

## **Covi-19: A Lesson for Learning to Learn**

(Mrs. Indu Jain , Assistant Professor, IIMT College of Science and Technology, Greater Noida)

(Dr. Poonam Pandey ,Professor, IIMT College of Science and Technology, Greater Noida)

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### **Abstract:**

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic is being felt in all sectors of the world. This has taken a toll on the education sector in India and the world. He introduced a global quarantine that had a very bad impact on students' lives. About 32 million students have stopped to go to schools/universities and all educational activities in India have been suspended. The COVID-19 outbreak has shown us that change is inevitable. This acted as a catalyst for the growth of educational institutions and the selection of platforms and methods that were not previously used. The education sector has struggled to survive the crisis by taking a different approach and digitizing the problem to wash away the threat of the pandemic. This document highlights several actions taken by the government. India offers seamless education in the country.

**Keywords:** COVID-19, Teaching & Learning, Educational Crisis, Challenges & Opportunities

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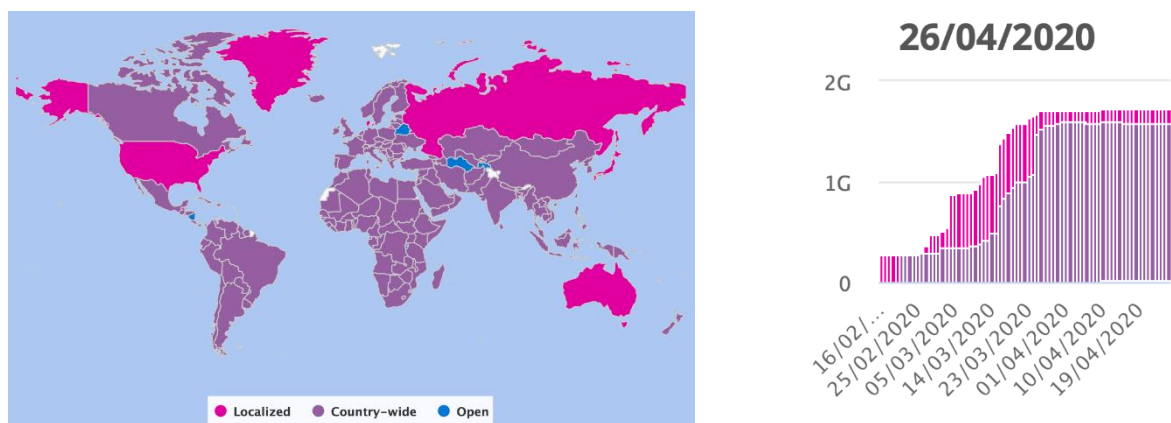
### **I. Introduction**

Declaration of International Public Health Emergency due to COVID-19 outbreak is the greatest challenge faced since World War-II that may jeopardize the hard-won gains made in improving global education. We are faced with the stark reality that the education system we return to will be forever altered. Most governments around the world have temporarily closed educational institutions to prevent the spread of the coronavirus. This nationwide lockdown affects more than 90% of students worldwide. The current crisis presents an opportunity to rethink over the education system that majorly rely on brick and mortar environment, neglecting the potential use of digital technology which is the sole medium to continue education in such challenging times. Thus, the COVID-19 pandemic is the defining health crisis made the human race to rethink over the alternative educational system that can serve the needs of millions of student while considering the current scenario of digital divide in many places across the globe. COVID-19 Pandemic has shaken the global education system to the roots. The catchphrase of this crisis, which has engulfed nearly the entire world and paralyzed the nations' abilities to contain its spread, is uncertainties. It carries far-reaching consequences for countries' population and economies. This crisis hit hard various sector of economy like manufacturing, healthcare, corporate, pharmaceutical, E-commerce, and the list continues. The education system has also fallen to its knees, endangering the future of millions due to inaccessibility of modern technology like digital device, online connectivity, lack of training to operate digital technology especially for developing and under-developed nations. UNESCO is supporting such countries to facilitate digital education by providing necessary online sources and means, but lack of motivational and psychological wellbeing of students and their parents due to ongoing lockdown will create a hurdle in goal fulfillment. COVID-19 will have a long-lasting impact on the trajectory of the educational plans. This is more than a health crisis. Hitting each affected country could result in a devastating social, economic, and political crisis that would leave deep scars.

## II. Education Crisis

### Status of Education Crisis

Fig.1: Global monitoring of educational institution closure caused by COVID-19



COVID-19 has severely ruined the formal education system; its magnitude of severity can be understood by analysing the closure rate of educational institutions in three stratifications:

- Localized closure (spread of coronavirus is limited)
- Country-wide closure (spread of coronavirus is extensive)
- Open (no instance of COVID-19)

Therefore, transition of education system into comprehensive online platform is inevitable.

Table-1: Expected transition of education system in developed/developing/under-developed nations before/during/after COVID-19 crisis.

Perimeter	Developed Countries	Developing Countries	Under-developed countries
Before	Contemporary System (traditional classroom + inhouse virtual learning)	Traditional classroom lectures+smart learning using digital mode of education	Traditional classroom teaching
During	Virtual classroom model + Open Learning Platforms	Online classroom method+digital libraries	Online learning platform like KioKit sponsored by UNESCO and UNICEF
After	Hybrid Education System (blend of both traditional classroom instruction and online learning activities)	Hybrid Education System (blend of both traditional classroom instruction and online learning activities)	Smart classroom model using digital mode education

It can be inferred that the hybrid learning is the futuristic education system around the world, which has the potential to withstand global education crisis.

### Multi Dimensional Implications of COVID-19 on Educational Institutions

COVID-19 has not only altered the teaching learning process but also drastically affected the functioning of various departments of education institutions, that is illustrated below:

#### Administration

The administrative department is the main body of an educational institution and performs a variety of functions, including interdepartmental control, admissions procedures, institutional policy making, record keeping, and regulation of the institution's official signing authority. COVID-19 has halted optimized performance for facility managers.

#### Human Resource

Human resources play a key role in workforce management, including hiring and retaining core personnel such as specialists, support staff, service representatives, and sales representatives. HRD should ensure regular pay and benefits for all employees and review and amend policies to accommodate her rapidly changing COVID-19 impact.

### **Operations**

The capacity of educational institutions' operations departments has been severely curtailed due to the nationwide lockdown, leaving online operations (virtual classes, electronic trading of information, initiating outbound monetary transactions via payment gateways, etc.), and future digital marketing. Focused. Maintaining a proactive information system for student enrollment and timely dissemination of guidelines. The Operations Department works tirelessly to implement preventative strategies to protect the interests of the institutions.

### **Finance**

COVID-19 has created a financial emergency among institutions and budget cancellation measures have been initiated to ensure effective and efficient use of available funds. The main reasons for the financial crisis are refunds and refunds, campus disinfection measures, and the expenditure of salaries and other funds. Additionally, the lack of new enrollments and the cost of online courses are further depleting scarce tax resources for educational institutions. Optimal budget planning is therefore essential for overall growth during the COVID-19 pandemic.

## **4. Educational Changes**

Covid-19 is having a huge impact on the education system. There have been various challenges, changes and modifications that the Indian education system has taken into account.

### **Curriculum**

Curriculum is the soul of the education system. This is a subject that includes a course of study at school or university. CBSE and NCERT introduced some changes. B. Addition of various new topics effective from Sessions 20-21. Here are the changes:

- Three new subjects are added for class 11th i.e., artificial intelligence, design thinking, physical activities. These subjects will lie in the category of optional or sixth subject.
- 6th subject for classes 10th and 12th will be added which is regional language.
- Skill courses will also be added for classes 6th to 11<sup>th</sup>.

As per now above given information is in action for session 20-21 but changes may occur due to COVID-19

### **Annual Sessions**

HRD, UGC and CBSE have proposed alternative calendars for students with some modifications as follows:

- Consider these holidays as summer holidays.
- College academic sessions begin in September.

### **Innovations**

Autonomous educational institutions such as CBSE, NCERT, NCTE and MHRD are trying to make productive use of these lockdown periods by launching various contests, seminars and more online. Here are some of them:-

- SAMADHAN: The MHRD Mega Online Challenge, or "SAMADHAN", was launched by his MHRD Innovation Division at MHRD (MIC). Introduce and test the innovative abilities of students and educators. Participants must face design, inspiration, and development challenges that can help public health officials.
- Webinars: CIET – NCERT will host webinars for educators on weekdays from 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm covering various topics related to ICT tool to help guide learning.
- BRICS:- CBSE will hold a BRICS math online contest from April 22nd to May 22nd.
- FIT INDIA MOMENT: CBSE launched a free live class called 'Fit India Moment' every day at 9:30 am for student growth and development. Any citizen can participate in the session. Children with special needs will also benefit, as the schedule includes two special days for CWSN physical and emotional sessions, namely May 7 and 8 can do. Students can choose this course in online mode and get a certificate for it. The purpose is to spread awareness.
- NEP 2020: NEP 2020 There are various programs to be implemented as follows.
  - Adolescent education programs
  - National population education programme
  - Educational technological programme
  - Vocational education programmes

## **4. Digitalization Measures taken by the Government of India**

Digitalization is the integration of digital technologies into everyday life. It also means process of converting information into digital format. And education system is using this mode for imparting knowledge to the students, or we can say to continue the session so that studies of the students should not suffer. Some of the measures taken by Indian government are as follows:-

### **Central Board of Secondary Education**

**1. "AROGYA SETU" App has been released.**

**2. It has shared a protocol document for immunity boosting which has been evolved through ministry of Ayush.**

**3. CBSE –Shiksha Vani podcast and country wide ICT award for instructors.**

### **National Council of Educational Research and Training:-**

1. E-books as well as E-library has been launched.

2. comprehensive digital studying platforms i.e., DIKSHA (digital infrastructure for know-how sharing), E-Pathshala, NROER (country wide Repository of Open instructional sources), Swayam, Swayam Prabha has been released.

### **IGNOU**

1. Free online courses.

2. Study centers has formed whatsapp group and started with the online classes.

3. It has national digital repository named 'e GyanKosh.'

4. Web based "Gyan darshan."

### **5. Lessons Learnt**

The mistakes which the world commits are as they take it very light & don't react very hard to it & don't take any hard steps to avoid the effect of this pandemic. As this pandemic spreads at very higher rate which one person could infect more than 435 people within a month, if one doesn't took precautionary measures such as social distancing. Imagine how much it would affect the world if its chain doesn't break. The Europeans countries, USA, various countries took it very light, and they are regretting now. Nearly 20 lakh peoples are infected with it. As there is no antidote invented, social distancing is the best cure that it has. Basically the countries doesn't analyzed the how critical the situation is. According to some reports WHO doesn't take it that much serious, it is disastrous situation for almost every nation. Even USA president took the situation.

very light, & now they are having more than 6 lakh cases. They lost nearly 28000 people & it is continuously increasing. Even they don't lockdown whole nation, it was partial. The basic mistakes committed by the people with their usual habits which benefited the virus the most. Usually people continue with their habits & it rapidly spreads. We won't have a vaccine until late 2021 if things go perfectly, and more realistically not until 2023-24. If we're moderately unlucky, the Covid-19 vaccine will be only as effective as the flu vaccine, reducing the chance of illness by 50 percent. If we're amazingly lucky, the virus will burn out by year's end. If we're pretty lucky, Covid-19 will be a seasonal affliction and come back like the flu every year, yet the World Health Organization calls such an optimistic scenario of false hope. The most likely scenario is that it will just keep going, unaffected by seasons. Earlier WHO declared that there is no evidence of human to human transmission but later it was found that WHO reports was wrong. USA stopped the funding to WHO, as they think WHO doesn't understand and react to the criticality of situation.

### **6. Precautions Taken**

As this pandemic came a bit later in India; it gives us the time to prepare. The Indian Government learnt lesson from European countries that faces the disastrous situation due to this pandemic. Indian Government quickly responded to situation and takes the precautionary steps to reduce the effect of this pandemic. The major steps are nationwide lockdown, Janta Curfew, regular Travel Advisories, Screening on Airports, closure of Schools & Colleges, Advisories for Social Distancing, Cancellation of Visas, & even Cancellation of Domestic & International Flights. The minor steps are also taken at the state & district level which shows a positive effect at this pandemic.

Michael Ryan, chief executive director of the World Health Organization's health emergencies programmer, said that India had "tremendous capacity" to deal with the corona virus outbreak and, as the second most populous country, will have enormous impact on the world's ability to deal with it.

➤ **JANTA CURFEW:** On March 22, 2020, India observed a 14-hour voluntary public curfew at the instance of the P.M. Narendra Modi. It is basically a curfew that is imposed by the people & for the people & to reduce the effect of COVID-19. It is basically a reality checks that are we ready to have lockdown.

➤ **NATIONWIDE LOCKDOWN:** After the Janta Curfew, GOI decided to impose a complete lockdown for 21 days. As the COVID-19 spreads at a high rate, it is necessary to take some tough preventive measures. It was imposed from March 25, 2020, till April 14, 2020 & later it was imposed for 19 more days till May 3, 2020.

➤ **SCREENING ON AIRPORT:** Till the date 15, 24,266 peoples are screened at Airports; India started its screening on airports from the date of January 17, 2020.

➤ **TRAVEL ADVISORIES:** Indian Government circulated various travel advisories for its travelers to avoid risk. The first advisories came at January 17, 2020; India cancels all visas of traveler from the date of February 05, 2020, of China & advised its citizen to avoid the China's trip. Indian citizen's returning from

China is putted under quarantine for 14 days. On March 19, 2020, an updated advisory passed, it clearly mentions that no flight will be allowed to take off or land on Indian soil from the date of March 22, 2020 till next orders.

- **CANCELLATION OF VISAS:** GOI updates peoples with cancellation of visas from the immediate effects from all over the world. India cancels the no on travel of its citizen to international visits.
- **CANCELLATION OF FLIGHTS:** Indian Government updates nation that it cancel the international flights from March 22, 2020 & lately informed that even no domestic flights will play from the date of lockdown other than essential services.
- **CLOSURE OF EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS:** HRD Ministry advices local authorities for closure of Educational institutions with the immediate effect, as they are easy spreader of this pandemic due to their inability to impose of social distancing norms.

### III. Conclusion

In this study we tried to define the COVID-19 pandemic, its nature, transmission dynamics, signs and symptoms with special focus on the current scenario. Detailed analysis of the multi-spectral effects of COVID-19 with special emphasis on global education crisis, which has been analyzed with standardized parameters suitable as per the nations' development stage (Developed/Developing/Under-Developed countries) has been carried out. Various implications of this pandemic on education system like administration, finance, human resource and operations have been taken into consideration to gain insight in terms of its immediate and long term effects. Educational changes prescribed by national education authorities and international education bodies along with our recommendations on challenges and opportunities of COVID-19, has also been discussed in this project. A primary survey on 'Academic impact of COVID-19' has been conducted with objective to analyze people's (students, parents and teachers) ability to combat current educational adversaries. We learned tough lessons regarding the mistakes committed and precautionary measures taken by us to withstand this global health crisis. Therefore, it can be inferred that it is our small yet effective attempt to understand the future course of action that will reshape our education system forever.

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