

Impact of Covid-19 on Indian Education System at Secondary School Level Issues and concerns

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Abstract

The word COVID-19 itself denotes the worst situation in which we are surviving; the peoples are bound to be in the lockdown at their home or the place where they were earning their livelihood. In India the panic situation was turned on when the states began to implement the lockdown and soon our Respected Prime Minister Syt. Sh. Narendra Modi Ji announced the complete lockdown over the nation on 23/03/2020 and the lockdown was continued in four phases up to 17/05/2020. The conditions enforced in lockdown, were the safety cover for the Indians to prepare a layout of future living, i.e. how we have to live and what precautions we need to adopt, to take care our self and our loved once in this pandemic situation till we don't get a proper tested vaccine .

Keywords: School Teachers, Online classes, Educational Implementation, Effect on Students, Students Health, Mental level, Availability of Technology.

Introduction

The Study is targeted to study the effects of COVID-19 a Pandemic situation over India Education system especially in respect to School level. As we can see that the conditions prevailing in India due to corona virus, the Schools are in Lockdown conditions, the students are totally seating at their House. I cannot say that they are seating Ideal because the teachers are devoted to make the best possible efforts to make the learning possible even in this situation of lockdown. The several students are also taking active participation in this system of online classes where they are using the technology to get connected with their teachers in any possible manner. So the both ends are working on their best way to win the situation and make the learning activity possible.

Government Initiatives

Launch of E-Shiksha Portal for Government School Students all over Rajasthan. The Secondary Education Department, Govt. of Rajasthan Launched an **E-Shiksha** Portal, and at Central level **Disha** Online Portal, **Gyan Darshan** Portal, **Padhega Bharat! Bhadega Bharat** Portal, where the not copy the work of such dedicated students who are submitting the work in groups on time. The Management is providing online platform to the students for uploading their Assignment and giving internal tests. For this purpose the Institutions have signed a contract with an Online Server/Platform providing company like TCS "ION", NEXT EDUCATION etc.

Teacher's Initiatives

The teachers are working on a very serious mode to make the vent successful; Some of the teachers are conducting live classes by the help of ZOOM Application/ Microsoft Team/ Webex Meetings, And some of the teachers are making their Recorded lectures and sending then to the WhatsApp Group which is created at the class level by the class teacher, so that the student can have the class as per his own convenience.

Student Side Participation

The students from class Nur. to IX and XI are now promoted to the next class in those schools where the final exams were not conducted due to the lockdown situation. Now the students have became very lazy while studying because as they are free from studies because there is no burden of giving final exams in their local exams which were about to start or in some schools the exams were going on and some subject exams are remain suspended till the next order in the month of March, but in last week of March all the state Governments took a major step of Promoting the students of school level in their next class and on 1st April Central Board of Secondary Education, New Delhi also released a Press notification for all the stake holder related to the same that the Exams of all school level exams will not take place and the students will be promoted to next grade, so by this news students became very happy, as this is in their nature to get escaped by exams. If we talk about the student side participation, as far as interaction with the teachers who are working in

schools, it is all dependent upon the Parents side. The parents who are very active and conscious about the studies of their ward are pushing their child to devote minimum 6 hrs in their studies on the daily basis, because they know the Importance of time, nobody knows that how much the Schools will remain closed for the students so this is the only way to go through with the regular classes.

Benefits of The Online Classes

Regularity can be maintained

During this period of lockdown when students are bound not to attend physical classes, with the help of Online classes the students can have the live/ Recorded classes while seating at their home. By this they can maintain their regularity of studying and it is very important for a student

to get in regular connection with the studies on the daily basis that's teachers gives the Holiday homework to the students, so that they must not lose connection with their books.

Enable to use Technology

In COVID-19 lockdown condition every student is bound to study over internet and use the different mediums of ICT, which were only studied by the students and never been implemented practically before. Every student is now learning how to use the different kind of software and how to learn with various Applications which are available in market, now a student can conduct a live comparison of study and he can choose the best alternative among the all. students can access various Modules of study from their house and they can utilize their time in an efficient manner, and it is for free for all the Govt. School Students.

Institutional Initiatives

In this situation of Lockdown the Institutions are also working by managing the Group activities between teachers and Parents/ students. The Institutions are motivating the students to submit their homework directly to the number of teacher, so that the students who are lazy in nature. **Cover the loss of time**

In this situation of complete lockdown of schools, students are suffering a lot and they are losing their valuable time in which they may attain their 30% syllabus, but the online classes somewhat helping out the students by providing them with the sessions online and teachers are working over the day to recover the loss which is already done and they are trying to save the time of students.

Global Interaction

The students are seating at their home and taking online classes and lectures, some are attending Webinars, from these activities a student gets a chance to get interacted with the World wide Educators around the country as well as world. So from these Online sessions, students are getting a chance to get interacted with the various kind of persons who are serving in different-2 sectors.

Drawbacks Of Online Classes

Non Availability of ICT Resources in Remote Areas

The major drawback of these online classes is less availability of ICT resources like Computer/ Laptop/ Smartphone in the Remote areas of the Rural Areas. Here we have taken the Remote areas because in the 21st century our villages which are at the good location and where the density population level is at the higher side, the basic Resources are easily available, because there the peoples are becoming educated and they are earning a handsome amount to make the resources available to their children, but here we are talking about the Remote areas or the Interior areas of the villages, where we will not able to find the resources; even we will not able to find the Smartphone with the loc alights, in the situation of this COVID-19 where the teachers are trying to make the learning possible for the betterment of students these kind of students who are residing in such areas, they are unable to take participation in these classes and they are suffering a lot, they even not able to get connected with their faculty members and not able to arrange notes.

Few Parents are technically able

In the Interior parts of villages all the parents are not technically sound to help out their children to study with the help of Internet. In city areas the women, are mostly educated and they are not having any kind of extra work to do, but in village areas the women are doing very hard work, not only at their house but even they are managing their Farms/ they need to look after the cattle's, so they are not too expert to use these resources if available and also not able to give time to them in their studies.

Health issues due to heavy Radiation

In the current situation of lockdown every third child is using either Computer/Laptop or mobile Phone to take online classes and are very busy in attending these classes regularly for 6-7 hrs. In this situation the students are suffering from the health issues like Eye side Problem, Neck pain, back pain/ head ace etc., and these recourses are creating too much radiation which is resulting into Skin problems.

Lack of Emotions among Teachers and Students

The traditional classroom creates a mutual understanding bond between a teacher and a student, they get connected and they exchange their views and learning with each other, while in online classes the students are just listening to the teachers and just writing down the notes, they are not able to feel the concept which a teacher want to deliver among students. It may be possible that most of the students understood the things but a mass of students will not able to clarify the conceptual images in their minds, if these kinds of classes were successful and what is the meaning to go school or highly expensive coaching classes like etc. Because the material for preparing IIT-JEE/NEET is more classified available at Youtube/ Byjus/ NEXT E-Learning app/ MEXUS E-Content etc. The student may take the subscription from their and study from their house, but still the student are going in these coaching classes or schools to get emotionally connected with a teacher, who will make the learning too interesting.

Poor Internet connection

In India, still we are using 4G Internet speed in city areas and this kind of speed is impossible to find in village side areas, because in practically there you will find maximum 3G Internet speed upon which it is hardly possible to attend live classes and student make not able to even download the recorded lectures. So in India the students are suffering a lot with this poor internet connection problem, and not able to attend the live classes effectively.

Overall Observation

From the above study we can have a clear understanding about the overall effect of this COVID-19 over our Education System especially in respect to School Education system, where the Schools are trying their best to make the learning possible, but still only 45% of the total students are attending these online classes and getting active participation in the live classes because of the availability of ICT Resources and Technically sound parents, but our major crowd of students are not able to get connected with the live classes due to Non availability of these Resources, Govt. is trying but they are helpless because of these all situation. As far as my concern the Govt. should take the step towards opening of school, one committee must be constituted at District level and that should be monitored by C.D.E.O. (Chief District Educational officer) and the C.D.E.O. must ensure that all D.E.O.'s and C.B.E.O.'s are conducting regular check in the schools regarding the Precautions to be adopted before starting the schools, proper sanitization of School Building including Classroom, Corridors, Library, Music and Dance Room, All Practical Labs (Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Maths, Home Science, Geography, etc.) availability of Hand Sanitizer Machine at the Entry point of School, nearby Drinking water Point, Proper Soaps in Toilets, Mask and Face Shield to every Student. Total Number of students in a class is to be minutely checked because in a classroom of Sized 500 Sq. Ft. Maximum student should be 30, it means if the classroom is more less from this standard sized classroom, then the number of students in every classroom must be decreased as per the size, so that the social distance can be properly maintained. The C.D.E.O. also instruct the school Teachers to be in the classroom while students are taking their lunch, and the teacher also required to take their lunch in that particular class where they were in IV Period, so that the students must not share their Lunch box with each other, because this is the human nature to share the Lunch boxes in a group, but in this situation it must not be happened under any circumstances, and the P.T.I.'s are to look after whether the teachers are there or not in the classroom and looking after the students as per the directions, the C.D.E.O./ D.E.O./ C.B.E.O. are required to pass the Rules and Regulations (as per their Areas) to the School Management Committee, and instruct them to follow the regulation on a serious mode, either your recognition

may be withdrawal if your school will not follow these procedures. The above said statement should be executed at govt. level so that the schools may be opened as soon as possible because how long we will not open our schools, because the situation is out of control until we will get the proper vaccine, so the Govt. should not waste the valuable time of students and permit the schools to operate properly and follow all the Rules and Regulations. So I can say that every child is a right to get educated, and the students, who are facing the lacking problem of Resources should not suffer.

Recommendation

- My first recommendation from observing all the facts is to Govt. to start the schools from the month of July itself, and decrease the Course by minimum 20%, the chapters which are not necessary to teach should remove from the syllabus, it must be done with the proper consultation with the subject Experts.
- The Govt. should prepare a New Academic calendar in which they unnecessary Holidays should be removed and the Number of Working days may goes up from July onwards.
- The next recommendation is again for Education Department to Shift the process to conducting Exams of Boards as well as School level Exams, now the schools should teach up to the Month of February, then for class XII Practical exams must be taken in the month of March, and then final Exams must commence from 1st Week of April. So that a teacher may get a satisfactory time to complete the syllabus and able to revise the whole for minimum one time.

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