



## Impact of Covid-19 Pandemic on Education in INDIA

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IMPACT OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON EDUCATION IN INDIA Abstract: The impact of covid-19 pandemic is noticed in every sector around the whole world. Education sector has no exception. The Indian education sectors are immensely affected by this pandemic. It has enacted the world wide lockdown which are badly affected the life of students.

### Abstract

*The impact of Covid-19 pandemic is noticed in every sector around the whole world. Education sector has no exception. The Indian education sectors are immensely affected by this pandemic. It has enacted the world wide lockdown which are badly affected the life of students. Due to the prevalence of Covid-19 pandemic around 32 crores students stopped to go schools/colleges/universities. All educational activities should also be shut down. Teaching-learning process are going on through online mode. This paper gives an opportunity for the teacher and students to continue their teaching-learning and other educational activities through online mode. This paper emphasises some initiative preventive measures taken by the Govt. of India to continue the education system in a smooth way. This paper helps the learners to know the positive as well as negative impacts of Covid-19 on education. Some effective recommendations/suggestions are also discussed to execute all educational activities during the pandemic situation.*

### Key Words

**COVID-19, Pandemic, Impact, Govt. of India, Outbreak.**

### Introduction

Coronavirus is a pestilence pandemic all over the world. It is also called novel coronavirus and Covid-19. Covid-19 is an infectious disease caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome. The impact of covid-19 pandemic is noticed not only India but also all over the world. The impact of pandemic covid-19 is spread in every sector around the whole world. And, the education sector has no exception. Education is the backbone of any nation. Education may be considered as the determinant

of any country's economic future. Due to the prevalence of Covid-19 pandemic the education sectors from pre-primary to universities became closed.

After watching the Covid-19 pandemic vulnerable situation WHO announced to maintain the social distancing from each other. So, many countries started the lockdown process for maintaining social distancing from the vulgarised people. For lockdown, the education system of India as well world is badly affected. School, colleges and universities are shut down. Classes are suspended. Examinations and entrance tests should be postponed. This situation shatters the schedules of education. Though it is a tough situation in the history of education, Covid-19 has created many challenges and opportunities for the educational institutes to strengthen their infrastructure and to appear of the monstrous classroom teaching model to digital model (Pravat, 2020a). The lockdown gives an opportunity for the teacher and students to continue their teaching-learning and other educational activities through online mode. During this covid-19 pandemic situation online learning strategy is the best way of learning. By using different online modes, a teacher delivered his/her lectured through video conferencing through google meet, Zoom, Skype, Facebook, YouTube etc. The what's app group of teachers, students, parents play a major role for effective communication through which they are always keep in touch with each other. But like other developed countries India has no high-speed internet facilities. Even many villages have no electricity. Numerous advanced educational institutions have no such kind of advanced facilities. In India, every student is not familiar with modern digital gadgets to cope up this traditional education set up to online education system.

### **An overview of Covid-19**

Covid-19 is an infectious disease. It was first discovered in Wuhan, China on 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2019. On 11<sup>th</sup> January 2020, the first death by covid-19 in Wuhan, china. WHO declared Covid-19 as a pandemic on 2020. The first case of the Covid-19 pandemic reported on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2020 in the state of Kerala and the affected had a travel history from Wuhan, China (From Wikipedia). The first death due to Covid-19 was reported in India on March 12, 2020. It has affected more than 4.5 million peoples worldwide (WHO, 2020). According to the UNESCO report, it had affected more than 90% of total world's student population during April 2020 which is now reduced to nearly 67% during June 2020. Outbreak of Covid-19 has impacted more than 120 crores of students and youths across the planet. In India, around 32 crores of students have been affected by the lockdown for Covid-19. As per the UNESCO report, about 14 crores of primary and 13 crores of secondary students are affected which are two mostly affected levels in India.

### **Initiatives of Govt. of India on education during Covid-19**

The Govt. of India has been taken a numerous initiative steps for preventing spread of Covid-19 pandemic. On 16 March 2020, the Govt. of India declared a countrywide lockdown of all educational institutions. Central Board of Secondary Education and Union Public Service Commission have also postponed all the examinations, entrance tests and interviews throughout the India. Due to the prevalence of covid-19 many states and educational board postponed their class and examinations. On 22<sup>nd</sup> March the Govt. of declared one day Janta-curfew and implement lockdown from 25<sup>th</sup> March, 2020 onwards in different phases. Govt. of India has extended lockdown periods in different phases and different strategies to cope up with the Covid-19 pandemic but educational institutions remained closed continuously. On June 29, the lockdown 6.0 was declared which is effective from 1<sup>st</sup> July to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2020 with some less restriction in other sectors except education.

All the states government ministers and education ministers are concerned about their education system during lockdown period. They provide instruction to schools and colleges to start their classes through online. Online learning is the best solution during this pandemic Covid-19 situation (Pravat,

2020b).The Ministry of Human Recourse Development (MHRD) has taken various digital initiatives to continue the educational activities.

### **The digital initiatives of MHRD for secondary education during Covid-19**

The Ministry of Human Recourse Development (MHRD) has taken various digital initiatives for secondary education are as follows:

**Diksha App** : Diksha is a good and unique initiative of MHRD to provide national digital infrastructure for our teachers. All teachers across the world will be benefited by this portal. It gives an immediate solution in the reign of teacher education. Diksha also provides teacher training content, good classroom resources, relevant news and announcement about jobs, quality assessment. States, Govt. bodies and other private organization can also join into diksha to fulfil their teacher's goals, needs and demands.

**E- Pathshala** : It is an e-learning app developed by NCERT and MHRD in November, 2015. It is displaying and proclaiming all educational e-resources like textbooks, audio, video, periodicals, and others learning materials. It provides educational resources to the teachers, students, parents, educators and researchers for improve their teaching-learning style. The content is available in English, Hindi and Urdu. This portal also provides e-books, flip books for class I to XII in different languages.

**National Repository of Open Educational Resources (NROER)** : The National Repository of Open Educational Resources (NROER) was launched by the MHRD, govt. of India. It is the combined efforts of the Department of School Education and Literacy. It is very helpful to solve the various problems and challenges related to education in our country. It is a collaborative learning platform. It provides all types of educational resources for school subjects in different languages. It assembles all kind of digital resources for effective education through audio, videos, images, documents formats. It raises the quality of education all over the country.

### **The digital initiatives of MHRD for higher secondary education during Covid-19**

The Ministry of Human Recourse Development (MHRD) has taken various digital initiatives for secondary education are as follows:

**Swayam** : Swayam, which stands for "Study Web of Active-Learning for Young Aspiring Minds". Swayam portal is an initiative of the central Govt. to digitalise the education system. It provides free education, free online courses to all. It has been launched to cover all remote areas. It provides high quality e-content to all without any cost.

**Swayam Prabha** : Swayam Prabha is a project of MHRD, Govt. of India. It is set of 34 DTH channels which telecast high quality educational programmes on 24 x 7 basis using the GSAT-15 satellites. The content telecast every day for at least 4 hours and it is repeated 5 more times in a day. So that students can learn at time of their own convenience. (<https://swayamprabha.gov.in>)

**e-PG Pathshala** : It is for postgraduate students. Postgraduate students can grasp this platform for eBooks, online courses and study materials during this lockdown period. The importance of this platform is that students can access these facilities without having internet for the whole day (<https://epgp.inflibnet.ac.in/>).

### **Positive impact of Covid-19 on education**

Some positive impacts of covid-19 on education are as follows:

**Move towards traditional learning to online learning** : During the covid-19 pandemic situation all education sectors e.g. schools, colleges, and universities became closed. That's why the schedules of the education system are hampered by the closure of educational institutions. So,

its time move on the online learning. By using various online platforms like google meet, live video conferencing, Facebook, what's app, you tube etc students can easily continue their educational activities.

**Move towards Blended Learning :** In the covid-19 situation, education has focused on digital mode. Most of the educational institution move towards blended learning. It encourages all teachers and students more technologically advanced. It engages the students for educational activities.

**Rise in use of Learning Management Systems :** Use of learning management systems by educational institutions became a great demand. It opened a great opportunity for the companies those have been developing and strengthening learning management systems for use educational institutions (Misra, 2020).

**Upliftment in collaborative work :** Collaborative work is very important in any sector specially in educational institutions. In the time Covid-19 pandemic, collaborative work plays a major among the students, teachers and their teaching-learning process. It is also happened among the faculty members, colleagues, peer groups around the world to avail for each other.

**Raise in online programmes and meetings :** In the covid-19 pandemic situation raise in online programmes and meetings in a massive way. All the meetings and programmes should go on through online mode e.g. virtual meeting, tele-conferencing, webinar, seminar, e-conferencing etc.

**World-wide exposure :** Covid-19 pandemic gives an opportunity for the teacher and learners to interact with each other throughout whole world. The learners introduce himself as an active participant in the world and learn different knowledge and skills from different community.

**Increase the use of electronic media :** During the time of covid-19 the demand of electronic media is very high. Learning materials and other educational information are shared among the students through the electronic medias like e-mail, SMS, phone calls, video calling, what's app or Facebook chat.

**Develop proper time management skill :** Time management is a big skill in every sphere of life. This skill helps the teachers and students to operate their time in proper and effective way through online education. It helps the students to know the value of time in every sector in their life.

**Increasing the demand of Open and Distance Learning (ODL) :** In the pandemic situation number of students preferred ODL mode of learning rather than regular mode of learning. ODL mode of learning encourages self-learning, providing various opportunities to learn from various resources and adapt their learning as per their needs and demands.

## **Negative impact of Covid-19 on education**

Some negative impact of Covid-19 on education are as follows:

**Hampered the educational activity :** The pandemic covid-19 hampered the whole education system not only in India but also the world. Classes have been suspended, examinations and entrance tests at different levels have been postponed. Admission process should be delayed. Due to the continuity in lockdown, all the students suffered a lot of problem in their current academic session.

**Unready for online education :** All the teachers and students are not ready or prepared for online education. They do not pay their attention due the unaware of educational technology. Most of the teachers are just conducting their video conferencing without any proper content. They are passing their time at all costs.



**Impact on students' placements :** Most of the requirements have been postponed due to Covid-19 pandemic. Students placements should also be affected. Students are facing various problems about their jobs and placements in different sectors.

**Increased parents' responsibility :** All the educational institutions became closed for the Covid-19 pandemic. Thus, the responsibility of the children's education on the parent's shoulder. Every parent aware about their child's future. Some educated parents are able to guide their child and some may not have the adequate level of education needed to teach children in the house (Jena, 2020).

**Loss of nutrition due to school closure :** Mid-day meal is the school meal programme by the Govt. of India which provide a better food nutrition to the school age children. Due the closure of school mid-day meal should also be shut down. That's why the nutrition level of the children should be decrease.

**Access to digital world :** Online teaching-learning process may create a digital divide among the students because some students have limited access of internet and some have unlimited. Some students are not able to afford laptop, computer, supporting mobile phone in their home. Thus, online education system creates huge gap between poor and rich students.

**Delayed the payment of school, colleges fees :** During this lockdown period most of the parents lose their job because the shut down of employment sectors. So, they are facing various problem. Because of this reason they may not be able to pay fees for that particular time period.

## Suggestions

1. Provide right information about the Covid-19 for empowering the citizens.
2. Regular washing of hands.
3. Wearing a mask and Maintaining physical and social distances among others.
4. Keep positive and stay vigilant.
5. Offers various jobs, internship programmes, and research projects to reduce the effect of covid-19 pandemic.
6. To established a quality assurance mechanism and online programme.
7. Digital facilities and required infrastructure should be provided to remotest and poorest areas.

## Conclusion

The education system of India has been immensely affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. To cope up with the present crisis of Covid-19 the Govt. of India and other stakeholders of education have explored the possibility of Open and Distance Learning (ODL). The concept of "work from home" has play an important role to reduce spread of Covid-19. India should imply various new strategies for learning during pandemic Covid-19. The Indian policies must include various individuals from diverse backgrounds including remote regions, marginalised and minority groups for effective delivery of education. Further detailed statistical study may be undertaken to examine the impact of Covid-19 on education system of India (Jena, 2020). It is need of the hour for the educational institutions to strengthen their knowledge and Information Technology infrastructure to be ready for facing Covid-19 pandemic situations.

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