available to kill it. It is very shocking that most advanced scientific countries like America, France, United Kingdom, Japan etc, have lost maximum people without care and lack of knowledge regarding the virus. It is said that existence of the virus was known to three to four countries well before time. China, America, France and two to three other countries were knowing about it, but did not take it seriously. Now all these countries are trying hard to save people from dying. Many countries are working with cooperation of one another. The Covid-19 virus is infectious so, countries have found a remedy to save lives of people from the past experiences and the data of history of such viruses, Social lockdown maintained by people by remaining at their homes has been proved to be very protective remedy, due to which the 'chain of person-to-person infections' could be broken and lives be saved of lacks of people. Thousands of new and temporary hospitals have been raised for the 'positive patients' who have caught by the viral infection. Doctors and nurses keep continuous attendance and taking laboratory test regarding their health. In India, our Prime Minister has taken the issue in his hands by arranging all medical facilities and guidance to the whole country with cooperating of all the departments of the government. The Prime Minister stopped all students going to their schools, from 16th March, 2020. From 23rd March 2020, first phase lockdown was started and extended through second phase of lockdown. It is very sad to note that infected new patients found from same areas of Ahmedabad, Vadodara, Surat, Rajkot and other cities of our State. In the present paper the researcher tried to throw light on the field of education, so that the problems faced by teachers and students can be eased. Though Education Department of Gujarat has taken up some steps to teach the students sitting idle in their homes, some problems remain un-tackled. In the present paper these challenges are discussed.

**INTRODUCTION:-**

All parents understood the importance of education for their children. They wish to give their children best education. The parents who are covered under poverty line are also trying to give better education to their children. On other hand, government provides free and compulsory education, free books, uniform, midday meal and scholarship etc. schemes. Due to these all facilities, child labour has also lessened up to a considerable level.

As a fact, these days, the whole world has been trapped by the epidemic named Covid-19. The death toll has reached upto 1.8lacs. All educational institutions are ordered to close, teachers and students are forced to remain at home to save them from the viral disease. After certain lapse of time, some grant-in-aid schools and private schools started teaching their students online through internet. The GCERT of Govt. of Gujarat has sorted out a programme to teach students studying in govt. primary school. They have prepared some online study material which are being provided to the Head Masters of these schools through BRC coordinators via CRC coordinators. Schools are sending these study materials through whatsapp like apps to the students on their mobiles for studying. It is also necessary to join these students in such activities of government but there are some obstacles.

**The challenge faced while making the educational process stronger.**

- (A) Challenges on teachers' part
- (B) Challenges on students' part
- (A) Challenges on teachers' part

Here the researcher has discussed in detail the challenges faced on teachers' part. All the teachers of government schools are sure to make the educational process stronger, but teaching online (distant education) is somewhat difficult. Let us discuss some points.

**I. To send the study material upto the students.**

- Students are at their homes. To utilize their time GCERT have prepared soft copies of study material and sent to the

teachers on their email address or whatsapp. During last three weeks, GCERT has prepared study material of standard 3 to 8 which requires mobile or laptop to use it.

- Majority poor parents do not have even smart phones or computers, because they can not afford it. There is an option to make xerox copies of the material for remaining students, but due to self lockdown due to corona virus infectious situation, all shops/markets are closed by law and order. One can not expect to write down the material and give to other students, that too breaking the curfew.
- The teachers went to their schools upto 21st March. The declaration of lockdown was launched from 22nd March, hence, teachers stopped going to schools. Naturally, one can not expect that students' data carried with the teachers. At least 30% teachers did not prepare students' profile, contact number etc. Due to this reason the study material could not be reached up to those students.

**II. Preparing the Result Sheet**

The government have advised school managements to pass-promote all students studying in standard 1 to 9 and in standard 11. Even the examination due to the second session was not possible to be conducted. Evaluation of the students is being done keeping in mind the consistency and studiousness at present. Hence that process will be difficult for standard 8th, because the students will enter into secondary education level, so result must be prepared. In that work some doubts might be cleared by the guides. Otherwise it is also a challenge for the teachers.

**III. Hygiene Awareness**

Generally the teachers are role models for the students. Teachers should persuade them about covid-19, by asking questions and clarifying the doubts in replies. Because government and other social agencies working at various services level points assisting the doctors, nurses, medicines, police points etc. Students will listen to them seriously and confidently.

Sometimes teachers become angry because untimely phone calls might disturb them during their working. Their personal

family life might also suffer due to that. Moreover, students are residing in various localities, so their problems also might require some special information and expertise to reply them all. They should try their best.

**IV. Willingness of teachers about leading the online classes.**

Some teachers themselves reside in remote areas where connectivity problem is expected. Moreover, the teachers may not be conversant and acquainted with the electronic instruments or the app-system. In that case, training in this unhealthy time is not possible.

Government, also utilize services of teachers in schemes, like ‘Annabrahma’ , ‘collection of data’ etc. Therefore, many teachers don’t initiate for on line subject teaching classes. All these circumstances must be kept in mind while allotting the online work to them. Some teachers do not keep good health and mental steadiness for the work.

**(B) Challenges on students’ part**

The students of government primary schools are sitting idle at their homes. Majority of them are eager to learn regularly, but they are not habituate for self learning.

Due to the government guidelines maintaining social distancing is compulsory. Students have stucked at their homes. There are many problems for the students too.

- (i) Every student does not belong to rich family.
- (ii) Poor students of upper primary schools were busy in sharing their income from various tasks, jobs to the well-being of family.
- (iii) Many parents can not afford smart phone and internet facilities. So those students, though willingly to join but could not attend the educational lessons.
- (iv) Some lower middle class students could not recharge their smart phones, due to lockdown.
- (v) The primary students are children first who would prefer to play, eat, chat, ets. Their elders must encourage them for studies. They should not be even punished if they are not willing.
- (vi) Owing to the time wasted during the examinations due to the corona pandemic, they have been promoted to the next standards as per government orders. They knew this.

Therefore, they are not keen to listen to and write the study material made available online.

Thus, the dignitaries TCFC of the educational department of central and state governments also educational institutional, colleges, schools have now obtained very useful experience about how to face the problematic situation and what are the optional remedies available for settling them. They could find many loop-holes, which will be useful too in the future when similar alarming times required way out.

Students have also learnt how they have been taught online and what are the electronic instruments and apparatus before them. The deprived portion of students will also be attracted when needed in their future life.

**CONCLUSION:**

We know very well that we all elders also have faced many fold problems and learned how the technological experts, youngsters too in them, sought out the ways/remedies. Survival is the first requirement for living communities, either humans or animals or insects, etc.

Let us hope for an excellent time and result ahead in the ensuing years for all of us.

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