

# IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON EDUCATION

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## Abstract

*The petrifying and severe impact of Covid-19 has shaken the world to its core. Further, most Governments around the world have temporarily closed educational institutions in an attempt to contain the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic. In India too, the government as a part of the nationwide lockdown has closed all educational institutions, because of which, learners ranging from school-going children to postgraduate students, are affected. Nevertheless, Covid-19 has prompted experts to rethink the conventional mode of education. Digital education appears to be a viable solution to fill in the void for classroom education for a period of three to four months while minimizing the chances of any infection to students until classes resume. Using technology, we can, if not provide a strong alternative to the conventional education system, mitigate and compensate for the impediments posed and inconvenience caused due to the Covid-19 pandemic to the education system and learners by extension. Learning, as they say, is a continuous and ever-evolving process. The educational institutions, in India, from schools to universities, can use this present adversity as a blessing in disguise and make digital education a major part of the learning process for all learners in the future. This paper throws its light on the impact of Covid-19 on the teaching-learning process, teachers, parents, and students.*

**Keywords:** Education, teachers, parents, students, Covid-19

## INTRODUCTION

Proper and good education is very important for all of us. It facilitates quality learning through life among people of any age group, caste, creed, religion, and region. It is the process of achieving knowledge, values, skills, beliefs, and moral habits. Education is a weapon to improve one's life. Education for a child begins at home. It is a lifelong process. Education improves one's knowledge, skills, and develops the personality and attitude. Most noteworthy, Education affects the chances of employment for people. A highly educated individual is probably very likely to get a good job. In this present situation, the Covid-19 pandemic has affected educational systems worldwide, leading to the near-total closures of schools, universities, and colleges. Most governments around the world decided to temporarily close educational institutions in an attempt to reduce the spread of Covid-19. The global impact of Covid-19 is multifaceted and is exposed in almost all sectors, particularly the health, economic, and education sectors. Consequently, every country's primary concern has become to diminish the spread of the virus and alleviate its effects on society. Based on medical studies, infectious disease specialists and public health authorities appear to have reached a global consensus to limit face-to-face classes as a method of safeguarding students and the society at large from the pandemic's spread.

The shocking and extreme impact of Covid-19 has shaken the world to its core. Furthermore, a higher part of the Governments across the globe have quickly closed academic establishments trying to comprise the unfold of the Covid-19 pandemic. In India as effectively, the federal government as a facet of the nationwide lockdown has closed each academic institution, because of which, learners going from school-going kids to postgraduate college students, are affected.

## LITERATURE REVIEW:

(Tarkar, 2020) The paper has analyzed that teaching has shifted from physical presence to an online education system. Due to Covid-19, there is a transformation in teaching methodology. Education institutions are finding ways to solve issues, which have arisen due to Covid-19.

(Toquero, 2020) The paper reveals that education is affected worldwide due to the Covid-19 pandemic. There has been a close down in schools and social distancing has been enforced everywhere. Education institutions in the Philippines are facing challenges in planning, implementation, and assessment. The pandemic has opened opportunities to upgrade education mode.

(Jena, July 2020) The paper reveals that Covid-19 has a severe impact on the education sector of India. It has created many challenges and opportunities. The Government of India is trying its best to cope up with the present situation and resolve the problems. All the educational institutions should strengthen their knowledge and information technology infrastructure to face Covid-19 situations.

(Upoalkpajor, 2020) The paper reveals that Covid-19 had an important impact on education in Senior High Schools in Tamale metropolitan of Ghana, where 100 teachers and students were selected for the survey. The study has analyzed that schools need resources to reconstruct the loss in education during the pandemic. Schools should also consider internal assessment as a part of learning.

### OBJECTIVES:

- To study the impact of Covid-19 on Education.
- To study the impact of Covid-19 on the teaching-learning process.
- To study the impact of Covid-19 on Teachers.
- To study the impact of Covid-19 on Students.
- To study the impact of Covid-19 on Parents.

### RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

Various national and international research papers were studied on the Covid-19 pandemic to collect the data for the present study. The information was collected from secondary sources such as journals and websites relating to the impact of Covid-19 on education.

#### Impact of Covid-19 on Education

The nationwide closures are affecting over 91% of the world's pupil populace. Several different international locations have applied localized closures affecting an enormous variety of further learners. UNESCO is supporting international locations of their efforts to mitigate the quick impact of faculty closures, particularly for an extra week and deprived communities, and to facilitate the coherence of training for all via distant studying. According to one report, it is believed that the Covid-19 pandemic will adversely influence over 290 million college students throughout 22 international locations that include around 32 crores of college students in India.

After observing the coronavirus pandemic situation, the WHO advised maintaining social distancing as the first prevention step. So, every country started the action of lockdown to separate the contaminated people. The education sector including schools, colleges, and universities was closed. Classes were suspended and all examinations of schools, colleges, and universities including entrance tests for degree, engineering, medical, law, agriculture, fashion, and designing courses were postponed indefinitely. Thus, the lockdown destroyed the schedules of every student. Though it is an exceptional situation in the history of education, Covid-19 has created many opportunities to come out of the rigorous classroom teaching model to a new era of the digital model. Maybe some faculties and employees may face salary cuts; bonuses and increments can also be postponed. It had a major impact on the Indian Education Society and all the academic work is put on hold by the apex body UGC for the safety measures of students and faculties.

### IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON THE TEACHING-LEARNING PROCESS

Covid-19 is influencing almost every sector of the economy. In addition, the education sector is no exception. Schools, colleges, and institutions are close even, and students are at home with the least contact with friends. Everything is virtual, with no physical movement. Schools, universities, institutes of all levels have deferred or dropped examinations.

The lockdown has given them a ray of hope for teachers and students to continue their educational activities online. The teachers assigned work to students via the internet delivered lectures through various video conferencing applications like Zoom, Google Meet, Facebook, YouTube, etc. There are WhatsApp groups of guardians, teachers, students, and parents for effective communication through which they are always in touch to share their difficulties through this medium.

Because of the indefinite closure of schools, colleges, and institutions as the Covid-19 pandemic advances, an increasing number of people are opting to teach online. Therefore, this is the time to gravely rethink, revamp and redesign our education system in the much demanding need of unprecedented current situation. Informal and non-formal education is also tremendously affected. However, it is a well-established assumption that no pedagogical approach can replace the peak position of formal education due to having teacher-taught direct interaction. However, in the Covid-19 crisis, online education became a pedagogical shift from traditional method to the modern approach of teaching-learning from classroom to Zoom, from personal to virtual, and from seminars to webinars.

Lederman (2020) stated that due to the Covid-19 crisis teachers and students both find themselves in the situation where they felt compelled to embrace the digital academic experiences the bonus of the online teaching-learning process. Through digital intelligence teachers can cater to children's digital skills which are on the brink of cyber risk into the educational opportunities to get success in future ventures especially in this pandemic where children are wholly dependent on online learning.

## IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON TEACHERS

The Covid-19 pandemic has led teachers to an unpredictable scenario where the lockdown situations have accelerated the shift from traditional to online educational methods. The relationships have been altered by the avoidance of direct contact with others, which implications for their mental health, physical activity seemed to be a factor that could prevent mental disorders such as anxiety or depression in this peculiar situation.

The global expansion of the Covid-19 pandemic disease has carried out many consequences that may affect people's general health. On the one hand, the virus itself creates personal situations in which, in addition to the disease's symptoms, human emotions such as fear (Steven Taylor, 2020), worry, panic, anxiety, or depression-related distress can appear more commonly among people. Indeed, in recent studies about the psychological impact of this pandemic disease on the general population, an increase in depression and stress levels between the first days and the third week of the lockdown has been found. Furthermore, anxiety has been related to impaired sleep in many studies (Rajkumar, 2020). On the other hand, social situations have changed due to the disease and the subsequent quarantine (Guanghai Wang, 2020), as well as due to attending to dependent or infected persons or those under other medical conditions at home or nearby. The hard lesson that has involved alleviating the difficult situation of the pandemic disease leads to three action points-the establishment of measures to facilitate the online teaching resources, the design of teaching strategies that favor teaching-learning processes based on blended or online methods, and the development of support programs to foster physical activity among citizens.

On the one hand, it is critical to investigate which digital capabilities instructors and students, as well as parents, possess, since they have frequently been called upon to serve as a bridge to facilitate their children's teaching-learning process. This is already invariable whether the health requirements force a new lockdown or not. On the other hand, the situation created by the Covid-19 pandemic disease has evidenced the advantages of online training and its drawbacks because it can help in expanding borders and bringing education to every home. But for this to become possible, many limitations, mostly technical (lack of computers, not enough for all family members, inadequate or non-existent internet connections, locality, socio-economic status), have to be overcome as teachers' concerns have manifested, which will have to be taken into account by universal digitization policies, by the rulers, and by public policies that prevent the digital gap. Other limitations could be those related to knowledge and skills, and teachers have mentioned that they might have to be trained in didactic and instructional value that each resource and each strategy has, since there is not a direct translation from what is done in the classroom to what has to be done online. Considering this difficult situation, it is also necessary to design better-structured teacher training plans, which do not generate an excessive workload, as has been reflected in the results of this research.

## IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON STUDENTS

During this pandemic time, students have advantages and disadvantages. They were all initially happy about the virus because there was a lockdown all over India, there were no schools and colleges, had a jolly life that consisted of playing games and watching movies for the entire day. They were eagerly waiting for unlocking to meet friends and relatives. They started attending online classes after some time in the lockdown period. Initially, they felt uncomfortable due to a complete change in the situation of the class's atmosphere but the situation improved drastically. After a month they came to know that there are lots of disadvantages and advantages to this type of education. Finally, they came to know that this virus is not a blessing to students but a foreshadow of the student's further life to adjust the online mode of education. This shift in education techniques is different for all students' education careers.

Covid-19 lockdown and the dire need to continue with the college and school education has certainly benefited the online alternatives that provide education such as Zoom and Google Classroom as the demand for such things has grown leaps and bounds. Certainly, the theoretical material will be imparted on time to students, but the overall development of students will be missing here. It will not be possible to inculcate the habit of discipline and decorum among students. These are the times that will never come back and as there is no other alternative available, students are devoid of the actual work environment of a school or college. Numerous social and cultural activities will be missed because of the Covid-19 lockdown.

Things are fine for families who can afford laptops or a smartphone along with the monthly expense of the internet plus other variables so their children can attend the online classes at various platforms. However, there is a large section of children who go to government schools and colleges, and their parents are not able to buy them such things for attending online classes. The life and future of these students are left in the doldrums and there are no indications as to when things will return to normal. These children are left with no other option but to brave the threat of Covid-19 and attend their classes or stay home. A few days back, there was news stating a family had to sell their buffalo, jewels, their primary earning source, so they could buy a smartphone for their kids to attend online classes.

Students will have to show discipline towards their life and their study as there is no one to check them, only then they can think of getting the best from this troubled time. The crux of the matter is, we always need to stay

motivated and keep making efforts in the right direction while maintaining utmost precautions. First is the good health of everyone and second comes good education.

## IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON PARENTS

Covid-19 forced millions of parents around the world to educate their children at home. At the start of the pandemic, nearly 80% of parents were educating their children at home. This came alongside the plethora of issues for parents, including a lack of resources such as computers and a poor internet connection, and a feeling of being overwhelmed. The Covid-19 pandemic presented parents with new challenges on how to prepare and support their children for a different school experience. As schools and colleges are shut across India, every house is a school and every parent is a teacher. Although the pandemic has resulted in limited access to services in many areas, we also need to innovate with delivery and improve access. We have already seen drastic changes in the delivery of care through virtual means and the deployment of resources as required (Mhairi Campbell, 2015). We must continue to adapt and support policy and program development and change to best suit the needs of children and families. The Covid-19 pandemic has forced families to try to maintain work-family balance with less support than usual. With schools and day-care facilities closed, parents are solely responsible for childcare and perhaps home-schooling. Yet, many parents are also working their paid jobs from home, while others have heightened financial concerns due to losing their job, and yet others involved in healthcare may be living away from their families to reduce exposure to the virus. Whatever the circumstance, a work-family balance has become increasingly challenging. There has been much discussion on how the pandemic will likely exacerbate gender inequalities, with women being forced to do even more domestic labour given the circumstances (L Ruppner, 2020). With more men working from home, the pandemic presents a unique opportunity for men to step up, act on these attitudes, and share in childcare and housework. In doing so, families who embrace the mantra of 'we're all in this together' may be best able to balance work and family life during this challenging time.

The closing of schools, and the reliance on home-schooling, are likely to elevate inequality of opportunity. Long vacations are recognized to be mainly unfavorable to the overall performance of pupils with a deprived background. The current situation is not a holiday – far from it – but we can learn from that research. Families differ in what they can offer, related to factors such as parental levels of education, poverty, physical and psychological health, overcrowding, the availability of computers, and adequate internet access to participate in distance learning (which needs to be available to all children in a household), etc. Before the pandemic, schools and early childhood care institutions provided a more consistent learning experience to children of all backgrounds, sometimes offer meals, monitor not only children's performance but also important aspects of their health and well-being but now the parents are responsible for this. Educational inequalities are even more pronounced in the areas where families with access to private schooling will be further advantaged compared to families reliant on public schooling, where the transition to technology-assisted learning is more difficult.

## SUGGESTIONS

- If the Covid-19 pandemic continues, new techniques will be required for academic assessment. The academic evaluation of the students can be completed by assessing their assignments online. Quizzes and small projects are a good way to start.
- Teachers and students should be trained to utilize new online teaching processes which make use of the latest technology.
- Education institutes should provide financial aid to needy students who cannot afford internet services for online classes so that they can stay at home during a pandemic.
- To mitigate the effects of the pandemic on employment offers, internship programs, and research initiatives, immediate action is essential.

## CONCLUSION

The education sector is facing unprecedented challenges and needs to adapt and find solutions to keep children motivated and on their route to learning. For students, the lockdown doesn't just mean reduced cash flow or a professional setback: it represents an interruption to their learning journey. And in the case of dropouts, it was the final straw for at-risk children who struggled to get an education at the best of times. This implies that access to food, much less access to education is a key driving force behind school enrolment. These students almost certainly do not have access to remote and digital learning facilities at home. Children below the age of 8 years need parent support just to do basics, even then their learning experience is below par. With schools already online for a few weeks now, there is enough data to suggest online school can help children of all age

groups but is not an alternative to the brick and motor schools. Teachers across the country are scrambling to find ways to continue teaching their pupils in a situation where physical contact is no longer possible. Again, class and social divides play a big role in determining how successful teachers are in teaching school children during the pandemic. Many schools, especially day cares operate with a monthly fee structure. If the lockdown continues, these payments will dry up. However, expenses, including rent, salaries, and other costs, may stay the same.

Many education institutions are run as not-for-profit or generate minimal profits. Smaller schools around the country might shut down. permanently. School owners will be forced to downsize and renegotiate rentals since this looks like a washout year. Henceforth, this is not time to wait and let the tide pass, but to rise and re-engineer the education sector to benefit all the stakeholders.

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