

IMPACT OF COVID-19 EPIDEMIC ON INDIAN HIGHER EDUCATION

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Abstract: *The terrible and serious consequences of Covid-19 have shaken the world. Governments in most countries around the world have temporarily closed educational institutions due to the Covid-19 epidemic. In India, too, the government has shut down all educational institutions as part of a nationwide lockdown, with the result that, from school children to graduates. Under the current circumstances, there is uncertainty as to whether schools and colleges will resume. There is no doubt that this is an important time for the education sector as many universities and competitive examinations are conducted during this period. The Central Government and all the State Governments are working aggressively to reduce the immediate impact of the national lockdown by maintaining educational regularity through distance education. There is an urgent need to address the issue of corona virus as the closure of schools and colleges will not only have short-term effects in India but will also have far-reaching educational, economic and social consequences. The present research paper sheds light on the effect of Covid-19 epidemic on current Indian education system.*

Keywords: *Covid-19, Higher education system, impact, e-learning.*

The outbreak of the corona virus is a major crisis facing the world after World War two. This crisis has affected all aspects of human life. Now the only solution is to take preventive measures. Therefore, efforts are being made to control this disease in all countries on the basis of lockdown policy. The uncertainty created by this situation has created an atmosphere of fear around the world. The global and national economies are suffering from recession and unemployment. Due to the stable economy, the poorest of the poor moved from the city to the countryside and died. The world is surrounded by the fear of war. The centers of global power are shifting from the European-American continent to the Asian continent. Lockdown has led to emptiness and loneliness, leading to family, social and mental health

problems. Many countries have closed educational institutions to prevent the Corona epidemic. According to a UNESCO report, in April 2020, millions of students from many countries were at home. Schools / colleges are closed in India. As a result, 26 crore students and 89 lakh teachers are sitting at home, while 50,000 higher education institutions are closed and 3.70 crore students and 1.5 lakh college teachers are sitting at home. On January 30, the first case of Kovid-19 in India was detected in Kerala. All were students returning from Wuhan. Subsequently, 22 new cases were reported in India on March 4, involving 14 infected members of an Italian tourist group. The epidemic then spread to several states and territories, temporarily closing educational and professional establishments under the provisions of the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897. And all tourism and transportation services were shut down. On March 16, 2020, the central government announced a lock-down in schools and colleges. In this difficult situation, the government has introduced e-learning programs to support and encourage students at school and college level. This advanced initiative has received a huge response from students and their parents. Thus digital education emerged as the most efficient and reliable way to fill the teaching gap in the classroom until the infectious disease was eradicated from all over the country. The Covid-19 virus has caused a worldwide outcry. The economy, along with the health status of the entire world, has collapsed. The transition has had a major impact on the economy as well as the higher education system. According to a study, the epidemic has literally shattered the dreams of 48% of Indian students to higher study abroad. The Covid-19 epidemic will have an adverse effect on the emigration of Indian students for higher education. The epidemic will affect the decision of 48.26 per cent children to study abroad. Higher education institutions will make extensive use of e-learning platforms in the near future. Of course, this process will be lengthy, but it is certain that it will affect the mobility in higher education.

E-learning system:

E-learning includes all kinds of educational methods and tools, where the process of transferring knowledge and skills is provided by new electronic technologies, including computers and the Internet. The e-learning process includes web-based learning, computer-based learning and learning through multimedia content, animation, video and audio streaming. There are more and more different types of e-learning.

Consequences of digital learning system:

There is a lot of scope for information technology in disseminating education, expanding education, enhancing educational quality, increasing educational opportunities.

According to a TRAI report, by 2020, the number of Internet users in India will be around 68 crore. The number of mobile phone users is around 4 crore, while the number of internet users is 40 crore. The number of TV viewers is 76 crore. Although this information technology has expanded, there are huge disparities. In India, 52% of the population uses the Internet. This means that half of India is deprived of the benefits of the Internet. 36% of people in rural areas and 64% in urban areas use the Internet. Information technology is being monopolized by urban, affluent people. Therefore, the benefits of government projects like 'National Digital Library', auto, etc. are limited to a limited number of people. Online education has big problems like cost of computer, internet cost, power supply etc. The situation is similar in many underdeveloped countries. So those countries have started using TV media more when colleges are closed. In India, however, no such simple plan has been discussed. There are more than nine hundred channels in India and the Department of Education needs to take some steps on how to use these channels for students sitting at home.

Some possible side effects of e-learning education system:

- Teachers in small town and rural institutes earn less. Teachers are likely to pay less attention to children when teaching online as many teachers are not paid in lockdown.
- Many colleges do not have basic facilities. So most of them do not get computer education and other facilities. In this epidemic, most teachers do not have computer knowledge. Are unable to teach students online.
- Lack of educational planning and supervision and control.
- Lack of knowledge about the use of e-learning materials and services provided.
- Students whose parents are uneducated find it difficult to access online classes as the school does not teach computer courses or skills.
- Inadequate power supply and internet service in rural areas.

Some advantages of e-learning education system:

Increases the quality of education

Online learning provides computer-based adaptation testing and promotes alternative learning and ideas. An effective online learning environment leads students to a higher level of thinking, encourages active student participation, and enhances the overall quality of education.

- **Reduces the cost of education:** Reduces the expenses incurred by the students like books, transportation-expenses, etc.

- **Supplement to Sarva-Shiksha Abhiyan:** Education can benefit everyone, regardless of gender, caste, or economic inequality.
- **Time saving:** Learning through online learning system can be done anytime, anywhere and anytime thus saving time.

Conclusion:

Under the Indian education system, it seems difficult for the government to develop a complete infrastructure for digital education. Furthermore, if digital infrastructure is to be developed in India, first of all, teachers should be trained so that they can use the digital system effectively and provide planned continuous learning. Almost all educational institutions are using online video platforms to interact with students. Here, this question has come to the fore again for students living in rural areas as there is a problem of internet connectivity in many parts of the country especially in rural areas. Another important point is that the lack of a learning environment can lead to some difficulties in digital learning. Students may be prone to be distracted by social media, gaming, movies, etc. If the e-learning education system is implemented in India with proper academic planning and control, it will definitely fill the educational gap created by this epidemic.

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