

Impact of COVID-19 on Education of undergraduate and postgraduate students of Jharkhand

***Dr. Puja Mishra**

Assistant Professor

Sarala Birla University, Ranchi

***Prachi Priya Mahato**

Student

Sarala Birla University, Ranchi

Abstract

The study was conducted to assess the impact of lockdown due to COVID-19 on learning practices and examination patterns of Undergraduate and Postgraduate learners of various Universities & Colleges of Jharkhand. An online survey was conducted from 19 September to 26 September 2020, which targeted towards collecting the relevant information related to the impact of the situation on the Undergraduate and Postgraduate students. A structured questionnaire link using Google form was sent to the concerned students, through whatsapp and email. A total of 170 students provided complete information regarding the survey. The simple percentage distribution and short descriptive answers were used to access the status of the research.

Keywords

Lockdown, Quarantine, Covid19

Introduction

The novel coronavirus disease, also referred to as COVID-19, first appeared in Wuhan City of China to a 55 year old woman, at the end of the year 2020. After its rapid spreading the situation was declared as pandemic on March 11th 2020

Pandemic has increased the gaps in the education sector globally and the lockdown has impacted the learning distribution, funding /debt and brought dropouts /loss of interest, limited learning facilities, limited education opportunities and research constraints. The study emphasizes the need for adoption of technology in education as a way to curb the effects of corona virus and other future pandemics in education. One of the reviews also suggests that the main challenge is to give practical lessons through online education making it more interactive showing practices in real situation, giving concise information and providing 3D virtual tools to mimic the real situation, The study also gives a prediction that social distancing measures might need to be in place for many months or even years, there is an urgent need to how countries can safely return students to education and parent to work.

The common approach: most of the government's around the world took to curb the spread of COVID-19 through lockdown, social/ physical distancing and restrictions on immigration. Around 600 million school going learners got affected across the world due to the closing down of educational institutions.

It was reported that around 320 million learners were affected in India, out of which 34 million belonged to the tertiary level of Education. The first COVID-19 positive case in India was from Kerala. The case was confirmed on 30th January 2020. Later on in the month of September, India was having 61, 22, 688 confirmed cases, 9, 50, 969 active cases, 50, 74, 719 recovered cases and 96, 141 deaths.

Since 25th March, India has observed full phases of nationwide lockdown, which was extended up to 31st May, 2020. The Government of India has started the unlock procedure, till now 3 unlocks have taken place, keeping the educational institutions in lockdown of undergraduate and postgraduate students. Only students Class 9 to 12 were allowed to visit their schools or colleges for the purpose of doubt clearance.

The closures of the educational institution due to the outbreak of COVID-19 led to an unprecedented impact on education. During the lockdown, teachers were asked to teach through online learning platforms, giving rise to an urgent need to adopt innovative approach for continuing education and to overcome mental stress and anxieties during the lockdown. The outbreak of COVID-19 resulted as a digital revolution in the higher education system through online lectures, Teleconferencing, E-books, online examination and interactions in the virtual environment. A significant positive impact of COVID-19 was also reported in the form of learning efficiency and performance by adopting online learning strategies. During this lockdown, the closing of educational institution gave students new insights in education system. New Insights of the teaching and learning process, understanding the teaching learning process in this crisis. Is imperative to design effective interventions for the smooth running of teaching and learning with this.

However the online mode of the teaching learning process is often discriminatory to poor and marginalized students. It was identified that hearing impaired students faced challenges during online learning. It was also informed that many new cases of problems in eyesight was detected along with other problems such as headache and stress.

The present study aims to identify the learning status mode of learning and evaluation and problems related to the study. During this lockdown, emits the COVID-19 pandemic.

Data and methods

Subjects

This is an online survey based study of the 170 students consisting of 72.4% undergraduate students and

What is your Educational Qualification?
170 responses

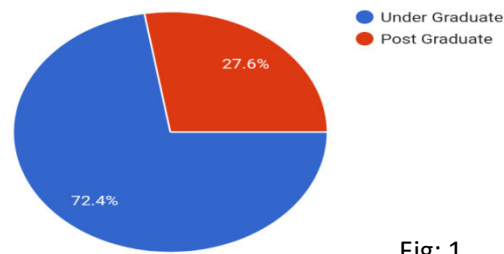


Fig: 1

27.6% postgraduate students studying in various colleges and University of Jharkhand.

Data collection and procedure

An online survey was conducted from 19 September 2020 to 26th of September 2020 to collect the information, a structural questionnaire link. Using Google form was sent to students through WhatsApp and email. Participants had provided full consent before participation in the online survey.

Data analysis

Descriptive Statistics was carried out to understand the distribution for studying the participants. Simple percentage distribution was used and estimated to understand the learning status, mode of learning and students' opinion on the decisions related to education. The entire study was centered around problems related to learning and evaluating due to the lockdown.

Results and Discussion

Characteristics of the participants

The age group of the participant in this survey was between the ranges of 18 to 25 years. These respondents were pursuing education in different colleges or universities of Jharkhand. Out of which 72.4% of the students belonged to the undergraduate courses and 27.6% students belong to the post graduate course.

Learning status and academic sphere during the lockdown

Among the various Colleges and University surveyed in Jharkhand , 98.2% of the colleges and University are providing online classes. Majority of the colleges started online classes in the month of March 2020, initially by assigning questions and assignments through Emails or WhatsApp and in the later phases it shifted to platforms like Microsoft Teams, Google meet Zoom, Webex & others. Majority of the institutions or University used Microsoft Teams for the conduction of online classes, its estimated percentage being 89.4 %.

According to the study, only 20% of these students are enjoying the online classes and 43.5% wants to continue with online classes. There are also some responses which show that new means and methods of learning have taken into place. Be it student or the professor both have gone deeper into the technology building on new skill within them. The data collected also show that the large number of the participants (42.4%) agrees to the fact that online classes are beneficial on learning theoretical aspects, while for learning practical aspects the understanding depends on the methods used to make the topic understandable.

Is your University providing Online
Classes?
170 responses

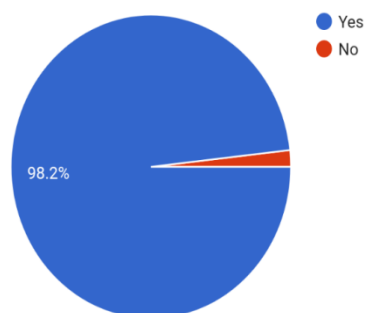


Fig:-2

Examination pattern on impact during the lockdown

Is Online Classes beneficial for learning,
Practical aspects?
170 responses

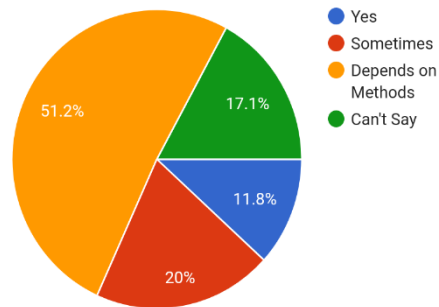


Fig: 3

Which Application is used for the
conduction of Online C...titution /University?
170 responses

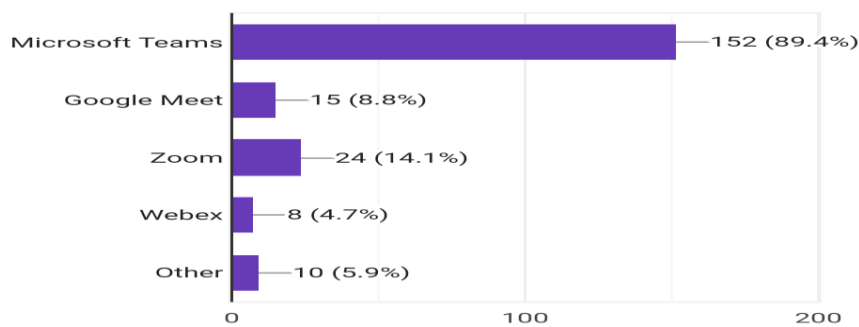


Fig 4

Conduct of Examination

Among the data collected, 84.1% of the students gave examination to get promoted. 12.4% of the students got promoted without giving the exam, taking the marks of previous semester and four rest of them exam is yet to be conducted.

In the procedure of the online exam, 50% times network problem was an important problem area amongst the students. 57.1% of students missed their exams on the assigned date due to technical issues.

Opportunities of learning missed due to lock down

According to the collected data, 42.4% of the students at undergraduate and postgraduate level missed the opportunity of internship. 42.9% of them missed the opportunity of event organization learning and 37.6% faced the loss of Training opportunity. Majority of the respondents (57%) stated that they missed an opportunity of training tool to understand the theoretical concepts practically.

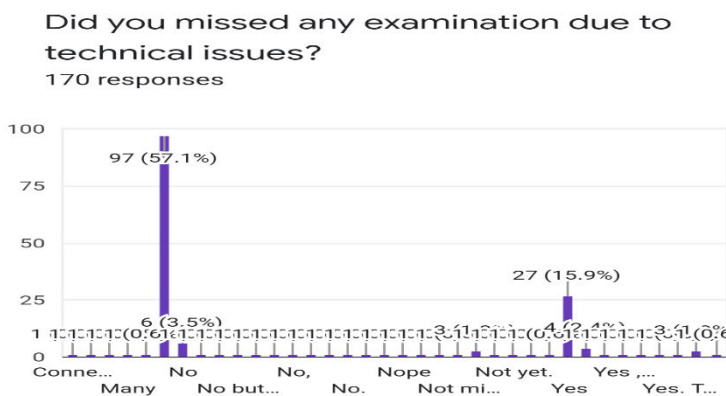
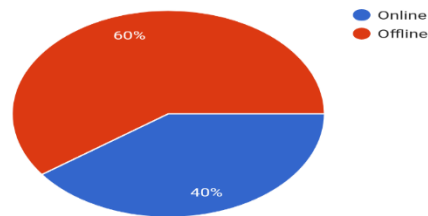


Fig 5

Fig 6

Which method of Examination is appropriate ?
170 responses



Conclusion

This lockdown has undoubtedly brought a revolution in every individual's life. The education sector has also evolved and fought back the situation by going online in the form of live-Interactive classes and online examination. Both, teachers and students underwent the process of learning to acquire the new technical skills. Being the requirement of the future, it is definitely going to turn around in a positive way. However, it cannot replace the traditional approach towards learning an examination pattern, as could be seen in the below diagram.

How frequently you face Network issue.
170 responses

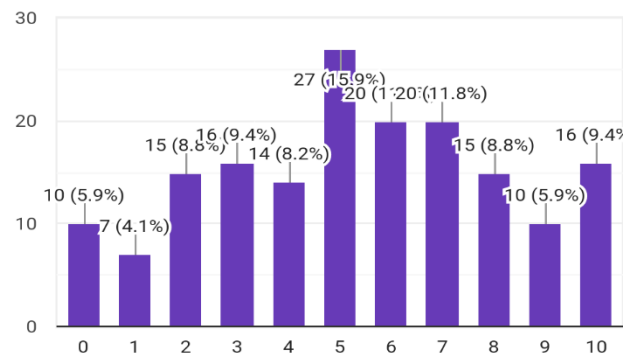


Fig 7

Do you want to continue with Online
Classes as a part of ... classes every week?
170 responses

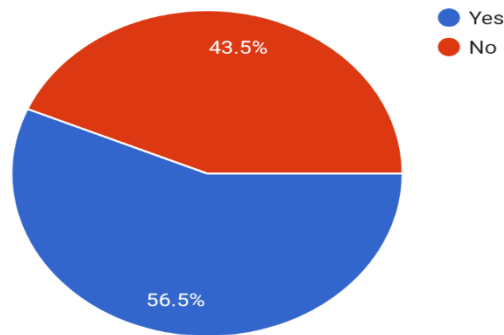


Fig 8

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