Impact of COVID 19 on Indian System of Education

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ABSTRACT

This paper is an analysis of COVID 19 from its origin, spread, infection and its impact on our life particular our metal health, socio economic condition and education. This paper analyzed how this pandemic paralyzed our education system and how it developed a sense of fear, depression and uncertainty , How this pandemic impacted our education system, what are the challenges, what are the resources available and what are the initiatives and measures Govt. taken. This paper also analyzed the resources we have and in the there are some suggestions with conclusions.

Introduction

Education prepares human being to face the present challenges as well as future problems. Survival of fittest is still important and in use. The history of human being is full of struggle. From the origin of human being whether it is a theory of evolution or religious connotation but all agree that human being had have been on the path of progress. From unwritten history to the written history by successfully crossing Paleolithic period to the modern time human being made a progress. Every problem gives a direction and whenever human being faces problems it came out with more confidence. In the history of struggle and trouble human being faces two types of problems first is man made like battle and wars and other is natural like earthquake, flood, cyclone, and third one is the result of both man wrong doing and nature and most of the disease is the result of this when a disease widen its area and grasp large number of people is called epidemic and in the largest sense it is called pandemic or in other word an outbreak of a disease that occurs over a wide geographic area and affects an exceptionally high population is called pandemic. There have been a number of pandemics since the beginning of the 20th century : the H1N1 pandemic of 2009,the Spanish flu of 1918-19 as well as flu pandemic in 1957 and 1968 and now COVID -19. Corona virus disease (Severe acute respiratory syndrome corona virus 2). It was first identified amid an outbreak of respiratory illness causes in Wuhan city of Hubei Province of China and was initially reported to WHO on 31 December,2019 and on January,30 2020 the WHO declared the COVID 19 outbreak as global health emergency and on 11 March,2020 announced COVID 19 outbreak as Global Pandemic. At present the number of COVID 19 is about 150, 00000 and total death is about 6,00000 while in India it is 1000000 affected and more than 25000 people died. All country of the world affected from this virus and most unfortunate is that till there is no medicine available.

Our Education System

Indian Education System is one of the largest systems of the world after China. The number of students is equal to the population of America. More than 15 lakhs schools are here. So far higher education is concerned as per AISHE report 2017-18 About 36642378 students

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(52.41% Male and 47.59 Female), 1284755 faculty members(57.99 Male and 42.01 Female), Teacher pupil ratio is 1:25 ,25.8 GER918-23years) about 900 Universities (50 Central Universities, deemed to be University,127, state universities 409 and Pvt Universities 349.) College all types more than 40000.

Mental Health and Well Being of Students:
 The COVID19 is clearly having a major impact on mental health by affecting our day to day functioning with increasing unemployment, separating families and various other changes. There is a world wide fear, depression and panic because of this pandemic. The life style has been changed there is a fear of transmitting infection. The psychological aspects of children, old people, their caregivers, psychiatric patients and marginalized communities are affected by this pandemic. Students ,teachers and parents have been affected and in this regard UGC issued an advisory on 05th April,2020 on Mental health and Well Being of students and requested all Higher Educational Institutions to take all possible preventive and precautionary measures to ensure the safety and security of the students, whether on campus in hostels or outside as we confront the COVID 19 outbreak.During lockdown it is equally important to address any kind of mental health and psycho social concern of the students community and setup help lines for mental health, psychosocial concern and well being of the students, to be regularly monitored and managed by the counselor or identified faculty members. It has also given details of various video links to address this issue. It is also proposed to start a programme " Manodarpan" – an initiative for psycho social support of students, teachers and families for mental health and emotional well being.

Impact on Education:
        The COVID 19 outbreak in India first came on 30 January in Kerala and then after it spread gradually and from 24 March 2020 till today Indian Educational system has been locked down. All Educational institutions are closed. All the stakeholders i.e., students, teachers, parents and guardian have been in doubt and tense regarding its resumptions. Though some online passive learning is going on but it is fact that most of the teachers are not ready to take the online classes. Students are living in isolation, social distancing and in high precautions. Some students are facing financial crunch Students indebt, insecurity, food problem, homelessness, childcare, healthcare, disability and many other parts of life have been highly impacted confusion, suspicion, doubt and uncertainty. Though it is not that it has impacted adversely only some benefit is also there like all people connected through online easily, students are using good number of e-resources, experts are easily available. A kind of exposure are there ,teachers are making effort to adjust with the digital world, many universities offers free online courses for all categories and subjects

Challenges:
        COVID 19 compelled us to think seriously and analysis the progress human being made in this modern work. Science has made everything possible but unfortunately we could not develop the medicine either vaccine or other types of medicines, even we are not sure whether this virus is natural and artificial, what are the sources of this virus and how this virus infect and what exactly measures we should take to avoid it. I think this is the big challenge for our scientist and doctors and history witnessed that we have overcome all the challenge so this time also we will overcome as scientists and doctors are making day in day out efforts to find the medicine. The other big challenge is to prepare ourselves and our system to face the new challenges. So far educational institutions are concerned reopening of the Institutions and bringing normalcy in educational institution is a challenge. We are focussing on thinking digital now there is a challenge of being digital to all the stake holders. To learn the concept of learning anywhere at any time is a challenge as the world became very much interconnected. We are also shifting our concern from offline, online to blended learning

mode where provision may be made to use offline and online both as per the convenience to continue the system,in this regard NAAC also reduced from 3.26 point compulsion to run distance mode programme to 3.01 point and also it has been decided that those institutions who are under 100 of NIRF need not to get permission. Prepare good e- learning resources and providing gadgets to all students is a major challenge before the system.To prepare our teacher and make them ready to teach in both online and offline, give assignment, do evaluation and monitor students learning process online. Preparation of curriculum accordingly, evaluations of students and certification is also a big challenge. Apart from this, access, enrolment, administration, governance and ensuring quality with equality& equity is a big challenge in higher education system in a time of pandemic.

Government Initiatives

Indian system of education is one of the largest system of the world , though our allocation in budget is not upto the mark it is just 99100 crores this year but Government of India made many more initiatives to face all the challenges and make the system strong with quality to reach to the everyone. Some of the initiatives are as follow-

E-Vidya – The Prime Minister e-Vidya programme focus on technology driven education for multi mode access to digital/online education in which top 100 universities will be permitted to automatically start online course including IITs, IIMs, institute of eminence and national institute,Under this programme 12 DTH channels will be introduced one each dedicated to classes 1 to 12 to support to those who do not have access to internet.

GIAN- Global Initiative of Academic Network is an initiative of MHRD provides participation of foreign faculty as Distinguished / Adjunct/visiting faculty/professor of practice .etc in delivering short or semester-long courses in IITs , IIMs, Central Universities, IISC Banglore, IISERs, NITs and IIITs and subsequently good state universities.

DIKSHA- National Digital:

Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing is a unique initiative which leverages existing highly scalable and flexible digital infrastructures while keeping teachers at the center.

SWAYAM-Study webs of Active

learning for young aspiring minds. SWAYAM us a programme initiated by Government of India and designed to achieve the three cardinal principles of education policy- access, equity and quality. The objective of the this effort is to take the best teaching learning resources to all, including the most disadvantaged. SWAYAM seeks to bridge the digital divide for students who have hitherto remained untouched by the digital revolution and have not been able to join the mainstream of the knowledge economic.

SWAYAM Prabha 32 - It is a group of 32 DTH channels devoted to telecasting of high-quality educational programme on 24x7 basis using the GSAT-15 satellite.

NISHTHA-National Initiative for School Heads, and Teachers Holistic Advancement is a National Resource Group(NRGs) to train Key Resource Person(KRP) & State Resource Person-Leadership(SRPL).

National Repository of open Educational Resources (NROER)- It is an Indian school education initiatives be the Central Institute of Educational Technology(CIET) National Council of Educational Research and Training(NCERT) Homi Bhaba Centre for Science Education.

ePathshala- repository of e-resources containing NCERT textbook and various others resources, It is a collaborative effort of CIET,NCERT and MHRD to develop a portal and app in 2015 for students, teachers, parents, guardian and researcher.

E-PG Pathshala- it is an initiative of the MHRD under its National Mission on Education through ICT(NME-ICT) being executed by the UGC.The content and its quality being the key component of education.

Samagra Siksha- it is an overarching programme for the school education sector extending from pre-school to class 1. The scheme has been prepared with the broader goal of improving school effectiveness measured in terms of equal opportunities for schooling and equitable learning outcomes.It subsumes the three Scheme of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA),Rashriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan(RMSA) and Teacher Education (TE).

UGC also initiated some research oriented programme and schemes in Univerisities like, STARS- Scheme for Transformational and Advanced Research in Science IMPRESS- Impactful Policy Research in Social Science, IMPRINT- Impacting Research Innovation and Technology, SPARC-Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research, STRIDE- Scheme for Trans-Disciplinary Research for India's Developing Economy. Sodhganga and Sodhgangotri etc are also there.

There are many online resource also available like National Digital Library of India(NDL), Directory of Open Access Books, Directory of Open Access Journals(DOAJ), National Programme on Technology Enhanced (NPTE), Open Knowledge Repository – World Bank, The OPAEN Foundation,Century Tech-Personal learning pathways with micro lessons, Class Dojo- Connects teachers with students and parents to build classroom communities, Edmodo-Tools and resources to manage classrooms and engage students remotely, offering variety of language, Google Classroom-Helps classes connect remotely, communicate and stay organised. Alison- Online courses from experts, Canvas Network- Course catalogue accessible for free for teachers in order to support lifelong learning and professional development, EdX- Online courses from leading educational institutions, Hangouts Meet- Video calls integrated with other Google ,s G-Suite tools, Skype,Video and audio calls with talk,chat and collaboration features, We Chat Work- Messaging, content sharing and video/audio-conferencing ,Whatsapp, Zoom, Cisco webex and Google meet. Some other agencies which are providing resources like, Khan Academy- Free online lessons and practice, SDG Academy- A searchable library of more than 1200 educational videos,You Tube- huge repository of educational videos and learning channels, One Course-Child focussed application to deliver reading, writing and numeracy education.

Role of MHRD and different Educational agencies

MHRD,NCERT,UGC and many other agencies like CBSE, State Board and others have been continuously trying to justify its role. Safety and security of the students and ensuring the credibility of the degree of the students is the prime concern. Many board have declared its results on the basis of previous performance of the students and intermediaries classes will be promoted but so far final year or semester students are concerned it is still doubt and suspicion that whether examination will be conducted or not as per UGC guidelines till the end of September,2020 all the final year examination must be completed by any mode either it is online, offline or blended mode. Some states refused to conduct, some already chalked out its policies and UGC also issued the status report of the University which mention that out of 993 , the total 182 universities have already conducted examination, 272 Universities planning to conduct examinations and 512 universities have not yet decided and there are no final year students in 27 private universities. This data has been changed day to day. In this regard it is necessary to mention that UGC has issued guideline to conduct examinations and also issued standard operating procedure (SOP) for conducting of examinations.

Measures:

Government of India, MHRD,UGC, NCERT and many International agencies like UNICEF and UNESCO also made effort to face

the challenges and develop some measures to prevent the COVID 19, safety and security of the students, mental health and well being of the students, online material, online classes and resumption of the institutions and bringing normalcy in the system. Some of the measures taken is like, Inter Agency Standing Committee guidelines to protect and improve people mental health, Health and psychological well-being in the midst of an emergency (UGC has constituted many committees), WHO mental health and psychological guidance during the COVID019 outbreak, UNICEF guidance on how teachers should talk to children about COVID-19

Suggestions:

On the basis of analysis of the above it may suggest that we should prepare all stakeholders to go with new situations, develop the conducive environment for blended learning. It is the right time we should develop a Strong Learning Management System, Improvement in Learning Material is highly required. We should try to develop the sense of collaborative approach and collaboration work and at the same time develop a strong digitalised system. It is the time we should try to prepare New Syllabus, New Approach, New method, New way of admission ,examination and evaluation and recruitment in our system. Before starting the online or distance mode programme we should ensure that and examine the readiness and use the most relevant tools, ensure Inclusion in distance learning, protect data privacy and data security address the psychological challenges, provide support to teachers and parents, develop distance learning rules and monitor students learning process, prepare durations of the programmes and its rules.

Conclusion:

It may be concluded that the world has been suffering from a period of trouble where fear, insecurity and uncertainty prevails. A good number of people infected and about 6 lakh people died.

Almost all countries infected from this virus. All aspects of human being affected from this virus and education system of all over the world has also been affected and Indian education system is not exception of it. Education must continue as in the word of John Dewey Education is not preparation of life but education is itself a life. Therefore there is a need to rethink our system and all the stakeholders must psychologically, socially and economically and morally be ready to face the challenges and continue the system either in online, offline or blended mode. This is time when New Policy of Education is to be passed so we must have time to include also some provisions in the new policy of education to face the challenges like this. Our syllabus, method, teachers, students and systems all must be ready to face the challenges and overcome successfully.

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