



IMPACT OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON EDUCATION SYSTEM AND NEW NORMALS IN CLASSROOMS

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Abstract:

The COVID-19 Pandemic changed the lives of people across the world in many ways. It was not just a health crisis but the impact of which on our daily lives including individual, economic, cultural spheres was devastating. According to the World Health Organisation India reported 44983152 Corona virus cases and 531794 deaths since its inception. Many companies were closed which resulted in increased unemployment. Food shortage and price rise were common as the borders were shut in order to check the spread of the virus. When the government announced Lock down everything came to a standstill and we had nothing do except to sit back at home and waiting for the medicine to be invented to defeat the virus.

Furthermore, school across the country were shut. At the height of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, more than 190 countries closed their schools; according to the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), 1.6 billion children and youth have been affected Prolonged school closures not only lead to learning losses in the short term but also reduce economic opportunities for children and young people's human capital in the long term. In India, the dropout rate more than tripled from 1.8% in 2018 to 5.3% in 2020, predominantly impacting the children hailing from marginalized communities. Academic programs, research and professional development witnessed very slow growth. Stakeholders including students, teachers, parents and school management adversely impacted. Academic calendar of events was disrupted. Students were promoted to next class without examination. Realizing that this cannot continue for a longer period of time the government issued orders to switch to distance online mode of schooling abandoning face to face classes and on campus activities. Our government through many of its initiatives like Diksha Portal, E-Pathshala, National Repository of Open Educational Resources (NROER), Swayam, Swayamprabha, E-PG Pathsahala and so on explored the opportunities to make sure that the process of teaching and learning was not disrupted. This papers

aims to evaluate the impact of covid-19 on education system in general and on its stakeholders in particular.

Key Words: Covid-19 Pandemic, Students, Teachers, Eduaction system.

Impact of Covid-19 Pandemic on students:

1. Lack of face-to-face interaction made it difficult for students to build relationships with their peers and teachers, which can be essential for academic success.
2. Another challenge that students faced in the new normal classroom was staying motivated and engaged in their studies.
3. Lack of access to the necessary resources like smartphones, computers & internet.
4. Without regular feedback from teachers, it was hard for students to stay on track with their assignments and progress in their studies.
5. With so much time spent alone in front of a computer screen, many students were feeling isolated and lonely. This led to feelings of depression and anxiety which had a negative impact on academic performance.
6. Without access to physical activities such as sports or other extracurricular activities, some students struggled with maintaining a healthy lifestyle which is essential for overall wellbeing.
7. Students faced distractions while studying at home, such as noise from family members or the temptation to use their devices for entertainment purposes. These distractions interfered with their concentration, causing them to miss important concepts.
8. Normal student-teacher interactions were disrupted and became impossible. These had serious consequences and certainly caused significant learning loss, especially during emergency remote teaching.
9. The new normal classroom was a significant adjustment for students who were not familiar with technology. It was challenging for students to navigate new platforms and software,

Impact of Covid-19 on Teachers:

1. Transition from regular classes to online classes using various platforms like Google meet, Google classroom, WhatsApp, MS teams, Zoom, WebEx, Rainbow, etc, was not a cakewalk for many teachers.
2. Network connectivity issue, problem with electronic device, disrupted electricity were a challenge to the teachers.
3. Not receiving proper feedback from the students was the major hurdle in online classes.
4. Mental or physical discomforts including headaches, strain in the eyes due to longer time spent in front of computers, backache; lack of motivation to teach, anxiety and stress.
5. Teachers had to invest more time and effort into the teaching process which was taxing. Indeed, many studies revealed that time and effort spent on online course development and delivery were greater than that of regular classroom teaching as it involved
 - (i) organizing content
 - (ii) presenting information that addressed different learning styles
 - (iii) providing lecture notes in advance

6. Less interaction from students made the classes to be monotonous and one sided. Students were less interactive in an online class than in a regular class.
7. Inadequate training of the faculty for this new mode of teaching.
8. Unable to communicate efficiently with students in an online environment.

Impact of Covid-19 on Parents:

1. Parents, who in general suffer more stress than their non-parent counterparts, experienced increased burdens associated with disruptions in employment and in social, health, and mental health services for themselves and their families.
2. Additional financial burden to provide smartphones and internet facility to their children to attend online classes.
3. Keeping track of their children's academics on daily basis was an add on to the parents responsibility as it was taken care of by teachers at school before.

Impact of Covid-19 on School Management:

1. Parents refusal to pay school fee during lockdown resulted in loss of revenue to the management.
2. With less revenue during pandemic many private schools struggled hard to give salary to their teachers.

As a whole the entire education system starting from primary level to university education witnessed a paradigm shift during pandemic. Use of information and communication technology for knowledge dissemination became quite common.

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