# Impact of Covid 19 Pandemic and Lockdown on Education Sector in India

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## Abstract

Covid 19 virus also known as corona virus is a communicable disease affecting not only India but the whole world since last year. It disrupted every nook and corner of social life as well as every sector including education sector like others. The government of India declared lock down last year in the year 2020 to break down the chain of pandemic. This year it was left to states whether it is to be imposed or not according to ground level position. This year also many a state in India imposed the lockdown keeping the school, colleges, universities and other institution closed as a measure to contain the spread of corona virus. The study suggested that the lockdown as a precautionary tool helped in maintaining social distancing, maintaining hygiene but on the other hand it completely halted the students from moving to school/colleges and all educational activities ahead and posing a tough fight by putting different channel to survive the crisis with a different approach and digitising the challenges to wash away the threat of pandemic.

*Keywords*: Covid 19, Education, Technology, Impact, Govt. of India

## Introduction

India world second largest country in terms of population after China was hit by a virus known as corona virus disease 2019 i.e., a communicable disease caused by newly detected severe acute respiratory syndrome corona virus. The first case of its kind was found in Wuhan, Hubei China in December 2019. (Jena, 2020; Kaushal & Kaushal, 2021).covid 19 was declared pandemic on 11th March, 2020 after its massive outbreak all around world. India keen to provide education to every part of country introduced 86th amendment Act 2009 made in 2002 a fundamental right and inserting Article 21 A i.e., providing free and compulsory education to all children for age group of six to fourteen years faced a tough challenge when it was hit by pandemic and Government of India had to forcefully shut down all school, colleges and universities to break the chain of covid 19(Jena, 2020; *Right To Education | Axom Sarba Siksha Abhiyan Mission | Government Of Assam, India*, n.d.). Earlier education sector was itself facing many other challenges like educational infrastructure, imbalanced teachers-students ratio, lack of modern technology, apathy and lethargy about schooling etc. (Singh et al., 2015)Even after 73 years of independence India was working hard to impart education to its citizen before it was halted by covid 19 pandemic.(Barman & Mandal, 2015) This time around in the country nursery admission process would take place, final board exams of 10th and 12th class would take place.(Jena, 2020) Entrance examination of various universities, competition examination for various government and nongovernment organisation were to be held. In India where already inequality in education is there, therefore lockdown will not only have short term

consequences but also widen the socio-economic gap because students from far reaching areas do not have access to even internet till today keep apart other digital gadgets who are completely based on traditional process of imparting education.

According to a research conduct by (Priyanka Pandita Koul & OmkarJagdish Bapat, 2020), shown Impact COVID-19 pandemic on students are as follows:

Delay in admission process in school, colleges and universities

Affecting punctuality, discipline of students

Hindrance to placement, internship, trainings and off and on campus interviews

Far reaching areas students do not have access to internet

Lack of modern-day technology and gadget in rural areas

Competition appearing students have lost their attempts because of cancellation of exams

Covid has disrupted the research of scholars

Lack of practical knowledge for technical students

Health issues with students with complete digitalisation

Countries worst hit by pandemic fearful of opening their school and universities to abroad students.

According to a research conducted by(Jena, 2020), ImpactCOVID-19 pandemic on parents are as follows:

Working parents can't pay attention to their wards because they themselves work from home over digital platform.

Rural areas parents are not educated enough to use digital platform.

Lack of usage of native language over digital platforms, regional language on these gadgets should be provided.

According to a research conducted by(Priyanka Pandita Koul & OmkarJagdish Bapat, 2020)Impact COVID-19 pandemic on Educational institutions are as follows:

Job loss, salary cut and loss of other perks for the faculty.

This pandemic has hit hard the placement capacities, and admission in schools and colleges.

Lower fee collection posing hardship in running the institution.

Infrastructure, teaching styles, appraisal techniques and quality of education may get affected.

Fully digitalisation has reduced the jobs as less manpower is required. No students-teacher ratio is to be maintained.

Some institutes were shut down because of recession and economic slowdown in the education sector.

As per the centre for monitoring Indian economy, unemployment short up estimated 8.4 percent in mid-march to 23 percent in early April and the urban unemployment rate to 30.9 percent.

According to (Kaushal & Kaushal, 2021; Singh et al., 2015) and suggestive measures to overcome the education sector from COVID 19 pandemic

Remote learning should be encouraged.

Richer countries should move to online learning module although lots of challenges for teachers and parents.

In middle-income and poorer countries, the situation is very mixed and if we do not act appropriately, the vast inequality of opportunities that exists – egregious and unacceptable to start with – will be amplified. Many children do not have a desk, books, internet connectivity, a laptop at home, or supportive parents. Others do. What we need to avoid – or minimize as much as possible – is for those differences in opportunities to expand and cause the crisis to have an even larger negative effect on poor children's learning.

Fortunately, we are seeing a lot of creativity in many countries. Rightly so, many ministries of education are worried that relying exclusively on online strategies will imply reaching only children from better-off families. The appropriate strategy in most countries is to use all possible delivery modes with the infrastructure that exists today. Use online tools to assure that lesson plans, videos, tutorials, and other resources are available for some students and probably, most teachers. But also, podcasts and other resources that require less data usage. Working with telecommunication companies to apply zero-rate policies can also facilitate learning material to be downloaded on a smart phone, which more students are likely to have.

Radio and TV are also very powerful tools. The advantage we have today is that through social networks, Whatsapp or SMS, ministries of education can communicate effectively with parents and teachers and provide guidelines, instructions and structure to the learning process, using content delivered by radio or TV. Remote learning is not only about online learning, but about mixed media learning, with the objective of reaching as many students as possible, today.

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According to (Shenoy et al., 2020)special hygiene and health related measure

- Premises should be sanitized regularly
- Large gathering must be avoided.
- Social distancing must be maintained.
- Frequent hand washing must be adopted.
- Alcohol based sanitizer should be adopted.
- Face shield may be used by students and teachers.
- Arogya setup app should be a must as it will help to avoid community transmission.
- Covering mouth with paper napkin or cloth while sneezing and coughing to control the spreading of the disease.
- Reaching out to doctor in case difficulty in breathing, fever or cough with body pain is observed.

Limitation in reforms in the education sector in India

- Low income private and government schools, colleges may not be able to adapt to different modern tools and techniques such as virtual classroom, e-learning and online teaching methods.
- Lack of proper infrastructure to develop internet connectivity due to poor socio-economic condition
- Apprehension of Covid 19 pandemic also discourages students and their parents

**Conclusion**

Countries need to increase their teachers' digital skills. Parents needs to get more involved in their children's education process, and ministries of education need a much clearer understanding of the gaps and challenges that exist in using technology effectively and act upon that. All of this can strengthen the future education system in a country.

All education systems have a same. It is to overcome the learning crisis we were already living and respond to the pandemic we are all facing. The challenge today is to reduce as much as possible the negative impact this pandemic will have on learning and schooling and build on this experience to get back on a path of faster improvement in learning. To close the gap in opportunities and assuring that all children have the same chances for a quality education for this education systems cope with this crisis, we need to think how we can recover stronger, with a renewed sense of responsibility of all actors and with a better understanding and sense of urgency of the need.

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