

## **Footprint of Pandemic Covid-19 on Plethoric Education**

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### **Abstract:**

COVID-19, an extremely hazardous virus has adversely affected the entire conventional educational system all over the world. It has posed a negative impact upon the sustenance and growth of the prevalent educational system. The rampant COVID-19 has ruined the justice of constitutional provisions regarding admissions, employment, curricular and extra-curricular activities. This epidemic has deteriorated the value of time, money and labour of teachers, parents and students at large. Not only during the current academic year, but also for many more years to come we will be forced to face the impact of the battle between COVID-19 and the over abundant educational system.

Insufficient interest, awareness and facilities to combat the impact of this through on line mode of education is not supporting its success. Educational pedagogy regarding children, adults and the differently abled students is being hampered. This conversion has proved to be a curse for the full-length of the educational body. As a result, this will surely deteriorate the attainment of cognitive, psychomotor and effective growth of individuals. Moreover, it will definitely have an adverse effect upon the growth, development, education and socialization of the differently abled students.

**Key Words:** Covid-19, impact, plethoric education, on line education, challenges, socialization.

### **Introduction:**

Education is a boon under which students develop their overall personality, at physical, mental, intellectual, emotional and spiritual level. From ancient times to the modern era, teachers have transformed themselves from sages and saints to professors and academicians, rishikuls have got converted into schools, colleges and universities. However, all aim to raise the skills of students. In academic educational institutes, students learn socialization, management of time, etiquettes, expression of fears and sorrows, tackling their problems along with the maintenance of a proper decorum of the student - teacher relationship. "In spite of having all facilities, children are being sent for education to schools since ancient times. Owing to this, the number of hours in educational institution matters" (Carlsson *et. al* (2015), Lavy (2015).

### **Arrival of Covid-19 in Education:**

On the unfortunate arrival of the pervasive COVID-19 virus, the entire educational system has changed its form overnight. Government has enacted the global closure of all institutes in order to stop the spread of the widespread COVID-19 infection. As a result, the free flying students have got stuck inside their homes. Classroom teaching has got varied into online classes. Today parents, teachers and students are facing enormous issues in order to get connected to online classes on account of lack of effective planning to achieve the learning outcomes and its feasibility, especially with many of the students residing in interior villages, problem of poor connectivity, space adjustments at home, cost of electronic gadgets etc.

### **Online Education:**

Education has taken a step forward towards ZOOM, GOOGLE MEET, SKYPE and even WhatsApp, its objective being to enable the stakeholders in the field of education to engage with virtual platforms and to enable the learners to learn synchronously as well as asynchronously the matter which is available online. The teachers would thus have to plan their academic year activities, various summative assessments, activities and events based upon the open educational resources available. However, a large percentage of teachers, students and parents are not so well acquainted and equipped with technology. There are evidences that while recording lectures, many a times teachers display nervousness. Students too feel shy to clarify their doubts and so hold back their thinking. Given the huge percentage of student population the teachers would not be in a position to impart personal attention to the students in order to ensure that the student has grasped the needful.

Online teaching cannot be compared with the preponderating eye to eye contact teaching which takes place in the traditional classrooms. Online assessment and evaluation too can never have an edge over the traditional exams (Piopiunk *et al.*, 2020). Chances of committing errors in the assessment and evaluation of students work especially with regard to subjective content cannot be ignored. Classes of academic institutes which function through ZOOM orders their students to be present throughout the sessions. But often it becomes very difficult to manage with this, as the number of gadgets may be less as compared to the persons requiring to use them. Often children have to use their parent's gadgets thereby denying their parents of the same. At times, the gadget may be put to misuse by the child by gaining access into some restricted site. Besides the child may also delete some important matter belonging to the parents while operating the

system. Then the problem of poor network connectivity and uneven picture including poor sound quality, power cuts or power failure tends to disrupt the smooth flow of the session. This would definitely reduce the interest and motivation of the students to learn through on line classes.

### **Covid-19 and Competitive Examinations:**

The current time is crucial for the admission to various standards, entrance tests for various competitive exams and board exams for classes X and XII .The entire academic life of students depends upon these steps. All the parameters cannot be examined on line for proper justified admission procedures. Careers of students who are at the final stage of preparation for various competitive examinations are at the verge of spoilage. Campus interviews and selections are almost over and out. Our students today are under severe psychological stress, anxiety and depression. This decreases their overall enthusiasm. Besides only a handful of schools, colleges and coaching centres along with parents can adopt an online system of teaching methods. This is not an easy step, on account of several factors especially for people belonging to the lower socio economic and the less educated section of society. COVID-19 has also spread its tentacles at the international higher education in countries like USA, UK and several other as well. If this Pandemic persists for a longer duration, no parent would prefer to send the apples of their eyes aboard for higher studies. Young students are now in tension for cancellation of their job offers and termination from duties. COVID-19 has thus deteriorated the employment rate, which in some cases may lead the youth to suicide.

### **Impact of Covid-19 on Curricular and Co-curricular Activities:**

The curriculum developed by CBSE, ICSE, NCERT, and other state boards for the schools is in accordance with the normal educational system as the predominant mode of teaching and learning. This however has to undergo changes wherein a new kind of syllabus has to be framed. The extra-curricular/co-curricular activities will remain no longer a part of the curriculum for some time in future as well. Teachers are now being posed with a higher level of additional labour to reach the goals of proper teaching. Scientific evidences throw light on the fact that human tendency is usually inclined not to accept changes very quickly. Law of inertia also supports the same. The overriding chalk and duster method of teaching and the traditional pen-paper mode of assessment has been prevailing for a number of years. It is not that easy to get into this change so smoothly.

The biggest disadvantage of online education is that students now would not refer to any book. They would try to make notes by repeatedly viewing the videos leading to eye ailments. Children today are no longer a part of the announcements regarding various competitions like painting, debates, singing etc either at the intra or inter school levels and so also at the national and international level and this is demotivating the moral of today's children and youth. Their mind power is not being given the opportunity to expand to its full potential. This system denies the students the attainment of first hand experiences like excursions, field visits, explorations etc. The ultimate concern is that despite of paying fees during these hard times and even after the completion of tasks by teachers and students, will everybody be justified with their fundamental right? The teachers are being given the task to handle workshops in order to adjust and teach in this transformed atmosphere. This new era of education has to make use of varied tools and methods by students and teachers to achieve their goal efficiently.

But, how can we relegate the practical aspect of education? Science and technological subjects need practicals to be conducted several times till the confirmation of results, without which no research is possible. Some research students would be mid way of long experimentation or towards its accomplishment and as such COVID-19 has become the biggest obstacle in pursuing their research.

#### **Covid-19 and Education of Special Children and Adults:**

It would be injustice if we do not touch upon the education of the differently abled students of our society. Their development can be worked upon only in the conducive atmosphere of their teachers, their friends and other para medical professionals who cater to their needs of physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy etc. Besides the achievement of their educational goals can be done only with the help of Individualised Educational Programmes. The need for behavior modification, especially with regard to the issue of hyper activity can be addressed only with the help of a counselor or special educator on a personal face to face basis. This pandemic has arrested their development to a large extent.

The educational system pertaining to adults belonging to different socio economic strata of society is also affected considerably. Neither they are able to submit their assignments nor reach to their centres. This is especially not affordable by the poor. Moreover, they lack the technical knowledge regarding the joining of online classes effectively.

#### **Impact of Covid-19 on Economy and Health:**

Economic infrastructure has collapsed. A huge amount of money is being wasted in closed institutions in the form of chemicals, machines etc. Investment needs to be made towards the online training programme for the teachers. The management of online classes is not easy in this stressful environment. Lack of physical activity leads to lethargy. Neither the teachers are satisfied with teaching nor the students with the understanding of concepts effectively. No proper routine is stressed upon by this educational system which does not boost up the blood circulation and energy level among students. This would lead to several psychosomatic ailments among students, teachers as well as parents paving the way toward a state of depression.

### **Conclusion:**

COVID-19 has thus adversely altered the entire educational structure by creating negative effects on the prevailing chalk – talk method of imparting education, admissions, board and competitive examinations, job offers, packages, physical and mental health of students, teachers and parents along with the economic growth of the educational world. If the educational institutions continue to close for a longer period of time, hygiene issues will definitely knock. It has shut down all hobby classes for the students like music, sports, abacus etc. along with other mind improving classes. It has destroyed the education of the differently abled student and the adults alike. This pandemic is leading towards the development of several psychosomatic ailments. So, it becomes our prime duty to take all necessary steps for the eradication of this ultimate hazardous pathogen. Thus, it should be the goal of each and every citizen of the world irrespective of caste, colour, creed, age and sex to get freedom from COVID-19 in order to have a beautiful, normal and peaceful world once again.

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