Covid-19: Impact On Education In India And The Response Of Educational Institutions And Students

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Abstract

This research paper attempts to evaluate the impact of Covid-19 on Indian education, and also aims to demonstrate how educational institutions and the students reacted to the situation. Another aim of this research paper is to discuss the initiatives taken by the government to facilitate e-learning platforms for students during COVID-19 pandemic.

Within both the rural and urban areas of India, the system of education continues to remain underdeveloped. The catered meal is one of many initiatives that are being arranged to entice students to pursue education. Under these circumstances the government was obliged to implement a nationwide shutdown on March 25, 2020, to prevent or reduce Covid-19, this was due to the Covid predicament. Each sector has been adversely affected by Covid-19, along with the health-care, economy, and education, nearly 320 million students in India alone are disrupted, while a total of 1.3 billion students worldwide were unable to attend the schools or universities.

Keywords Covid-19 pandemic, impact on education, education during Covid-19, response

Introduction

Without education, any country's development is unattainable; education is indispensable to an individual's psychological growth. Only a cultivated brain can innovate and provide fresh concepts for a country's development. Everyone is aware that "health is wealth". Thus, whatever a human desire is health. The rich people who are ill are less wealthy than those who are healthy.

Today, the entire globe is battling the COVID-19 outbreak. Coronavirus is also referred as COVID-19, CO refers for Corona, VI stands for Virus, and 19 refers to the year of infection. The very first occurrence was discovered in the Chinese city of Wuhan, and from there it propagated throughout the province. It spread quickly, instantly, to every other region of the earth. On January 30, 2020, the WHO proclaimed a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) and on

March 12, 2020, the WHO proclaimed Covid-19 to be a pandemic because it has spread to nearly all nations.

To slow the transmission of Covid-19, the vast majority of governments worldwide having chosen to stop operating all schools, colleges, and universities. Schools as well as all other educational institutions must sometimes close in order to retain social distance since educational establishments cannot do so.

As compared to young, the children have a higher risk of Covid-19 dispersion. According to the accompanying lockout regulations in India, all institutes from pre-kindergarten to postgraduate level were locked, which had a negative impact on students learning.

As a result of such an urgent situation, education is shifting digital. Occasionally obstacles with online learning, such as lost bandwidth or interruptions at home, prevent numerous learners from using these portals.[1]

Promoting academic establishments in India to embrace digital resources is seen as the necessity of the moment in an effort to resolve this dilemma. The only important alternate which could help millions of learners across the nation is e-learning, which has developed as such. Presently, a variety of educational opportunities are available to learners and educators thanks to the digital infrastructure. To make up for the disturbance brought on by the outbreak in academic system, a number of platforms have been reinforced. On a wide scale, allowing web-based learning systems like Skype, Team Link, Google Meet, Google Classroom, Zoom Microsoft Teams, etc. are widely utilized to provide learners with online education. Additionally, collaborative tools such as WhatsApp, digital laboratories, conferences, and peer teaching are employed to deliver e-learning to learners. Such technologies are now used to provide multimedia online classroom connections between instructors and the learners. Users can better retrieve learning material in the form of e-content, reading materials, video lectures, graphic contents, and can participate in online cooperation, dialogues, and arguments utilizing digital communication and ICT-based technologies. The move to e-learning systems is intended to meet the bare basic requirements for disturbing courseware and carrying out instructional responsibilities during the COVID-19 epidemic. The online classes overcome time and place limitations and enable instructional methods to persist even in times of social isolation. It has caused the offline class teaching method to adopt a new concept. It is promoting physical separation, remaining at residence, and digital study anytime.[2]

COVID-19 and education

The mother is indeed a children's primary teacher and his home as a first school, yet we understand that sending our children to school is necessary if we aim to foster their social progress and academic success. Institutions are developing kid's graces, abilities, and talents in enjoyable manners for our prosperity. Kids attend

school for a brief period of time yet get greater knowledge. Whenever our toddlers connect and interact with their teachers and classmates in a school setting, they might learn effectively. They might grow socially and acquire quite successfully. Several nations have shuttered all schools, colleges, and universities as a result of this Covid-19 epidemic. Although it could have seemed as though students' development had abruptly ceased, thanks to the government cognizance, more and more learners are now receiving their education digitally. They are able to continue learning uninterrupted in this approach.[3]

Methodology

Publications, research papers, news articles, books, and other secondary sources were used to gather the information for this research manuscript.

Objectives of the study

1. To analyse the impact of COVID-19 on Indian education

2. To analyse the response of educational institutions and students

3. To discuss the initiatives taken by the government to facilitate e-learning platforms for students during COVID-19 pandemic.

Impact of COVID-19 on Indian education

The days that were unimaginable before. The epidemic days, that spread over the world and impacted every corner.[4] They undoubtedly made a lasting impression on the subject of education. The epidemic spread to each and every country by the end of March 2020, forcing the suspension of the majority of the educational institutions in India including, colleges, universities.

Although the Covid-19 epidemic had several detrimental effects just on the area of education it did also have a favourable impact that might advance the educational system and its practices. The epidemic has created new opportunities for the global dissemination of knowledge. India faced various difficulties since many residents do not have access to internet, whereas others attended educational institutions that are less well-equipped. There were numerous attempts to use online means to continue education at all levels, but not everyone could access it.

Positive Impact

If we examine just at the pandemic's beneficial effects on academic achievements, we can argue that the cognitive cells in human neurons got active as we considered and analysed what to do to continue educating the learners. According to the Marvin Minsky" users do not even comprehend anything until you learn it in more than one way'' online. As the educators employed a variety of strategies for

teaching and learning even during COVID-19, this phrase was undoubtedly demonstrated.

The introduction of digitalization for education delivery was boosted through Covid-19. Education providers adopted the multicultural education and promoted students and instructors' technological awareness. Whereas if we had not, we may have simply described soft technology, online, webinars, virtual classrooms, teleconferencing, digital tests and evaluations, and these could have put to good use decades or more down the road. Together all players in the education industry, such as the government, instructors, children, guardians, and businesses that produce the software for creative sharing knowledge, worked together in many ways that are impossible to imagine. Several discovered that individuals who sought it out can obtain a solid educational foundation and experience to ideas from around the globe. The cost of commuting, excursions, as well as the buying of course materials has decreased, which could lead to saves during these tough moments.[5]

Increased in mixed learning techniques

The outbreak compelled academics in all kinds of schools, colleges, and universities to switch to a blended approach to education. Face to face instruction combined with online courses could very well be "The new reality" such approaches are essential, however there are several difficulties with it. To be prepared to handle this kind of teaching, instructors have to fast adapt to technology and undergo corresponding training. In the coming future, this might end up becoming a perquisite for every instructor. Blended learning may provide new opportunities for education. The newly established method for teaching result delivery and evaluation has made it easier to build curricula and methodology. Additionally, this presents a chance for curricula creators to enhance the calibre of the instruction materials.[6]

Impact on students

Covid-19 has accelerated up the adoption of electronic technologies for lecture delivery. Academic institutions transition to a hybrid understanding. Individuals were prompted by the epidemic crisis to learn how and when to use digitalization, and watch the effects higher levels of online learning. All pupils are urged to develop their technological knowledge. Eventually students generally experience such lockdown situations, using a mobile device for entertainment, communication, and gaming, and streaming a lot pointless films and videos. They have since altered their perspective and attitude. People presently use mobile devices and innovations primarily to learn new skills such as google meetups, and seminars and webinars using zoom class room on google, students also discover how and where to post assignments and send data on google classroom. Students started attending various lectures online to acquire the topic, consult their

syllabus. They developed intelligence, more thoughtful and prepared by looking up on self for qualifying the test as well as finishing the multiple -choice tests on each class. The largest shift in students is that. Additionally, the college going students make use of their vacation time and finished software-related online diploma programme such as, Java, mat lab, C Programming, R software, Sci lab for example, will undoubtedly assist the students to enhance themselves and find work for them, possibilities for the coming future. Even the individuals studying for competitive examinations are given the chance to access online short courses. Class lectures in graduate programmes prioritise their research and get ready for NET, SET exams for competitive examinations like the GAT, that is how learners are introducing technologies appropriately and growing as individuals.[7]

Impact on Educators

Since educators are indeed the foundation of our educational sector, their quality is imperative for quality education. The teachers are capable of adopting, updating, and upgrading with new technologies themselves. They make an effort to alter who they are. The circumstances that will improve pupil's education, hence during the Covid-19 outbreak, they acquire new techniques of instructions, including videos, PPT'S, and video meetings, lectures delivered online using zoom meeting alternative gathering software such as Google meet, these are all regarded as the greatest instructional tools. They create their own course notations, and for the comfort of all the pupils, supply they by offering, the pupils are prepared for an online exam. These multiple-choice question banks and instruct them how to restore it faster. They increase their awareness of kid's health; teachers call or message so frequently. The pupils find out more about their issues, and determine if they attempt to resolve any issues, they may have. Additionally, instructors and the advisors offer advice to students on how to unwind and reduce anxiety and support coping mechanisms, therefore the relationship amongst professors and students powerful and approach on another closely. Teachers also enhance their skills by participating in webinars on Covid-19 pandemic, MOOCs, ICT, and, innovative learning methods they advance providing themselves with some more information regarding their ICT, innovative teaching strategy, and subjects moreover the teachers acquire a variety of tools, like Quizzes and Kahoot. To keep pupils interested throughout a quiz, they create online tests. Using a google form for the questions and inspection. The teachers can participate online courses for review, induction and enrichment their academic profile.[8]

Negative impact of Covid-19 on Indian Education

That final day in which 320 million Indian students actually went to class. The shutdown of schools owing to the Covid-19 crisis has forced the entire learning environment online, which has caused mayhem in the lifestyles of kids as a result of the coronavirus infection. The nations have put in place the national restrictions, impacted roughly 73.8% of all students enrolled, according to

UNESCO. One of the most effective prevention methods to stop the communal propagation and flatter the slope is social distance as a corollary, pragmatic education has been discontinued. Digital learning never replaces a classroom's interactive experience. As one knows and feels, that school is where a child's final nutcase growth happens. Interpersonal and difficult situations are key components of the overall growth, setting, participation, dialogue, group activities, value education and time spent playing and relaxing with friends through all the loop of enjoyment, leisure, artwork, singing, athletics, and information. They develop and learn even if closing schools could be required, it's crucial to consider how it would affect the pupils, realizing how much we can accomplish versus realizing what to do differs.

Today we may put a lot of effort into enhancing India's public educational system, we may now provide a vast potential for schooling. Are we acting correctly? And in a sufficient manner? While many learners are sacrificing out on, others are getting anxious and demoralized right now. The worst surge of melancholy, bewilderment, and worry within our young people is correctly being seen and although many are facing their emotions and concerns, the majority cannot use a cell phone. Series of techniques in which the Covid-19 outbreak has impacted school life are visible as its harmful repercussions.

Reduced institutional support

For daily instructions, every university and school has implemented an online framework. Numerous routine tests, such as entrance tests, have been moved online, deferred, or eliminated. Learners now have an enhanced need to learn how to use technology quickly and efficiently. Classes that are previously conducted solely on the phone are now conducted totally online, many people have found it challenging to run websites and take online exams. Everybody adjusts a varying rate, and the several students need some time to become adjusted to their way of life. Those who have gone through this change may also be showing symptoms of sadness, anxiousness, and strain. The absence of regular exercise and the socialization provided by a social situation like school downtrodden and marginalized children as well as their lifestyles equilibrium has been thrown off balance, and consequently youngsters who spent a lot of time alone may feel depressed and perhaps even despair. Online community gatherings and webcast are used to make up for missed social and educational events, but both learners and educators' enthusiasm has declined as a result. Nevertheless, creative approaches are now being developed to perceive the value of extracurriculars and companionship. Now is the time to restore the confidence that is dwindling among our pupils.

Educators and Learners lack of digital readiness

Technology-illiterate teachers had a tough time connecting with their students and had a hard time instructing. The lack of preparation upset people. The learners had to adapt to the new configuration after class time, a break in a lesion, and technological issues, that prompted them to acquire additional internet and digital learning skills. Smartphones (57.98%), laptop (35.83%), tablet (4.89%) and computer (0.65%) were the most favoured gadgets by research participants for taking online classes, for 82% of the participants, a mobile data pack provided their only internet connectivity. WhatsApp was identified by the plurality of respondents (62%) as the preferred platform for sharing class announcements, this shows that individuals who had access to technology and devices outperformed those who were unable to make similar arrangements. Each child has the right to an equal opportunity to receive education, and with serious effort our ailing educational system may be improved. Action Aid Association has helped 30,000 children enrolled in schools, 40% of whom are girls and supervises over than 1500 schools for basic facilities and educational quality. The crew at Action Aid Association goes out into the underserved regions of India and starts work from the ground up as part of an effort to protect the right of children to childhood.

Impact on the education of poor students

For the nation like India, were almost 70% of the people resides in rural regions but only half has the bandwidth connectivity, online education is almost unachievable. Utilizing online learning effectively is significantly hampered by the lack of energy. According to a recent study conducted in 2017-18 by the Ministry of Rural development, just 47% of the Indian families have access to even more than 12 hours of electricity per day, whereas more than 36% of schools are run without electricity, some schools have been closed as a result of lack of budget and support.

The Covid-19 outbreak variations clearly defined a gap among the rich and downtrodden, while those students who are fortunate enough to have the accessibility to superior infrastructure may still take advantage of the study materials, online lectures, and details, those who are not as fortunate still struggle to meet the empty basic standards. The learners in the rural regions might not have the accessibility to computers, laptops, or even smartphones at their homes, and several others might have the limited on even no internet connectivity. The rise of online learning has caused a digital divide between pupils. The students in India who originate from low-income backgrounds have experienced a great anguish as a result of the lockout. This according to numerous surveys, the majority are unable to investigate the online learning. They need an instant fix to make access to instructional materials simpler from them.[9]

Education during Covid-19 and the response of educational institutions and students in coping

Covid-19 in fact has compelled institutions all over the globe to stop using actual classrooms in favour of online learning, whereas, most private institutions in the country have made this more without incident, public educational institutions including universities are still getting used to it. There have been discussions on the nature of education, as well as the potential for online assessment and testing in the coming future. Students are left clutching to their own mobile phones and computer displays as the staff struggles to find new ways to handle the abrupt shift to the online education. What might happen to higher learning if the lockdowns persisted for a while more? What are some of the more serious problems that demand reflection? What will this signify pushing ahead for the students?

First reaction: Switching to digital

The largest universities, including Delhi university, (DU) and Jawaharlal Nehru university (JNU), ordered the halt of sessions until March 31 as immediately as the Covid-19 outbreak erupted in India. They began searching at online learning whereas the others hesitated to see what might occur next.

Private institutions, including Ashoka University, switched to an online learning version by the middle of March and were mostly untouched by the March 24 national lockout." Our professors are delivering classes online" (on google meet, zoom, etc) therefore, academic programmes are significantly less impacted, according to Ashoka university professor and dean of research L.S. Shashidhar.

The IITs started holding the coursework and communicating with the learners by sending them sound clips and learning materials, the academic experts are accessible online through face-to-face meetings for learners to resolve their quarries. According to Timothy Gonsalves, Director of IIT Mandi, educators are adding more social media and online portals to Moodle, an accessible education, management system, dependent on the section of the course objectives and the participants internet connectivity. The colleges and instructors significant approach contacted concurred that the switch to online instruction was not particularly challenging. Nevertheless, they warned that further spending on basic infrastructure and instructor preparation will be necessary if the lockout lasted for a prolonged period of time.

Swapping to Electronic

There are two approaches to deliver online education first one is via videotaped lectures, that are alluded to massive open online courses whenever made available to the general public (MOOC) the other is live online course delivered through a webcast or zoom meeting. In addition to a strong IT infrastructure and academic staff who really are satisfied educating online, universities also need increased broadband and over all education networks, such as learning administration systems. In order to participate in the programmes archived lessons, learners really need increased broadband and PCs or mobile devices. In India, a variety of

systems have developed to support online learning. The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), the department of Technical Education, and the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) all sponsor those. Additionally, there really are programmes like e-PG Path Shala (e-content), SWAYAM (Online Teacher Training), and NEAT (enhancing employability). Many other online platforms work to improve information availability and accessibility with educational systems. They are used for classes, course materials, and the operation of online courses. They consist among many others, of National Project on Technology Enhanced Learning (NPTEL), National Knowledge Network (NKN) and National Academic Depository (NAD).

One of the very first law schools in India to offer an online MOOC was the National Law University of Delhi, which made the programme accessible to the general public in March following the Covid-19 issue. The University Grants Commission (UGC) and MHRD have given learners access to legal study guides and also online database.

According to NPTEL India's directory of operations, Bharathi Balaji, Covid-19 has encouraged schools, teachers, and learners to pursue online education more than before. "NPTEL has expanded since it began, but the infiltration rate was only fair. We have spent the last six years informing people about online education and attempting to lower the existing barriers to participation. There is currently no choice but to adhere to and make advantage of online education due to Covid-19 outbreak.[10]

Initiatives of government to facilitate e-learning platforms for students during Covid-19 pandemic

The entire India is experiencing a sharp downturn in each and every field because of the Covid-19 breakout. As a result, the majority of examinations being postponed during final exams, the education industry is among that most primarily field this time. Ramesh Pokhriyal, the HRD minister, recommends the learners to pursue their studies utilizing the e-learning systems in order to make sure that there is really no interruption in the educational process and they have unlimited access to classrooms from before. The online classrooms and the instructor interactions are made possible by the e-learning portals, which also give students unlimited accessibility to the course materials.

The ministry of HRD has introduced several fantastic digital programmes for school children as well as those pursuing UG and PG degrees. Some of the significant digital platforms introduced by the government are as follows:

SWAYAM PRABHA

For students, Swayam Prabha is a collection of 32 DTH channels that are available around-the-clock. The website, which itself is updated five times per day, features

brand-new material that is at least four hours long nearly every day. The INFLIBNET centre, that operates in several streams, receives content from prestigious national educational institutions like NPTEL, IITs, UGC, CEC, IGNOU, NCERT, and NIOS. Within this platform students in grades 1 through 12 as well as those pursuing undergraduate and graduate degrees can enjoy learning content. The gateway has more information as well as the programming timetable.[11]

PRAGYATA Guidelines on digital Education[12]

Taking into account the provision of infrastructure, recommendation briefly describes on multiple settings of virtual learning, which include online application that varies depending more on access to the internet, partly online method which utilises the mixed approach of computer media and other standalone actions, and incomplete and offline manner that uses television and radio as a primarily educational medium.[13]

DIKSHA

One state, one digital platform for education is DIKSHA[14] (Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing). In September, a programme for grades 1 through 12 began. It is accessible through an online site in 2017, and a smartphone application with 80,000 pieces of electronic information in several Indian languages. During lockout the pages have been visited almost 215,000,000 times.[15]

e-PG PATHSHALA

 Is intended for university students. Throughout this lockout, PG students have access to e-PG PATHSHALA[16] portal for e-books, online classes, and learning resources. The benefit of this portal is that kids could use the resources without being connected to the internet all day.[17]

PADHNA LIKHNA ABHIYAN (PLA)

A federally financed adult education initiative, was initiated in 2020-21 with the explicit goal of providing functional literacy to 57 lakh adult illiterates in the age range of 15 or over. The programme was prolonged through July 31,2021.[18]

Conclusion

The effects of the Covid-19 are clearly going to be felt for many years. Due to its extremely quick 4G network, India already has prepared to educate the pupils from home. Nearly everywhere in India has 4G accessibility at an extremely affordable price. Students can learn in the classroom setting even when they are not physically present there thanks to strong network connectivity. Online instruction and learning provide more tools and approaches for encouraging students, as well as adaptability in instruction and learning. Thus, on the study's results, it may be inferred that guardians, instructors, and learners at Indian

educational institutions, including male and female view online teaching and learning as an efficient and ideal resource in this particular circumstances.

The training of instructors by school administrations must be sufficient to provide a seamless online environment. From a pragmatic view, online classes can help our country's educational development. In order to provide our pupils, the brightest future, we must encourage our administration to accept online education.

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