

THE COVID-19 IMPACT ON INDIAN EDUCATION SYSTEM

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ABSTRACT

The world is facing the biggest health issues for the past one year due to Corona Virus. As per the report of the WHO at the end of the June 2021, there are nearly 182 Million confirmed Covid-19 cases and nearly 4 Million Covid-19 deaths around the world. The spread of the disease is so speedy when we compare the second wave from the first wave and still it is being insisted by the WHO that the third wave is going to affect the children. All educational institutions have been kept closed to avoid spreading of Covid-19. Due to closing of schools and colleges the education system was transmitted from offline mode to online mode which would have been not possible to all people especially who reside in remote villages and tribal regions where the network facility may not be available with enough speed and people may not have smart phone facility. The Universities in India conduct semester examinations via online depends on the conditions of the regions where the school education boards have decided not to conduct examinations and promote to the next standard. Various entrance examinations and competitive examinations in India are in such critical conditions and so they have been postponed.

Keywords: Indian Education System – Impacts / Challenges– Students & Teachers Life Conditions – Positive & Negative Impacts.

INTRODUCTION

People had come to know that the Covid-19 was a pandemic disease in the beginning of the year 2020 that resulted in very crucial changes in every part of the world. It is a fact that every individual human being has been affected because of the effect of the Covid-19 Virus. Especially the education sectors were in ICU like conditions where the Staff and Students have been affected with no boundary. Students were advised not to go out of home; Schools & Colleges were ordered not to open; the government of all states advised the educational institutions not to collect fees from the parents; Teaching Staffs were instructed to continue their teaching through

online from their home; the School Board of Examinations declared that all get pass without writing examinations; and all the Universities have conducted semester examinations through online for the welfare of the students. All these facts have forced the education sectors to get new structures in the name of online education without having the necessary basic infrastructures like Mobile Network Frequency, Smart Mobile Phone and required Technology for handling classes.

INDIAN EDUCATION SYSTEM

People never thought of the deadly pandemic disease Covid-19 till the time of December 2019. People knew well that the pandemic disease Covid-19 was started spreading from Wuhan State of Hubei Province of China. Just like a dream, everything was in out of conditions and the world had been entirely changed with sadness, depressed and fear. The Pandemic times which blow around the world, has left space untouched. It has taught us the memorable event in education sectors both positively and negatively. The Covid-19 Pandemic time resulted in closing of all schools & colleges and they still remain same. The Indian education system has structured as online mode of teaching and learning instead of offline education.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The collection of review either directly from the staff and students or through online is not possible because of the schools and colleges are in closing conditions during the Covid-19 Pandemic periods. So, the useful sources like Impact of Covid-19 in education, Challenges in Education System during Covid-19, life conditions of the students & teachers and Positive Impacts & Negative Impacts of Covid-19 in Indian education system were collected from the websites for this research article.

OBJECTIVES

- To find out the challenges in Indian education during the Covid-19 Pandemic periods,
- To find out the life conditions of the students and teachers during the Covid-19 in Indian education system.
- To find out the Advantages and Disadvantages of the impact of Covid-19 in Indian education system.

IMPACTS / CHALLENGES IN EDUCATION SYSTEM DURING COVID-19

The Covid-19 lockdown has given many challenges in Indian education system and also the pandemic conditions still continuous even in the Academic Year 2021-2022 as the people experienced in the Academic Year 2020-2021. It has changed the system of school education and higher education not only in India but also throughout the world. Even the developed countries like America have experienced many challenges in every fields but the impact is very high in the field of education. Some of the challenges that are faced in day-today life in education field by the teachers, students and parents are as listed below;

- It is a compulsion to use all possible technologies to educate the school children and college studentseven in the post Covid-19 period.
- Both Government and Private educational institutions are educating the students through online platform without proper infrastructure.
- Many staffs and students are not happy in handling classes through online as they are not able to have face to face interaction.
- Most of the parents from the rural and tribal region are not having basic knowledge about the smart phone and types of internet sources available.
- Rural and Tribal students still have found to be difficulty to adapt to the online class.
- Most of the teachers are still sharing videos in the name of online classes.
- Internet facilities with enough speed are not available to conduct the online class in the rural and tribal regions.
- The teaching and learning abilities / qualities are contrasting from the high-tech cities to other cities, from other cities to rural and from rural to tribal regions.
- Online classes to the rural and tribal regions may not be adaptable due to bad network conditions and most of the people live below poverty line.
- Quality online education with the most appropriate technology is not possible in the Government Schools when it is compared with the Matriculation and CBSE Schools.
- Students are eagerly waiting for the day to meet their friends when the educational institutions are permitted to open.

- More care to be given to the students' society when they start to step up to institutions to prevent from Corona Virus.
- It is very essential to maintain social distancing, to assure the minimum strength and to have all precautionary safety measures.
- Bringing the students to class room formation like before Covid-19 lockdown is a real challenging in post Covid-19 period.
- Students and Teachers ratio like before Covid-19 lockdown may not be possible in post Covid-19 period.
- Students and Teachers may be confused between regular class room teaching and online teaching.

STUDENTS AND TEACHERS LIFE CONDITIONS

The Staff and Students enjoyed the privilege of the class room teaching and gained practical knowledge by the utility of the laboratory facilities in pre-covid19 period but it was just a dream during the Covid-19 lockdown period.

Teachers are handling online classes though most of them were not having experience in using technologies ever before. Teachers were not able to handle online classes properly as there was lacking in the basic infrastructures for online classes. Teaching Staffs lost their wealth and health as the private educational institutions have terminated the staff members due to lockdown and facing financial crisis. The teachers have spent their life with more depression because of the worries about their future. The teachers both in private schools and private colleges have lost their jobs and salaries since April 2020. Most of the teachers from private educational institutions are going for daily wage jobs and cooli works.

The subject knowledge of the students has come down as there was no face to face teaching & learning (interactive class) in ongoing lockdown period. Students lost their interest on learning as they don't have proper infrastructure facilities at their homes to learn through online mode. Students of Tamil medium from government schools and students from rural & tribal regions were not trained well to adapt to the online class. There would be lots of questions and expectations about the future among the Parents, Teachers, Educationists, Experts and Students about the post-Covid19 periods.

POSITIVE IMPACTS

- Covid-19 pandemic time has taught lots of lessons to the people to face every situation and changes that occur out of critical situations.
- College professors & school teachers started to handle online class though they had no such experience with the basic requirements.
- School and College students slowly adapted to the online class after much struggles in attending the online classes.
- Online class, online quiz, webinars, online examinations and online competitions everything became possible within a short span of life.
- There are lot of collaborations in the field of education beyond the actual imagination of parents, teachers, students, administrators and education based industries in knowledge sharing.
- Parents, Teachers and Students have experienced the idea of the global education in India itself.
- Teachers used PPT, Videos, YouTube, Google Meet, Zoom Meet, Cisco Webex, GoToMeet, etc., as teaching tools instead of using chalk piece, text book and black board.
- Students were able to attend the online classes at any location where ever they get the network frequency.
- The delivery of classes or lectures could be recorded and shared for the future reference.
- This method has given paperless learning platform with the lowest expenses.
- There were no expenses on travel, study materials, stationeries, shoes and uniforms.

NEGATIVE IMPACTS

- The online class method was very challenging in India without proper internet facilities.
- Most of the students from government schools and students from rural & tribal regions in India are not having smart phone with internet facilities.
- Though the teachers from government schools are ready to handle classes through online, the students from rural and tribal regions could not utilize the available opportunities as the internet providing corporate sectors were not offering services in those regions.

- Due to the lack of consistent internet connection, both the students and teachers have faced the problem of continuity in teaching and learning.
- Students may be disturbed by various social media during the online class.
- People were with much confusion about the regular examinations, coaching classes or revision classes through online.
- Parents and Students are dreaming of facing competitive examinations as those examinations were postponed.
- Teachers from schools and colleges have experienced in using books, chalk piece and class rooms for offline teachings but there was no such experience among government school teachers in handling online classes and so they struggle a lot still.
- Online classes have reduced the interaction between the students and staffs as there was a problem of high speed internet frequency.
- Students, who are especially from rural and tribal region, have faced multiple difficulties on digital learning without necessary equipments.
- Science based students and Engineering students have lost their practical knowledge as the practicals were not able to be conducted for the past one year.
- The school children creativities were not able to be exhibited.
- Many teachers from private schools and colleges, lost their jobs and salaries from where they worked which caused to depression.
- School going children who were depending on midday meal provision were malnourished because of lockdown and schools were closed.
- Some of the institutions were not able to run as they were not able collect fees from the students and some the schools are about to closing conditions.

CONCLUSION

The Covid-19 has given very broad impacts in Indian education system as well as in the World education system. India and most of the countries have experienced many difficulties for the past one year during Covid-19 lockdown I & II periods in the school education and college education system. Due to Covid-19 lockdown, all types of educational institutions were ordered to be closed and still the same conditions are continued even in the 2020-2021 Academic

year. Most of the teachers of private educational institutions have lost their jobs & salaries and find difficulties to run their life. Students from the rural & tribal regions, students from the Tamil Medium and students from the Government Schools have lost their learning capacity as most of those categories don't have the smart phone facilities and not having high speed internet facilities. Though the teachers of all educational sectors are educating the students through online, only half of the students are benefited by online education and the rest of the students longing for the regular interactive classes. So, it is very essential that the field experts should analyze all these factors to offer quality based education to every individual who live every nook and corner of the world and especially in India. At the end, it is a fact that the teachers and students society have entered into technology based teaching & learning process because of Covid-19 lockdown period. But it is suggested to give minimum assurance to every student of government schools and rural & tribal regions to be benefited with the technology based education as the Matriculation students and CBSE students are benefited. The government of India should develop all type of infrastructure facilities to give quality education to Indian students either online or offline education.

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