

Impact of Covid on Education System

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INTRODUCTION

We have completed 3 months since the lockdown was announced. This had a significant impact on the Indian economy but the education sector in India is also affected. The pandemic has severely disrupted higher education sector which is a determinant of future economic growth of the country.

The schools and colleges have been shut down temporarily in order to take the safety measures against the novel corona virus. The board exams, competitive exams have been rescheduled due to same. This has given us the opportunity to inculcate e-learning methodologies so that the learning is not compromised.

The international education opportunities will also face a declination if the current stage persists as many students have been barred from admissions this year.

The bigger concern in everybody's mind is the effect of the disease on the employment rate. Recent graduates in India are fearing withdrawal of job offers from corporate because of the current situation.

Regardless of all the hustle and bustle going on currently, the pandemic has brought the transformation in the teaching model. We are moving from the centuries-old, chalk-talk teaching model to the one fully driven by technology. This is enabling educational policymakers to formulate e-learning solutions and tackling the digital divide. A multi-functional strategy is mandatory to manage the current crisis and build a resilient Indian education system in the long term. Here are a few solutions for the same.

First, in order to maintain continuity of learning in schools and universities, Open-source digital learning solutions and Learning Management Softwares should be adopted so that the teachers can conduct teaching online. One such example is DIKSHA platform, which can be used to strengthen the learning of students.

Second, we need to develop the learning solutions specially for the most vulnerable and marginalized sections. A rapid inclination of mobile internet users in India which is suspected to reach 85% households by 2024, which depicts the personalization of education using technology even in the remotest parts of the country. This can bring a revolution in the schooling system and can enhance the effectiveness of teaching and learning, providing students and teachers multiple options to choose from. Some aspirational districts and institutions have developed the innovative solutions for the same.

Third, immediate strategies are required to be made to mitigate the ill-effects of pandemic on job offers, internship programs & research projects. There is a need to increase the demand of higher studies in India in order to reduce the global mobility of students and faculty. For this measures are required to be taken considering the demand supply trends globally.

Fourth, reconsideration of the current delivery and pedagogical methods in school and higher education by integration of classroom learning with e-learning modes to construct a unified learning module is required. the biggest challenge is the integration of technology with the national level ED Tech in the present Indian education system, which is the most diverse and largest in the world with more than 15 lakh schools and 50,000 higher education institutions.

Further, quality assurance mechanisms & quality benchmark should be established for online learning developed and offered by India HEIs as well as e-learning platforms. Multiple courses on same subjects are offered on various e-learning platforms with different levels of certifications, methodology and assessment parameters. So, the quality of courses may differ across different e-learning platforms.

Fifth, India has always been the epitome of inspiration on the basis of traditional knowledge across the globe. It's scientific innovations, values, development of sustainable technologies and pharmaceutical and medicines have always set a benchmark for other countries. Therefore proper emphasis should be laid on courses based on Indian traditional knowledge in fields of yoga, Indian medicines, architecture, hydraulics, ethno-botany, metallurgy and agriculture. Such courses should be integrated with current mainstream university education to serve the humanity & avoid suffering as minimal as possible.

The need of the hour is to develop an all-rounded & effective educational reforms and practices for capacity-building of young minds. It will inculcate the skills which will enhance their productivity, health, well being and most importantly employability in the coming decades ensuring the overall progress of our country.