



Impact of COVID-19 Disease on Indian Education System

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ABSTRACT

The outbreak of the covid-19 pandemic is a shock to the Indian economy. According to a UNESCO report, the lockdown had badly affected 290 million scholars in 22 countries because of the shutting of schools in the wake of the lockdown. As per the circumstances, there is vagueness when school and college will renew. This is a precarious period for the education sector since entrance tests of several universities and competitive examinations are being held throughout this period. The higher education sector is also messed up which once more brick an influence on the country economic upcoming. Several students from India want to get admissions in a foreign country like the US, UK, Australia, China etc., but these countries are critically exaggerated due to COVID-19. The objective of the study is to find out the positive and negative impact of COVID-19 on the education sector and find out some initiative taken by the government to cope up with the situation. The method used in the study is the secondary method collected from national and international agencies and various newspapers, journal and various authentic websites.

Keywords: Indian economy, E- learning, Education system, Digital learning, technology development

Formerly the pandemic inception, subsequently in the financial year 2018-19, India's growth was decreasing, 8% in Q4 in the financial year 2018 to 4.5 in Q2 in the financial year 2020. A coronavirus disease is a normal virus that causes a contagion in the snout, sinuses, or in throat

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However, coronavirus made it extremely difficult to improve the growth of the economy. The Chinese virologist claimed that during her research she came to know that coronavirus was developed in a laboratory in China. DR Li-Meng Yen, who inspected the derivation of the COVID-19 virus in the course of the preliminary outbreak in Wuhan, further revealed that she had to make speechless by her supervisor for speaking out and said that the Chinese government is doing this for money, power and influence on all over the world. The south china morning post has stated based on the government data “the earliest case in china was annoyance from COVID-19, the novel coronavirus found on November 17. According to the news information by the government, the information proposed that 55 year old individual was the first one that grumbled by this novel coronavirus, in china Hubei province. Initial 2020, the World Health Organization determined SARS-CoV-2 as an innovative type of coronavirus. The disease quickly deploys all over the world. On February 11, 2020, the world health organisation announced the authorised name of this disease as COVID-19. Persons having COVID-19 have an extensive range of indicators that have reported – ranging from minor symptoms to severe infection. Indicators may appear within 2-14 days subsequently exposure to the disease. Persons having Temperature or shudders, Cough, Struggle in inhalation, Exhaustion, Muscle or body aches, Headache, loss of taste or smell, Aching throat, Running nose, Heave or puke and Diarrhea etc. might have COVID-19.

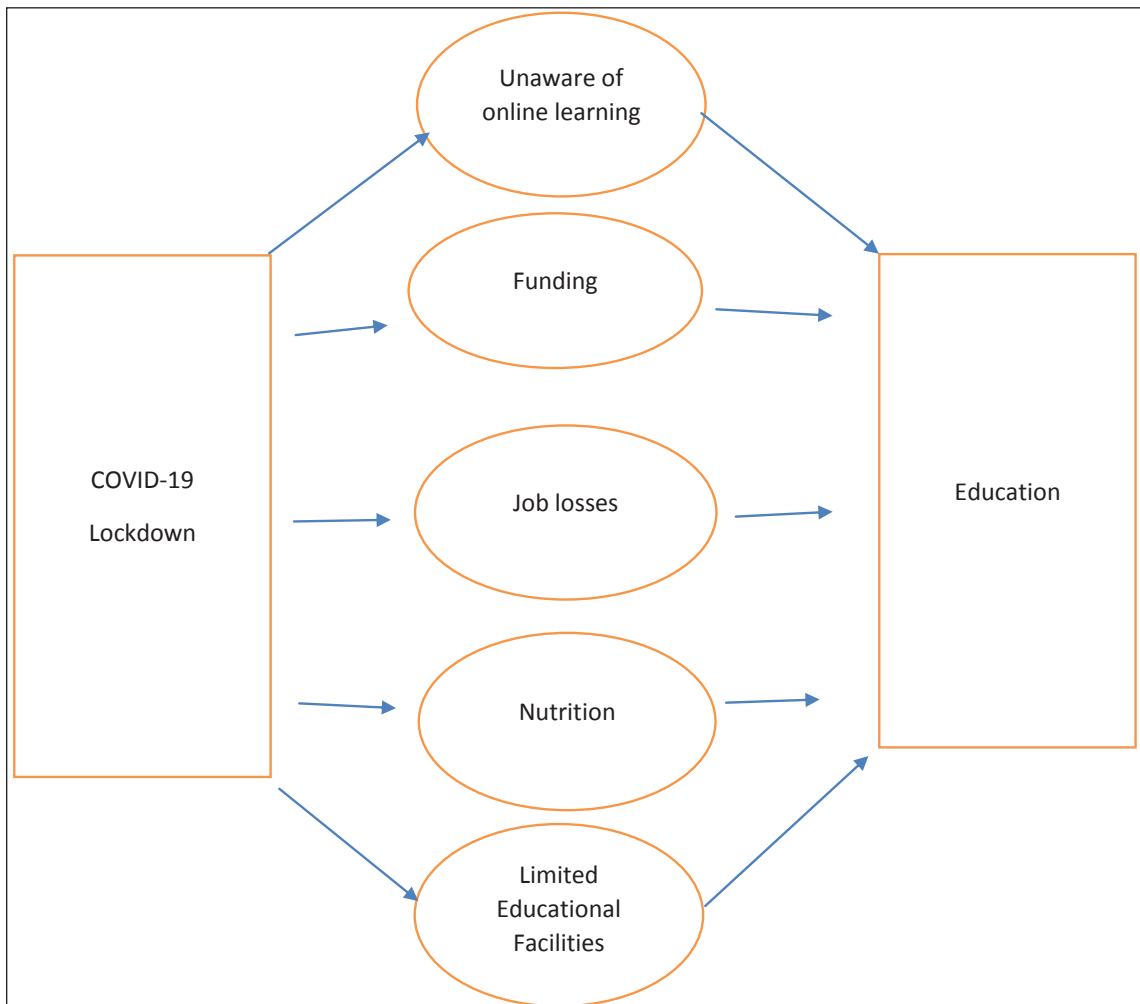
Ways of Spreading COVID-19: The coronavirus spreads mostly from person to person. This can also happen between the people who came in close contact with each other. Dewdrops that are formed while infected creature coughs or sneezes might land in the jaws or snout of person who are nearby, or probably inhale and get into lungs.

A person diseased with coronavirus — even one with no symptoms — may discharge vaporisers when they talk or breathe. Vaporisers are infectious viral particles that can drift or float around in the air for up to three hours. Another person can breathe these vaporisers and become diseased with the coronavirus. Coronavirus can also spread from contact with diseased surfaces or objects, though this is a less common way for the virus to spread.

India has informed the earliest confirmed case of coronavirus in the Thrissur area of Kerala on 30 January 2020 and the affected was the student who was studying at the Wuhan University, China. The foremost COVID-19 demise reported on March 12 after samples of a 76-year-old man, which was a mistrusted COVID-19 sick and passed away in the night-time on March 10, tested positive for the virus. After observing coronavirus pandemic WHO recommended keep social distancing, wear mask as the primary stage of prevention. So, all countries have started to follow the same precautions to prevent the spread of this virus. According to the UNESCO report, it has affected more than 90% of the total worldwide scholar Population. The lockdown has come up with many fresh challenges to the Indian economy, causing a serious disorderly impact on the education of the students which is the backbone of the Indian

economy. On March 25, 2020, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced a lockdown for the safety of the public. The education sector including Schools, Colleges, Educational institution became padlocked. The Nationwide lockdown forced several educational Institutions to abandon their Classes, examinations internships etc. and compelled to go for online mode. In the beginning of lockdown, it was quite difficult and confusing for the educators to manage the situation and to make students study.

Conceptual Framework of the Study



The COVID-19 brings many challenges as well as opportunities for the students to go for online study mode. Educators started teaching students through online mode and assign work

on Google meet, zoom, Skype, etc. Online education has given hope to the teachers, students and parents to connect and carry on their studies. Even in a country such as the U.S.A, there are many less wage learners who can't meet the expenses of broad bands and incompetent to use electronic learning arrangement (Study Overseas Life). In India, all scholars are not able to afford high-speed internet and digital gadgets. Numerous progressive educational institutions in India are not also well equipped through digital services right now to deal with the impulsive modification from the traditional education system to the online education system.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- ❖ To find out the positive influence of COVID-19 on the education sector.
- ❖ To find out the Negative influence of COVID-19 on the education sector.
- ❖ Effect of education sector on the Indian economy.
- ❖ Various measures are taken by the government to cope up with the situation.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Dr. Nwafor and Chika Eucheria have concluded that focus the effect of coronavirus on the education sector during 2020. The study acquired a field survey. Self-arranged questionnaires were directed to 200 answerable that involves students, educators, policymakers and parents chosen apart from countries that include India, Nigeria, Bangladesh and Saudi Arabia. Moreover, secondary data is also engendered from journals, newspapers, media and reports. The study shows that COVID-19 has antagonistic effects on education that includes learning disturbances, and diminished entry to learning and on the research conveniences, Employment dropping and enlarged scholar debts. The outcome also shows that several scholars and teachers are dependent on technology to safeguard continuous online learning throughout the Coronavirus disease. The study emphasises the destructive consequence of COVID-19 on the education sector and the requirement for the adoption of the technology for all educational organizations, educators, and learners and expand the digital environment system and go with the flow of global trends and changes in education.

Amit Joshi has conducted a study to identify the influence of coronavirus disease on the Indian learning sector: viewpoints of educators on virtual education and assessments throughout 2020. Interpretative phenomenological analysis (IPA) of qualitative research methodology has been used in this research. Final judgement revealed four kinds of obstacles that are confronted by educators throughout online education and assessments. Under household atmosphere surroundings, a deficiency of rudimentary conveniences, outdoor interruption and household disturbance during education and administrate assessments were foremost problems informed. Many educational institutional faced obstacles like the economic budget

for buying innovative equipment, such as deficiency of training, the nonexistence of technical maintenance and deficiency of clearness and a lack of guidance also informed. Educators too met technical complications. The complications were gathered under a deficiency of technical maintenance, it also includes deficiency of technical infrastructure, inadequate wakefulness of online education podiums and safety anxieties. Educator's peculiar complications that include deficiency of technical understanding, their pessimistic attitude and deficiency in stimulation are recognised as the fourth kind of hindrance are facing during online education and the assessments of the students.

Pravant Kumar Meena conducted a study and concluded that there are both positive and negative influences of COVID-19 on the teaching learning during 2020. Data and information obtainable in the existing study are assembled from different reports is prepared by nationwide and worldwide agencies on the COVID-19 pandemic. Info is collected from numerous accurate websites. Few journals and e-contents analyzed the impact of COVID-19 on the educational are revealed. COVID-19 has wedged enormously in the education area of India. By this it has engendered various challenges, numerous openings have been developed. The Indian Government and diverse shareholders of learning have revealed the opportunity of Open and Distance learning (ODL) by implementing diverse digital equipment to sort out the prevailing predicament of COVID-19.

C.P. Kaushal concluded and investigated the influence of COVID-19 on educational institutions, particularly communicating higher education and related stakeholders till date, when the government has taken quick conclusions to break down the spread of the virus among the public. The study is descriptive and analytical in nature where the information has been collected from numerous official websites, newspapers, online news articles, and discussions with co-workers working in the higher education setup. This review study recommended some measures to overcome the condition such as special cleanliness and health-related measures like social distancing, using preventive tools and equipment and some socioeconomic and technological measures such as economic maintenances for restructuring of the sector, public-private partnerships in the education system, digitization of the study methods and educational infrastructure and use of Indian traditional knowledge.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Data and information obtainable in the present study are collected from several reports produced by national agencies on coronavirus pandemic. Information is collected from various articles, journals and authentic websites concerning the impact of COVID-19 on the educational sector.

The positive impact of COVID-19: Traditional method to digital method- Due to coronavirus pandemic, it helps in transforming traditional method to digital method. Many new ways had

come for the distribution and assessments of learning which is adopted by the educational institution and which helps in opening of enormous opportunities for the transformation in the area of curriculum development and pedagogics. It increases the demand for online learning and encouraged students and teachers to learn together.

- ❖ ***Collaboration:*** Students and teachers can effortlessly unite all over the world through online mode like conferencing, academic meeting, seminars etc. Teachers are delivering online courses to students that can help students in learning for competition and get in touch with the education and the teachers. Collaborations can also occur between faculty/instructors among the country to assistance from each other.
- ❖ ***Beneficiary to the environment:*** Deforestation is a grave universal problem. According to the National Wildlife Foundation, 60 per cent of wastage is done by schools and educational institutions. Due to online learning students are taking notes and preparing digitalized copies that help in saving paper and benefits the environment. Virtual learning is a magnificent way to protect paper since the curriculum, assignments as even textbooks all are digital.
- ❖ ***Exposure:*** With the help of digital meeting students can easily explore themselves by attending webinars, seminars all over the world. Students can easily work with the experts from different fields. It also helps in increasing the digital literacy rate. The digital literacy rate is becoming the most valuable tool for online learning as it improves the ability of the students which is an investment for students and faculty.
- ❖ ***Introduction of various platforms:*** During the COVID-19, various platforms have been introduced that help the student to study for different courses and get ready for advanced education and competitive exams. Here are some platforms for online learning- google meet, skype, blue Jeans, google hangouts, any meeting, Webex, youtube streaming, youtube, loom, Facebook live, Vimeo, twitch, micro, discord.
- ❖ ***Student attendance:*** the main advantage of this online learning is that it permits pupils to be present in class from any place of their choice. Furthermore, virtual lectures can be recorded, archived and shared for forthcoming reference. It permits pupils to access the learning material as per their comfort time.
- ❖ ***Boosting interest:*** In the modern era, students most like visual learning, while some of the students like audio learning so online learning helps students to learn digitally and helps in boosting the morale of the students.
- ❖ ***Appropriate information at a single place:*** With online learning, mentors can share valuable info on the internet which can be kept strongly preserved in an electrical library. It includes such kinds of stuff like live elucidation, videotapes, and the required data that can be placed in an electronic device like mobile phones and laptop and whenever students get problem he/she can clear their doubts instantly.

The negative impact of COVID-19: Loss of opportunities- COVID-19 gave a huge impact on the opportunities for students as many companies postponed their recruitment. Moreover, students who got job letters are not able to join; students who are preparing for the competitive exams get postponed. COVID-19 has affected many of the students who are planning to go for jobs or the students who have applied for studies or students who were planning to apply for it harshly hit by the pandemic lockdown.

- ❖ **Unemployment:** Due to the nationwide lockdown in India from March 25 there is a sharp increase in unemployment as many sectors get closed and among them, aviation, hospitality and travel worse hit. Around 10.9 million employments being vanished from all the sectors. According to the centre of monitoring Indian economy (CMIE) displayed the unemployment rate has increased to 9.1 per cent, in December 2020, the maximum unemployment rate ever since India's independence.
- ❖ **Unaware of online learning:** Converting traditional method to modern method of education is somewhere is difficult for a number of teachers. Teachers are not well trained for online teaching. Due to lockdown all schools, colleges and educational institutions get to shut that result in online learning that is only the way to teach students. Virtual learning entails educators have a simple understanding of digital platforms. Sometimes, they don't have the essential wealth to conduct an online lecture.
- ❖ **The digital world:** As India is still a developing country, many students are unable to afford digital environment and the teachers who are expert in the classroom system they don't even how to use online apps and handle the current situation. COVID-19 has hit the poor students most as there are only 25% Indians own smartphones and only 11% of households own any kind of PC, which include laptop, tablets, smartphone. It brings a gap between rich and poor as well.
- ❖ **Difficulty in paying fees:** The pandemic has a big challenge for the parents to pay fees for the schools, colleges and educational institution. According to the report released by the Indian school finance company, 87.5% of schools claimed that they were facing difficulty in the fee collection. The non-government schools claimed that 55% of parents did not have the income to pay fees for their children.
- ❖ **Health problems:** Attending online classes without a break result in eye problems like dry eye syndrome, burning sensation eye problems, ear problem. Furthermore, the absence of any kind of physical education & exercise brings anxiety, stress, depression, anger and fear. According to the reports, there are more than 300 "non-coronavirus death" reported in India due to the nationwide lockdown.
- ❖ **Cancellation of exams:** Exams are a chance for students to show all they have learned in their course, they play an important role in determining the student's ability to learn

and understand. During the lockdown, students get passed on their previous grades and assessment material.

- ❖ **Nutrition:** Nutrition plays an essential role in the growth of children. Many children depend on the meals which they get from the schools. When schools get closed it impact drastically on the nutrition of the children. According to a report of UNICEF on food insecurity and nutrition around the world, the pandemic is adding 83-132 million people undernourished. Children and families being pushed to hunger and poverty.
- ❖ **Internet connectivity:** According to the national sample survey report on schooling, only 2% of Indian families have internet facility. Whereas 66% of India's population lives in towns, merely a diminutive over 15% of rural families have access to internet facilities besides for the urban households, the percentage is 42%. Many students have to walk for many kilometres to go in certain areas to get a proper signal so that they can able attend an online class.

Initiatives by Government of India

- ❖ **Diksha:** Diksha is an online learning platform launched by M. Venkaiah Naidu that provides online learning content to students which include videos, activities, quizzes, interactive games, textbook & worksheets and other resources. Under the guidance of the national board of education and NCERT, the content has been created by 250 teachers with 15 different languages. It contains more than 80000 books from class 1 to 12 online. According to the union ministry of education from March 2020, this portal is used by an average of 3 crore people in a day.

Link: <https://diksha.gov.in>

- ❖ **E-Pathshala:** It is also an online learning app developed by CIET and NCERT. It hosts educational resources that include textbook, audio, video, and periodicals also variability of other print and non-print material for students, parents, teachers, educators and researchers. It also offers access to a digital coursebook for all the classes, graded knowledge resources and empowers involvement in exhibition, contests, festivals, workshops, etc.

Link: <https://epathshala.nic.in>

- ❖ **Swayam:** Swayam refers to “study web of active-learning for young aspiring minds” is an Indian gigantic open virtual course that is started by the ministry of human resource development (MHRD). It presents 1900 full channel, containing coaching videos, weekly project, examinations and credit transfers, aimed both at school and higher education both undergraduate and postgraduate levels. It includes engineering, humanities, social science, law & management courses.

Link: <https://swayam.gov.in>

- ❖ **Swayam Prabha:** Ministry of human resource development has launched the Swayam Prabha platform which is a group of 34 DTH channels providing a high quality of education covering arts, science, commerce, performing arts, social science, humanities subjects, engineering, technology, law, medicine, agriculture etc. to all the teachers and students and citizen all over the nation who are fascinated in lifetime education. Swayam Prabha is an e-class stage broadcast learning programmes 24*7 for the learners to make their stay at home throughout this countrywide lockdown.

Link: <https://www.swayamprabha.gov.in>

- ❖ **NROER:** Ministry of human resource development has started this National repository of open education resources (NROER). It is a collaborative effort for every person who is involved in the learning. It present wealth to schools and grades in several languages. It collects all the digital resources of a school such as videos, audios, images, document and interactive components. The digital resources all are mapped to subjects, which are divided into 5 categories that are math science, social science, languages and art education.

Link: <https://nroer.gov.in>

- ❖ **E-PG Pataskala:** It is an initiative by the MHRD under the national mission of education through ICT executed by the university grant mission. Postgraduate students can use this platform for online learning and can get study material as well in this lockdown. They can interactive e-content in 70 subjects across all disciplines of social sciences, arts, fine arts and humanities, natural & mathematical sciences.

Link: <https://epgp.inflibnet.ac.in>

- ❖ **National Digital Library:** National digital library of India (NDLI) is established underneath MHRD. The objective of this library is to gather and organize the metadata and provide a complete text index from numerous nationwide and worldwide libraries across the world. It delivers free of charge, several books in the Indian languages as well as in the English language. Since the lockdown, around 20 lakh users are using this library and the items are available in more than 70 languages. This library contains textbooks, audio, video, lectures and various things.

Link: <https://ndl.iitkgp.ac.in>

- ❖ **NISHTHA:** National initiative for school head and teacher (NISHTHA). It is a programme to develop the quality of schooling by desegregating educator training. It is the world biggest training programme and the main aim of this is to encourage and empower educators to inspire and nourish critical thinking in students.

Link: <https://itpd.ncert.gov.in>

Suggestions and Recommendations: As India is known for scientific innovation, it allows the modern methods of education, educators and learners should be trained in a manner to face the challenges which come in the digital environment.

- ❖ Since many students are not able to afford a digital environment, various measures should be taken by the government to make available adequate infrastructure, free internet and free digital devices to promote online learning among students.
- ❖ As because of COVID-19 pandemic there is huge unemployment in the country, so the government have to take steps on the free education to the students. So that the students who did not have money to pay school fee, they will also able to learn.
- ❖ Immediate actions must be taken to abate the effects of the pandemic on the internship programmes, job proposals and research programmes.
- ❖ Government should provide proper support to the family with low-income groups by providing them proper nutrition is given to the students who are under age so that will help in the growth and immunity of the children and help them to carry out the education during this pandemic.
- ❖ Educational institution and government should design to carry on educational activities with social distancing as learners and educators are divided into two groups or to carry out with two shifts with 30 to 40% of students are allowed in each shift with the concern of the guidelines.

CONCLUSION

The education sector plays an important role in the development of the country economy. Since from independence we were limited to the physical classroom we are habitual with the traditional method of education, after the COVID-19 situation it allows us to learn for this as India is known for the scientific innovation and to learn from the pandemic. After the lockdown, it resulted in the closure of schools, colleges, educational institutions. There are many low income private and government schools that get shut because of lack of money. The only way to provide education is the online learning mode which is the safest way to defeat the coronavirus. So the government of India and different stakeholders come with open distance learning (ODL) using various digital technologies to survive in the COVID-19. As India does not have adequate infrastructure, internet connectivity cannot reach all the corners of India via digital platforms. India is still a developing country; many students are unable to afford digital platforms and are suffering from the pandemic. However, universities and the government of India are making effort to resolve the problem. Even if this pandemic lives longer in India, there is an urgent need to develop more online platforms via the digital system to reach education to all corners of India. So the students can complete their

academic degree and get prepare for the digital environment. The government has come up with many platforms like Swayam, Swayam Prabha, Pathshala, PG Pathashala, NROER, Diksha, National Digital Library, NISHTHA, but not only these platforms are enough for the upcoming generation. The concept of work from home is the only way to stop the spread of coronavirus. The demand for digital transformation is not a short term phenomenon, but rather is an accelerating trend that our education stakeholders are trying to make universal. After the situation of lockdown ends, the online practices should be continued that everyone should aware of online education.

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