

Epidemic: Impact of COVID-19 on Education

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ABSTRACT

The Covid-19 pandemic is causing havoc around the world. It has affected all areas. Due to this global epidemic, the present situation is serious and will have a long lasting impact. According to a report published by UNESCO, the spread of this Covid-19 can be prevented by measures like social distancing and self-isolation, closure of all schools and universities. In India, March to June is a very important time because in these months, most of the academic activities are conducted like secondary school exams, university exams, entrance exams and annual functions etc. To meet this requirement, the educational institution has been forced to suspend the physical classroom and move to the online platform for mental stability of the students. All schools, colleges and universities offer online learning through the Zoom App, Google Class, WebEx Meet and Video Conferencing. Along with curricular activities various co-curricular activities such as dance, speech, poetry recitation, poster making, painting and slogan writing competition are also organised through online / recorded video mode to engage the students and provide mental relief during this critical situation. All these activities inspire the students to be attentive to their academics during this quarantine period.

Key words:- Covid-19, quarantine, online platform.

INTRODUCTION

An epidemic is a disease that affects a large number of people with in a community, population or region for example when COVID-19 was limited to Wuhan, China it was an epidemic, but the geographical spread of COVID-19 turned it into pandemic. The COVID-19 pandemic is causing havoc around the world. It has affected almost all areas. Due to this global epidemic, whole world faces crucial time and will have a great impact. the spread of COVID-19 can be prevented by measures like social distancing ,self isolation, closure of crowded places like market, shopping mall, public transport, various companies, schools, colleges and universities. Due to this complete closure in mid of March, people suffering a lot economically as well as emotionally. The impact of this lockdown effects labour class, daily wages workers and the people belongs to below poverty line. Besides this, March to June are very important months for schools, because in these months most of the academic activities are conducted like secondary school exams, university exams, entrance exams etc. In these months students prepared for there exams, to fulfil this requirement educational institutions are forced to provide online teaching. All school, college and universities offer online learning through the various online meeting applications.

Impact of COVID-19 on Education:-it has a great impact on our education from lower to higher level

- **On School Education:-** March to May are most important months for the academic as well as non academic activities of the schools. Because most of the activities like board exams , internal final exams, practical exams, admission process etc. Are conducted by the school in these months, but due to complete closure of educational institutions all these activities are on stake.
- **On College/ University Education:-** Final exams of the universities/ colleges are also conducted in the months of May and June , But educational institutes are expected to be open in the month of July which affects mostly the final year students .
- **Research Scholar:-** research scholar are also suffering at the time of this lockdown as they are unable to collect data for their research work or to submit their research report, research work to their guides.
- **Overseas Education:-** a large number of indian students preparing themselves for the ILETS exam for the purpose of studying abroad are also suffering from this pandemic situation this year. Due to the closure of institutes and complete lockdown in various countries, they are not able to apply for exams as well as visa.

- **Competitive Exams and Entrance Exams:-** all the competitive exams and entrance exams were also cancelled or postponed or rescheduled due to this pandemic. It will affect the students mentally and emotionally who seeks a good job or admission in a good institute. This cancellation or postpone in exams reduce their interest in study and breaks the chain of their learning schedule which directly or indirectly affects their results in future and which lead them towards mental stress.

Modes of providing education during COVID-19

various online platforms are used by the teachers to provide education.

- **Online Meeting Apps:-** to fulfil the requirement of education and mental balance of the students educational institutes are forced to suspend physical classrooms and move to online platforms like zoom app, WebEx meet, google classroom, google meet etc. Through these apps students can interact face to face with the teacher. Teaching through all these applications is called virtual classroom teaching.
- **Recorded audio/video lectures:-** due to the poor connectivity of the internet it is not possible to connect with each student in live session. So, teachers are providing recorded lectures or videos to the students, so that they can learn whenever they are able to connect.
- **Handwritten Notes:-** as we know lower class students need live session as well as hand written format of their content for better understanding. So, now a days it is also the responsibility of the teacher to provide them notes, homework or worksheets etc. after completing their homework or worksheets, they send it back to the concerned incharge so that teacher evaluate it and provide them feedback.
- **Power point Presentation:-** To make the teaching learning process effective and meaningful, teachers designs a lot of Teaching learning materials. Slides or ppt't are one out of them. These are provided by the teachers to the students for better understanding of the content and for those students , who does not able to attend live classes due to some reason.
- **Self Learning Material:-** A teacher can provide notes, study material, worksheets to the students virtually but it is not possible for teacher to evaluate each and every student and provide them remedies virtually. To deal with this problem teachers are preparing self learning material, from which a child can learn himself without assistance of any teacher, he can evaluate himself, diagnose his mistakes and immediately correct them. This method is mainly used by higher education institutions or coaching institutes.

Challenges to provide education during COVID-19

- **Connectivity Problem:-** E- Learning is the only source to provide education during this lockdown and it needs good internet connectivity. But it is not possible to connect with all students due to poor internet connection in rural areas. And in some remote areas the facility of internet connection is not available. And it is not pitiable for government to provide internet connectivity in these areas in this covid-19 time.
- **Lack of Resources:-**to connect with the internet it requires a smart phone, laptop or android device and it is not possible for people below poverty line or labour class or daily wagers to first purchase a smart phone and then recharge in it. So, the students belongs to these families are far away from the studies in these days.
- **Too much burden on teacher:-** teachers have a lot of burden in E-Learning as compare to traditional classrooms. Because everything depends upon on the Computer screen either it is teaching, homework checking, assignments, marking etc. So, it took a lot of time to evaluate and provide feedback to the students except multiple choice tests. Besides all these teachers are busy in organising co-curricular activities too for the mental satisfaction and stability of the child like singing, painting, slogan, poster, dancing etc.
- **Lack of Interest:-**Students pay less attention because they know teacher can not able to scold or punish them during this live session.Sometimes, due to poor internet connectivity, teachers allow them to off their video. And to reduce voice disturbance mute your mic option is available. But students take it in another sense they join the classmute their mic, off their video and run away. Attendance is the only purpose for them to join the class.
- **Untrained Teachers:**Most of the teachers were experts in blackboard, chalk, books and classroom teaching they were new to digital classroom and without training they faced a lot of problems. So many teachers opt out from this profession only due to this reason. A lot of workload also increases on teachers



to continue with this way of teaching. They have to develop teaching learning materials, worksheets, notes, homework etc. and also evaluate it virtually. Which is not possible for untrained teachers.

CONCLUSION

due to this lockdown every institute came on online platform through different online apps to provide education but the parents as well as students are not satisfied with this type of learning because they thought traditional classroom is better for their child where a teacher deals face to face with their students. Somewhere teachers are also in the favour of physical classroom teaching, as they are able to deliver their content in an effective way in direct contact of students. They feel that online teaching is a passive or boring way of teaching at grass root level. It is not possible to provide education through this mode to the students below primary class.

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