

## **Impact of Covid19 on Students**

**Dr. Srichand Parsram Hinduja**

Assistant Professor,

Sree Narayana Guru College of Commerce, Mumbai 89.

Email: [sphinduja2008@gmail.com](mailto:sphinduja2008@gmail.com)

### **Abstract:**

*COVID19 phase will be written as the black days period in the history Temporary closure of educational institutions as a primitive measure from Covid19 has emerged various challenges in education field for both teachers and learners. Students are suffering from invisible trauma due to pressure of staying at home and studies. The problem of students is to be addressed at certain platform. Teachers are trying their level best to make use of technology to reach out the students and to convey them the learning process. But that is not sufficient. In this article the situation of students, due to lockdown is highlighted and certain measures have been given to make them understand how to deal with the present condition.*

### **Introduction:**

Global pandemic of Covid19 has come out as alarming situation for entire world. It is a situation which was never forecasted or expected. The only solution as of now is just to avoid meeting the people and keep the cleanliness. In this entire episode the Government of India has come out with the notification first to stop taking biometric attendance by the teachers and students and later on closing of all the schools and colleges during lockdown period. 12,70,000 Schools, more than 40,000 Colleges and around 900 Universities are closed with millions of students at home and waiting for further notice. Government has come out with this announcement of temporary closing of educational institutions as it is assumed that when children come to the contact of coronavirus, their families will automatically will be infected and it will spread at a greater extent if these children keep coming to educational institutions.

According to UNESCO, 290.5 Million students are going to get affected in many ways due to temporary closure of Schools and Colleges across the world as the preventive measure taken

against spread of Covid19. It has been mentioned by Hon'ble P.M. Shri Narendra Modi, during his public speech delivered on 24<sup>th</sup> March, 2020 at 8:00 p.m. that one Covid19 infected can spread the disease to minimum 1,000 people in just one week time. This statement is enough to explain how fast people get infected by coronavirus.

### **Theme of the Article:**

The question arises whether closing of educational institutions will help? The past experience makes clear that there are no easy answers. The past research on closing of educational institutions during pandemic have helped spread of diseases but have also showed significant challenges for students and overall education system.

### **Closing schools in the past slowed the spread of illness, and thus saved lives**

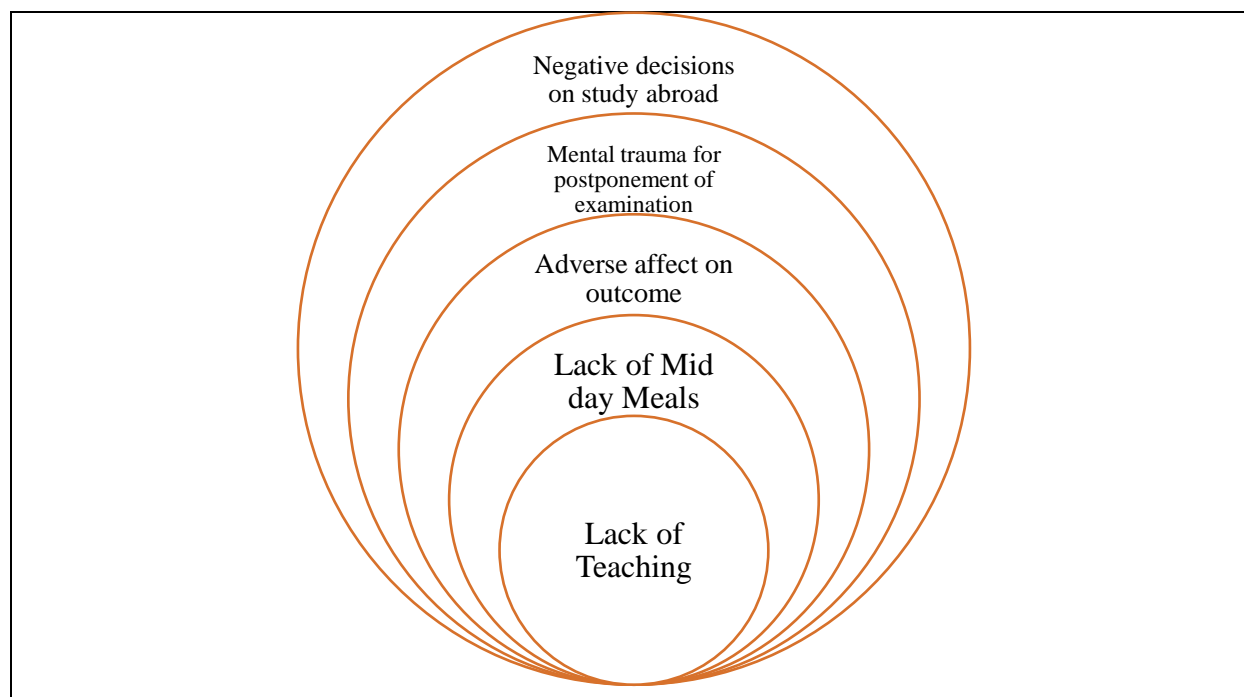
As per research done on Covid19 so far and the age of people got affected with it, the children are appearing to be less affected by coronavirus, however, they may play a significant role in spread of it. Some studies have taken place at various phases of pandemic worldwide on closure of educational institutions.

- Howard Makel, Director has stated in New York Times on 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 2020, “Schools are community gathering places where large numbers of people are in proximity to one another and respiratory infections can easily spread among young people and adults alike. Shutting them down can be a key part of slowing the spread of easily transmissible viruses so that hospitals are not overrun with sick people. He also referred his research on Spanish flu of 1919 and concluded that closure of educational institutions really helped to bring down the rate of patients and deaths.
- Study on Japan's H1N1 flu in 2009 also came up with the same opinion that closing of schools and colleges really help to prevent the spread of disease.
- Study in Michigan on H1N1 stated that closing of Schools and Colleges didn't help because that decision was taken too late.
- These studies have concluded that closure of educational institutions have helped as the preventive measure. India is at second rank for population after china with not so good medical infrastructure and other health facilities. The closure of schools and colleges at the early stage is definitely going to be as one of the successful preventive measure. But at the same time many challenges have come across for teachers as well as for learners.

**∞Closing schools comes with substantial economic and social costs**

- John Bailey, who in 2005 worked in White House team that helped plan for pandemics, wrote “Local officials must balance the potential public health benefits of closing schools with the other burdens and economic costs placed on a community, as schools close, parents will have to find childcare or stay home from work, creating challenges for employers, including, most importantly, healthcare providers.”
- A 2009 study estimated that closing every American school for a month would lead to more missed work and reduce GDP by between 0.1% and 0.3% . Some of those forced to stay home with their kids are likely healthcare workers, the study also points out, which could make combating the virus even more difficult.
- Surveys in Pennsylvania and New York City showed that school closings of about a week due to H1N1 led to about one in five households having an adult miss work.

**Effect of Covid19 on students.**



- **Lack of Teaching:**

It's a well-known fact that a sizeable number of population is residing in rural parts of India and temporary closure of educational institutions means the rural students are getting lack of teaching as there is no remedy like online teaching and learning process available for them. Very few schools, colleges or universities provide this facility, however, this process also suffers from many shortcomings. The teachers are trying their level best to serve the purpose by answering the questions through e-mails, social sites, WhatsApp etc. However the output of the same is not up to the mark. The temporary closure of educational institutions will affect the learning quality of the students.

The educational institutions where practical work is more significant, like pharmaceutical field, engineering, architecture, etc., the online lectures are not proving to be the correct way of teaching and learning as all the students can just see the practical but cannot experiment it as they have lack of equipments required for the conduct of practical. This is the situation with higher education. At the same time one should not forget that it is the peak time for conducting the examination in almost all schools, colleges and universities. The incomplete syllabus and lack of facilities of learning from home is becoming a major challenge for the students as well as for the teachers as it may not serve the purpose of teaching and learning.

- **Lack of Mid-day Meals:**

Around 120 Million students from schools are provided mid-day meal on working days. This scheme was started to provide the nutritious food to the children of India studying in schools so that the rate of malnourished children should be reduced at the remarkable scale. India succeeded as this scheme is benefiting around 12,65,000 schools. It has also been noticed that in rural areas the parents send their children to schools as they get mid-day meals which make them healthy. The temporary closure of schools is affecting the health of these children as the service is not taking place as it is required to. The parents are also at home and they find it difficult fulfill the basic needs of the family members. This could be managed for few days, but the latest announcement of extending the closure of schools has made them panic and worried.

- **Adverse effect on outcome:**

The Government has already announced that the examinations cannot be taken for the students studying from 1<sup>st</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup>, this itself is going to pull down the expected

outcome of the education. At the same time the current situation will also affect the higher education system also to a great extent. All the educational programs have been introduced with the specific outcomes and the conditions are not permitting to achieve it. The students will be lack of the required skills, knowledge and talent.

- **Mental Trauma of Postponement of examination:**

The month of March is always the month of completion of portion and the stage of evaluation of performance of the students. The current situation made the education system to postpone the examination of all classes till the further notice comes. This has created the situation where the students are neither in a position to focus on studies or on other things as the situation is becoming more and more un-expectable. The Government has postponed all the examination till 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2020 in its first notice, then suddenly the lockdown was announced till 14<sup>th</sup> April, 2020, we never know what will be the future announcement. The students are worried about their examination. Few of the students are happy but the major part of the students want to complete the procedure of examination and the postponement of the same has created the situation of mental trauma for them. As this phase is difficult for everyone. It also has been noticed that due to postponement of examination they are not able to concentrate on anything as they are not able to make the things clear to them. Many of the colleges, especially professional and management institutions providing the post graduate degrees have not completed the portion also, which is becoming the another aspect of worry for the students pursuing it. The situation of trauma and tension is affecting the mental health of the student, which may result in a very bad mode in future.

- **Negative decisions on studying abroad:**

The current circumstance has created the fear and phobia in many forms. Many parents are not ready to send their children for further studies abroad and at the same time many students are also have dropped the idea of studying further in foreign country.

### **Conclusion & Suggestions:**

The crucial time was never expected by any one and now it's the time to face it. Though it has been found that the temporary closure of schools and colleges are affecting the students and the entire education system but we should also think that if the schools and colleges are kept open then the conditions might have become worst from bad. It is

the time when all of us have to protect one another and follow the guidelines given by government from time to time to come out from the current phase. The current phase has transited the pattern of teaching learning process drastically and it has become virtual teaching learning from classroom teaching practices. During my entire observation for this article, I came to know that almost all the teachers have started taking virtual lectures for the students and have explored many things which were not possible to know if there was no such situation. Students need to understand that technology has made it easy for them to explore to various fields which may help them to build their career. Internet has made the world so small that in a fraction of second we can enter into any library to learn the things. Students can make use of this period on some research work, appearing for online tests, drafting their own study material, can make survey on various career oriented programs which they can join.

### **References:**

<https://www.topuniversities.com/student-info/coronavirus>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Impact\\_of\\_the\\_COVID-19\\_pandemic\\_on\\_education#cite\\_note-8-23](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Impact_of_the_COVID-19_pandemic_on_education#cite_note-8-23)

<https://en.unesco.org/>

<https://www.nytimes.com/issue/>

<https://www.chalkbeat.org/2020/3/9/21178727/>

[https://mhrd.gov.in/sites/upload\\_files/mhrd/files/statistics-new/ESAG-2018.pdf](https://mhrd.gov.in/sites/upload_files/mhrd/files/statistics-new/ESAG-2018.pdf)