

## “IMPACT OF COVID -19 PANDEMIC ON TEACHING & LEARNING”

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### Abstract

The COVID-19 pandemic has created the largest disruption of education systems in human history, affecting nearly 1.6 billion learners in more than 200 countries. Closures of schools, institutions and other learning spaces have impacted more than 94% of the world's student population. This has brought far-reaching changes in all aspects of our lives. Social distancing and restrictive movement policies have significantly disturbed traditional educational practices. Reopening of schools after relaxation of restriction is another challenge with many new standard operating procedures put in place. Within a short span of the COVID-19 pandemic, many researchers have shared their works on teaching and learning in different ways. Several schools, colleges and universities have discontinued face-to-face teachings. There is a fear of losing 2020 academic year or even more in the coming future. The need of the hour is to innovate and implement alternative educational system and assessment strategies. The COVID-19 pandemic has provided us with an opportunity to pave the way for introducing digital learning. This article aims to provide a comprehensive report on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on online teaching and learning. Online learning during the covid-19 pandemic has resulted in psychological impacts on students, such as stress, fear, anxiety, depression, and burned out

**Keywords:** Covid 19 Pandemic, effects of covid 19, Opportunities and Difficulties.

### Objectives of study

- To anticipate or find out the various potential threats and potential opportunities in education system because of covid-19 pandemic in India.
- To find out impact of covid-19 on students and teachers in India.
- To find out the positive and negative impact of covid-19 on education sector in India.

### Introduction

No one would have guessed that a virus-like Covid-19 would come and without differentiating, it will alter the lifestyle of people. Due to Covid-19, many changes came to our world and It took some time for everyone to adopt the new normal. The Covid-19 impact was everywhere, which resulted in the closure of Schools and other educational institutions. Initially, most governments have decided to temporarily close the schools to reduce the impact of Covid-19. Later it was reopened for a few grades, which increased the number of infection rates and then closed again. Though schools are closed, students are attending their classes through various education initiatives like online classrooms, google meet app, Zoom etc. Though it is a good thing happening on the other side, there are lots of students who didn't own the resources to attend the online classes suffer a lot. Many students are struggling to obtain the gadgets required for online classes. Teachers who are all experts in Blackboard, Chalk, books, and classroom teaching are really new to this digital teaching, but they are adopting the new methods and handling it like a pro to aid the students in the current position. But on the negative side, many teachers are looking for an alternative job to support their families. Educated parents are supporting their children throughout the pandemic, but we require to understand that there are some illiterate parents and their feeling of helplessness to help their children in their education. There are students in India who came to school just because they can get food. The great midday meal scheme has helped many children who couldn't bring their food from the home to get their nutrition. Because of the closure of the schools, many students were suffering from not having enough food for their survival. There is always a delay or cancellation of exams, which leads to confusion for many students and there is no room for curriculum. Most of the school-going children are involved in child labour to support their families. There is a lot of chance that the education of

female children and transgender children will affect, as their parents may see, the financial and opportunity costs of doing so. This pandemic has not only affected the students but also the Low-budget institutions and schools, resulting in close-down the same. There are both positive and negative matters happening around us amid the Covid-19.

Technology paves the way for education, thus helping the students and teachers to connect virtually through online, webinars, digital exams, and so on. But the sad truth is that it is not available to many students all over the nation. Everything is happening for the well-being of the students so that they can stay safe at home without getting affected by the life-threatening virus.

#### **Possible difficulties and opportunities that can be experienced in this new paradigm:**

Being that the COVID 19 pandemic is a situation, for which no one was prepared well in advance, one cannot say that it will be easy to make a smooth transition from the offline class to the online one. A few difficulties that can be experienced have been described here –

**The Institution** - India is a diverse country and there are visible differences in students in terms of quality and quantity. Students can be identified across a variety of parameters such as - region, religion, language, caste, gender, identity, area of origin etc. Being that the major portion of this pandemic reared its ugly head since the month of March, a huge number of students (out of station students) who had gone to their homes, due to the mid-semester break are forced to remain there due to the declaration and enforcement of lock down. Being that the students, generally do not carry the entire whole of their notes and study material to their home, they are facing a difficulty as they have to complete their curriculum in the absence of their study material and have to make do with locally procured materials of study. Further, it cannot be taken for granted that all the academic institutions in the country have made arrangements for running of online classes and thus, the students and teachers are being forced to interact via laptops and Smartphone interfaces, which are dependent on the quality of the device, battery life and internet connectivity for delivery of the content

**The Teacher:** Teachers, generally teach before a live audience, that is the students. The active presence of the student in the classroom where the class is being taught is one of the crucial factors in assessing whether the content that was delivered by the teacher was understood or not. The teacher can verify, whether the students have understood what was taught by asking questions, asking randomly selected students to read certain passages narrated by the teacher or to solve a question on the board, etc. The classroom is kept free from disruptions and distractions in form of smart phones and idle talk, depending on the persuasiveness power of the teacher to enforce the above. A major challenge is to keep the student in focus to receive the content and to provide feedback. Being that the student is in his home environment, there is a lack of fear based respect for the teacher, which is usually observed in case of classrooms. This is most common in case of students who are particularly naughty or are not much interested in the class, who require correction by the teacher in form of scolding or sending the student out of the class. This is not possible in case of online learning as the teacher cannot physically enforce his presence in the student's home environment and there is no guaranteed means for the teacher to verify whether the student is actually paying attention to his lecture or not before the computer or Smartphone. Another distraction is in the form of social media - Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Telegram, Discord etc. as it cannot be said for certain that a student can resist falling prey to the lures of this distraction and the teacher cannot stop the student from accessing social media as he is in his own house and not in the classroom as the jurisdiction of the teacher stops at the classroom door or at the gate of the school. Therefore, it is difficult for the teachers to actually ensure that the students are indeed, studying seriously in their houses. Another difficulty is in the creation of online content. Delivering lectures via online means is a totally different experience in comparison with the offline means and many teachers may find difficulty in adjusting themselves to this new paradigm. Further, a teacher is expected to use PowerPoint, tools for conversion of PPTs into videos, audio and video editing software for making his or her videos, before making them available to the students. Many teachers who may not be used to this new paradigm will find it difficult to deliver the content on time to the students due to them being non familiar with the tools of online

teaching. Further, the end result of the content delivery via online route is dependent on the quality of the equipment used by the teacher to record his or her videos and by the student to view the videos.

**The Student:** Students have to face stress, discomfort, confusion in mind during Covid19. A student generally feels comfortable in a classroom as he is in the company of his friends and peers. His presence in the group, 'hides' him from the teacher, like a tree in a forest as until he does an act of mischief or misbehavior, he is not generally seen by the teacher. In case of online education delivery, this is not possible as the camera has a clear view of the student which can be seen by the teacher.. Further, it has been observed that many students have complained that the online education system has created a stressful environment for them in their homes as the active observation of the teacher on the student, the workload to be completed from the home and the absence of friends force them to study in an environment that is not conducive for them to study in peace.. In addition, a few students due to their economic or social condition may not be in a state to afford internet enabled smartphones and computers. This has caused them to miss out on the content being delivered to their friends, which may cause them to suffer during the examinations.

**Examinations at the end of the course:** Being that Covid 19 has created a disruption in the routine, ordinary lives of students, teachers and institutions, it is inevitable that the examination will have its own share of challenges. The primary issue in holding of online examinations is - transparency and genuineness as one cannot guarantee that all the students will give their exams, held through the online route, honestly. Cheating is in the blood of Indians and there is enough evidence to support this, best one being the images and videos being shared in social media about parents and guardians scaling the walls of schools to help their children and wards to cheat in the examination. A student is expected to give his exam honestly, but a student who has lived through the 'vaastavata of life' will definitely cheat in his examination, if he gets an opportunity to do so as the heavy demand (huge number of students) and limited supply (less amount of desirable higher education and job opportunities) will motivate him to do so. Institutions are relying on the controlling influence of parents and the eye of the Big Brother (webcam and cameras) on the students to ensure that the student is indeed, giving his exam honestly.

### **Positive and Negative impact of Covid 19**

Though there were many negative impacts from the COVID-19 outbreak on the field of education, there was also a positive impact which could take the education system and its methods a step higher. The pandemic has opened gates to innovative methods of transmission of knowledge across the globe. It was very challenging to India as many people live in areas without internet, and others attend more poorly equipped government-run schools. Many efforts were made to continue education at all levels with online methods, but it could not be made available to everyone. Looking at the positive side of the pandemic's impact on education, I would surely say that the learning cells in our brains became active to think about and analyze how to continue with the education of young minds. COVID-19 accelerated the adoption of digital technologies to deliver education. Education institutions moved toward blended learning and encouraged teachers and students to acquire technology savvy. Soft technology, online, webinars, virtual class rooms, teleconferencing, digital exams and assessments became common phenomenon, where otherwise we might have merely defined them — or they might have come into practical use a decade later or more.

There was unimaginable collaboration among all the stakeholders in the field of education — including administration, teachers, students, parents and companies making the software for transfer of knowledge in innovative ways. Many found that global education and worldwide exposure to ideas is available for those who seek after it. The expenditures on travel, tours and the purchase of study materials has gone down, and it could result in savings in these hard times. Though there was much advancement in the technology side of education, we could also see negative impacts of COVID-19 on education. Educational activities are hampered to a great extent, and we could sense a great amount of confusion, the postponement or delay in exams, academic sessions or the like. There was not enough space for the so-called co-curriculum. The digital world was a dilemma for the teachers who were experts in book, talk, chalk and classroom methods. They had to be trained to meet the

challenges of the present situation and go ahead with online teaching. And many students struggled to obtain the gadgets needed for digital learning. Many educators looked for alternative jobs to sustain their families as they lost their teaching jobs or their salaries were withheld. Now former teachers are now trying to fit into any job that they can get. Everything went better — though difficultly — for educated parents as they helped their children, but it's also time to understand the helplessness of the parents who could not help their children. As the midday meal provision is a great blessing to many students in India, closure of schools during lockdown meant many children were deprived and malnourished. Pandemic has been a challenge to educational institutions, as the payment of fees was very poor. Many low budget schools got shut down. Everyone has doubts and questions: When will life be normal? Is the vaccine ready? But life continues to go on and so does education. We sense the great damage done to the field of education in this era of the coronavirus. We also count COVID-19 as a blessing in disguise. The pandemic has opened doors to the new opportunities like more digitalization.

## CONCLUSION

Everyone has doubts and questions: When will life be normal? Is the vaccine ready? But life continues to go on and so does education. We sense the great damage done to the field of education in this era of the coronavirus. We also count COVID-19 as a blessing in disguise. The pandemic has opened doors to the new opportunities like more digitalization. The situation demands the updating of infrastructure and knowledge of how to face events like these in the future. The Coronavirus Covid 19 pandemic has had a very broad and measurable impact on life in general in the world. Many countries have shut their doors and the doors of their citizens in the interest of safeguarding their lives. The pandemic has had an impact on the education sector, which due to the nature of the sector (commercialized), relies on the physical presence of the teacher and the students in the schools, colleges and teachers. Issues relating to the changed situation, connectivity of internet and supply of electricity are a few of the various challenges being experienced in this current lockdown period. However, every cloud has a silver lining and there are a few opportunities that can be gained from this new normal which can benefit the student and the teacher in the long run.

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