



POSITIVE IMPACTS OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON EDUCATION

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ABSTRACT

Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is a pandemic caused by a newly discovered coronavirus. The impact of pandemic COVID-19 is observed in every sector around the world. The education sector of India as well as world are badly affected by this. It has enforced the world-wide lock down -creating very bad effect on the students school's life. Around 32 crore learners stopped to move schools /colleges and all educational activities halted in India. The outbreak of COVID-19 has taught us that change is inevitable. It has worked as a catalyst for the educational institutions to grow and opt for platforms with technologies, which have not been used before. The education sector has been fighting to survive the crises with a different approach and digitising the challenges to wash away the threat of the pandemic.

INTRODUCTION

Though we have been given a lot of hindrance by the global pandemic, many things seem to have happened in favour of the educational system. The Indian education system needs to transform from a traditional approach and adopt digital methods. The pandemic has accelerated demand for digital education and encouraged students and teachers to learn and work together and gather knowledge. Moreover, the pandemic has provided an opportunity to EdTech platforms to strengthen their learning management system. There is high demand for EdTech platforms. For instance, the Amity Group now offers degree programmes online with the University Grants Commission's new regulation. India's higher education regulator allowed universities to offer lectures that are recorded or delivered through video-conferencing and discussed in an online discussion forum. E-learning content can be used in place of textbooks and with Amity including a provision for self-assessment.

Due to e-learning, students are taking online notes and preparing digitalized copies of their work which saves paper and benefits the environment. There has also been a collaborative effort from both, teachers and students, to work in this environment. Furthermore, students can easily connect with teachers around the world through online meeting and teleconferencing. Students can also attend webinars and seminars taking place around the world and gain knowledge from scholars and experts from different fields. It has also increased the digital literacy rate. Students can now take as many online

courses as they want. Moreover, educators around the world have an opportunity to interact with each other.

EdTech platforms has provided various options for students to learn different courses and prepare for higher education and competitive exams. Sharing of learning material has also become very easy with the help of various apps and social media. The following are the various positive impacts of Covid-19 pandemics.

1-IMPACT ON CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

There was a lot of scope for the children to inculcate various aspects as follows,

- Learning new educational skill
- Getting indulged into indoor physical activities,
- Personality development
- Self- confidence builds up

Children's education is expected to be badly affected by school closures. UNESCO has actively promoted distanced learning solutions, and this includes using digital teaching aids. Those children who have access to these will be given the opportunity to learn educational methods that will benefit them later in life. They could also get involved in a different physical, learning and creative activities during school closures that will help them to develop new skills.

2-GREATER AWARENESS

There was more option for developing -



- Awareness about an unknown disease and health.
- Developing inner strength to face such challenges in future.

UNICEF, the World Health Organization and health specialists have advised parents to discuss the pandemic in detail with their children. The parents must be honest, reassuring them and explaining what practical measures they can take to keep themselves and for others safety.

3 -DEVELOPING RELATIONSHIPS AND EMPATHY

The Covid-19 pandemic situation helped us to build genuine relationships in the following ways.

- Coming more closer to family.
- Forming a bond of love and affection among the family members.
- Developing the nature of selfless devotion towards humankind.
- Dwelling virtues of humanity and empathy at early stage of life.
- Developing new horizons beyond home and schools.

Spending time with their family could help some children to develop closer relationships with them and being aware of the impact of the pandemic could also help children to develop more humanity and empathy, as they realise the value of human life.

We all have been so busy in living the 'life,' many of us have lost those real, genuine moments we have with our loved ones. It could have been the busy schedules, running around to make ends meet, & rushing to be in urgent meetings.

Now, the COVID-19 situation has positively impacted the way we emote and maintain relationships. We got a lot of time to spend with our family and plan our work better. This actually helped us to build a better future for both for our work and family. As life slowed down, we have found ways to stay connected with people, even if it's virtually reconnecting with our loved ones and retrospect.

4-LEARNING NATURE'S VALUE

Pandemic situation has made us to start valuing and caring for the mother nature. Less traffic has led to reductions in overall pollution and noise, and there is anecdotal evidence that this has led to changes in our natural environment and provided more opportunities for children to see, and appreciate, wild life.

5-POSITIVE IMPACT ON EDUCATION

Education becomes digitized & affordable. The pandemic had posed a threat to the whole education system. Schools, universities, and colleges have been shut down. Yes, it is saddening but have

we looked at the brighter side yet? Educational Institutions have found a way to overcome this immensely challenging series of events. Classes have begun again, thanks to technology. Online classes have become the new norm for educational institutions and it has come with a few benefits too. Institutions can save on the infrastructural costs and as a result, the students needn't bear the brunt of the costs, making it more affordable. Moreover, parents will get first-hand knowledge about how classes are taught and can directly understand how their child perceives concepts. More parents have got lot of chance for learning the various scholastic concepts along with their children. And it is amazing for the parents to know various scientific concepts that they are never aware of. Some parents also felt very curious to know the newer ideas taught by the teachers. As the online education system grows, we can expect an increase in the reach and accessibility of education within every section of the society.

- **Move towards Blended Learning:** COVID-19 has accelerated adoption of digital technologies to deliver education. Educational institutions moved towards blended mode of learning. It encouraged all teachers and students to become more technology savvy. New ways of delivery and assessments of learning opened immense opportunities for a major transformation in the area of curriculum development and pedagogy. It also gives access to large pools of learners at a time.
- **Rise in use of Learning Management Systems:** Use of learning management systems by educational institutions became a great demand. It opened a great opportunity for the companies those have been developing and strengthening learning management systems for use in educational institutions.
- **Enhance the use of soft copy of learning material:** In lockdown situation students were not able to collect the hard copies of study materials and hence most of the students used of soft copies materials for reference.
- **Improvement in collaborative work-** There is a new opportunity where collaborative teaching and learning can take on new forms. Collaborations can also happen among faculty/teachers across the world to benefit from each other.
- **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 and resulted in increasing the digital literacy.

- **Improved the use of electronic media for sharing information:** Learning materials are shared among the students easily and the related queries are resolved through e-mail, SMS, phone calls and using different social Medias like WhatsApp or Facebook.

- **World-wide exposure:** Educators and learners are getting opportunities to interact with peers from around the world. Learners adapted to an international community.

- **Better time management:** Students are able to manage their time more efficiently in online education during pandemics.

- **Demand for Open and Distance Learning (ODL):** During the pandemic situation most of the students preferred ODL mode as it encourages self-learning providing opportunities to learn from diverse resources and customized learning as per their needs.

Universities exist to provide three main services, namely: Teaching, Research and Knowledge transfer to the industry/community. With outbreak of the pandemic which has grossly impacted economies, higher education being the one of the engines the economy has not been exempt of the effects.

- Most universities were forced to take their opportunities and convert them into strengths - mostly by offering distance learning if they haven't had it before etc. Universities were 'forced' to digitalize very quickly and is a very good thing.
- The positive things are increasing in terms of awareness of e-learning.
- There has been rapid engagement on ICT learning for both students and tutors.
- On the positive side, advancement and deployment of technology and virtual learning has greatly improved
- As for the positive effects, it is the student's self-reliance and a good experience to acquire new skills.
- some students and parents can save a lot of money and time.

7-ENTIRE LIFESTYLE CHANGES TO PRACTICE BETTER HYGIENE

Being hygienic is no longer just a good habit, but the very skill you need for survival. The times have changed, and people are now aware of how important it is to keep yourself clean. As social animals, the very engineering of humans is the ability to emote & connect with fellow beings. That's not going to change, and that's something we cannot

change. But these recent times have made us all aware of how to do that more hygienically.

From shaking hands to namaste, we all have had a lifestyle change for the good. We're going to remember to cover our mouths when we cough, to sanitize our hands after touching anything else because we know what can happen if we don't.

8- INNOVATIONS TO STAY CONNECTED & HELP EACH OTHER

This quarantine welcomes ideas, hacks, tips, & tricks to beat the lockdowns & help our communities. Companies across the world have started thinking about coming up with product & service ranges that enable us to be as connected with our teams and also our loved ones.

This has opened a new way of thought. Organizations cannot just stop functioning altogether, and each is coming up with the ultimate ideas to attract & sustain both their customers & employees. This may as well lead to breakthroughs & innovations. We see, innovation happens for nothing, but when the environment demands it! And let's wait for the coolest ideas that can take the world by a storm.

9-A NEW WAVE OF TOOLS & SOFTWARE

Companies are in need of online tools & software that can help us make this shift to digital classrooms & virtual office spaces seamless. A major line of tools and software that can help us to survive another pandemic or one that can help us work around our established workflows are going to be welcomed. These major lockdowns have ushered organizations and factories to take a step towards the robotic era as a thoughtful move to defend such a pandemic halting the manufacturing industries a second time.

CONCLUSION

COVID-19 has impacted immensely to the education sector of India. Though it has created many challenges, various opportunities are also evolved. The Indian Govt. and different stakeholders of education have explored the possibility of Open and Distance learning (ODL) by adopting different digital technologies to cope up with the present crisis of COVID-19. India is not fully equipped to make education reach all corners of the nation via digital platforms. The students who aren't privileged like the others will suffer due to the present choice of digital platforms. But universities and the government of India are relentlessly trying to come up with a solution to resolve this problem. The priority should be to utilise digital technology to create an advantageous position for millions of young students in India. It is need of the hour for the educational



institutions to strengthen their knowledge and Information Technology infrastructure to be ready for facing COVID-19 like situations.

Even if the COVID-19 crisis stretches longer, there is an urgent need to take efforts on maximum utilisation of online platforms so that students not only complete their degree in this academic year but also to get ready for the future digital oriented environment. The concept of “work from home” has greater relevance in such pandemic situation to reduce spread of COVID-19. India should develop creative strategies to ensure that all children must have sustainable access to learning during pandemic COVID-19. The Indian policies must include various individuals from diverse backgrounds including remote regions, marginalised and minority groups for effective delivery of education. As online practice is benefitting the students immensely, it should be continued after the lockdown. Further detailed statistical study may be undertaken to explore the impact of COVID-19 on education system of India.

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