REVIEW ARTICLE

COVID-19: IMPACT ON EDUCATION WITH REFERENCE TO CLASSROOM TEACHING-LEARNING PROCESS

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ARTICLE INFO	ABSTRACT
	COVID-19 has affected human life completely and obviously the education sector is also not untouched from it, in this situation this article is bringing the picture of present days' classrooms which are running on a virtual mode i.e. as online mode and how this online mode of education has changed the practices of teaching, learning and evaluation. The review of situations is describing and presenting the scenario of today's classrooms, which has come into practice after the lockdown implemented for maintaining social distance as a prevention measure from corona affect. The present situation has emerged up as a challenge in education sector not only for the students but for teachers also, that how to continue teaching as well as learning in realistic and fruitful manner. Where teachers are dealing with the good teaching-learning and evaluation practices for the students, simultaneously students are also facing challenges with their real learning situation. Because the traditional mode has been completely closed during and after the lockdown, in this mode students were habitual to direct interaction with their teachers regarding educational matters and whereas nowadays students' community is completely dependent on the online mode. The study has concluded with the drawbacks as well as some positive sides of this online education mode during lockdown period especially in respect to the education and teaching-learning process.

INTRODUCTION

Today, globally we are facing the major challenges due to the outbreak of Corona virus disease (COVID- 19). As WHO(2020)[1] defined that Corona virus are a large family of viruses that are known to cause illness ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases such as Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) and Severe Acute Respiratory System (SARS). This is the worldwide fact that novel corona virus was first identified in 2019 in Wuhan, China and previously corona has not been identified in humans (WHO, 2020)[2]. It has been declared as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC). The virus has now spread too many countries and territories and hence it is characterized as Pandemic. This is the most crucial Global Health Calamity of the century and the greatest challenge that the humankind faced since the Second World War. As of June 15, 2020, the outbreak of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) had been confirmed in around 210 countries or territories (Elflein, Jun 15, 2020).

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The virus had infected over eight million (8 million) people worldwide, and the number of deaths had more than 436,000 till 16 June 2020 according to Best's (Jun 16, 2020) report published on statista.com. Further, the report states that till 16 June 2020, based on the comparison of deaths in 179 countries due to corona virus relative to their population, Belgium had the most losses to COVID-19. Elflein[5] (15 June 2020) has reported on that the most severely affected countries include the U.S., Spain, and the United Kingdom.

Impact of COVID-19 on Life: COVID-19 is just not a disease affecting biological health of the whole human society, more than this it is affecting the complete life-style of human-being. COVID-19 (Corona virus) has affected day to day life and is slowing down the global economy. This pandemic has affected thousands of peoples, who are either sick or are being killed due to the spread of this disease. This, being a new viral disease affecting humans for the first time, vaccines are not yet available. This virus is spreading exponentially region-wise. Countries are banning gatherings of people to the spread and break the exponential curve. Many countries are locking their population and enforcing strict quarantine to control the spread of the havoc of this highly communicable disease. COVID-19 has rapidly affected our day to day life (health, social and

economy), disrupted the world trade and movements. This virus creates significant knock-on effects on the daily life of citizens as well as about the global economy. World widely this is unprecedented time for all of us, especially for children who face an enormous disruption. Children are likely to be experiencing the worry, anxiety and fear, and this can include the various types of fears which may be very similar to those experienced by adults, such as a fear of dying, fear of relatives' dying, or means to receive medical treatment. Further, WHO says that if schools have closed as part of necessary measures, then children may no longer have that sense of structure and stimulation provided by that environment, and now they have less opportunity to be with their friends and get the social support that is essential for good mental well-being as reported by WHO (2020). This pandemic has caused overall disturbance in day-to-day life and people are trying to cope up with it in their own manner.

As a concluding statement it could be said that Covid-19 has affected the each aspect of human life such as social, economical, political and most important the emotional. It totally disrupted the human civilization as it is natural whenever human society has faced any disaster.

Impact of COVID-19 on Education: It is known universally that whole life of human society is being affected by COVID-19, so obviously each area of social life is also being impacted by it. It is not wrong to be said that not only the health and economy, education system has also been affected by COVID-19 pandemic worldwide. The Indian education system has been badly affected by the entry of the disease and also because of social distancing measures that were taken to prevent the spread of the disease. The ultimate act on the part of the Central government has been to impose a lockdown on the entire country has led to the near total closure of Schools, Universities and Colleges. They all are shut as a measure to contain the spread of the Novel Coronavirus. Thus the traditional regular education system has been hampered for the last three months world-widely.

This shutdown of schools has had a great impact on primary as well as secondary education in India. This was the crucial time for the education sector- board examination, secondary school admissions are held during this period. As the days pass by with no immediate solution to stop the outbreak of COVID-19, school closures will have a short term impact on the continuity of learning for more than 2.85 million young learners in India.

Impact of COVID on Teaching and Learning: The structure of schooling and learning, including teaching, learning and assessment methodologies, was the first to be affected by these closures. This pandemic has transformed the centuries-old, chalk–talk teaching model to one driven by technology. To overcome the loss of not attending the educational institutes and to learn even in when they are closed the idea of e-learning or virtual classes has been adopted by the government. The e-learning is to empower learners to absorb personal accomplishment, basic schooling or to obtain a degree certificate, without actually attending the school or university or any other academic institute. E-learning is used synonymously with virtual knowledge, online education, computer-based training, web-based knowledge, and networked education.

Classes are being conducted online and students are being assigned work, which they have to submit on assigned deadline. Both teachers and students have adopted online means for teaching and learning respectively. But those didn't fully work because of network issues, lack of training and lack of awareness are major challenges faced by them. Lack of awareness is the most important reason by those who did not adopt virtual classrooms followed by lack of interest and doubts regarding the usefulness of virtual classes. Less attendance, lack of personal touch, and lack of interaction due to connectivity issues are also found to be the significant drawbacks of virtual classes.

Impact of COVID-19 on Secondary education: Secondary education (class 6th to class 8th) is an intermediate link between primary and higher secondary education. And the focal point is that these students are of Teenage group who have inserted to adolescence from their childhood, which is the most transacting phase in the process of human development with reference to each aspect such as physical, social, intellectual, emotional and so on. And this pandemic period has also not brought a favourable environment for them. Instead of all these how to deal with the studies is also a big challenge for them, it becomes more critical when resources are not being evenly available. In this pandemic the government has adopted e-learning /teaching methods to minimise the educational loss of the students. But only a handful of private schools could adopt online teaching methods. Their low-income private and government school counterparts on the other hand have completely shut down for not having access to e-learning teaching solutions (Rajya Sabha, 2020). Online learning platform is a digital way of performing teaching-learning and not all the teachers are good at it due to digital immigrants or at least not all of them were ready for this sudden transition from traditional teaching-learning mode to online learning. Some teachers are not so well equipped or trained with the technology and have less knowledge of computers, information technology and mobile applications.

So they find difficulty to deal with e-learning mode. Most of the teachers are just conducting lectures on video platforms such as zoom, Skype, Hangouts, Google classroom, which may not be real online learning in the absence of dedicated online platform specifically designed for this purpose (India Today Web Desk, 2020). If we check the scenario about students, it reveals that all are not equal in terms of economical background and from well-to-do family. Students living in rural areas are not capable to afford a Smartphone and if they can afford then the low network coverage becomes the hindrance. Due to low network coverage and several other reasons students are missing the opportunities of learning. This is also a great deal to cope up with the new pattern of education which is not so habitual for the students at this age as it is very common at higher education level. When traditional education mode transformed to the online education mode then it deals with teaching platform, learning platform and also the most important evaluation platform. So while transforming from traditional to online education mode all the above measures have to be focused equally and importantly.

Impact on Learning aspect of Children: E-learning has badly affected the cognitive, affective and psychomotor domains of children. If we talk about cognitive aspect, the sudden shift of education to online learning without any planning with the backbone for online learning was not ready and the curriculum

was not designed for such a format has created the risk of most of the students becoming passive learners and they seem to be losing interest due to low levels of attention span. Online learning is creating a new set of passive learners which can cause a new bunch of challenges for their future. As far as we see the affective aspect of children, it has also undergone several changes and they are now experiencing an actual emotional downfall due to this whole lockdown situation. They are feeling neglected and lonely, not by their family because they are constantly around them, but their friends who are not around them. Children are not getting opportunity to play outside just because of the fear of getting infected. As children's are not actively participating or not involved in some creative works, that was abundantly given when schools were opened, their skills have been affected. Their psychomotor domain, in this way has also been adversely affected.

Positive impact of COVID-19 in Educational Aspect: And it is said, "There are two sides to every coin". It is definitely true because the changes that COVID-19 has brought are not solely disruptive but also likely to bring with it some opportunities that will transform the secondary education system worldwide and specially in a developing country like India, which is planning to bring about a platform in the this sector. Some key areas of opportunities are: First, now the secondary classes will be shifted to a model of blended learning where both face-to-face deliveries along with an outline model will become a norm. Teachers will become more technology savvy and go through some training to bring themselves to the level that would be required. Second, the quality of learning material for students will be improved that is used in teaching and learning process. Since the blended learning will be the new format of learning, there will be a push to find new ways to design and deliver quality content especially due to the fact that the use of learning management systems will bring about more openness and transparency in academics (India Today Web Desk, 2020)[8]. Third, the teaching community has become more insulated now, so there is opportunity where collaborative teaching and learning can take new forms and can be monetized.

Conclusion

Needless to say, COVID-19 has transformed the centuries-old chalk-talk teaching model to one driven by technology. This shift of education has pushed policymakers to figure out how to drive engagement at scale while ensuring inclusive learning solutions and tackling the digit divide as it is not affordable by all. In this regard a multi-pronged strategy is necessary to manage the crisis and build a resilient Indian education system in the long run then be it primary, secondary or higher education. One, immediate measures are essential to ensure continuity of learning in government school. Open source digital learning solutions, learning management system software and modulated evaluation patterns in online mode should be adopted so the teachers can conduct teaching online. Two, inclusive learning solutions especially for the most vulnerable and marginalized need to be develop. As per economics times with the rapid increase of mobile internet users in India which is expected to reach 85% households by 2024 technology is enabling ubiquitous access and personalization of education even in the remotest part of the country (www.economicstime.com, 2020). This will increase effectiveness of learning and giving students and teachers

multiple options to choose from. Therefore, it is important to consider the current delivery and pedagogical methods in school by integrating classroom learning with E-learning modes to build a unified learning system. In this time of crisis a well-rounded and effective education practice is needed for the capacity building of young minds in schools as they are the future of our country. All of the methods and strategies mentioned above will surely be helpful in mitigating the loss of face-to-face learning and should be adopted smartly.

"In a crisis be aware of the danger, but I recognise the opportunity"- Henry Adams.

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