

CHALLENGES OF COVID-19 IN EDUCATIONAL FIELD IN INDIA

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Abstract : *The blowout of pandemic Covid-19 in the year 2020 has extremely interrupted every aspects of human life counting education also. For the first time in the history of education, many educational institutions around the world, Schools and Institutions are closed, and teaching-learning has stimulated online. In India, about 32 crore Student learners stopped going to schools/colleges and all educational activities were ended. The First understandable solution for the teaching fraternity was to depend on online teaching learning process. The educational system has seen the dimmest days in the form of covid-19 particularly when it comes to conducting the examination and declaring of the results. Covid-19 has equally desirable and undesirable bearings on the research. The novel trends will permit the education sector to envisage and flourish in new ways of teaching- learning method. Post Covid-19 the situation may come when we may see few changes in the field of education.*

Keywords: *Blowout, Pandemic, Covid-19, higher education, India.*

World Health Organisation (WHO) on 11th March 2020, specified Covid-19 as a pandemic. In India, in the state of Kerala, the first affected case of Covid-19 was noticed on 30 January 2020 and the affected had a travel history from Wuhan, China (Wikipedia). In India, on March 12, 2020, the first death was confirmed. Prime Minister Narendra Modi observing and monitoring the effects of the Corona virus declared Janta Curfew to different phases of lockdown to battle the Coronavirus pandemic and evaluate the country's capability to bout the virus. The educational institutions in all the stages of lockdown starting from lockdown 1.0 to lockdown 5.0, all over the nation have never got any relaxation to start their educational schools, colleges, institutions. Thus, a significant impact has been observed due to the pandemic Covid-19 on the educational sector. The pandemic has affected the rich, the poor, the new born, the old, and in short, every individual in one way or the other and all the sectors of life. In the field of education, this pandemic has not only affected the educational system of India but also of the entire world.

Due to the outbreak of Covid-19 various activities like admission, examinations, entrance tests, competitive examinations conducted by various boards/schools/colleges/universities are suspended and some are postponed. The students faced challenges when the entrance tests for higher education got cancelled or postponed without mention of the proper date. The Methodology of teaching became a primary challenge when students and teachers could no longer be physically present inside the classroom. It was difficult to continue teaching learning process.

The First understandable solution for the teaching fraternity was to depend on online teaching learning process. The digital technologies like mobile phone and laptop which were not so much encouraged by the parents but due to Covid-19 situation augmented adoption from the guardian's side. The only mode to deliver education in the current situation is digital technology. The only benefit is that all teachers and students became more technology savvy. Different platforms like Google meet, Zoom, Skype, WebEx. etc. are used for Webinars, induction programme, online classes, exams, farewell Programmes, etc. The main purpose was to continue the teaching services by creating virtual environment of teaching so as the student's community are helped, promoted, benefited and their learning days are not wasted. The hard work and pain taken by the teacher's community are well received by the students and the assignments, projects, ppts, group discussions, panel discussions are welcomed by the students through submissions in the form of scan copies.

The educational system has seen the dimmest days in the form of covid-19 particularly when it comes to conducting the examination and declaring of the results. Most of the examinations have been put on hold and some of them were cancelled. The withdrawal of assessments has harmful effect on students' learning process. The students who were in their final years are the victims as it has directly impacted on their career prospects. The students who have appeared for their board examinations will not get their results on time which may affect them as they may be late able to apply for the upcoming year. The students who are about to join their first year are unsure about the admission process. The entire scenario is of confusion. It is not only the students who are affected but also the teachers. As they are taking extra efforts to leave the chalk and talk method and making online classes more impactful by using ppt's and maintaining every record documented in the form of soft copy including notes, attendance, ppts, assignments etc.

Covid-19 has equally desirable and undesirable bearings on the research. The pandemic has made impossible for research scholars to travel, visit labs, do the lab testing, purchasing of inputs and working together with others nationally and internationally. It's difficult to complete the project on time as proper physical guidance can't be availed. On the other hand, the same pandemic has provided ample time to scholars to improve their theoretical research work. Sitting comfortably at home material and information was able to be gathered due to webinars and e- conferences. Academicians got familiar with high-tech methods and upgraded their research. The same time was also utilized in publishing the articles in journals, or publishing the books etc.

Recently WHO has commented that Covid-19 pandemic may never be eradicated, and individuals(people) will have to live with it. "It is important to put this on the table: this virus may become just another endemic virus in our communities, and this virus may never go away. HIV has not gone away, but we have come to terms with the virus. I think there are no promises in this and there are no dates. This disease may settle into a long problem, or it may not be" WHO emergencies expert Mike Ryan briefed in an online briefing (Sandhya, 2020). With reference to this announcement, various countries including India are now planning to continue education through distance or virtual mode. The novel trends will permit the education sector to envisage and flourish in new ways of teaching- learning method. Post-Covid the situation may come when we may see few changes in the field of education.

Learning may not be limited and restricted only to the classes or to any definite boundaries. The learning components of the students may be altered to suit different learning styles and the learning contents may come from diverse sources to meet the learners' objectives and requirements. The student's attendance may not be the same. The parents may not send their wards to the schools and colleges due to the fear. The process of learning will continue with social distancing measures. Involving in sports activities, games, tournaments will be lower down seeing the present situation. The shift system which is applicable to corporate sectors may now also be implemented in the schools and colleges keeping the social distancing in mind. The Assessment structure may be changed to new shape. Artificial Intelligence (AI) may assist teachers to deal with assessment, evaluation, preparing mark-sheets, preparing question papers and monitoring the performance of each student easily.

The current pandemic situation shaped an opportunity for transformation in pedagogical tactics and introduction of virtual education in all stages of education. As we have no clue how long the pandemic situation will continue, a plodding move towards the online/virtual education is the demand of the existing catastrophe.

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