



IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON EDUCATION AND RELATED SERVICES

Yash Sahai¹, Sanya Sachdeva², Ritul Bokde³ and Dev Nagpal⁴

BBA Students, School of Commerce, SVKM's Narsee Monjee Institute of Management Studies, Bangalore

Article DOI: <https://doi.org/10.36713/epra11802>
DOI No: 10.36713/epra11802

ABSTRACT

COVID-19 has had an impact on all aspects of life. Especially when it comes to Education, which has been the most severely impacted by the Pandemic, it compelled many great nations to impose lockdown, effectively bringing everything to a halt for a while. All educational activities were stopped in India as around 32 crore students left their current schools or universities. The COVID-19 epidemic has shown us that change is inevitable. It has been a catalyst for educational institutions to develop and choose platforms with hitherto unexplored technology. This Pandemic has radically changed the learning, teaching, and evaluating approaches. This paper will go over the difficulties faced by Indian students pursuing Education during the Pandemic. It also seeks to determine its effect on teaching, learning, and evaluation approaches, both positively and negatively. This study explores the opinions and worries of college and university teachers and students about taking required online courses in the wake of COVID-19.

KEYWORDS: Covid-19, Education, lockdown, Services

INTRODUCTION

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) was a novel disease caused by a newly identified virus, Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2). The novel disease, which began in Wuhan, China, in Dec 2019, was declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization on 11th March 2020. India faced a total lockdown from 24th March 2020 to May 2020. Even though a phased re-opening of public services has since been attempted, most educational institutions, including schools and colleges, remain closed without a clear view regarding their re-opening.

Problem Statement: The Covid-19 Pandemic brought about a drastic change to the mode of Education worldwide. This has created an unprecedented crisis in the education sector for students and educators regarding continuing educational services, conducting assessments and catering to special Education and vocational rehabilitation needs.

Schools, colleges and other Educational Institutes struggled to switch and adjust to a digital medium of imparting Education to the students. Various Digital tools provided a new approach to Education, some of them being Microsoft Teams, Google Meet, and Zoom.

OBJECTIVES

Through the means of this research paper

- We want to measure the psychological impact on the students due to the Pandemic concerning their Education and future Career.
- We want to identify the essential tools that enabled Educational Institutes to impart Education
- We want to identify what were the positives and negatives that the digital medium brought to Education
- We want to identify the new trends in Education that were discovered or invented during the Pandemic and point out which of them will become the future standard.
- Perform an analysis of the methodology that the Teachers adopted during this period.



SIGNIFICANCE

This paper seeks to

- Help Educators adapt to the recent developments in Digital Education.
- Help Students understand the psychological and mental impact of the Pandemic on themselves
- Help Contribute to the Development of Information in the Research Sector

METHODOLOGY

Data and information presented in the current study are collected from various reports prepared by national and international agencies on the COVID-19 Pandemic. Information is collected from various authentic websites. Some journals and e-contents describing the impact of COVID-19 on the educational system are referred to.

- The closure of schools has affected the structure of learning and schooling. Firstly, it affected the teaching and assessment methodologies. Online teaching methods are adopted by the few private schools that are a handful in taking online classes. In those schools, children are taking classes online. On the other side, low-income private and government schools have complete closure and do not have access to e-learning solutions.
- Those unfamiliar with technological tools faced great difficulties in teaching and took longer to connect with students. The unpreparedness caused disturbed classroom sessions, interrupted lectures, technical errors and glitches, and hence students took time to adjust to the new set-up. This required them to develop an extra skill set of technology usage and online learning.
- The current scenario created by the social restrictions imposed by the Pandemic has led to increase in severe levels of academic stress in students. Academic-related stress is significantly associated with reduced student academic motivation
- This makes them vulnerable to dropping out, unemployment, and increased cases of psychological disorders such as depression, anxiety and substance abuse disorders.

IMPACT ON TEACHERS AND STUDENTS

During online Education, there have been several challenges for both teachers and students. The primary issues at home were a lack of necessary supplies, outside distractions, and interruptions from family members while learning. Barriers that educational institutions support include lack of funding for purchasing cutting-edge technology, inadequate training, and inadequate technical assistance. Technical issues also affected teachers. The challenges classified under the heading "lack of technical support" included security concerns, a lack of technical infrastructure, and little knowledge of online learning systems. Personal issues hamper teachers' participation in online learning. Teachers cited a lack of student participation and engagement in the lessons as an issue. They claimed that pupils frequently offered justifications during online classes and showed a lack of seriousness. Teachers often experience a loss of motivation as a result of this. The other reported issues included the inability to monitor and control students' behaviour, a lack of work satisfaction, background distractions, time restrictions when using online apps, a delay in the start of the class because students took so long to join, and the inability to tell whether students are mentally present in the class or have just logged in.

IMPACT ON HIGHER EDUCATION

The Covid-19 Pandemic has severely affected the entire education system of India and the world, but some of the most affected areas of higher Education in India are listed below.

1. It destabilised all educational activities: The outbreak of Covid-19 forced a lockdown in all sectors, including Education. Institutions were terminated by the cessation of educational activities, which created several challenges for stakeholders. Hence, activities like admissions, examinations, entrance tests and competitive examinations conducted by various Boards/Schools/Colleges/Universities have been postponed. Many college entrance tests have been cancelled, making it a big challenge in a college student's life. The primary task was to continue teaching in the learning process when students, faculty and staff could no longer be physically present on the campuses. The apparent solution for institutions was to rely on online learning. However, in a relatively short period, all institutions were able to provide support to students through online modes. Covid-19 has accelerated the adoption of digital technologies for education delivery. This encouraged all teachers and students to learn more about technology. Many institutions have started conducting orientation programs, meetings and counselling classes with the help of various electronic conferencing tools such as Google Meet, Skype, Youtube live, Facebook Live, WebEx etc., to provide student support services. This initiative was created to create an effective virtual environment for teaching, learning and creating motivation among students for online activities. Teachers and students have improved using electronic media to share information using WhatsApp, Google Drive, Telegram, and Twitter. Students are advised to email scanned copies of assignments to the institution. Institutions have also started receiving news about internships and projects via email during the Covid-19 lockdown.



2. Mixed impact on academic Research and professional development: Covid-19 has negative and positive impacts on Research. On the downside, it has made it impossible for researchers to travel and collaborate with others nationally and internationally. Completing some collaborative research papers or project works is complicated. Some scientific laboratory tests/research work could not be carried out. On the positive side, academics have been given plenty of time to improve their theoretical research work. Academics were familiarising themselves with technological methods and perfecting their Research. Webinars and electronic conferences have become standard methods of sharing expertise among students and academics worldwide with similar problems. They could gain much time to focus on professional development by conducting Research and improving knowledge by sharing ideas through webinars and e-conferences. They improved their technical skills and were able to gain space in their spare time for publishing articles in magazines and publishing books.

3. Severe impact on the education assessment system: Most external examinations were postponed, and almost all internal assessments were cancelled. Abolishing assessments harmed student learning. Many institutions manage internal assessments through online mode using various digital tools. However, the postponement of external assessments has directly impacted the educational and working future of students' lives. This uncertainty created anxiety among students. Similarly, many students who appeared for the final/board examination would suffer a lot because, by the time they get their certificates, it may be too late to apply for the upcoming academic year in other countries due to the lockdown.

4. Limitation of job opportunities: Many recruitments for entrance tests have been cancelled, creating a negative impact and a significant challenge in the life of a college student. Indians who were doing their work abroad were also upset that they had to give up their jobs. There is no government recruitment in India. Furthermore, recent graduates are under pressure due to the fear of job offers being withdrawn from corporate sectors due to the Pandemic. Many students may lose jobs in India and overseas. These facts indicate an increase in the unemployment rate due to this Pandemic. As unemployment rises, interest in Education may gradually decline as people struggle for food rather than Education.

IMPACT ON RESEARCH

Research institutions are facing considerable challenges in managing research operations. The social distancing requirements are challenging meetings for Research Operations. Research Areas requiring Human Subjects and Bench and Discussion Work are the most impacted by these norms. This has affected chiefly Scientists and Research Scholars. The career trajectory of such Research Professionals is in peril now, leading to a drop in the upcoming number of research scholars and dismissal of any future research work. The non-COVID projects may lose importance and focus from these agencies. This impacts future innovation and discoveries in the world and stagnates Civilization's growth as a factor. Another reason for risks in Research as a profession is the financial strain pressed on the Universities and Funding Bodies due to the Pandemic. The recruitment of international staff and the exchange of skilled researchers is a considerable challenge which may continue to exist in the coming months due to travel restrictions

Positive Impacts

- Numerous institutions have taken advantage of online teaching to provide students with exciting and interactive lessons.
- The Pandemic compelled people to learn and use digital technology, increasing digital literacy. The introduction of digital technologies for education delivery was accelerated through COVID-19. Education institutions adopted blended learning and promoted technological awareness among students and teachers.
- The online mode of teaching and learning has democratized the classroom setting and removed prejudices in a way that is so constructive for learning.
- Throughout the Pandemic, children remained at home every day. Yes, they watched more TV, but in many homes, they also adjusted by filling the holes in their previously full schedules with an imaginative play that made the most of the available resources. Learning to slow down and look for ideas and answers is a significant win in a world that is becoming more and more fast-paced.
- The cost of travel, excursions and the purchase of study materials has decreased, which could lead to savings during difficult times.
- The teaching community has always been relatively isolated, especially in nations like India. Currently, there is a chance for collaborative teaching and learning to evolve and perhaps become profitable.



Negative Impacts

- The sudden shift to online learning without any planning -- especially in countries like India, where the backbone for online learning was not ready and the curriculum was not designed for such a format -- has created the risk of most of our students becoming passive learners. They seem to be losing interest due to low levels of attention span. Added to this is that we may be leaving a large proportion of the student population untouched due to the digital divide that is part of many developing nations, including India. We now realise that online learning could be dull as it creates a new set of passive learners, which can pose new challenges.
- Online learning is a methodology; not all teachers are good at it, or at least not all are ready for this sudden transition from face-to-face to online learning. Thus, most teachers are just conducting lectures on video platforms such as Zoom, which may not be real online learning without a dedicated online platform specifically designed for the purpose.
- Universities and colleges worldwide face significant risks in student recruitment and retention. The risk of losing students is so high that they will need to re-look at their admission practices, admission criteria and the overall recruitment process, which will include new outreach methods and the application process itself.

SUGGESTIONS

- A school may place a robust public school at the centre of a community and use the best of this partnership to support student's growth and development of a wide range of competencies and skills both inside and outside of the classroom.
- There is an opportunity to identify innovative solutions that, if sustained, can assist young people in receiving an education that prepares them for our changing times. Innovation has suddenly gone from the edges to the centre of many educational institutions.
- Inequality can be reduced and social cohesiveness can be strengthened with the help of public schools. Public schools in many nations can bring together people from different backgrounds and needs since they are required to serve all children and youth regardless of background. This has the social benefit of allowing people to grow up with shared values and knowledge that can strengthen communities.
- The Pandemic has the potential to undo decades of progress. Public health and social services must be strengthened. However, national governments, international organisations, and all other partners in Education and development must also rally behind the defence of public Education and its funding.
- Immediate action is needed to decrease the epidemic's impact on job offers, internship opportunities, and research initiatives.
- Numerous online learning platforms provide programmes on the same subjects with various levels of accreditation, methods, and evaluation criteria.
- As a result, programme quality may vary among various online learning platforms. Because of the increasing expansion of online learning platforms, higher education institutions (HEIs) in India must create and provide quality assurance processes and benchmarks for their online learning programs.
- The research areas that require physical laboratories may need to re-think their working models and carefully plan and prioritise their experiments.
- The universities will have to invest more in health and safety measures and infrastructure on their campuses to ensure the safety of students and staff

CONCLUSION

In this study, our findings indicated that the Covid-19 outbreak has significantly impacted the mental health, Education, and daily routine of students. The Covid-19-related interruptions highlight critical challenges and provide an opportunity to further evaluate alternate measures in the education sector. The new policies and guidelines in this direction would help mitigate some of the adverse effects and prepare educators and students for the future health crisis.

COVID-19 is a pandemic caused by a virus affecting the education system of developing and developed countries. Most schools, colleges, and universities are closed to control the spread of COVID-19. The school closure brings difficulties for students, families, and teachers. Nevertheless, the importance of Education is not to be derailed. In fact, according to a study, educational outcomes are the "only" way to measure intergenerational socioeconomic mobility. Education remains a key mechanism for upward social mobility and is crucial, especially in the early years. So, distance learning is a solution to continue the education system. However, distance learning is challenging in developing countries because many parents have not attended school and lack ICT infrastructures, computers, radio, and television. The poor and digitally-illiterate families with lower educational levels and children with poor learning motivation suffer more in this situation, increasing inequality. Also, girl



students from low-income families and rural areas can be at a higher risk of sexual abuse, forced labour, and early marriage. The COVID-19 Pandemic has made all schools worldwide adopt teaching and learning online. So, governments should scale network infrastructure and internet connectivity across urban and rural areas. The new policies and guidelines in this direction would help mitigate some of the adverse effects and prepare educators and students for the future health crisis. The countries should strategise to scale educational technology, establish zero-rating educational resources on the internet, prepare digital teaching and learning resources, utilise free online learning resources, use mobile learning, use radio and television teaching, Researchers, curriculum designers, education officers, and educational institutions work together during closures to transform the education system. Schools and universities should design curricula, prepare learning strategies and techniques for post-COVID-19, and transform the education system. After COVID-19, schools and universities design strategies and methods to recover lost portions, ensure children return to school when schools re-open and scale online learning infrastructures. Finally, the COVID-19 Pandemic has impacted the face-to-face education system of developing countries. Therefore, developing countries should scale online teaching and learning infrastructures.

REFERENCES

1. Sharma, P., & Mahapatra, A. (2021, June). *Education in times of COVID-19 Pandemic: Academic stress and its psychosocial impact on children and*. *International Journal of Social Psychiatry*, Volume 67(Issue 4), Pages 397-399. doi:<https://doi.org/10.1177/0020764020961801>
2. Jena, D. K. (2020, July). *Impact of Pandemic COVID-19 on Education in India*. *International Journal of Current Research (IJCR)*, Volume-12(Issue-7), Page-12582-12586. doi:<https://doi.org/10.24941/ijcr.39209.07.2020>
3. Nambiar, D. (2020, April- June). *The impact of online learning during COVID-19: students' and teachers' perspective*. *The International Journal of Indian Psychology*, Volume 8(Issue 2), Pages 783-793. doi: DOI: 10.25215/0802.094
4. Tarkar, P. (2020, May). *Impact Of Covid-19 Pandemic On Education System*. *International Journal of Advanced Science and Technology*, Vol. 29, (No. 9s), pp. 3812-3814.
5. Yadav, S. S., & Rashid, S. (2020, August). *Impact of Covid-19 Pandemic on Higher Education and Research*. *Indian Journal of Human Development*, Volume 14(Issue 2), Pages 340-343. doi:<https://doi.org/10.1177/0973703020946700>