

Critical Analysis of Post Covid Online Education in India- Special Reference to Economically Weaker Section

Dr Bhakti Parashar
Assistant Professor,
VIT-Bhopal University
Bhopal

ABSTRACT: COVID 19 is the biggest challenge at present in every corner of the world and in the country like India this pandemic has considerably interrupted our education system which was already had so many loopholes and always was one of the key element for economic development. School education has lost its sincerity and regularity during this pandemic period. The whole education sector has moved from its traditional pattern to digital one using video conferencing platforms as a learning management system.

Although it is expected that mobile internet users in India will reach 666.4 million by 2023 and at present, it is 564.5 million out of 1,369.56 million. But what about the rest of the population which is deprived of the internet or maybe deprived of mobile phone before COVID-19 India was already struggling with low performance in educational sector and during this crisis underprivileged sector and this disease is restricting teachers and educationalist to take any step during this lockdown period.

Thus, this is a high time to think for the availability of an alternative arrangement to this digital education to poorer section and for this government, non-government organization, educationalist and expert need to find a solution of this serious problem.

KEYWORDS: - COVID-19, Education, Government, Poverty, India

I. INTRODUCTION

COVID-19 is one of the infectious diseases due to a brand new virus called corona began from Wuhan, China and now is a virulent disease which is affecting globally. People capture it from different who have this virus and this disorder spreads primarily from individual to man or woman despite the fact that small droplets from mouth or nose ejected by using someone with this sickness when he speaks sneezes or coughs.

According to the latest report of W.H.O on COVID-19 till now globally 4170424 overall confirmed cases were registered and out of that 287399 was declared dead. Countries like Italy Britain and Spain are amongst those who have crossed more than 2 lac confirmed cases, where the USA is leading with more than 13 lac, in that state of affairs India is in a much better situation where 742813 instances were registered and some deaths are 2415. However, India is an underdeveloped country and had some manipulate on this virus because of obligatory social distancing and quarantine but the number of instances is growing in manifolds which isn't a great sign and that may be forced to the authorities to both continue financial lockdown or include its revised version.

The whole world is working to discover the vaccine of it, but all are failed to discover even after nearly greater than months of the sector spread that is why the authorities are worried for the destiny of India W.H.O and different officials have introduced it as an in no way lasting disease,

and we have to examine to stay it with because this pandemic isn't always infectious from individual to character however from gadgets and surface as well. If the droplet of an infected man or woman sinks to surface or object like door or wall or forex notes people will become infected with the aid of touching these things after which their nostril, eyes or mouth. That is why it's very crucial to wash your arms with cleaning soap or sanitize yourself from time to time.

1.1 COVID-19 and India

In late January 2020 three students travelled to Kerala from Wuhan China and all of them tested positive for COVID-19, at the same time several other cases were detected in other parts of India where most of them were linked to the people with a travel history to affected countries and from that date India witnessed an outbreak of the coronavirus increased rapidly since March.

- **First Phase of Lockdown:** - Government ordered a nationwide lockdown for 21 days for the entire nation on 24th March 2020 as a first preventive measure against this pandemic. It was the first ever public curfew due to any disease after 500 confirmed cases. This lockdown was till 13th April 2020.
- **Second Phase of Lockdown:** - Second phase of lockdown was announced on 14th April after the recommendations of its extension by some state governments and advisory committees. Prime Minister

extended this national lockdown till 3rd May with little conditional relaxation

- **Third Phase of lockdown:-**As the cases were increases significantly with the introduction of three zones-green, red and orange depending on the cases of infected government extended this national lockdown further by two more weeks until 17th May.

1.2 Impact of COVID-19 on Indian Economy

This lockdown restrict people to come out from their homes. All rail, road and transport services were suspend with some exclusion of transportation of essential goods and emergency services. Basic services such as food shops, petrol pumps banks and ATMs, essentials and their manufacturing was allowed.

This exemption leads to fulfil our basic need but the suspension of other services like industrial establishment, hospitality services, educational institutions and job sector were harmed severely and put the economy let down. Following are the sectorial decision government has taken which are severely harmed by this lockdown:-

- **Health:-** Government has issued advisory and encourage people to use government launched mobile application 'ArogyaSetu' to track the spread of the virus which notifies users on whether they are susceptible to the infection or not. Not only has this government issued measure to ensure mental health with special reference to migrant labourers, children and elderly.
- **Organized Sector:** - Staff will be present in shifts to reduce the number of persons to maintain social distancing. Attending of essential services are exempted by government for employees with disability. Insurance coverage extended to all healthcare providers fighting with this pandemic under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package.
- **Agriculture:-** Agriculture was the only sector which was the livelihood in such emergency most of its operations in this sector and allied sectors have been excluded from lockdown, though it was advisable to maintain social distancing during agricultural activities'-NAM software has been launched in the view to decongest mandies
- **Financial Sector and financial aids:** - Pradhanmantri CARE Fund has been launched to collect fund to tackle COVID-19 challenges and those company who are giving their contribution. In the view of lockdown, government has given relaxation of three months for repayment of loans, insurance premium filing IT return etc.
- **Education:-**CBSE has given general promotion to students from class I to class VII, class IX and XI students will be promoted on the basis of assessments such as tests, exams and projects. Exams of X and XII exams have been postponed. UGC and MHRD have directed to us digital learning and teaching methods during this lockdown period.

- **Others:** - Apart from the major sector one of the most important sector is the production of essential goods and services at this time like masks, sanitisers, alcohol required for producing sanitisers. A proper check on fake and misleading information through social media pertaining to COVID-19 is also one of the tasks of government.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

W.H.O Report April 1st 2020:-Public health and social measure are only things to be implemented with the involvement of all individuals, institutions, communities, national government and international bodies to stop the spread of this pandemic. As vaccines and special medicines are not yet discovered to protect from COVID-19 the we have to maintain social distancing and hygiene measures for our survival

According to a research by some of the Professors and fellows of (**Johns Hopkinson School of Medicine, Princeton University and CDDEP, New Delhi (March 24 2020)**) predicted after analysing the cases since February till now that the country will have relieve from coronavirus after August 2020 and that too will not be full relieve but the country will low trajectory that means it is optimistically assumed that because of temperature and humidity sensitivity corona cases less with decreased transmission potentially.

Government's sudden decision of lockdown created insecurity among the population which reflected in some of the incidences when migrant workers are going home back without maintaining social distancing, this lack of farsightedness of government results in starvation among poor, migration of workers, losing of jobs, and so on. (**Editorial-The Lancet April 25,2020**).

This global pandemic had put our economy into a serious challenge of managing this outbreak and reducing its impact. On the contrary, slowing down of economic activity during this lockdown may result in the form of losing jobs, income specifically poor and weaker section, marginal and daily works. (**M.K.Pavithra-FACTLY April 7 2020**)

III. OBJECTIVES

- To determine the impact of COVID-19 on Indian Economy
- To analyse the impact of lockdown on India
- To find out the pros & cos and challenges on education of poor and deprived section

IV. ANALYSIS

In every part of the world excellence and equity, cornerstones of the good education system are one of the big

problems in third world countries where many people are deprived of basic needs how can we expect from the government to give technological equality. At the same time, another challenge is to provide quality internet connection and awareness among students and teachers. One cannot become master of anything within a night so we cannot expect from whole country's teachers and students to learn an application and start working on that within a day.

4.1 COVID-19 & Education System of India

This unpredictable lockdown in India has brought the biggest problem for school going children and their regular education. Educational institutions were the first one to close in this lockdown and many students immediately signed up for online classes for their learning needs and many schools were told to use online learning applications like Zoom by teachers and students but what if students as well as teachers are not well worse of internet applications. Although the government has instructed schools through CBSE and ministry of higher education to digitalize the education by mobile-based learning models.

Following are major pros & cos of studying/teaching through online mode:-

Pros:-

1. Social distancing could be only possible by this. No ways we are certain of re-opening of schools even after a month.
2. The best utilization of the lockdown academically is the online mode of study, and if it is made as compulsion people learn fast and it is happening.
3. Anyhow we have to adopt online teaching mode as well, thus this way we can become technology-friendly.
4. Chances of innovation, networking and making teaching and learning more interesting is possible through online mode of education.

Cos:-

1. Indian students, as well as teachers are not trained for online classes; many of them don't own a smart phone especially economically deprived students and if they own many of them don't know to operate more than WhatsApp, Facebook or Gmail.
2. It not only a difficult task for students and teacher but family members as well to not to disturb during classes otherwise people makes joke on them and it happened during this lockdown.
3. At the 11th hour it is told to shift from traditional mode to digital mode is not easy, people make lot of mistake, clearing doubts in physical presence is having different impact as compared to online mode. Teachers have

experienced students behave insincere, confused and unable to accept this online teaching and learning mode.

4. Availability of internet connection with good speed is a must and it's not possible all the time.
5. With the name of classes students may misuse of internet and waste money by unnecessary access to the internet at this time of crises.

4.2 COVID-19-Economic Lockdown Issues and challenges to poor children of India

W.H.O is in a threat various risks in educational sector of economically deprived people like the risk of non-return to school, risk of widening gap in school educational attainment, engaging children in work as child labour due to uncertainty and adding one of the means of learning.

Followings are some issues and challenges faced by these economically weaker sections which lead to make our educational sector weaker:-

1. Students from poor society do not have smart phone with them either with their parents, so attending online classes is almost impossible for them which will make them far behind to their other classmates who are attending these online classes.
2. Even if by mistake any of the family members have a smart phone with an internet connection, they don't know the procedure to go for online learning.
3. After the declaration of the third phase of lockdown and possibly fourth phase it is assumed that schools will not be reopen full-fledged. And this may lead to non-return of students due to disinterest for studies after a huge gap
4. Probably this weaker section is struggling a lot for their survival, which will compel them to send their children for labour work, not to school.
5. This problem is becoming worse due to migration of marginal labour to their home, once they will reach their hometown with a lot of pains they will not return back to their jobs, they have to search for a new job and a new source of income, which may possible if all the family member will start working as labour.

V. SUGGESTIONS

1. Loudspeakers can be used for teaching with maintaining social distancing as a tool with safety, which is easily available and cheap as well.
2. The area with green zone should be allowed to open schools and after the observation and analysis on them yellow zone should be allowed alternative days.
3. Orange zone and red zone may go further based on the performance by green and yellow zone but with a lot of restrictions and social distancing

4. The government should run awareness programs through NGOs SHGs and train teachers and school staff to take care and teach students for self-analysis of the possibility of having corona and to take precautionary measure to beat corona.
5. Primary health workers, ASHA workers and other government health workers should be assigned to address these people and ensure their availability at the time of emergency.

VI. CONCLUSION

The study reveals that there is a need to look after this issue of education of economically deprived people, who may in future come under drop-outs. In this direction not only government but health workers teachers and staff of school should take some initiative has the primary responsibility to save these poor children to become labour from students.

REFERENCES

1. K.M.Pavitra (2020), Brief Summary of all the measures by Government of India for COVID-19FACTLY.<https://factly.in/explainer-brief-summary-of-all-the-measures-by-government-of-india-for-covid-19/>
2. SOS report on Poverty in India (2015): Facts and Figures on the Daily Struggle for Survival, <https://www.soschildrensvillages.ca/news/poverty-in-india-602>
3. Editorial Report on India under COVID-19 lockdown (2020), The Lancet, vol.395
4. W.H.O report on Coronavirus disease (COVID-19)(2020),situational report 115https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/situation-reports/20200514-covid-19-sitrep-115.pdf?sfvrsn=3fce8d3c_6
5. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/COVID_19_pandemic_lockdown_in_India
6. Menon shyam(2020), Limitation of online learning,The Hindu,