

Impact of Covid-19 on Higher Educational Sector

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Introduction:

On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organisation (WHO) declared Covid-19 as a pandemic. Covid-19 has been affected and changed the life of more than 4.5 million peoples worldwide (WHO). In India, the first affected case of Covid-19 was detected on 30 January 2020 in the state of Kerala and the affected had a travel history from Wuhan, China (Wikipedia). The first phase of lockdown announced by the Hon. Prime minister of India on 25th March 2020 monitoring the effects of the virus, Government of India extended the period of lockdown period in different phases and the lockdown 5.0 was declared on 30th April which is effective from 1st June to 30th June 2020. The unlocking of an education institution is on radar and school and colleges providing support to the students through online and distance mode.

The educational institutions throughout the nation have never got any relaxation to start their educational activities. Thus, pandemic Covid-19 impacted significantly in the education sector. According to the report of UNESCO, Covid-19 has affected nearly about 68% of the total world's student population as per the data taken during the 1st week of June 2020. Covid-19 has impacted about 1.2 billion students and youths across the globe by school and university closures. Several other countries have also implemented localized closures impacting millions of additional learners. In India, more than 32 crores of students have been affected by the various restrictions and the nationwide lockdown for Covid-19 (Wikipedia).

This worldwide closure has impacted drastically the world's student population. Governments around the world are making efforts to diminish the immediate impact of the closure of educational institutions particularly for more

vulnerable and disadvantaged communities and trying to facilitate the continuity of education for all using various mode of digital learning. According Government of India's Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) report conducted on higher education it was observed that there are 993 universities, 39931 Colleges and 10725 standalone institutions listed on their portal, which contribute to education (DNS Kumar, 2020). Even though the country has been adapting to the new-age learning methods, tools and techniques, but they're still lies an obstacle in achieving entire success as only 45 crore people of our total population of the country have access to information communication technology.

Objective of paper:

- To highlights impact of Covid-19 on higher educational students
- To enlighten the emerging ICT tools for Indian Higher education
- To focus on post covid situation of higher education
- To look forward to e-learning and digital module tools for higher education

Methodology :

This study is referred secondary source of information like national and international reports, journals, magazine articles and online databases and websites contents relating to impact of Covid-19 on higher educational system of India.

Impact on Higher Education:

The institution has closed with the various routine educational activities and created many challenges in front of stake holders. The various activities like admission, entrance test, traditional way of teaching learning, examination conducted by colleges and universities are postponed and average percentage of students calculated for the first year and second students in case of some universities. The delay in examination and results process due to

covid-19 the academic year calendar changed and it's impacted the students.

The vital and primary challenge to continue the teaching learning process to follow the social distancing norms and government guideline physical presence is not possible in current in situation. Information Communication Technology (ICT) solution made it possible to change teaching learning process in digital mode. Covid-19 creates opportunity to adopt, learn and use technological tools among the faculty members and students.

- Video Meeting Tools: The HEIs have started conducting orientation programmes, induction meetings and counselling classes with the help of different e-conferencing tools like Google Meet, Skype, and YouTube live, Facebook live, WebEx, Zoom etc.
- LMS software: HEIs make aware the teachers and students to use the LMS model for the online education like Google Classroom, Moodle, Articulate, WizIQ and Canvas. Some of the institutions Management System upgraded towards LMS and provide secured platforms for online teaching, learning and evaluations eg. Vriddhi.
- Indian Government Initiative: Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) has made several arrangements, including online portals and educational channels through various databases and directed to universities to train the teachers to use technological tools to reach the education towards students.

During lockdown, students are using social media tools for online teaching learning system. ICT initiative of MHRD (<https://mhrd.gov.in/ict-initiatives>) brocher explains the combinations of all digital resources for online learning.

Higher Education:

Swayam : The study of Active Learning for 'Young Aspiring Minds' (SWAYAM) is India's own MOOCs platform offering free online courses on almost all the disciplines. The expertise from IGNOU, NPTEL, AICTE, NITTTR, IIM and ARPRIT etc. design the course and provided the platform of online education through SWAYM portal to fulfil self-learning desire.

SWAYAM PRABHA: It is an initiative to provide 32 high quality educational channels through DTH (Direct to Home) across the length and breadth of the country on 24X7 basis. The contents are prepared by different MHRD agencies like CEC, IGNOU, IITs, NIOS and NCERT.

e-Yantra : It is a project entrusted to IIT Bombay for enabling effective education across engineering colleges in India on embedded systems and Robotics. The training for teachers and students is imparted through workshops where participants are taught basics of embedded systems and programming.

Virtual Lab: This initiative provides remote access to Labs in various disciplines of Science and Engineering. Students can also strengthen their concepts by performing Virtual labs experiments at a place and time of their choice, outside lab hours. These Virtual Labs would cater to the students at the undergraduate level, postgraduate level as well as to research scholars.

Conclusion:

This paper outlined the basic impact of Covid-19 on higher education in India. The Covid-19 pandemic created an opportunity to higher educational professionals to create the online teaching learning through Information Communication Technological tools. MHRD has taken initiative and create wide opportunity to opt out virtual learning. This step is helpful to students, teachers and researcher to make them busy and learning and continues enhancement of knowledge. As this paper is not covered all statistical aspects only covered MHRD and UGC initiative with personal experience in the college i.e. may vary from region to region.

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| | Positive | Negative |
|---|--|---|
| 1 | HEIs accepted and adopted digital technologies to provide education | Physical activity, mental Stress, change management, and students suffers more than 3 months for educational activities like (Teaching, learning, Evaluation) |
| 2 | Use of social media platform increased to communicate with the students like whatsapp, telegram and Facebook | Training and Placement activities slowdown and unemployment increased. |
| 3 | Increased use of Zoom, Webx, Google meet for virtual learning | Rural masses faced problem of interrupted connectivity |
| 4 | Rise in use of Learning Management System | Cost of technological tools increased difficult for some institution |
| 5 | HEI's creation of digital databases like teaching videos, PPT and PDF | Shifting from Physical resources to digital time consuming |
| 6 | Improvement in Collaboration | Some students may face eyes problem to be continuous online. Attendance of students may decrees. |

