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Research Paper

The impact of corona crisis on education sector in India

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ABSTRACT

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected economies of various countries and India is no exception. This effect has been felt on all the sectors of the economy. Among these the education sector of India as well as World has been terribly affected. The closure of the educational institution has impacted 80% of the world's student population which has raised an unparalleled challenge for the ministers and educational institution to re-think and wrestle in order to ensure continuity of learning while predicting long-term school closure. According to the MHRD report and National University of planning and administration, 260 million learners has been affected as infrastructure development is on a great fall back. This article highlights the impact of corona virus pandemic on education and education sectors and analysing the impact of school closure caused by COVID-19 in India. It also suggests strategies and conclusion to manage the corona crisis and structuring a resilient education system in the long run.

Keywords: *COVID-19, Education sector, virtual learning, impact, Education*

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected more than 1.5 billion students, 63 million teachers and large number of education support personnel in the education sector due to lockdowns, quarantines and closure of schools worldwide. The corona pandemic has made all the schools and colleges across the country to adapt online teaching through various apps like zoom, google meet, cisco webex meetings, teams app and many more. Classes and examinations are conducted online whereas, the assignments are submitted through email, WhatsApp, and other platforms**.** This requires a smartphone/laptop and a good internet connection. Every towns, villages and cities in India should be digitally connected for better interaction between the student and teacher. Institutes like IIM's and IIT's have an infrastructure to connect students but the experience shows that not all students had a good interaction due to various reasons. Though some of the student are quick to adapt to the present system.

India should establish a good infrastructure for online education as it will help in the advancement of our country. Institutes like IIMs IITs and NITs can globalize online education while other universities can nationalize online education. There are many websites like Great Learning, Upgrad, Swayam which collaborate with the top education institutes to

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provide student with the online courses like Machine learning & AI, Digital Marketing and so on. Changes in the fundamental structure should be made within the syllabi, and programmes should be popularized to draw the attention of the students across the country. Skill development should be part of this curriculum. This will help in creating future entrepreneurs and professional. This is one of the ways to beat unemployment and increase business skills amongst the youth. The entrepreneurs should play leading role in new educational system. The strength lies in the faculty and institute to nurture. Faculty need to change their mundane teaching methods. Higher education in India must be more international, curriculum should be more flexible and innovative and should be open for more collaboration.

Post COVID-19 is giving us an opportunity to rework the upper education system. Institutes/ universities should utilize this chance to rework itself. Curriculum design, collaborations, skill development and school involvement —all should specialise in internationalizing education. Today it is COVID-19…we don't know what lies ahead in future for the million youngsters.

LITERATURE REVIEW

According to the analytics India magazine report (2020) COVID-19 pandemic online education may not be a sustainable solution in India despite of free courses. The co-founder of EdTech firm Grey Atom summarises that, although online learning has become unavoidable, we won't be successful until we realize that online teaching doesn't mean having the entire classroom on Zoom and continuing with the same delivery method. This may be subtle point but it has profound consequences. Ashutosh Kumar Co- founder of testbook.com highlights that Teachers in India need to be trained in online learning and be comfortable in creating and delivering digital content. According to Ankush Singla, co-founder of Coding Ninjas comments that, Despite of the usage of quality content and native advertising tools, the technology tools has just only multiplied by the numbers but not by the market size in the cities of Tier 2 and Tier 3 in India. The reason for this is not the content itself, but socio-economic challenges, including lack of infrastructure and deployment of internet facilities, leading to limited or no internet connectivity for learners. Moreover, the gap in technological devices and methods for new users that have little to zero understanding remains uncertain. Furthermore, the absence of digital literacy and knowledge about digital payment procedures to sign up for online programs is yet another challenge.

Objective of the study
1. To study the effect of COVID-19 on education in India.
2. To understand the problems and challenges of COVID-19 on education sector.
3. To suggest the multi-faceted strategies in order to manage the corona crisis and built a resilient education system.

COVID 19 IMPACT OF VARIOUS SECTOR

Impact on education
The corona virus outbreak means tremendous losses in learning hours, with major effects on your social life and particularly your jobs, because the global population has taken priority to health over education. In response to COVID 19, school closure has brought a number of social and economic problems, including student debt, digital learning, poverty, homelessness as well as children's education, childcare, housing, internet, and disability services to a greater degree.

School closures have far-reaching economic and social effects, not just for students, teachers and families. The closure focussed on topics such as student loans, interactive learning programs, the educational and learner support system, food services and health services. It will not only have a short-term effect on the continuity of education for over 285 million young Indian students but will also lead to broad economic and social impact as well.

Impact on Digital infrastructure

Giving the increasing concern over the spread of coronavirus, most schools have closed classes. Teaching moves online at a level which is without precedent and untested. With a lot of testing and error and confusion for all, this alternative mode is only temporary and will certainly not replace the face to face interactions between teachers and students and among other students.

It is much easier for educational institutions with knowledge with these technologies to migrate online. However, there is a lot of back-end research required for organizations that lack the expertise and the strategy. You could lose time; your students could look at reduced study time and even the academic year.

Impact on assessment

In India due to the outbreak of pandemic the external assessments including board exams such as Secondary Education Examinations have been postponed and all the internal assessments have been cancelled. This has made a negative impact on students learning. Various educational regulatory bodies have decided to give a tough try by not extending the current academic year. Education regulatory authorities have released several decisions that make it hard not to extend the current academic year. Suppose in case of lower classes and secondary level examinations, it is necessary that students proceed during academic school to progress to the next stage of study. The CBSE should cancel the exams of classes 1-8 and promote students to a next class.

However, since academic results of year-end tests are used to access the university progress and the allocation of training opportunities of an individual student, the tests must be equal since carried out in a modified way. Authorities should ensure fair conduct and assessment. The decisions and timeliness of the ministry and regulatory bodies should be awaited.

Impact on Admission

It is expected that the coming academic year will show the impact of COVID19 outbreak on the admission. June marks the starting of the new academic session but most of the entry reviews is not yet performed. So, in July or later, the new academic session is almost due to start.

Significance increase in Public Private Partnership

The pandemic has surfaced the way for a substantial increase in direct involvement in education in private sector. Tech companies like Google and Microsoft quickly offer their digital platforms and services to support the continuity of virtual education. Google suite for education and Microsoft office 365, which are free for schools and colleges, have been popularized with their adoption across the world. Open platforms like Udemy, edX, Coursera are remarkably doing excellent job to educate the society. In India the emergence of online platform, with reach across the nation can be strengthened to ensure accessibility and ease of learning for all the students. As per the latest report of KPMG, the market size of e-learning in India was USD 247 million in 2016 and the prediction is 8X overall growth by

2021. The Ministry of Human Resource and Development (MHRD) has launched e-Portal "YUKTI" to tackle the COVID crisis.

Impact on parents and teachers

The pandemic has affected not only to students but parents and teachers also. Most of the schools in India are teaching online to their students. Many schools are not really comfortable with such online courses, and both students and teachers have been confronted with a problem. Both the parents and teachers worry about their jobs. This is presumed to increase the rate of unemployment. Recent graduates in India fear that the current situation will mean the withdrawal of job offers from companies. Estimates of unemployment at the Centre of Monitoring India's economy rose from 8.4% in mid-March to 23% in early April, with the urban unemployment rate risen to 30.9%. Education will gradually decline when unemployment rises.

Social and Emotional Learning (SEL)

In the lives of children and educators worldwide, the effect of pandemic underlines the crucial role of education in the psychosocial wellbeing and social and emotional development. Today, educators need to assist young people in the creation of vital mentality in order to provide significant environment around them which is impacted by the virus. The government issued a statement for the lockdown of the nation to cater the increase of the cases of the virus, this has affected the not only the education system but has also affected the minds of the students, teachers and parents. The false news in the social media and other platforms are also creating a negative impact on the young mind of the nation. As social and emotional learning was already significant in modern education, I feel that pandemic has made them more significant than before.

Problems and challenges in the periods of COVID-19 in Education sector

1. Traditional learning environment v/s virtual learning environment.
2. Substantial investment in infrastructure and facilities to develop a proper learning platform.
3. Periodical training and workshops for the educators and the technical staff to enhance their skill set and expertise.
4. Educator's readiness in embarking on computer technology-oriented pedagogy.
5. Limited time for the educators to finish the prescribed course.
6. Reduced global employment opportunities.
7. Payments of Schools, Colleges fee are delayed.
8. Impact on placements and Internships.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This research article is based on secondary and primary sources. Reports from various organisations like UNESCO, VOXEU on education are used to the data for this article. Various article published in economic times, India magazine and other secondary sources like news report, journals, govt. report are utilised in this article. To attain the objective of the paper, I intend to conduct sample surveys. Personal interviews (call or message) with teacher their views and identity pertaining the issues to the objective of the paper.
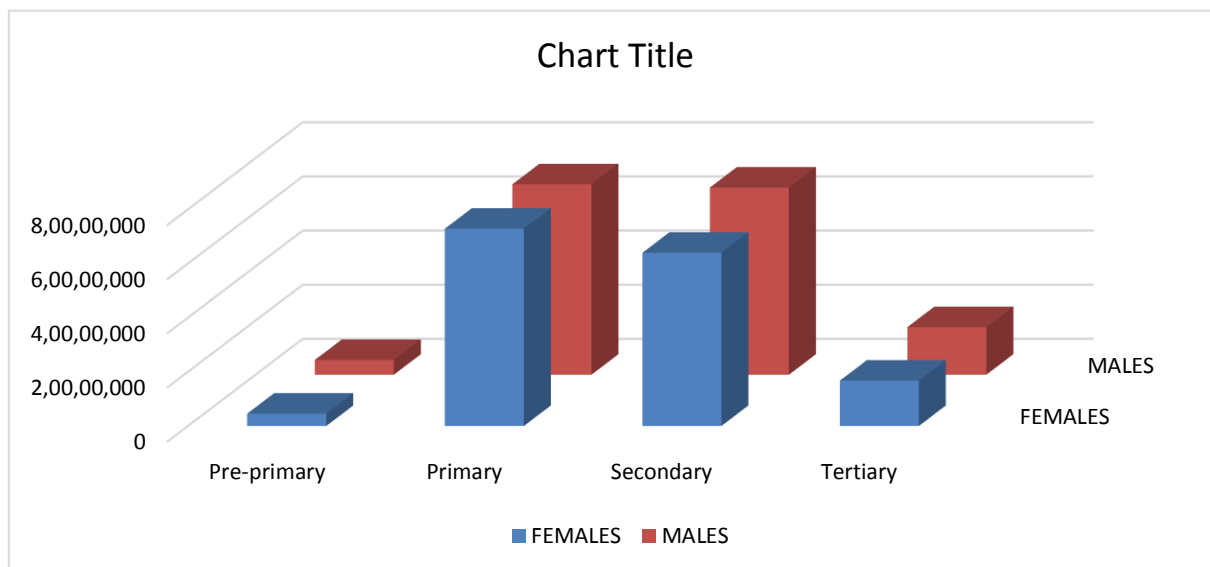
RESEARCH RESULTS

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused closure of educational institution. The graph below includes the data by tracking the timing and duration of the school which had been shut down since mid-February. The government of India has mandated a complete shutdown of

all the educational institution affecting at least 70% of the student population. This includes students from pre-primary level to the upper secondary levels. The graph shows a total of 32,07,13,810 learners which is divided in four types of schools i.e., Pre-Primary, Primary, Secondary, Tertiary and these are divided into Females and Males. There are a total of 1,00,04,418 in Pre-Primary sector (45,57,294 Females and 54,47,169 males) , 14,32,27,427 in Primary Sector (7,28,87,621 Females and 7,03,49,806 males), 13,31,44,371 in Secondary Sector (6,39,83,677 Females and 6,91,60,694 males), 3,43,37,594 in Tertiary Sector (1,67,39,686 Females and 1,75,97,908 Males).

Graph 1: Monitoring of school closure caused by COVID-19 in India

Sources: UNESCO.ORG

VIEWS BY DIFFERENT PROFESSORS ON THE IMPACT ON EDUCATION SECTOR DUE TO COVID-19 IN INDIA

Case 1- Accounting to Ms. Komal Gupta Assistant Professor, Raipur suppose that, nowadays we all are aware with COVID-19. The COVID-19 pandemic has affected educational system around the world which has led to temporarily closure of an educational institution. As a result, new alternatives for academic delivery and virtual classes has been boosted in the present scenario. Educational institution clauses impact not only on students, teachers and families but on economy also. Earlier education program was usually designed for children according to their age. But due to the corona virus government took same rule for higher secondary students, UG and PG student. The pandemic has a drastic impact on the educational sector as it has disturbed the basic routine of a student.

1. Everyone in the country could not afford gadgets for online education.
2. Salaries of teachers has been interrupted.
3. Students study timings are been distributed and deviated.
4. Use of mobiles and laptops are not comfortable in all cases for students of all ages.
5. Parent's attention towards children is demanded in higher basis.

Case 2- According to Manjuri Sharma, a primary teacher, kawardha, speak that corona pandemic has affected the entire globe, especially on educational sector. Because of this pandemic, educational institutions are on a huge loss. It has disturbed the basic routine study of a student. Everyone in the country is not being able to afford gadgets for online classes. Salaries and payments have been interrupted. Final year students are suffering a huge loss of

time and employment. Use of mobiles and laptops are not comfortable for students of lower ages. Parents attention is demanded in higher scale. COVID 19 has deviated the graph of educational statistics in a huge way.

Case 3- According to Pankaj Bansal, a higher secondary teacher, Hazaribag, assume that Pandemic has transferred the centuries old, chalk-board teaching model by technology.
Network issue less attendance, lack of personal touch is the major drawback of virtual classes.
1. Grade 10th and 12th students are more worried.
2. Low-income private and government schools have completely shut down for not having assess to E-learning.
3. It has disrupted the higher education in critical determinant of a country economic future.
4. There will be decline in the demand of international higher education.
5. Rate of unemployment will increase.

Case 4- Madhusmita Malik, faculty of government college Rourkela, presumes that Online technology must be able to increase opportunities for students to access higher education, increase retention rates, and increase learning quality in order to result good outcomes. Due to pandemic she took online classes as well as live streaming classes and doubt clearing classes by using Google meet, you-tube etc. All the assignments and projects are submitted through e-portal. In the near future we are trying to conduct examinations as well by using the e-portal.

POSSIBLE SUGGESTED STRATEGIES OR ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS FOR BUILDING A RESILIENT EDUCATION SYSTEM

The assistance of power supply, digital skills of teachers and students, internet connectivity aid to explore digital learning, high and low technology solutions in this pandemic situation. Open-source digital learning solutions and Learning Management Software should be adopted so that the teachers can teach online.

There is a need to develop inclusive learning solutions particularly for the marginalized and vulnerable people. The people living in the remote areas should be focused upon by proving the knowledge of usage of technology and internet and enabling them in gaining knowledge with the help of distance learning programs.

The higher education sector should make strategies for developing demand-supply trends worldwide. They should also need to enhance quality and demand for higher education in India.

As online education helps those who are in need. Technological advancements can also help in curing the anxiety and uncertainty that is prevailing in the current time. Measures should be taken to mitigate the effects of the pandemic on job offers, training programs, internship programs, and research works. It not only helps in conducting online programs but also helps in evaluating the performance of students and employees by giving online assignments.

The Indian traditional knowledge is notable over the globe for its logical advancements, qualities and advantages to create sustainable technologies and medicines. The various

courses under Indian Traditional Knowledge should be incorporated with the present-day standard college degree in order to serve the cause of mankind.

During the time of reopening of schools in the post-covid, school time allotted per student is an important factor which should be considered.

Machine learning and Artificial Intelligence are the emerging technologies in India is predicted to have a tremendous potential in the coming future.

We can't ignore in the period of COVID-19 crisis effective educational practice is needed for the capacity-building of young minds. Central Government and State Government need to take some measures to ensure the overall progress in the country. Time never waits for anyone and this tough time will also pass. stay safe, stay at home.

CONCLUSION

Although the world may be shaken, the best way to maintain consistency of education and to improve information is through online learning, which appears to be a powerful tool and a sign of hope in the time of COVID-19. With the option of taking an online class at home or working from home according to your own convenience, now is definitely a time for introspection. The government will have to take tough, though calculative decision about investment in education in the coming time. After all, the children of today are tomorrow's epidemiologists, physicians, nurses, researchers and specialists in the field of public health. In addition to the academic's concern, the rights and livelihood of the personnel and the educators should be protected. Now we have to get back to the drawing board and be more careful about the investments in education so that the world can be prepared better to face such demanding situations in the future.

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Conflict of Interest
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