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## Impact of COVID-19 on Indian education system

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### Abstract

The corona virus disease of 2019 has brought global pandemic along with it. It has affected almost every humankind. To be more specific, due to COVID-19 all the educational institutions got completely shut down. In order to tackle with ongoing pandemic, online learning became a buzzing word among the students and teachers and an alternative to the traditional classrooms and it will continue to play a major role in the education sector. This research paper aims to analyze the Impact of COVID-19 on Indian Education System, focusing on education during online teaching, steps taken by government to promote online education and assessing the positive and negative impact of getting online classes on students.

**Keywords:** COVID-19, education system, online teaching

### 1. Introduction

The COVID-19 is an ongoing global pandemic disease caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS CoV-2). The novel virus was first identified from an outbreak in Chinese city of Wuhan in December 2019. As of now, the pandemic has caused millions of deaths making it one of the deadliest disease in history.

Government announced nationwide lockdown to control the spread of corona virus disease as it seemed to be the only solution to enforce social distancing among communities. The nationwide lockdown had a drastic impact on all the sectors of the economy especially the education system of the country and the students from rural areas were tremendously impacted. According to a report by the United Nations, the closure of schools and other learning institutes impacted 94 percent of the world's student population. It affected nearly 1.6 billion learners in more than 190 countries. Since the Indian education system is dominated by traditional classroom study, the present system of online teaching has made the functioning of the educational institutions go very difficult.

With the help of government launching new initiatives everyday to ease the learning processes, helped the students and teachers to accept this new system and online teaching became the new normal.

### 2. Objectives

The overall objective of this study is to analyze the Impact of COVID-19 on Indian Education System. In particular, this study will examine:

- Impact of COVID-19 on Indian education system.
- Highlighting the positive and negative impact of COVID-19 on teachers and students.
- Initiatives taken by government to promote online education.

### 3. Methodology

The research method used in this paper is secondary data approach. Information and data used in this paper is collected from various reports and articles published by government authorities. Some journals and research papers are also referred relating to impact of COVID-19 on educational system.

### 4. Impact on Teachers and Students

Both teachers and students are facing many difficulties during online education. At home, a lack of basic facilities, external distraction and family interruption during teaching were major issues noticed.

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The difficulties were grouped under a lack of technical support i.e a lack of technical infrastructure, limited knowledge of online teaching platforms and security concerns.

**A. Positive impact on education system:** Though the outbreak of COVID-19 has created many adverse impacts on education, however educational sector of India have accepted the challenges and are trying hard to provide seamless support services to the students during the pandemic. Indian education system has transformed itself from traditional system to a new era. The following points are illustrated to highlight the positive impact:

- Introducing the use of soft copy for learning – Due to closure of educational institutions, students were unable to get hard copies of studying material and therefore soft copies in the form of pdf were used.
- Rise in online meetings- The pandemic has created a massive rise in teleconferencing, virtual meetings, webinars and e-conferencing opportunities.
- Enhanced digital literacy- The pandemic situation induced people to learn and use digital technology which however resulted in increased digital literacy.
- Increased use of electronic media for sharing information- Learning materials are shared among the students using internet easily and the related problems were solved using emails, sms, phone calls and different social apps i.e whatsapp, zoom meetings were also used.
- Worldwide exposure- Educators and learners are getting opportunities to interact with peers from around the world just by sitting at their homes. Learners has adapted to an international community.
- Demand for Open and Distance Learning- During the pandemic situation, most of the students preferred Open and Distance Learning mode as it encouraged self learning providing opportunities to learn from diverse resources and customized learning as per their needs.

### **B. Negative Impact On Indian Education System**

Indian education system has suffered a lot due to the outbreak of COVID-19. It has created many negative impacts on education and some of them are as pointed below:

- Educational activity hampered- Due to closure of educational institutions, classes have been suspended. Different boards postponed the annual examinations and entrance tests across India.
- Unpreparedness of teachers and students - Teachers and students are unprepared for online education; they were not ready for this sudden transition from face to face learning to online learning.
- Parents' role- some educated parents are able to guide but some may not have the adequate level of education and knowledge of technology needed to teach children in the house.
- Digital gadgets: Especially in rural area many students have limited or no internet access and many students may not be able to afford computer, laptop or supporting mobile phones in their homes, online teaching-learning may create a digital divide among students. The lockdown has hit the poor students very hard in India as most of them are unable to explore online learning according to various reports.

- Create Difference: This online teaching-learning method created a big gap between rich v/s poor and urban v/s rural students.

### **5. Initiatives Taken By Government to Promote Online Education**

- Diksha stands for Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing. It is a National Teacher Platform which is currently being used by teachers and students to provide school education through distance mode across the nation. The content has been created in more than 250 languages to provide e-learning in the form of Video lessons, worksheets, textbooks etc. The app is available to use offline. It has more than 90,000 e-Books for classes 1 to 12 created by CBSE, NCERT in multiple languages. The option of QR codes are available to view the content. The app can be downloaded from Google play store and App store.
- e-Pathshala is an e-Learning app created by NCERT for classes 1 to 12 in multiple languages. The app houses books, videos, audio, etc. aimed at students, educators and parents in multiple languages including Hindi, Urdu, and English. In this web portal NCERT has deployed 1886 audios, 2000 videos, 504 e-Books for classes 1 to 12 in different languages. The app can be downloaded from playstore, windows and app store.
- National Repository of Open Educational Resources (NROER) portal developed by CIET and NCERT which provides a host of resources for students and teachers in multiple languages including books, interactive modules and videos including a host of STEM-based games. Content is provided for classes 1-12, including mapped resources for teachers. It has a total of 14527 files including 401 collections, 2779 documents, 1345 interactive, 1664 audios, 2586 images and 6153 videos on different languages.
- Swayam is. SWAYAM is a programme launched by Government of India. Its basic aim is to achieve the three principles of Education Policy i.e. access, equity and quality. It targets to provide best learning material to all and especially to the disadvantaged ones. It is national online education platform hosting 1900 courses covering both school (classes 9 to 12) and higher education (under graduate, post graduate programs) in all subjects including law, management, engineering, humanities and social science.
- Swayam Prabha has 34 DTH TV channels transmitting high quality educational contents on 24 x 7 basis. These channels are available to view all across the country using DD Free Dish Set Top Box and Antenna. The channels cover both school education i.e from classes 9 to 12 and higher education i.e undergraduate, postgraduate, engineering Out-of-school children, vocational courses and teacher training in arts, science, commerce, performing arts, social sciences and humanities subjects, engineering, technology, law, medicine, agriculture.
- e-PG Pathshala is for postgraduate students. In the lockdown period post graduate students can take help from these e learning resources to prepare for the competitive exams. The students can take advantage of this platform 24\*7 even without the use of internet.

**6. Suggestions**

1. India should accept the advanced technology for development of education sector.
2. The Indian Govt. should enact sound laws for private schools so that their will be no exploitation of the teachers.
3. Internet is a fundamental right of citizen so it should be open for all with out any discrimination. 4. India must invest more and more on education.
4. The schools should start educating students about the use of internet.
5. The teachers should take training of accessing internet and electronic devices.

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**7. Observation and Recommendation**

From the study, it could be found that the Indian education system is facing a number of loopholes. The complete lockdown affected the students to the most especially the students residing in rural areas. The only solution to this pandemic is to provide education through blended mode i.e both online and offline classes to be held. More and more investment is need to done for upgrading the technological infrastructure. One need to decide the use of high-technology and low-technology solutions based on the reliability of local power supplies, internet connectivity, and digital skills of teachers and students. Data security should be checked when uploading data or educational resources to web spaces, as well as when sharing them with other organizations or individuals. Ensure that the use of applications and platforms does not violate students' data privacy. Brief training and orientation sessions should be conducted to educate teachers, students and parents on how to use digital tools. Proper distance learning tools need to be designed and a monitor students feedback. Online teaching will increase digital literacy among teachers and students which will increase their exposure and learning and making them more employable for the digital world.

**8. Conclusion**

COVID19 has impacted the education sector to a great extent. Though it has created many challenges, diverse possibilities are also evolved. The Indian government and exclusive stakeholders have explored the opportunity of open and distance learning which will help the students to take education via sitting at their homes further managing to cope up with the prevailing disaster COVID-19. India should be investing in more in technological advancements under education sector in order to get itself fully equipped in providing e-education around all corners of the world. Government should take utmost care of the rural area students by proving them appropriate network connections and connecting them to the digital world. As it could be seen that online education is helping students immensely, it should be definitely continued after the lockdown too.

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