

Challenges of Educational Institutions in India during Covid-19

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ABSTRACT: Since 2019, the world is threatened by an unseen terror called Covid-19. All the people around the globe are suffered a lot. It causes losses to not only wealth but also the life of the people. To stop the spread of this dangerous Covid-19 pandemic, every countries government taken different preventive measures for their protection. In this line of action the government of India also took some preventive steps like one day janta-curfew, 21 days lockdown, and shutdown from time to time by different states and including the closure the educational institution throughout the country to combat with the pandemic. Because of these steps it disrupted every aspects of the human life including education. This leads to create various problems for the students, teachers and all other stakeholders. These preventive measures create challenges in front of the teachers as well as students for their regular classes, campuses are forced to close, cancellation/postponement of different exams throughout the country for all level of students. As a result of which about 32 crore Students stopped to move to educational institutions and all the educational activities comes to an end. This study aims to focus on the prevailing situation and challenges faced by the educational institutions in India and also analyse the measures taken by the educational institutional at their level to counter these challenges. The researcher also suggested some fruitful ways to carry out the educational activities during this Covid-19. In this study the data has been collected from the newspaper, articles, circular available in the known databases.

KEY WORDS:Covid-19, Education, Higher Education etc.

I. INTRODUCTION:

There is no need to introduce anything more about the CORONA as this word CORONA is now become the point of convergence in everywhere like in the news channels, newspapers, among the people, in all type of discussion

platforms. The coronavirus dieses 2019 (COVID-19) create pandemic situations all over the world. The name coronavirus comes from the Latin word "corona" which means 'halo' or 'crown' like projection on their surface. The virus had originated from the city Wuhan, China and slowly grasped the world. The world health organisation (WHO) had also declared it as pandemic (R. Dutta& B.C.A.P Pani , 2020). In India the first case was identified on 30th January 2020, a 20 year female student who had returned from Wuhan city, China (M.A.Andrew et.al). There after 2 more cases were found in February. Subsequently, there was an increase in cases day by day across the country. As per the report of Worldometers 2020, about 10.2 million Covid-19 Positive cases found in 30 June 2020 out of which around 5,06,236 found dead across the world. In India 5,67,536 cases was found and 16,904 cases found dead(worldometers,2020). In some studies, India was expected to face a lot of challenges because of widely spreading of Covid-19 as India is a huge population with diversity in terms of socio-cultural differences, economic diversity and different health inequalities. Different countries were imposed different measure to stop spreading of the virus. One of the common measure taken by all the countries is that every country sealed their borders and stopped the physical movement by any means like air, water or land. Within India all the states were also adopted the same measure to spread the virus across the state boarders. Result of which state boarders were sealed and it affects the people across India badly. All the cities, towns and even villages were forced to apply shutdown and lockdown. About 1.4 billion students and around 60 million teachers were suffered by this lockdown and shutdown. Some of the private educational institutions were unable to maintain their day to day expenses because of which they forced to cost cutting in the salary of the teachers or they are forced to cut down the human resources in the campus. This leads to the increase in the

unemployment in the society and also it affects the teachers adversely in this pandemic.

II. RESEARCH OBJECTIVES:

- To study the challenges of educational institutions in India during Covid-19
- To enlighten different approaches to cope up with this crisis by educational institutions

III. CHALLENGES FOR EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS:

There is a saying that the educational system of a country makes it strong. This line is supported by the saying of Nelson Mandela, "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world". Now a day, Covid-19 is not allowing the countries to create the weapon as the entire education system of all the country has been affected badly and faced huge challenges. The researcher tries to explain some of the challenges faced by the educational institutions in India. India is seen like the largest student population of the world. It is about 32 crore student population in India. While all the country starting slowly improve and establish their life back to normal and educational institutions were starting classes, exams offline but the trauma continues of the students, teachers and the educational institutions as the second wave of the Covid-19 is spreading with a speed more than earlier. Somehow, some of the government and private educational institutions have done a great job of keeping the learning process going on for the students by introducing the online mode of classes. There is no doubt that the online classes have sorted out one of the challenge of the educational institution during the pandemic but still so many challenges are there for the students, teachers and educational institutions.

Social distancing:

One of the best ways to prevent the covid-19 is maintain social distancing. This is the mandatory regulation made by the government and bound to follow. This regulation creates the challenge for the educational institutions. To maintain this social distancing the institutions need to reduce their class strengths (for practical classes), reschedule their teacher's time table, and availability of the teachers is also generate huge challenge for the institution in the early days of the covid-19. Though the theory based classes can be conducted through online classes.

Sustainability of learning:

We witnessed in this pandemic that, all the educational institution across the country have been closed down to stop the spreading of the virus. The learning processes have been affected for the students. But the technology helps the educational institution to continue the learning process as normal as before. As we people started quoting this as new normal. As the online arrangements for continuing the learning process by the institution since they believe that this can helpful in maintain social distance requirement in the pandemic and this would be a challenge for some time but the future of Covid-19 is still in dark. Hence, some of the universities have started doing collaboration with some of the online platform for the sustainability of the online programmes for learning method. But the challenge for the Indian institutions is to maintain quality, cost effective education through online education for longer period is a concern. As India most of the students are not having that adequate infrastructure for the online education in addition to that the network problem is always a concern for them. However, this challenge can be sorted out by the collaboration between the premier universities or institutions on the country to provide the support to the online learning process.

Employability and their acceptability:

Indian education system has been mostly examination centric and there are ample evidences that the most of the students from the Indian educational institutions are remained unemployed. Because the students are pass the examinations on the basis of the memorisation learning without focusing/understanding the subject. This leads to fail them in developing creativity, logical thinking, critical thinking, negotiation skill and conflict resolution and other skills required in the 21st century. This latest pedagogies of online learning or blended learning can help the Indian education institution to produce improved, skilled and employable graduates. However the mind-set of the employer and the society regarding the acceptance of online learning as the mode of education would be a big challenge in front of the institutions.

Attitude of teacher and training:

As this pandemic creates a serious stress on the economy this is not going to be possible for all the teachers and educational institutions to think of the adequate infrastructure required for the technology based learning. The online learning system is totally different then the physical mode of learning. Its required particular set of skills to make

the learning process qualitative one. For this rigorous training is essential and challenges lies with that as the number of teacher in India is astronomical. Another challenge for the educational institution in this regard is that the attitude of the traditional teachers to accept the new method of teaching and learning.

Examination/assessment process:

We have been witnessing that most of the educational institutions in India are forced to conduct their examination through online mode. Even the school students are being assessed or marked on the basis of online mode of examination. In this process the challenge is that how to ensure the result of the assessment is appropriate or adequate in terms of quality is concern. Further, it has been found that so many institutions failed to adopt the online mode of assessment because of lack of proper infrastructure in the institution. To get high ranking or recognition, the institutions are depends on the criteria or bench marks fix by the regulating bodies like UGC, AICTE, MHRD and Central or state agencies related to the learning process, evaluation proves, research activities etc. in this regard the institutions are facing a challenge how to maintain the standard in assessment as we have heard from the various news channels or media houses that , many educational boards are postponed or cancelled their examination during this pandemic and evaluation have been made on the basis of different way. Which is again at a stake or question mark?

Availability and accessibility:

Another challenge in front of the educational institutions is that the availability of the infrastructure is not enough for the success of a system. It depends on the accessibility of the resources. It would be a big challenge for the institutions to educate the large heterogeneous group consisting of different types of learners. The learners are different on the basis of their liking, learning style, and habit, social, economic, regional and different religious background. The biggest challenge is that to create such a quality infrastructure and make available in a country like India with such diversity learners. The UGC has made efforts to create such infrastructure by introducing the open courseware like SWAYAM, NPTEL contents, EduSat etc. and tries to bring education to the home directly. The success rates of this courseware are found to be significantly low. This shows that, simply availability is not the accessibility by the learners as many learners in

India are poor and could not access it because of poorness.

Stress and mental challenge:

Covid-19 creates a sense of fear among the people in the society due to increasing rate of virus affected and death cases in the country in recent time. This leads to increase in the stress level of the learners and their emotional imbalance. The educational institutions are worried about the mental and safety well ness of the learner. UGC has mandated all the educational institutions to constitute a task force for maintain the stress and mental wellbeing of the students.

Value system and Covid-19:

In the modern days the people becomes more practical and materialistic. As a result humanness within the society declined. In addition to that now the Covid-19 creates such terror among the society as a result the people are forced to stay away from each other. However, the life is passing and the situation now we are facing has changed the life. It increases the dehumanisation among the people leads to crisis in human spirit and decreased the moral standards. Teachers in the educational institutional are being admired for the knowledge and their humane qualities. This creates a relation between the teacher and the learners which built the value system for the society. To create such a value system and develop the values among the learner is a big challenge for the educational fraternity.

Even though there are lot of serious challenges, this pandemic has also some positive challenges for the society, individuals and for the world. Because of the challenges, the world moved towards use the technological innovations in different fields. Online learning for continue and advanced method of learning. Now the world is adopting the online learning method with a myth that education and learning could be take place effectively within the four walls of the home/institutions. Some academicians criticise the ICT enabled way of delivery knowledge as this method of learning is not much effective. Here, the researcher wants to make a point is that, online learning is not an ultimate solution for this pandemic. As online education is based on the technology andwhich is not uniform and also it depends upon the internet connectivity which cost money. This cannot be the solution for the learners who stay in remote or resource starved areas. India has about 1000 universities, around 40000 colleges and 11000 autonomous institutions. This makes India the 3rd largest educational system in the world. Out of which most institutions are located in

urban areas. Mostly, face to face mode of education is the most viable for education in these institutions. Now the time comes to make online education as national recognition. Moreover, the country needs to focus more on to build countries digital capabilities. However, this covid-19 highlighted that this is the time to draw a policy on online education and make it nationally recognised.

Lastly, the researcher wants to point out here that, this pandemic is not the first time the world is witnessed and would not be the last time. History of world shows many situations from where the world come out stronger from the worst situation and become better than the before. For an example, the 1930's recession, like Japan and Germany emerged as prosperous and strong economies after the world war-2. This situation shows that the world has faced lot of wars, pandemics and recessions but at the same time this situation gives us a hope that the world could be in a better place after this Covid-19.

IV. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

In this study of challenges of educational institutions during Covid-19, the data have been collected from various websites, news articles, research articles available in the known databases like PROQUEST, EMERALD, GOOGLE SCHOLAR etc. this study is descriptive in nature.

V. LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY:

The limitations of the study are as follows:

- the study is restricted to the secondary data only it can be done by some empirical data
- As the challenges of Covid-19 are vast. Here only challenges of educational institutions are being considered.

VI. CONCLUSION:

In spite of the crisis of covid-19 stretches longer and continue to disrupt the academic activities of the educational institutions significantly. This study points out some of the major challenges faced by the educational institutions and the stakeholders. It has been witnessed that a significant number of institutions, teachers and learners are using online education system for continue their learning process in India. Some study shows that many students faced challenges to adopt this new method of learner due to various reasons. There should be a proper online education policy in the country. The technological infrastructural facilities should be availed to the education institutions to make them efficient to regulate the new learning method effectively and prepare for any future emergencies. In this critical

time the educational institutions could use open sources of digital learning and different LMS (learning management system) to conduct online education. There is a need to form an education policy for online education and need to make that nationally recognised and to build such education system in the country that helps the educational institutions to develop the skills for employability with in the learners.

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