An Integral Study on the Impact of Covid-19 over the School Education in Sri Ganganagar District, Rajasthan

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Abstract

Every country's overall development is founded on education of the people live in it as it fosters a certain degree of knowledge, morals, and awareness. It is also considered an essential part of the development in terms of the advancement of technology. If a country has a greater literacy rate, its GDP would grow faster, and its unemployment rate would be lower that is a most important indicator of development of the country. Education plays an important role for developing skill, good habits, particular mindset and knowledge of the school children who are considered potential proactive developer of the country. Education system cannot be discontinued for long as it can adversely impact the health and wealth of the country and its people who the responsibility of the government of that country. It was an unprecedented and unfortunate event when WHO declared outbreak of corona virus a pandemic creating concern for all the nations. It first effect was discontinuing the school education as there ware severe fear of spreading the virus through the students going to school and the decision for termination the school education for the children and shifting over online education had become the necessity of that time. It brought about a great deal of disruption in education systems, affecting nearly 1.6 billion learners in more than 200 countries. Several schools, colleges and universities had to discontinue face-to-face teaching-learning process. An immediate alternative of education was the imminent need of the hour. All the educational institution is fear-stricken not knowing what would be in the future. Moreover, many of the people engaged in teaching-learning process did never know about the online teaching system as they were not well versed in it. The covid-19 provided opportunity along with the threat and fear for future of academic segment of the society. The presented research paper aims to provide the impact of the covid-19 on the school education through an integral study in and around the Sri Ganganagar, Rajasthan that is researcher's hometown also. This researched paper is by nature an empirical one which tries no study the impact of the covid-19 on the education of the school going children through the prospective of parents, teachers and students of private as well as government schools in urban area of Sri Ganganagar district in Rajasthan. 50 respondents from the district have been consulted and data were collected through a structured questionnaire. The respondents were selected using the non-probability sampling method. The results revealed that there was a negative impact on an educational system like loss of human capital, unnecessary and sudden investment for developing the online system for smart classes and providing the data and information using the technology.

Keywords: Covid-19, pandemic, school, education, online classes

Introduction

First school of the child starts at home itself and mother is considered the first teacher of the child for the social and economical development of the child as well as productivity we need to send him or her to school. For our economic growth schools are increasing children's social awareness, skills, and ability in fun ways. Only short time children spend in school and learn more things. They can develop their social life and they can learn more effectively and efficiently. But due to this COVID-19 pandemic, most of the countries have closed their schools, colleges and universities. And we know that any of the nations around the globe cannot develop with properly educating their people. Education is considered the foundation stone for the development of a country. A layman is converted into a mind like capital just through the education that can only be the real contributor of GDP of the country. A well and properly educated mind set can come forward with new and innovative ideas contributing any nation's development. The attack of the corona virus shook each and every corner of the world leaving all the society and fields of work in a dilemma with a fear for the coming time but it proved as a miracle more than the disastrous one as people have learn leaving in a different way and understood the value of the every penny kept as saved. The corona virus' attack looked having a adverse impact on the education system and structure as a lack of operational activities, and closure of educational institutions affected the progress of the students, future maker of the nation. After the indentifying in the Wuhana City of Chine the corona virus took it journey in the blink of eye around everywhere making the WHO Woken to declare it as pandemic on March 12, 2020 shaking and leaving in shock each and every nation's economy including education system also. And governments of the most of the nations decided as the foremost step of closing the school and

education institution as a precaution against corona virus as maintain social distancing is almost impossible in these institutions. Moreover, it was found that rate of spreading of corona virus is high through children that was also a reason to close all the educational institution with the immediate effect. As per the UNESCO report, over 290 million students across 29 countries are affected. Approximate 32 crore students (including school and college) are affecting, declared by the UNESCO. It was a very difficult time for the educational institutes to commence sessions and parents to send their children to schools, college and university to continue the education and complete the courses (Vladescu, 2016). Therefore, analysis and planning of future actions for managing the education system and implementation of changes in the approach of educational institutions were become a necessity of the hour. The then position of the world was very critical in this scenario as no one knows about the transmission of the virus and how it might have been stopped. According to Currie *et al*. (2020), COVID-19 is one of the most critical challenges for mankind and affecting global health after the 2nd World War. Vladescu (2017) has analysed that, the lack of medical assistance for protecting from the attack of the virus will have more impact on the future activities of businesses, education centers' and import-export trade among the countries.

Owing to the current situation teaching has been switching to the online platform. However, some hurdles like internet connection failure, disturbances at home environment etc. have been faced while studying online, so many students have not been able to do the study on the online platform. But in the present hour we see how the pandemic has open the door of another alternative of providing education. Not only private schools are adopting e-learning platforms but even government schools also have to adopt e-learning platforms and some are doing with both that is also accepted in the NEP-2020. The online tools like WebEx, Zoom, and Google classroom, Skype. Will be a great help for teachers and students to enhance their skills and develop their knowledge. Now, with proud fully, can be said that this crisis was not only teaching us how to fight this pandemic but also teaching us, how to make our future as there are always alternative ways around us, we just need to recognize them in time take advantage. The government of India also took a lesson from the pandemic and launched the e-portal like Swayam, Diksha Portal, Epathshala, Smile, STEM-based portals and many more so that our nation's students can get access to education in any field with any hurdle that may be said a boon for all of us. Through on line system our students' study has become an ongoing process without many disruptions. Apart from these we have better known the advantages of online study that has become interesting, effective and personalized contributing the improvement of the quality of education unbounded by the boundaries of the nations enhancing the teaching with e-learning modals. Now teaching-learning process has become easier far away from the boundaries of time and place.

Review of Literature

E-learning: Digital Learning: AICTE releases 41 e-learning platforms to facilitate studies during covid-19 lockdown, Government News, ET Government. (n.d.). Retrieved January 9, 2021, from https://government.economictimes.in diatimes.com/news/digitalindia/digital-learning-aicte-releases41-e-learning-platforms-to-facilitatestudies-during-covid-19-lockdown/75161549

COVID-19 pandemic-Wikipedia. (n.d.). Retrieved January 9, 2021, from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/COVI D-19_pandemic

Impact of Pandemic COVID-19 on Education in India by Pravat Kumar Jena:: SSRN. (n.d.). Retrieved January 9, 2021, from https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers. cfm?abstract_id=3691506

The use of these platforms has become a necessity in the past couple of years due to the restriction on physical gatherings imposed owing to the Covid-19 pandemic. Most countries have had to close schools, training institutes, and higher education institutions due to lockdown and social separation measures enforced in reaction to the Covid-19 outbreak (Preeti, 2020).

According to Tadesse and Muluve (2020), the instructional machine and educators have embraced "Education in Emergency" through unique online systems.

Harapan, H., Itoh, N., Yufika, A., Winardi, W., Keam, S., Te, H., Megawati, D., Hayati, Z., Wagner, A. L., & Mudatsir, M. (2020) [6]. Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19): A literature review. Journal of Infection and Public Health, 13(5), 667-673. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jiph.2020.03. 019

As per the views of Van Lancker and Parolin, (2020), the parents and national governments are keen to protect the people and working on the plan to manage the operations.

According to Ho, Chee, and Ho (2020), the sudden shift to online learning will be difficult for the developing and underdeveloped countries and educational authorities due to lack of infrastructure and planning for the format that suits the new approach. The teachers and students are not familiar with the equipment and process of online learning due to lack of technical understanding.

As per the views of Karalis (2020), the online learning is special kind of methodology and will have lack of acceptance from teachers and students as all are not ready for the sudden transition from classroom learning to online. The online platforms like Skype, Zoom and Google Duo are not sufficient for offering the learning and engaging the students. The lack of internet facility, devices and environment for online learning from home or other places will hurt the learning approaches of institutions and influence the knowledge of the students to understand the concepts and content of the course.

Vladescu (2016) has identified some opportunities for educational institutions for further improvement in the system for offering the learning. According to analysis, online learning will rise blended learning and develop the new norms for the learning management system. The universities and colleges can shift towards the model of blended learning and offer education through online tools which will be cost and time effective for both teachers and students.

While governments, frontline workers, and health authorities fight to contain the spread, educational institutions work to maintain a high standard of education for everyone during these challenging times (Krishnan *et al*., 2020)

As stated by Preeti (2020) it affected the learning and schooling structures and teaching and evaluation practices. She also cited that the closure of institutions had affected learners' learning. One urgent action is necessary to maintain continuation in institutions and universities.

Colleges and universities started continuing to provide education by means of learning management software and using open-source as a digital learning solution to operate online classrooms. It was an important step as higher education is vital in determining the country's economic

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destiny, and the epidemic has heavily impacted the industry (Mohamed *et al*., 2022).

There are various measuring inaccuracies associated with online evaluation tools compared to conventional measurement (Bibi Noraini & Jihan, 2020). However, assessment and evaluation are important as they are an integral part of education that measures learning outcomes. Moreover, it gives valid records for employees to compare candidates while recruiting graduates.

Burgess and Sievertsen (2020) showed that companies utilise educational credentials such as grade point averages and degree categories to evaluate candidates. Thus, the lockdown affected how fresh graduates are placed in the job market.

According to Osman (2020), assessing and evaluating learners' performance in online learning is challenging for both educators and learners, mainly when teaching practicum and technical competence, and assessing practical skills is challenging. Learners' assessments are conducted online, with educators, learners, and parents experiencing trial and error, ambiguity, and misunderstanding. Conducting online assessments takes a variety of forms, depending on the educator's convenience and skill and the learners' compatibility.

HyseniDuraku, Linda, Zamira & Hoxha, (2020) in a study analyzed and illustrate the issues of pupils, parents and teachers about social exclusion conditions and teachers' and parents' views of remote or online education. Shifting from off line mode to a distance or an online education has now become an effective tool of many educational institutions around the educational world, a series of variables are expected to contribute to the consistency of the educational institutions, teachers, parents and students in accordance with the changes in their emotional condition.

Scope of the Study
The study is restricted to get an insight of the respondents' understanding of online education and its impact over the children involved with reference to the gender of respondents. The study is conducted for getting answers from the respondents in certain area.

Objectives and Significance of the Study
In fact the study is conducted with the aim of analyzing the impact of the Covid-19 over the education and its stakeholders with the prospective of male and female about the merits and demerits of online system of teaching-learning process as to have the study unaffected.

The study especially reflect the integral impact of the Covid-19 over school education and due this pandemic what precautions they adopted and what type of boon or curse it proved for the education providing world. The study also reveals the prospective of the respondents including teacher, children and parents at the pandemic time. It would also be available for future researchers to further work and understanding as a reference.

Research Questions
1. Do you think that Covid-19 has effected education system adversely?
2. To what extent Covid-19 impact affecting the educational/academic institutions?
3. What positive/Negative changes Covid-19 has brought in the educational system?

Problem Statement
The presented research paper focuses on the impact of covid-19 over the school education in Sri Ganganagar Distr ICT, Rajasthan till now.

Research Design and Methodology
For the purpose of the current study data have been collected from the teachers, children and their parents of the secondary schools in the urban area of Sri Ganganagar, Rajasthan. The study is primarily relied on primary data that have been collected through a structured questionnaire seeking answers of certain questions set for the collection of data from them to be analyzed for the hypothesis testing purpose. To develop the systematic approach, there are two types of philosophies used, interpretive and positivism. For current research related to the analysis of the impact of COVID-19 on the education system and institution, the researcher has selected interpretive research philosophy. By considering this philosophy, the researcher has collected and analyzed the different opinions of respondents and identifies the key actions to improve the situation. Apart from this, interpretive philosophy has helped to maintain openness (Kumar, 2019). For conducting current research, the researcher has applied the indicative approach that also supports in increasing reliability and validity. By implementing this approach, the researcher has collected data for the analysis of the impact of COVID-19 on the educational system and institution using the questionnaire method (Fletcher, 2017). This was cost and time effective and eliminated the issues related to the privacy of the respondents. According to research methodology functions, to research in a professional manner, two types of study have been followed that involve qualitative and quantitative. For the current research, the researcher has applied descriptive design and collected the data using the questionnaire method. Therefore, the study was based on the quantitative type and helped to meet the objectives of the study (Mohajan, 2018) for convenience 50 respondents were select through convenient sampling technique. After collecting data they were analyzed using IBM SPSS computer application for administering statistics. Factor analysis, Group statistics and sample test were administered for analysis purpose of the study in hand.

Sampling
Sampling was done using the non-probability method as the researcher has chosen the sample of students and teachers from the universe according to own connivance. For the current research, the researcher has selected a sample of 50 respondents and shared the questionnaire to gain knowledge of their opinion for analysis of the impact of COVID-19 on educational system and institution

Data Collection, Analysis and Interpretation
Data collection for the present research was done using the primary method. The researcher has adopted descriptive design, quantitative type and indicative approach. A questionnaire is given to be answered in person and via social media as it would be less time consuming. Moreover, the use of the questionnaire method has increased the reliability and validity of the outcome of the research (Ørngreen and Levinsen, 2017) [13]. Prior consent has been taken from the respondents for participation in the research.

To maintain the reliability and validity of research, the researcher has asked questions related to the subject matter and eliminated the wrong responses. To improve the validity of the study, the researcher has collected the data from

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authentic sources and managed the analysis in proper ways. To analyze data descriptive and content analysis were used. The researcher has analyzed the data applying the thematic analysis method. The researcher has done the frequency distribution and analyzed the response of respondents by developing the graphs and tables accordingly.

The researcher has collected data from 50 respondents that involved people from different age groups and occupations. According to table 1, 20% of respondents were aged between 20-25 years, 40% were 25-30 years, 40% were 30-35 years, and 20% were above 35 years. Moreover, 70% of respondents were male, and 30% were female. It can be concluded that the online learning can be a good option along with the physical classes, but for small schools and universities, it will be difficult to retain the students as passive learning can be done from leading and reputed institutions.

Table 1: Responses from the participants for online learning as an alternative.

Responses	Frequencies	Percentage (%)
In favour of developing and promoting online education system	40	80
Not in favour of changing the existing approach of education	10	20
Total	50	100

According to an analysis of data collected from respondents, it is clear that 80% of respondents responded in favour of developing and promoting online education system. However, 20% of respondents were disagreeing and not in favour of changing the existing approach of education. It can be concluded that the online learning system is a good alternate for continuing and maintaining the study and planning the future learning approach.

Table 2: Responses from the participants for promoting online learning

Responses	Frequencies	Percentage (%)
promoting the online teaching in using the internet and technical devices	47	94

94% of respondents were agreeing for promoting the online teaching using the internet and technical devices even today also. Educational institutions have to promote learning through online mediums along with physical classes. It has also been mentioned in the NEP-2020 that will help to maintain the flow of education and support in generating income without any hurdle.

Table 3: Opinions of the participants for benefits of online learning.

Responses	Frequencies	Percentage (%)
In favour investing in online resources for promoting the constant learning with time and place boundary	43	86
Not in favour of managing the learning system through online	7	14

86% of respondents were in favour of investing online resources of promoting the learning even today while14% of respondents were not agreeing for managing the learning system through online as it will increase the financial pressure

on lower middle-class parents to develop infrastructure. It can be concluded that online learning will be beneficial for students and teachers also as it will help to engage both and maintain educational flow as per the schedule wherever they are no matter.

Conclusion

It has been seen that covid-10 had a severe impact on the social and economical life of the people but on the educational field it had more than severe impact that totally shook the entire education system leaving all the stakeholder in dilemma with fear. But soon it was shifted off line to online education and teachers, students and parents shows courage in this respect and also it provided a innovative idea of teaching on line with any geographical and time restriction. No matter where you are and at your own convenience you can study that was the greatest major benefit which even today after two year passed is in line and NEP-2020 also has stated it need in today's academic world. Yet, there are another fact that cannot be overlooked that we are in a developing country and online system demands a great deal of finance investment which most of the families cannot afford moreover at home studying on children cannot learn most of the significant skills and behaviour changing attitude. Apart from this our teachers are not stile fully computer savvy. However these are minor faults but if our government and authority try their best the system can be applied on throughout the country and no doubt it is being too as stated in NEP-2020 on solely but combo option may be offered the students so that they can study on their own convenience without any fear and stress in their mind. For the betterment of the educational system and approaches of institutions need changes. To maintain continuity in learning and to share the knowledge with the students, it is recommended to the institutions to adopt the technology and engage the students in learning. By offering the training to the staff members and involving the parents related to the online system will be useful for the educational institution to overcome the issues related to take classes and engage the students at their own convenience.

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