

Covid -19 Crisis: Aspects Affecting in Education Sector

Dheeraj Singh¹

Assistant Professor, Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth

Rashmi Dongre²

Assistant Professor, Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth

Abstract

A big concern among the Covid -19 pandemic lockdown is an education in the country. Of course, many aspects are affected due to Covid 19 in schools, colleges, and universities. As per the UNESCO report that huge numbers of students have impacted because of covid-19 across the world. Almost 157 crore learners students across the world will have been affected because of the pandemic. The ongoing situation and closure of educational institutions may have a bad impact on education systems as well on learners across the world. In India, more than 32 crore students that are both at the school level and the college and university level have been affected.

The number of Covid cases across the country is rising exponentially day by day. Even now, the longer this crisis, the worse it is going to impact the economy. Until now, it has been estimated that it would make a difference of 8.5 trillion dollars to the world economy. Over the next two years, Covid -19 would push the more than 34 million people across the world into an excessive crisis. Because of this crisis, a huge sector which has been impacted greatly, by it is the education sector.

1. Introduction

In India, students have been demanding to state government for cancellation of exams. Online classes have commenced in some places and some exams have already been canceled. Parents are demanding that private schools and colleges should not hike their fees. Schools and colleges on the other hand do not have money to pay the staff and teachers.

As of 28th June 2020, the date of UNSECO has revealed that there has been nationwide closure of schools and colleges in more than 114 countries all across the world, which has affected more than 1 billion students. There were very few countries, in the world where the schools and colleges were not shut down. Australia, Sweden, and Greenland, in the context of India, more than 32 crore students have been affected. By this pandemic situation, some schools and colleges stopped teaching entirely, while others resorted to online classes.

Media had a great role in to make aware people about COVID

-

19 and spread awareness about fake

news and reality of this disease. Media keep updated all the people by working hard. Problems like migration, transport and many more are enlightened by media and keep people aware all the time. (Tilak, 2020)

2. Aspects Affecting in Education Sector due to Covid-19

2.1 Teaching

Most of the schools, colleges, and universities has adopted online classes mode for teaching purpose. The feedback about online classes is mixed. Some good education institutions have a well-maintained infrastructure to conduct online classes like the modern classroom, good internet facility, etc. The issues come when there is no internet connection or broken internet connection issue that comes during the conduction of the lecture [11].

Students are regularly facing problems in terms of bad internet connection during online teaching. In this situation, teachers are trying to call them separately and solving their problems and doubts related to a specific subject. Due to broken internet connection, teachers can connect with students properly and teachers and students get irritated because of this issue and teaching gets also affected because of no proper communication between teachers and students [4].

2.2 Placement

Another aspect of education is placement. When it comes to professional and technical courses, placement is a very important aspect during the whole pandemic because, for institutions like IITs and IIMs, students are already placed, but In IITs and IIMs the placement happens between Decembers to march. Most of the students have been placed in IITs and IIMs. There is an issue for the institutions apart from the IITs and IIMs where the placement happens after examination and due to the covid-19 examination has been delayed and because of that placement process in the institutions has been delayed. This directly has an impact on a student's career and employment in a particular state has been affected.

Institutions apart from IITs and IIMs are not even thinking about placement, as their first concern is how to get done with examination and how to come out from whole academic issues.

The government has requested the companies that don't take away job offers which the companies have already given to the students and do come for the placements.

2.3 People without internet

Online classes are a great solution in the short run, but it also creates a digital divide [13]. It is alright for the people, who can watch YouTube and can avail of the availability of the internet. There is a problem, for the people that do not have internet avail to them [1].

It might be a wonder that few people in India have internet. There are only 2 states in India, which have more than 40% of rural households with internet availability.

In the rest of the states, only 10-20% of rural households have internet. People having no internet not able to attend online classes. The problem further exacerbates when it realizes that several families out of these ran their daily affairs through day to day earning. They have lost their livelihoods after lockdown.

Many people have been pushed into poverty due to the economic impact of Covid-19. Such families would they do not have money to send their children to school nor would they want their children to go to school because they would want them to go to work to bring back some money home [5].

2017-18, NSSO data shows that boys in villages drop out of school and colleges midway. The top 2 reasons behind this are financial constraints in their families and economic work. These 2 reasons would be applicable here as well in the Covid-19 situation. This means that when the schools and colleges reopen the children in families would go back to school but the children in families will not go to school. They would be pushed into child labor, due to this problem. This is a long term problem that would be created. This problem should be raised so those governments start looking for solutions on how to deal with this [6].

2.4 Fee Hike in Schools and Colleges

The second issue is that schools and colleges are the fee hike. Nowadays the students are already under stress. Stressful situations for parents are being created as well. Some private schools and colleges in India are conducting any online classes, but they are still charging fees from the parents.

Some private schools and colleges are only holding online classes and charging fees despite that and in some places, fees are being hiked which is a huge issue for the parents. Because of the economic situation in the entire country is going to be worst. 20 percent of their annual household income is spent on the education of their children. It can be imagined here that what importance does the private schools and colleges fees hold for the family. Most of the parents have even approached the Supreme Court for a suspension on the fees hike in schools and colleges Some state government like that of Delhi, Assam, and Maharashtra has already taken action against it. In Maharashtra, it has been declared that no private schools and colleges can hike fees this year, or else they would have to face a penalty. In response to this, several private schools and colleges need money to pay for their teaching and their staff. The schools are hiking fees to be able to pay salaries to the teachers. The condition of the people right now is worst due to job losses, a complete breakdown of income. Some people are not able to pay their rents as well.

There is no doubt that they are in extremely bad shape. The majority of parents are unable to pay their schools and college fees. The schools and Colleges are not running and the children are not studying under such circumstances. Under such circumstances, the best solution is that the government should

pay salaries to the teachers. The government should pay salaries to the teachers on behalf of private schools and colleges. They might not be able to pay 100 percent of the salary but they should pay whatever percentage they can. There was a time when everyone used to go to study in public schools and colleges, but today the middle class, lower class, and even the poor people are reluctant to send their children to the government schools and colleges as they don't have any other choice. For 22-23 years, schools and colleges have been charging exorbitant fees. These private schools and colleges get favor from the government as well. They are built on inexpensive lands and several things are tax-free. On the other hand, they take advantage of the employees, by not paying them entirely. The government is exorbitantly as well. The government is acting as if it is helpless, unable to do anything. Private schools and colleges are at fault as well. Private schools and colleges do have enough money that they can afford to pay teachers.

2.5 Exploitation of Private Schools

The budget of schools and colleges of course is in very bad condition right now. The large schools and colleges take donations of up to 3-15 lakhs per admission. Every year, which is totally illegal and prohibited? It means that if there are 100 admissions then private schools and colleges made around 3 crores to 15 cores. As per average calculation, the fees are normally charged by private schools and colleges 50 percent of it which is unjustified.

The high court and the Supreme Court have already set various parameters within the country.

Education is a sphere where you cannot legally indulge in profiteering and commercialization.

Nothing can be taken for capital expenditure; charge should only be for revenue expenditure and that too only for spending on the children.

2.6 Stresses for Students

From the perspective of the students, the last few months have been extremely stressful. Repeated postponement and cancellation of exams as well as reigning uncertainty. No clarity about the cancellation of exams or when the exams would be held instead of what grading system would be used and whether it would be beneficial for the students or not. It is extremely stressful and leads to an increase in anxiety and depression and in some extreme cases, students have also committed suicides. In this case, class 9 students did not have access to either a Smartphone or a TV [12].

Furthermore, the absence of any kind of physical education and exercise exerts a very negative impact on the health of the students. The constant online classes require them to sit all the time, eating habits and sleep cycles deteriorate have a bad impact on students' health. In this case, regular exercise is extremely essential for mental and physical health. Online classes are not even a short time solution for primary schools and college kids because social-emotional bonding and contact with

people and teachers are necessary for such young children for the development of the child. Due to these negative impacts, several countries decided against reopening their schools [14].

Schools and colleges in Denmark were responded with precautions, whilst maintaining physical distancing. In the coming months, it is better to reopen schools and colleges. It has to evaluate which option is lesser harmful.

2.7 Exam Cancellation

Several universities across the world decided against holding an open book exam. Students would sit in front of the computer to give an exam and they can use the internet or any book while writing the exam. Questions in the open book exam force the students to think. Some exams in India have been canceled completely like CBSE and ICSE Board. Exam of classes 10th and 12th. Most of the students are not in favour of giving the examination and have been demanding the cancellation or the postponement of these exams. For a long time, this has been finally done, but it has created some new problems. The students allege that the evaluation criterion is unfair. Similarly, the joint Entrance Exam (JEE) has been postponed. Under the prevailing circumstances, it is no problem to declare the entire year as a zero academic year.

To boost up the morale of the students and parents, the government declared to promote all the students for the next classes without taking admission. Most of the teachers have been fired from their jobs in private schools and colleges. The teachers are complaining that online classes are increasing inequality between the students which is not good and some teachers are not even being paid their salaries from the schools and colleges.

Conclusions

There is a very clear solution to one issue. The government needs to regulate the fee hike of private schools and colleges. To date, 15 states have made legislation on paper to regulate the fees hike of the private schools and colleges. Parents are involved in the schools and colleges boards only in 4 states in India, where the fees hike can be regulated. It is important to make a parent, teachers, associations, and grant them decision making power so that they can regulate the fee hike. It is in the hands of parents then it can be controlled and implemented better. The rest of the states should also follow this lead.

References

- [1]. Acharya, A., Poudyal, N., Lamichhane, G., Aryal, B., Bhattarai, B. R., Adhikari, B., & Parajuli, N. (2020). Internet-based online higher education in Nepal amidst COVID-19.
- [2]. Almaiah, M. A., Al-Khasawneh, A., & Althunibat, A. (2020). Exploring the critical challenges and factors influencing the E-learning system usage during COVID-19 pandemic. *Education and Information Technologies*, 1.

- [3]. Aristovnik, A., Keržič, D., Ravšelj, D., Tomaževič, N., & Umek, L. (2020). Impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on life of higher education students: A global perspective. *Sustainability*, 12(20), 8438.
- [4]. Chen, T., Peng, L., Yin, X., Rong, J., Yang, J., & Cong, G. (2020, September). Analysis of user satisfaction with online education platforms in China during the COVID-19 pandemic. In *Healthcare* (Vol. 8, No. 3, p. 200). Multidisciplinary Digital Publishing Institute.
- [5]. Chung, E., Subramaniam, G., & Dass, L. C. (2020). Online Learning Readiness Among University Students in Malaysia Amidst Covid-19. *Asian Journal of University Education*, 16(2), 45-58.
- [6]. Dhawan, S. (2020). Online learning: A panacea in the time of COVID-19 crisis. *Journal of Educational Technology Systems*, 49(1), 5-22.
- [7]. G. M. (2020). Influence of COVID-19 confinement on students' performance in higher education. *PloS one*, 15(10), e0239490
- [8]. Gonzalez, T., de la Rubia, M. A., Hincz, K. P., Comas-Lopez, M., Subirats, L., Fort, S., & Sacha,
- [9]. Islam, S. D. U., Bodrud-Doza, M., Khan, R. M., Haque, M. A., & Mamun, M. A. (2020). Exploring COVID-19 stress and its factors in Bangladesh: a perception-based study. *Heliyon*, 6(7), e04399.
- [10]. Jena, P. K. (2020). Impact of Covid-19 on higher education in India. *International Journal of Advanced Education and Research (IJAER)*, 5.
- [11]. König, J., Jäger-Biela, D. J., & Glutsch, N. (2020). Adapting to online teaching during COVID-19 school closure: teacher education and teacher competence effects among early career teachers in Germany. *European Journal of Teacher Education*, 1-15.
- [12]. Liang, L., Ren, H., Cao, R., Hu, Y., Qin, Z., Li, C., & Mei, S. (2020). The effect of COVID-19 on youth mental health. *Psychiatric Quarterly*, 1-12.
- [13]. Ramsetty, A., & Adams, C. (2020). Impact of the digital divide in the age of COVID-19. *Journal of the American Medical Informatics Association*, 27(7), 1147-1148.
- [14]. Ustun, G. (2020). Determining depression and related factors in a society affected by COVID-19 pandemic. *The International Journal of Social Psychiatry*.
- [15] Tilak, D. G. (2020). COVID-19: Role of Media and Issues Faced By Media. *International Journal of Future Generation Communication and Networking* , 595–604.