EDUCATION SYSTEM IN TIMES OF COVID-19

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Abstract
The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has wreaked havoc globally. As a result, personal operations at schools have been suspended in over 190 countries to slow the virus' spread and mitigate its impacts. In this context, the crisis will have severe negative effects on health¹, education, employment, and poverty². On the other hand, UNESCO observed significant disparities in educational achievements due to an unequal distribution of teachers, particularly more trained instructors, at the expense of low-income countries and regions, and rural areas with substantial indigenous and migrant populations. With the region's governments suspending face-to-face classes at all levels, there are three primary areas of action: remote learning in various formats and platforms (with or without technical support), and supporting and mobilising NGOs. COVID-19 rocked the world with its terrible impact. In addition, to contain the COVID-19 outbreak, most governments closed educational institutions. As part of the state shutdown, all schools in India have closed, affecting students from kindergarten to university. There a shift to online mode of education became important. This study's goal is to evaluate how the pandemic affected the Indian educational system's structure.

Keywords: Education, pandemic, impact, online.


Introduction

Covid-19 has encouraged schools, colleges, and universities across India and the world to use online learning. Unlike private colleges, state universities in India are still changing. Testing and evaluations have also been discussed, particularly whether or not they may be administered online. In India, educational institutions (schools, universities, and colleges) still use traditional classroom teaching methods. While many academic institutions are adopting blended learning, many still use outdated methods. The rapid spread of Corona Virus (SARS-CoV-2) disease Covid-19 has astonished the world. The WHO has declared it a pandemic. This incident forced professors to stay the night online, disrupting worldwide education. Many universities that had been reluctant to adopt online education were suddenly obligated to do so. Corona Virus is a highly contagious and fatal disease that has had a major influence on the worldwide economy. This disaster has touched the education industry, and it is likely to extend to all educational systems worldwide. The Covid 19 outbreak necessitated the closure of many schools and institutions. Many sites worldwide are compromised, and the current and future semesters may be destroyed. Diverse educational institutions have discontinued individual instruction. Normal teaching is unlikely to resume soon, say the researchers. There will be opportunities for learning due to the predominance of social separation. The educational institutions are struggling to find solutions. This issue calls both compassion and teamwork. The country as a whole needs to be defended and saved, not just our children. Many issues surround e-learning. On-line pedagogy is driven by factors such as


affordability and convenience. Online schooling is easy to use and can reach remote and rural locations. It is considered cheaper than traditional schooling in terms of transportation, accommodation, and overall costs. Online education also allows you to schedule or plan your time for classes. Mixed learning and inverted classrooms are generated when face-to-face lectures are blended with technology. Students can learn new skills and prepare for a teaching profession from anywhere at any time. In today's fast-paced world, the government also recognises the necessity of online education. According to UNICEF, the Covid 19 epidemic has disrupted educational systems globally, affecting over 90% of students. This is on top of the six million already gone to Covid-19. This educational upheaval has economic implications. In 'Beaten or Broken: Informality and Covid-19 in South Asia,' the World Bank estimated that India would lose $440 billion in future revenues due to school closures (Rs 32,3 lakh crore). Digital education is filling the hole left by traditional classroom instruction, reducing interruption and injury. This has brought India's formerly neglected digital education system to the fore and is gradually mainstreaming it. It was emphasised in the Union Government's National Education Policy issued in July. While the Covid-19 outbreak increased the importance of online education, the Quacquarelli Symonds global education network says India's Internet infrastructure is still lacking. A 2019 government survey found that only 24% of homes have internet access. Rural India has a lower percentage of households with access, at 4%. According to a 2018 NITI Aayog report, 55,000 villages in India lack cellphone coverage. Over 36% of Indian schools lacked power in 2017-18, according to the Rural Development Ministry. The emphasis on technology-based education alienates many young people from poor backgrounds, preventing them from finishing their studies. Others encounter additional challenges. Teachers aren't always ready to go online. The Union Government is quite hopeful about the Bharatnet plan, which intends

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to enhance connectivity across the country by supplying internet via optic fibre to 250,000 rural panchayats.\textsuperscript{10} Thanks to panchayat broadband connectivity, rural schools may provide online instruction to students who do not have access at home. To provide authentic and seamless education, teachers must be taught to use digital infrastructure. Because college education is distinct from school education, effective delivery is crucial. Digital education cannot be employed at all levels.

**Online learning**

Distance education has become more accessible as a result of substantial technological breakthroughs. "Most terminologies (for example, online learning, opening, web-based learning, computer-mediated learning, mixed learning, and m-learning) allow you to study from anywhere, at any time, at any pace, and in any form." Online learning can be viewed as a tool for enhancing the student-centered, inventive, and flexible teaching-learning process. Online learning is defined as "learning experiences with Internet connection using various devices (e.g. mobile phones, laptops, etc.) in synchronous or asynchronous scenarios." Students can learn and communicate with teachers and other students (independent) from anywhere in these locations. “Students attend live lectures in a synchronous learning environment, educators and learners communicate in real time, and there is the opportunity for immediate feedback; however, asynchronous learning systems are poorly structured. In such a learning environment, learning content is not provided in the form of live lectures or courses; rather, it is made available through a variety of learning platforms and fora.” It is tough to provide fast feedback and respond quickly in such a setting. Synchronous learning can open up a plethora of opportunities for social interaction. In the midst of this virus's fatal spread, online platforms that “(a) allow video lecturing with at least 40 to 50 students, (b) conversations with students to maintain organic classes, (c) good Internet connections, (d) lectures on mobile phones and laptops, (e) the ability to watch previously recorded lectures, and (f) instant feedback from students are required”.

Necessity of e-learning

Due to the Corona Virus, educational institutions were forced to transition from a traditional classroom setting to an online learning environment. As a result of this disaster, previously resistant institutions will be compelled to adopt new technology. This tragedy serves as a reminder of the financial advantages of online education and learning. Preaching to a large number of students online is possible at any time and from any location in the world. All educational institutions should incorporate a variety of online pedagogical practices and make a concerted effort to maximize the effectiveness of technology use. Numerous institutions worldwide have fully digitalized their operations, recognizing the critical need for such transformation. In the midst of the confusion, online education emerges as a triumph. As a result, improving the quality of online learning is crucial right now. Following the breakout of Covid-19, online education in Chinese colleges has risen tremendously. In response to changing market situations and scenarios\textsuperscript{11}, educators have modified their entire educational approach, resulting in traditional classrooms being turned into e-classrooms overnight.\textsuperscript{12} Anti-change mind-set will harm any educational institution in the world. They will be assessed based on how quickly they adapt to changes and how well they maintain quality in such a short amount of time. The reputations of educational institutions are at stake and being scrutinised. Academic institutions, for example, would be unable to convert their entire syllabus into an online resource in a single day. Distance, scalability, and personalised teaching and learning are the three main challenges for online teaching.\textsuperscript{13} Institutional safeguards can only help in the fight against the epidemic. Google's services In such circumstances, “(a) gmail, (b) Google forms, (c) calendars, (d) G-drive, (e) Google Hangouts, (f) Google Jam and Drawings, (g) Google Classroom, and (h) Open Board Software can be


extremely helpful”. These technologies can be utilised in place of traditional face-to-face classes.

**Issues relating to online education Mode**

Online education provides a wide range of technologies, but it can also present a number of challenges. Download and installation errors, login troubles, audio and video glitches, and so on are all examples of modern technological difficulties and problems. Online training can be tiresome and uninspiring for students at times. Online learning is rarely feasible for students due to a lack of time and flexibility. Furthermore, online education creates a significant problem with personal attention. Two-way communication is desired by students, but it is not always possible. Students' learning will not be complete until they put what they have learned into practice. At times, online content can be overly theoretical, making it difficult for students to practice and understand. Out-of-date courses are also a major issue. The main barriers to online education, according to students, are a lack of community, technology, and difficulty comprehending educational objectives. While enrolled in an online learning environment, students found themselves unprepared to integrate their professional, family, and social lives into a research project. Students lacked the requisite e-learning and academic abilities. Furthermore, students are ill-prepared to use Learning Management Systems. It is difficult for students to adjust to an online learning environment after receiving classroom teaching. It is critical that they adopt a positive attitude toward the new learning environment. Many students may lack access to the high-speed internet essential for online learning. As a result, developing virtual learning and other systems that require an internet connection is difficult. They face technical difficulties because they are unfamiliar with technology and computer programmes. In today's world, a key worry is a lack of computer training. Many children are still unable to use basic computer programs like Microsoft Word and PowerPoint. When technological barriers arise in this situation, people find it difficult to address the issue. They must deal with live classes, using icons, Microsoft Office, communication apps and websites, and browsing study materials. Most children have been educated in a traditional classroom setting. Online learning\textsuperscript{14} can assist you in adapting to

various styles of learning. As students transition from traditional classrooms to online learning, teachers find it difficult to transition to a new learning environment. Students cannot be persuaded and engaged for an extended amount of time if you teach online. They are easily distracted and lose concentration during live sessions. For both students and teachers, the most crucial aspect of online learning is evaluation. It can also be distressing for students. As a result, when chores or projects are due, teachers may be overwhelmed with questions from students. Expectations for student success fluctuate because students and teachers do not communicate. Students may have less homework, fewer jobs, or no exams at times. This might make assessing difficult for teachers. The global expansion and accessibility of the internet have increased demand for online learning. However, many of them experience challenges that can stymie their learning. The obstacles they experience hinder the benefits of the learning excursion.

**Strengths**

E-learning strategies and processes are highly effective. It is student-centered and offers a high degree of time and independence. We can change our methods and processes according to the expectations of students using e-learning technology. Many online tools are available, which are all crucial for a productive and efficient learning environment. In this time of crisis, instructors may reach their students utilising an audio, video and text mix to keep their courses personalised. The capability of e-learning comes in handy during times of crisis, such as man-made or natural disasters, or pandemics such as Covid-19. While closing locations and hazardous road trips present numerous difficulties, e-learning enables us to receive an education from the comfort of our homes or workplaces. As companies implement new communications and work technology, this leads in a number of system alterations.

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17Rukumani, Dr.J. (2020). ANALYTICAL STUDY ON ROLE OF NURSING OFFICERS IN CURING COVID PANDEMIC.
Weakness

E-learning has defects in the sense that it might hinder contact between the student and the educator and lead to a loss of direct communication and personal touch. Users may face a number of technological problems that block and slow the teaching-learning process. While online learning benefits from time and geographical flexibility, these qualities are weak and complicated. Uneasy student behaviour in terms of time and flexibility could lead to a number of problems. Some people are uncomfortable are not comfortable with the concept of online learning. The insufficient compatibility of the technology design with the psychological components required for the learning process as well as the improper adjustment of learning processes can prevent and cause an imbalance in the teaching process.

Structural requirements

In pandemic scenarios such as Covid-19, we need to be prepared to respond quickly to changes in the environment and to other modes of delivery such as remote learning or online learning. “In the event of a pandemic or natural disaster, institutions and organizations should develop contingency plans. In such dire circumstances, IT infrastructure, learning tools, and digital learning resources such as Massive Open Online Courses, e-books, and e-notes must be made available and dependable. Some teaching methods can be used online to support effective teaching and learning processes. Teaching and learning in such a troubled environment, where so many people live, should be intriguing.” As a result, stress, fear, and worry will be reduced. Teachers and students should get sufficient technical and learning support, and government assistance is also essential at this point. Online educators must be able to teach both pedagogically and technically. Strict quality control measures, as well as

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continual growth, are required for online learning, as well as for people to be prepared for any crisis that may occur.

**Conclusion**

In conclusion, it is stated that even in the event of a tragedy, e-learning can contribute to inclusive education. Such techniques should be implemented in schools to ensure that no child is denied an education\(^2\) because of their geographical location, social status, ethnicity, or other considerations. Online teaching approaches aid and facilitate learning processes, but it is vital to consider their benefits and limitations in order to fully realise the technology's potential. Disasters and pandemics, such as Covid-19, can cause significant disruption and concern; consequently, it is critical to conduct extensive research on the technology in order to balance these challenges and tensions during a crisis.

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