Contemporary Issues on Education

Suman Lata

Asst. Professor in Hindi, Manohar Memorial College of Education, Fatehabad, Haryana, India

Corresponding author: suman29.gill@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

Education is systematic process through which a child or an adult acquires knowledge, skill, and information and enables them to know their rights and duties towards their family and their society as well. The educational landscape in India is constantly changing. Since the beginning of the pandemic, it has gone through its fair share of ups and downs. Parents know that every child's foundation is built on their education. Everyone wants the best education system, by which they can reshaping their behavior, preferences, talents and mindsets. The Indian education system faced many challenges in post Covid era. Amongst other things, the lack of practical subjects, training and the option for students to choose from more versatile subjects are the biggest issues and challenges in education today. This study intends to understand and evaluate the issues and challenges in contemporary education in India.

Keywords: Covid, Education, knowledge, skill, mindsets

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on higher education, both in the short-term and the long-term. The post-pandemic era will bring new challenges and opportunities for higher education institutions. By being aware of these challenges and opportunities, institutions can ensure that they are prepared for the future in a global environment. Institutions need to offer more international opportunities for students, such as study abroad programs and online courses taught by international faculty. Amongst other things, lack of practical subjects, training, and the option for students to choose from more versatile subjects are the biggest issues and challenges in education today.

Some of the key issues that higher education institutions are facing in the post-pandemic era include:

Online learning

The COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated the shift to online learning. While online learning can be a valuable tool, it is important to ensure that all students have access to high-quality online instruction.

The digital divide

The pandemic has highlighted the digital divide between students who have access to reliable internet and technology, and those who do not. This has made it difficult for some students to participate in online learning, and has also created challenges for institutions in terms of providing equitable access to resources.

Mental health of the students

The pandemic has been a stressful and challenging time for many students, and this has had a negative impact on their mental health. Institutions need to be proactive in providing support for students' mental health, and in creating a supportive learning environment.

Too much pressure on Grades

In the education system in India, a student's intelligence and performance are thought to be mostly determined by their grades .Extracurricular activities are viewed as detour from academics. A student's IQ cannot be determined by their grades.

Technology

The use of technology in education is a rapidly changing landscape. Some people believe that technology is valuable tools that can help students learn more effectively, while others worry that it is becoming a distraction and is leading to a decline in critical thinking skills.

The financial sustainability of institutions

The pandemic has led to a decline in enrollments and a decrease in revenue for many institutions. This has put a strain on the financial sustainability of these institutions, and has led to some institutions making difficult decisions about how to cut costs.

The need for innovation

 The pandemic has forced institutions to be more innovative in their teaching and learning

methods. This has led to the development of new technologies and approaches to education, which will likely continue to be used in the post-pandemic era.

The changing needs of employers

The pandemic has also led to changes in the skills and knowledge that employers are looking for in their employees. This means that institutions need to be sure that they are preparing students for the jobs of the future.

Teacher shortage

There is a shortage of qualified and experienced teachers in many parts of the world. This can lead to overcrowded classrooms and compromised education.

Standardized testing

The use of standardized tests to measure student achievement is a controversial issue. Some people believe that these tests are necessary to ensure that all students are learning the same material, while others believe that they are too stressful and do not accurately reflect student learning.

- ❖ **Inequity in education:** There is a long history of inequity in education, with students from low-income families and students of color often receiving a lower quality education than their peers. This is due to a number of factors, including teacher shortages, and segregation.
- ❖ In addition to the above, here are some other issues that higher education institutions may face in the post-pandemic era:

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on higher education, and it is likely that the sector will continue to face challenges in the years to come. Some of the key contemporary issues in higher education after the pandemic include:

Access and equity

The pandemic has exacerbated the existing inequalities in access to higher education. Students from marginalized communities, such as those from rural areas and low-income households, have been disproportionately affected by the pandemic. This is due to a number of factors, including the lack of access to digital devices and internet connectivity, as well as the loss of income due to job losses or reduced work hours.

Quality

The quality of education in higher education institutions has also been affected by the

pandemic. The shift to online learning has been challenging for many students and faculty, and it has led to concerns about the quality of instruction. Additionally, the pandemic has disrupted research activities, which has had a negative impact on the quality of research output from higher education institutions.

Relevance

The curriculum of many higher education institutions is outdated and does not reflect the needs of the 21st century workforce. This is a major concern, as students need to be equipped with the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in the workplace. The pandemic has also highlighted the need for higher education institutions to be more responsive to the needs of society.

Employability

The employability of graduates from higher education institutions is a major concern. The pandemic has led to job losses and increased competition for jobs, which has made it more difficult for graduates to find employment. Additionally, the pandemic has disrupted internships and other forms of experiential learning, which are essential for developing the skills and knowledge that employers are looking for.

The future of higher education is uncertain, but it is clear that the sector will need to adapt to the challenges posed by the pandemic. By addressing the issues outlined above, higher education institutions can ensure that they are prepared for the future. The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on higher education, and it is likely that the sector will continue to face challenges in the years to come. Some of the key contemporary issues in higher education after the pandemic include:

The future of online learning

The pandemic has accelerated the shift to online learning, and it is likely that this trend will continue in the years to come. However, there are still concerns about the quality of online learning, and it is not clear how online learning will be integrated into traditional higher education models.

The future of the university

The pandemic has challenged the traditional model of the university, and it is possible that we will see a new model of higher education emerge in the years to come. This new model may be more flexible and responsive to the needs of students and employers.

The future of research

The pandemic has disrupted research activities, and it is not clear how research will be conducted in the years to come. However, it is clear that research is essential for innovation and economic development, and it is important to find ways to support research in higher education.

The need for more flexible learning options

Many students have found that they prefer online or blended learning options, and this trend is likely to continue. Institutions need to be able to offer a variety of learning options to meet the needs of their students.

The need for more internationalization

The global economy is becoming increasingly interconnected, and this means that students need to be prepared to work in a global environment. Institutions need to offer more international opportunities for students, such as study abroad programs and online courses taught by international faculty.

The need for more diversity and inclusion

The student body at many institutions is becoming more diverse, and this means that institutions need to be more inclusive. This includes providing support for students from different backgrounds, and creating a welcoming environment for all students.

The future of work

The nature of work is changing, and this is having an impact on education. Institution need to prepare students for the jobs of the future, which will require a range of skills, including critical thinking, problem-solving, and creativity.

Unequal access to education

Despite the government's efforts to increase access to education, there are still significant disparities in access to quality education between different social groups and regions. For example, the literacy rate for women is still significantly lower than the literacy rate for men, and children from rural areas are more likely to drop out of school than children from urban areas.

Outdated curriculum and teaching methods

The curriculum in many Indian schools is outdated and does not reflect the needs of the 21st

century workforce. Additionally, many teachers are not adequately trained to use modern teaching methods. This can lead to a lack of engagement among students and a poor quality of education.

High cost of education

The cost of education in India is rising, making it difficult for many families to afford to send their children to college. This is especially true for families from rural areas and low-income families.

Inadequate infrastructure

Many institutions in India lack adequate infrastructure, such as clean water, toilets, and electricity. This can have a negative impact on the quality of education that students receive.

Exam-centric culture

The focus on exams in the Indian education system can lead to a lack of creativity and critical thinking among students. Additionally, the pressure to perform well on exams can lead to stress and anxiety among students.

Here are some of the possible solutions to these issues

- ❖ **Increase funding for education:** The government needs to increase funding for education in order to improve infrastructure, train teachers, and make education more affordable.
- ❖ **Reform the curriculum and teaching methods:** The curriculum needs to be updated to reflect the needs of the 21st century workforce, and teachers need to be trained in modern teaching methods.
- ❖ **Provide financial assistance to families:** The government needs to provide financial assistance to families to help them afford to send their children to colleges.
- ❖ **Recruit and train more teachers:** The government needs to recruit and train more teachers, especially in rural areas.
- ❖ **Reduce the focus on exams:** The focus on exams in the Indian education system needs to be reduced in order to promote creativity and critical thinking among students.

These are just some of the possible solutions to the contemporary issues facing the Indian education system. There is no easy fix, but by addressing these issues, India can improve the quality of education for all children.

CONCLUSION

The post-pandemic era will bring new challenges and opportunities for higher education

institutions. By being aware of these challenges and opportunities, institutions can ensure that they are prepared for the future, and to develop strategies to address them. By doing so, they can ensure that they remain relevant and successful in the years to come. To support actual hands-on learning; technology can be leveraged to transform conventional teaching into fun, interactive experiences. When this happens, education will be ideal mix of conceptual learning and practical knowledge. And students also are taught skills that will help them land a job.

REFERENCES

www.saralstudy.com

http:/kireetjoshi.in/books/teachers/curriculum-handbook/contemporary-issues.in

https://brainfeedmagazine.com/contemporary-issues-in-education/

www.21school.com