

Analysis of Impact of COVID-19 Lockdown on Higher Education in India

Shashikala G.M.

Research Scholar, Rani Channamma University, Belagavi.

Dr. Yarriswamy M.C.

Professor and Dean, Department of Education, Rani Channamma University, Belagavi.

Abstract:

The outbreak of the novel corona virus, COVID-19, has been declared a pandemic by the WHO. The structures of social contact critically determine the spread of the infection and in the absence of vaccines the control of the structures through large-scale social distancing measures appears to be the most effective means of mitigation. In India because of this all educational institutions depend on virtual mode of delivering education. At this time they are facing many issues, this paper analyses impact of COVID-19 lockdown on higher education from the point of view of challenges faced by higher education institutions and measures has to be taken to overcome these issues. Through this study we hope influencing teachers, professors, researchers and policy makers to take immediate measures.

Key words: COVID- 19, Lockdown, Challenges, Measures, Higher education.

Introduction:

COVID 19 this is often perhaps the worst ever crisis post the Second World War. As the result of this pandemic we are able to observe the unfortunate impact on the entire global human population [as estimated to be near 7.8 billion as of March 2020]. And particularly it's created sickness / disturbance within the social life of each and every individual when comes to society, social institutions are closed because of this pandemic. As we have a tendency to all we tend to due to this COVID-19 all educational institutions are closed as a result of this, the global education landscape dramatically modified within the past few months. Educators and students around the world are feeling the extraordinary ripple effect of the novel corona virus.

COVID-19:

Corona virus disease 2019 [COVID- 9] is a communicable disease caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus-2 (SARS-COV-2). First identified in Wuhan, China,

it resulted in an ongoing pandemic. The first case may be traced back to Nov seventeen, 2019. It had been initially reported to the WHO on December 31, 2019. On January 30, 2020, the WHO declared the COVID-19 outbreak a global health emergency. On March 11, 2020, the WHO declared COVID-19 a global pandemic. As of June four, 2020, over 6.5% million cases have been reported across 188 countries and territories, resulting in over 386,000 deaths. Over 2.8 million people have recovered common symptoms include fever, cough, fatigue, shortness of breath and loss of smell and taste.

COVID-19 Pandemic lockdown in India:

- The goal of lockdown is to control the spread of corona virus outbreak in India.
- On March twenty four, 2020, our Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ordered a nationwide lockdown for twenty one days limiting movement of entire 1.3 billion population of India as a preventive measures against COVID-19 pandemic it had been the phase1 of lock down that's twenty fifth March 2020 – fourteenth Apr 2020 [21 Days], phase 2: fifteenth Apr 2020 – third may 2020 [19 days], phase 3: fourth may 2020 – seventeenth May 2020 [14 Days], phase 4: eighteenth may 2020 – thirty first may 2020 [14 Days], phase 5: [Only for containment zones] scheduled to end on thirtieth June 2020.

Higher Education System in India:

India's higher education system is that the third largest in the world, next to the United States and China. The main governing body at the tertiary level is that the University Grants Commission, which enforces its standards, advises the government and helps coordinate between the Centre and also the State. As of 2020, India has over a thousand Universities, with a breakup of fifty central Universities, 402 State Universities, a hundred twenty five deemed Universities, 334 private Universities, seven institutes under State.

Legislature act, and one hundred fifty five institutes of National importance which includes IIMs, IITs, AIIMs, IISERs and NITs among others. Other institutions include 52,627 colleges as government degree colleges private colleges as reported by MHRD in 2020. The objectives of higher education in India are not only to promote equality and social justices however conjointly to provide the right kind of work ethos, skilled experience and leadership in all walks of life. The task of university education is to provide to the society with leaders at numerous walks of life: thinkers, scientists, leaders, specialists who, by virtue of their merit, competency and motivation are going to be the torch bearer of the national march towards national development. Further higher education has “facilitated the flexibility of the country to deal internationally on the ability fronts, academic, economic, social and political. India

has, so developed a higher education system capable of sustaining several areas of activity.

Analysis of impact of COVID -19 lock down on higher education Sector in India:

The problems encountered by public higher education institutions are

➤ **Resource material:**

In disciplines like Languages, Humanities and Social sciences, good quality reading material has not been prepared by a large range of teachers who still rely on traditional strategies of class room teaching. The situation may be true in several science related disciplines too, barring technical education. Teachers face difficulties in providing good quality study material in regional languages.

➤ **Laboratory skill:**

Due to the lockdown, opening of colleges isn't possible. Therefore it's not easy to develop laboratory skills in students by on-line teaching without physical presence of laboratory tools and environment.

➤ **Technical skills:**

In the case of technical courses as well as in commerce and management disciplines, students need to do internships with industry as a part of course requirements. However students can't be able to undergo internship when academic institutions and industries are closed because of lockdown. Even when some industries may re-open in course of time, however they may be not able to comply with internship requirement, converting as they're with productivity and sales.

➤ **Training:**

For the training institutions also it's very difficult to impart all the skills required to the several jobs like for teacher trainees, we cannot inculcate all the abilities through on-line teaching, in fact training is totally different from teaching which is not possible through on-line classes to train.

➤ **Extent up to that the objectives of higher education will be achieved:**

The lockdown is posing several challenges within the path of achieving the expected objectives of higher education. The pandemic disease affecting the psychological state of students and also the teachers. Amidst such situation making students to concentrate on their education and providing all the required supports in order to realize the objectives of higher education may be a massive challenge.

➤ **Technical support:**

Only 45 crore people of our total population of the country have access to the internet and therefore to e-learning. The people residing in rural areas are still very much

deprived of the latest advancements and so hampering the cause of on-line learning and providing the required technical support even to remote places is massive challenge.

➤ **Placement:**

Recent graduates in India feared withdrawal of job offers from company owing to the present scenario. The Centre for monitoring Indian Economy's estimates on unemployment shot up from 8.4% in mid-march to 23rd in early April and therefore the urban unemployment rate to 30.9%. Out going batch student's campus selection was fully washed out across the courses in a Country.

➤ **Teaching learning system**

Due to the pandemic, teachers are taking on-line classes and lack of access to technology or fast, reliable internet access is preventing the students of rural areas and from disadvantaged families. It's difficult for the scholars to take on-line learning who have technophobia. Student dropout rates tend to increase as an effect of college closure.

As students in higher education level are supposed / intended to require jobs soon after the completion of their courses, however the examinations are blocked due to lockdown. This will create huge negative effect on mental, as well as economic conditions to students. Nearly each and every student has become panic due to this pandemic and plenty of students are tackling with mental problems. Students are addicting to screen of gadgets due to distance learning as well as due to social media the distractions are forbidding the students in learning. Many students are lacking their learning habits by diverting themselves in household chores.

For teachers it's extremely an enormous challenge to convey all the knowledge equally to all the students through distance teaching / on-line teaching. It's terribly difficult for teacher to teach the trainees, technical course students and train their trainees and impart skills in them. For teacher it's terribly difficult to watch their student's behavior and evaluate their learning. for many teacher and students the online teaching and learning is boring. Most of the teachers are simply conducting lectures on video platforms like Zoom which may not be real on-line learning in the absence of a dedicated on-line platform specifically designed for the purpose. Several teachers who have very good mastery over their subject but have technophobia are lagging behind in teaching through on-line mode.

Immediate measures:

The pandemic has considerably disrupted the higher education sector as well, which is a crucial determinant of a country's economic future. Therefore a multi pronged strategy is necessary to manage the crisis and build a resilient Indian education system in the long run.

➤ Policy:

Central and state Governments has to sit and work along to provide quality higher education in India, at this situation they need to change higher education policies to reach the same.

➤ Curriculum:

It's necessary to rethink the present delivery and education strategies in class and higher education by seamlessly integrating classroom learning with e-learning modes to create a unified learning system. Curriculum ought to be reframed that is flexible and can be possible to realize through on-line classes. Boosting retention of the program by using innovative technology, the universities are also engaging students to learn by choice and not simply by their physical presence during a classroom.

➤ Technical support:

the foremost challenge in EDTech reforms at the national level is that the seamless integration of technology in the present Indian education system, which is the most diverse and largest in the world with more than 15 lakh schools and 50,000 higher education institutions. Further, it's also necessary to establish quality assurance mechanisms and quality benchmark for on-line learning developed and offered by India HEIs as well as e-learning platforms (growing rapidly). Many e-learning players offer multiple courses on the same subjects with completely different levels of certifications, methodology and assessment parameters.

➤ Accessibility:

With a rapid increase of mobile India users in Asian country, that is predicted to reach 85th households by 2024, technology is enabling ubiquitous access and personalization of education even in the remotest elements of the country.

➤ Gender issues:

Lockdown may leads to the shortage of feminine student's participation in learning and diverting them in household chores. Therefore along with the promotion of e-learning providing the appropriate on-line counseling ought to be undertaken.

➤ **Virtual mode:**

Permitting educational institutions to adopt on-line learning and infuse a virtual study culture, the pandemic is already steering the sector forward with technological innovation and advancements. One among the opportunities to focus amidst the crisis is that the virtual internships, that are permitting the students to go beyond their curriculum and learn about the practicality of their professions. Another value addition for the field of education and so students is the way Universities are encouraging them to observe the present situation and perceive the necessity to modify. This will further enable them to digitalize their fields in the near future along with preparing them for any such situations. This practice will instill more confidence than chaos or panic.

Conclusion:

“Precaution is best than cure” so as the quote, we must always prevent spreading of COVID-19 through maintaining social distancing and by following the lockdown rules. Also in the alternative hand we have to strengthen our education system by adopting appropriate remedies in the time of this crisis. A well rounded and effective educational practice is what required for the capacity building of students minds. in order that if we develop skills which will drive their employability, productivity, health and well being in the decades to come, and make sure the overall progress of India. We’ve to join our hands in the country development by following the right measures.

References:

- ❖ Cennimo, David J (2020, Jun 12), Corona virus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), <https://emedicine.medscape.com/article/2500114-overview#a1>.
- ❖ Goyal, Shikha (2020, April 23), Impact of Corona Virus on education in India, <https://m.jagranjosh.com/general-knowledge/anpimpact-of-coronavirus-on-education-in-india>.
- ❖ Kumar, DNS (2020, April 29), Impact of COVID-19 on Higher Education, <https://www.highereducationdigest.com/impact-of-covid-19-on-higher-education/>.
- ❖ Richachoudhary (2020, April 16), COVID-19 Pandemic impact and strategies for education, <http://government.economictimes.indiatimes.com>.
- ❖ Tagaramee, P.S (2020, April 20), COVID-19 & Higher education: A pale of questions, <http://wow.deccanherald.com>.
- ❖ UNESCO COVID-19 Education issues notes, <http://en.unesco.org/covid19>.