

PalArch's Journal of Archaeology
of Egypt / Egyptology

"An Overview of Indian Higher Education System: During & After Covid-19 Pandemic Period"

Mr. Lalitkumar Premchandra Patil¹, Dr. Hires S. Luhar²

¹Research Scholar – JJTU Rajasthan / Assistant Professor – VIVA Institute of Management & Research, Virar East

²Research Guide – JJTU Rajasthan / Director – VIVA Institute of Management & Research, Virar East

Mr. Lalitkumar Premchandra Patil, Dr. Hires S. Luhar, An Overview of Indian Higher Education System: During & After Covid-19 Pandemic Period,-- Palarch's Journal Of Archaeology Of Egypt/Egyptology 18(7). ISSN 1567-214x

Keywords: Covid-19, Teaching Tools, Technology, Online Teaching – Learning, Education System, Pandemic.

Abstract

Ongoing Covid-19 pandemic is spread all over the country and abroad. It has an adverse effect on entire education system of the country. Till date we have not been able to get out of this difficult situation and it is uncertain that when the entire world will get out of this situation completely. Almost all educational Institutions are closed all over the country and teaching-learning is being done online. Looking at all of this, it seems that in the coming time, many challenges may have to be faced, but in spite of so many challenges, the higher education Institutes managed very well and continued learning and teaching in a sustained manner. Information technology and internet are proven successful to make education accessible to students. The main purpose of this study is to analyze how education system is being further enhanced by technology. Higher education Institutions in India are providing uninterrupted educational services to learners and a lot of resources are being provided for learning and teaching. New trends, new approaches, new tools & learning technology has come. Further the researchers has discussed that post-Covid-19 how the education can be provided to all students with the system of advanced teaching in India through higher education learning and new methods of teaching (technology). Education / online education will be imparted to all students. Some suggestions have also been made as to how educational activities can be further ameliorated in the event of the Covid-19 pandemic.

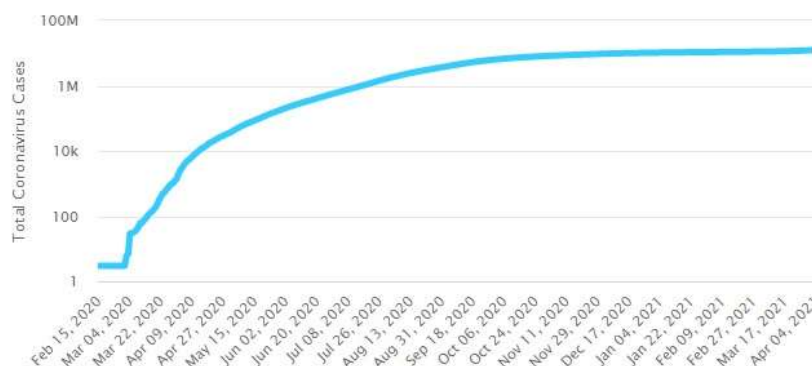
Introduction

Spread of the Disease:

In December 2019, China informed WHO (World Health Organization) about a patient who had the symptoms of pneumonia. Earlier it was felt that Severe Acute

Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) has returned. In 2003, SARS was spread which killed close to two lakh people. On 5th January 2020, the talk of having SARS was misconstrued. On 7th January, it was found out that this is the new strain of virus, then it was named as Covid-19. Then its cases increased rapidly in different countries. On 30th January WHO declared the Covid-19 or Corona virus infection as a global health emergency. On 11th March 2020 WHO declared Covid-19 a pandemic. The first case of Covid-19 in India was found in Kerala on 30th January 2020. First death in India due to Covid-19 virus infection was reported on 12th March 2020. Public curfew imposed in the country on 22nd March 2020 and soon from 24th March, the complete lockdown was imposed thought the country for 21 days. It was further extended to 30th April 2020 and still the situation gets worsen day-by-day. If we see the outbreak of Covid-19 today, currently the country is undergoing the second wave of the virus and this time the strain, symptoms are more severe and the situation is more difficult as compare to the first wave of Corona virus spread & infection.

Figure 1 : Corona Virus Infection Cases in India



(Source: <https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/country/india>)

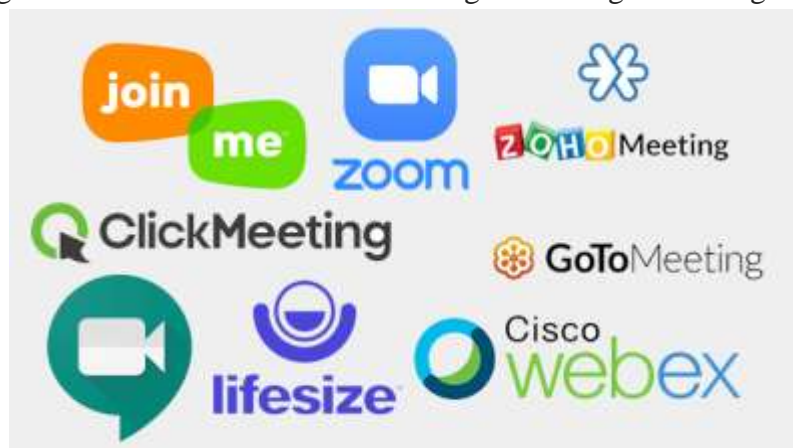
From the beginning in 2020 till today, cumulative infected cases in India has crossed 1.76 crores with more than 2 lakhs deaths. To stop the spread of the disease and due to the norms and restrictions imposed by government, no education was imparted on a regular basis in Colleges or Universities. All the educational institutions of the nation were closed. No students were allowed to do the activities. Therefore, Covid-19 has a great impact on education & brought the entire education system in the country to a standstill. For teaching – learning purpose, students are being reached through online / virtual platform.

Corona & Education System in India:

According to the survey report, the Ministry of Human Resources Development (MHRD) has 993 Universities, 39931 Colleges, 10725 stand-alone Institutions on the portals list. While the Institutes are trying to impart knowledge taught by e-

learning, only 45 crore learners have been given education & students of rural areas have been deprived of this facility. Because it is difficult for the students who are in rural area to get this facility. There are lot of internet problems in rural areas, some do not even have a smart phone, due to these reasons the students are deprived of the new technology. They are not able to attend online classes. This pandemic situation is forcing the education system more towards technology but at the same time affecting the higher education system. In the present situation our aim should be that new education facility should be brought to India. No student should be left from getting the knowledge. As we know that the higher education system is busy all the way. For higher education, online classes are going on. There are e-conferencing tools like Google Meet, Skype, Zoom, Google Classrooms, Cisco Webex, Youtube Live, Facebook Live etc.

Figure 2 : Various Online Conferencing / Teaching - Learning Tools



(Source: <https://www.liveminutes.com/author/admin>)

Assignments are given to students on WhatsApp, Telegram, Google Classroom etc. and they are asked to send them on email. Similarly, the teacher also gives the project and asks for the email to be sent. During the time of this pandemic, both positive and negative effects were observed. More theoretical research work is taking place rather than a practical or experimental research work, as the access to research laboratories is difficult.

Due to uncertainty of the examination in the educational system, the students are very much disturbed as they are unable to plan their preparations for the exams. Most of the Institutes are managing the internal assessment of students through different tools through an online mode. But due to the uncertain schedule of external exam, the award of the final degree and eventually the start of the career is uncertain. There is lack of employment opportunities due to Covid-19 impact.

Emerging Approaches in Higher Education in India:

There are a lot of challenges for higher education during the time of this pandemic. Irrespective of all these difficulties, education system in India has provided lot of options to learners. UGC & MHRD has taken initiatives for higher education like - Swayam, e-Adhyayan, Gyan Dhara, Gyandarshan, e-Gyaankosh, e-Pathshala, National Digital Library of India (NDLI), e-Yantra, Virtual Labs, e-Sodhsindhu, Shodh Ganga, National Education Alliance for Technology (NEAT) etc.

Higher Education in the Post Pandemic Period:

Education system will see a lot of changes in Post pandemic era. New opportunities will come due to Covid-19 effects. Maybe tomorrow will be even better, like there will be new technologies for teaching-learning purpose. At the same time, there will be new challenges. Classroom lecture will be different. In the coming time, lot of changes & new trends will be seen in the education sector. The learning rooms will not have any or specific boundaries. The learning will be in a new way, with a new rule. There will be new ways of learning and new contents. Social distancing will continue even after Covid-19 impact and so on. Restrictions will be imposed on many activities in the future. For example, college fun, sports, gyms, tournaments etc. will all be interrupted for some time period due to which the physical activity of the students will be greatly reduced.

After Covid-19, the attendance of the students will be less because as soon as the Schools and Colleges will be opened, only very few students will come to the Schools and Colleges. Now, most of the learning and teaching will progress with technology. Due to this, students will be dependent on technology and digital solution technology learning. Students will connect with each other using the e-learning platforms & internet technology. Now further the emphasis will be on 'Open & Distance Learning (ODL) and online learning as further social distancing will take place.

Some students want to go abroad and study, but after Covid-19, parents will not send their children to study abroad due to safety issues. Still there are many parents in India who have already sent their children abroad for study purpose and took Education Loan from the bank to secure the admission. But due to Covid-19 impact, many parents have lost their jobs or businesses and they are struggling a lot to pay the installments of the loan. Now, in the times ahead, blended learning will have a very important place in higher education because blended learning is a combination of face-to-face learning and online learning with the help of digital technology. In the coming time, education will be imparted heavily using a blended format.

Suggestions & Conclusion:

Proper training should be provided to all the teachers and students on using the

technology, so that by all means, the teacher and student should know how to use technology. The government should provide free or subsidized internet facility to Educational Institutions. Encourage as many students as possible for online learning so that the course is covered properly. Internet facility should also reach rural students so that even a single students could not hold back for any reason. Various NGO's with the help of certain Government Schemes should create learning facilities in remote rural areas where students from surrounding can come and avail online learning facilities.

This study has tried to show that Covid-19 has a great impact on higher education system in India. There are some positive and negative effects on higher education. There will be some drastic changes in teaching pedagogies. The scope & boundaries of the higher education system will be widened. UGC & MHRD will have to frame certain policies where higher educational Institutes can have a collaboration with various national as well international Institutes & Universities. Using an online platform of the teaching-learning process, it will be a win-win situation for both – students as well Institutes – to share the knowledge across the geographical boundaries. Lastly if we look and analyze the situation closely, though the system has faced lot of difficulties due to this Covid-19 pandemic, but the same has opened lot of opportunities and innovative trends in the higher education sector in India.

References:

- 1) Aithal, Sreeramana & Aithal, Shubhrajyotsna, (2019), 'Analysis of Higher Education in Indian National Education Policy Proposal 2019 and its Implementation Challenges' / 3. 1-35 10.5281 / Zenodo.3271330
- 2) Balwan, Wahied & Saba, Neelam & Rasool, Nazia & Sharma, K.Uldeep, (2020), 'Decoding The Impact of Covid-19 Pandemic On Education System: A Review', 'Indian Journal of Scientific Research' / 11. 101. 10.32606 / IJSR.V11.II.00016
- 3) Bhamaterajput, Bhushan, (2020), 'Impact of COVID-19 on Indian Education system - Present status and future perspectives'
- 4) Jena, Pravat, (2020), 'Impact of Pandemic COVID-19 on Education in India', 'International Journal of Current Research' / 12. 12582-12586. 10.24941 / ijcr.39209.07.2020
- 5) Kakkar, Kareena & Dash, Manoj, (2011), 'A demand of value based higher education system in India: A comparative study', 'Journal of Public Administration and Policy Research' / 3. 156-171
- 6) Khandelwal, Anju & Agrawal, Ashish & Kumar, Avanish, (2020), 'An Outbreak of Coronavirus (COVID-19) Epidemic in India: Challenges and Preventions'

- 7) Nishant, Nilay & Chouhan, Avinash & Chutia, Dibyajyoti & Singh, Puyam & Ojah, Sanjiv & Roy, Sanjiban & Raju, (2020), 'Investigation on the COVID-19 Outbreak in India: Lockdown Impact and Vulnerability Analysis', 'Journal of Geographic Information System' / 12. 334-347. 10.4236 / jgis.2020.124021.
- 8) Raj, Utsav, (2020), 'Indian Education System in Fight against COVID-19 Pandemic', 'SSRN Electronic Journal' / 10.2139 / ssrn.3597340
- 9) Sirswal, Desh Raj, (2016), 'Higher Education & Research In India: An Overview', 'Intellectual Quest (A Peer Reviewed Research Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences)' / 05. 26-38
- 10) Taneja, Neeraj & Aftab, Alam & Ranjana, Patnaik & Tannu, Taneja & Arun, Bhardwaj & Singh, Rana & Rai, Dhanda & Rohit, Miglani, (2021), 'Sudden Lockdown and Unseen Challenges in India due to COVID 19-An Outbreak Analysis', 'Disaster Advances' / 14. 73-81
- 11) Vaishya, Raju & Vaish, Abhishek & Babu, Suresh, (2020), 'Impact of the COVID-19 on India', 'Apollo Medicine' / 10.4103 / am.am_106_20