

IMPACT OF COVID-19 -PARADIGM SHIFT IN INDIAN EDUCATION SYSTEM

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Abstract

The outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic happened in November 2019 and drastic changes took place in the field of education. By the end of 31st March, around 180 countries across the globe have announced the closure of schools and colleges. In India, most of the schools and colleges closed down by the second week of March. There is an uncertainty existing within the country regarding the reopening of educational institutions. Most of the board examinations, admissions and placements are all held up. As the positive cases of Covid-19 are rapidly increasing in India, there is no clarity on immediate solution to solve this problem. Even if there is no direct short term impact on continuing the teaching- learning process. It may have a negative effect on far reaching economic and social consequences. As the situation is not supporting the reopening of schools and colleges, The Indian government has taken several steps for continuing the teaching-learning process in different levels. The study tried to learn different initiatives taken by the Indian government in public and private educational institutions. This study tries to give suggestions on the basis of findings and observations.

Key Words : Teaching learning process ,strategy, Government Initiatives

Introduction

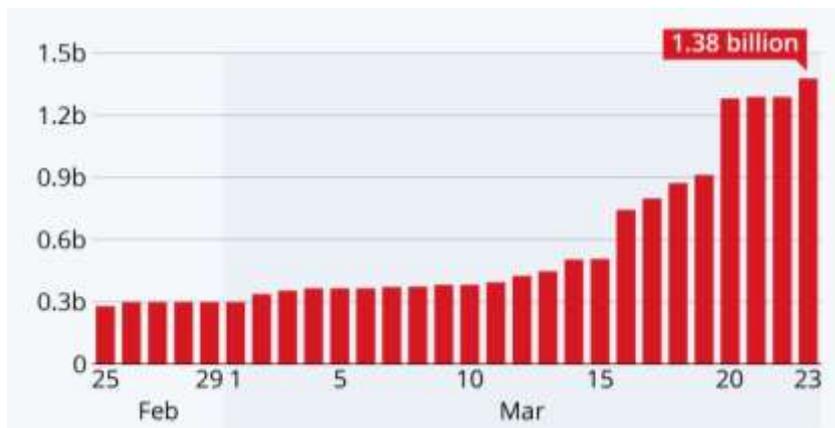
The early stage shows that the pandemic named COVID-19 did originate in a wet market in the city of Wuhan, the capital of Hubei province which is located in the central part of China (Lu, Stratton, & Tang 2020) ^[1]. It was first identified in December 2019 and the first confirmed case has been traced back to 17th November 2019. More than 8.8 million cases have been reported across 188 countries and territories as of 21st June, 2020. More than 4, 64,000 deaths have been confirmed and 4.37 million people have recovered ^[2]. Coronavirus disease - 2019 (CoViD-19) is an infectious disease caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome - Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2)^[3].

Because of the high degree of infectiousness and a lack of availability of vaccine, social distancing was the only viable solution left to fight with COVID. This forced around half of the population to stay at home. Around 4 billion people in the world were under lockdown. Most of the countries had to stop their economic activities. It improved the environment quality. Nationwide lockdown in many of the countries like Spain, India, Italy, France and Germany helped them to get a control over daily rising cases at the time. In spite of taking various precautionary measures including lockdown, the virus quickly got out of control. It spread to nearly every corner of the planet. Many of the developed countries became the epicenter of the pandemic between February and April 2020. They were facing a drastic increase in new cases

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and deaths. It started spreading to developing countries such as Brazil, India, Turkey etc. As the number of cases were increasing significantly. Respective governments have taken the initiative for a total lockdown.

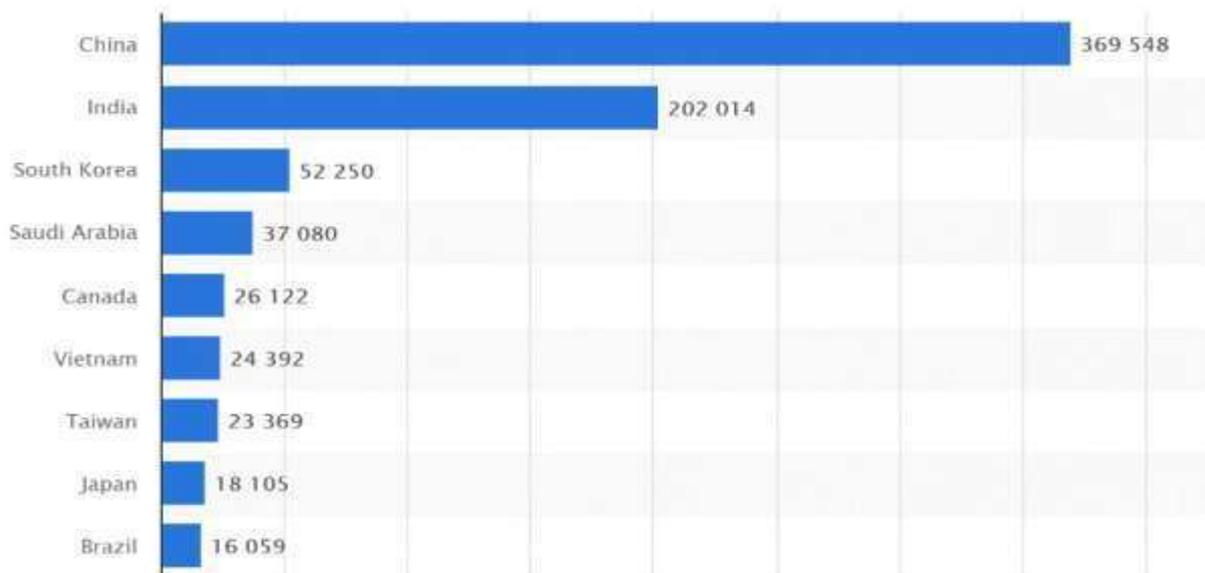
Covid-19 Impact on Global education



Source :UNESCO

The above graph shows the number of students affected by national school closures world wide .This define the large impact of COVID-19 in educational sector.Educational revamping is necessary for the economic stability. Strategies of different countries have great role on the reviving of this situation.

International students studying in the United States



[Source:-english.mathrubhumi.com](http://english.mathrubhumi.com)

The above graph shows number of international students studying in the United States in 2018/19, by country of origin. This implies the necessity of effective strategy for the educational survival of Indian students abroad .

The Indian government has declared the lockdown from March 25th and extended up to April 14th. Most of the socio-economic activities were held up during this period and limited the movement of a population of 1.3 billion people in India. This situation compelled private and public educational institutions all over the country to suspend classes indefinitely. The lockdown created uncertainty in the education sector of nearly 300 million children across 1.4 million schools in the country. The higher education sector has been affected significantly in which the structure of teaching and learning and the assessment criteria was the first to be affected by these closures. This is a crucial period in the education sector in terms of examinations, admissions and entrance tests which were being held during this period. However these crucial educational functions could not be conducted due to the lockdown this year and had to be postponed. The study concentrated on the difficulties in the education sector due to the pandemic and the new initiatives taken by the educational institutions to overcome the situation.

Review of Literature

In literature related to covid-19, **Zayapragassarazan . Z**“COVID-19: Strategies for Online Engagement of Remote Learners”(2020) explained different strategies for increasing and ensuring higher levels of student engagement in online teaching .

Amit Kumar Arora , R. Srinivasan (2020).’Impact of Pandemic “COVID-19 on the Teaching – Learning Process : A Study of Higher Education Teachers “ explained the adoption rate for virtual classes and the finding says Among those who adopted virtual mode, the mean of actual benefits was significantly less than the mean of expected benefits.

Md. Shahadat Hossain Khan, Benadjih Abdou(2020),’Flipped Classroom: How Institutions of Higher Education (HEIs) of Bangladesh Could Move Forward During Covid-19 Pandemic’ Explained how the developing countries will be benefited through the flipped class room and lastly addresses a few limitations of this framework and provides guidelines to the policymakers on how to incorporate it into the HEIs during this emergency context.

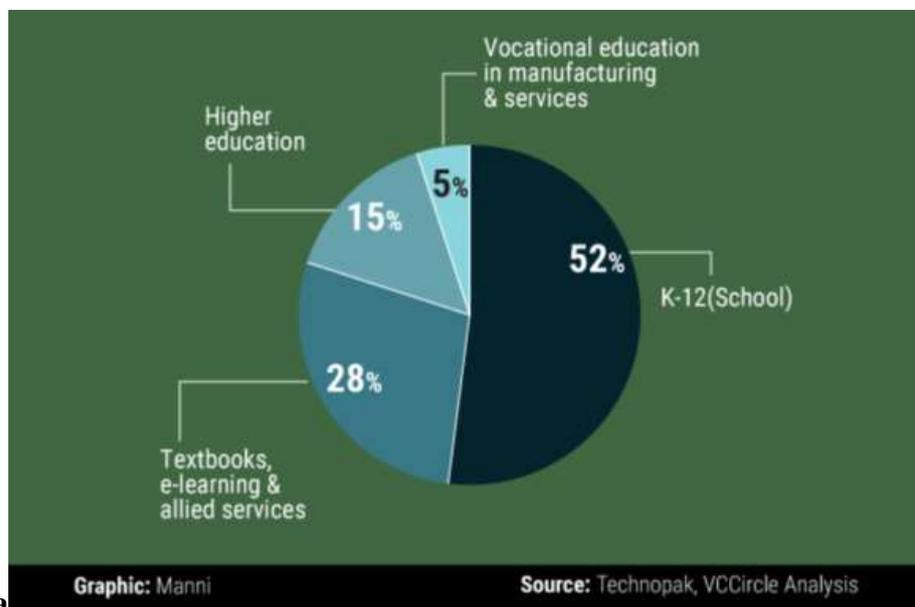
Impact of COVID-19 pandemic on the education sector in India:

As there was no immediate solution to stop the outbreak of COVID-19, the fear of uncertainty has emerged on the continuity in the teaching and learning of more than 285 million young learners in India. It has affected the higher education sector which is a critical determinant of a country’s economic future. A very large number of students who had enrolled in different

universities abroad had to leave those countries without finishing their courses. Employment rate is another big concern on everybody's mind. Unemployment rates shot up from 8.4 percent in mid-march to 23 percent in early April (CMIE).

The private institutions have to meet all the expenses starting from staff and faculty salaries to the payment of other necessary bills, which depends on the tuition fees payed by the students. If the lockdown continues, it may lead to some serious situation on the survival of such institutions. This leads to the need for teaching and learning to continue and the enrolled students should not suffer in terms of qualitative and quantitative aspects of their education. As the spread of Corona virus infections increases in India and there being no vaccination for the disease, this leads the entire education system into crisis.

Education sector in



India

India has one of the world's largest higher education systems with enrollments of 33.3 million students in colleges, institutions, across 50,000+ higher education institutes and 750+ universities.^[6]

Strategies for revamping the education System in India:

The pressure which the lockdown created on the educational system greatly pushed the concept of technology driven education. Digital learning has emerged as one of the alternative for the survival of the education system. It provided all sorts of learning opportunities for the students. Schools and colleges have all over the world have chosen E-Platforms like Google classroom, Education and conferencing like Zoom, Free conference call etc. Many of the e-learning resources are available for free. For example "Ma classe a la Maison" (My class at home) is an online portal created in France for providing access to educational content and learning

opportunities. Through this student can access the courses for four weeks. “Ensuring learning uninterrupted when classes are disrupted” is an initiative launched by China to connect students and teachers. Saudi Arabia is using TV and social media to broadcast lessons for all grades and appointed supervisors and teachers to deliver daily lessons.

In India, the ministry of human resource development released e-learning platforms/list of key digital platforms, covering both lower and higher education in multiple subjects. DIKSHA is one of the platforms having more than 80,000 e-books for classes I - XII, created by NCERT, CBSE and state. Along with that a mobile app is available for the platform. DIKSHA provides a national digital infrastructure for teachers. They provide, in class resources, assessment aids, teacher’s training content, teacher’s profile etc. [4]

‘E-Pathshala’ is another platform with a collection of around 1,886 audios, 696 E-books, 2000 videos and 504 flip-books for classes I - XII in different languages. This hosts educational resources for teachers, parents and students.

Atal Tinkering Lab (ATL) programme has Atal innovative mission (AIM) and NITI AYOJ which has come up with a novel idea to encourage the innovative learning skills for the young students from their homes.[5]

Discussion:

Along with other countries, India has come up with the idea of flipped classrooms, which has become significant because of its flexibility, digital resources and technology. Approach towards teaching and learning has converted to direct interaction with individual students from the group learning system.

After the first shock of COVID-19 pandemic which has disturbed the whole education system around the world. Planning has to take place in two different time scales. Major challenges include return to the default schooling system, the adaptability to the future

Nazir Mustafa explains in his article “*Impact of the 2019-20 Coronavirus pandemic on education*”, choosing the technology for teaching and learning should be based on the reliability of internet connectivity, local power supplies and digital skills of teachers and students ensure that the students including those with disabilities or from low income background have the access to distance learning programs. Data privacy is another factor which should be considered seriously. Consider the psychological situation of the students when they are isolated. It is very important to plan the schedule depending on the affected zones, needs of students, level of studies and availability of resources. Choose the appropriate learning methodologies based on the status of school closure and home based quarantine. It is also important to provide orientation sessions for the teachers and parents. There is a necessity

to define the rules with students and parents on distance learning. Design tests and questions to monitor the student's learning process clearly.

Conclusion

To overcome the situation, e-learning facilities have been used by the educational institutions for improved teaching and learning. The platforms which are being used by different institutions are different. The government should make sure that the initiatives taken by the higher authorities are implemented effectively. An ideal pedagogical model should be utilities for the theoretical as well as practical based subjects.

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