CURRENT IMPACT OF COVID 19 ON EDUCATION IN INDIA

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Abstract:

Educational institutions (schools, colleges, and universities) in India are currently based only on traditional methods of learning, that is, they follow the traditional set up of face-to-face lectures in a classroom. Although many academic units have also started blended learning, still a lot of them are stuck with old procedures. The sudden outbreak of a deadly disease called Covid-19 caused by a Corona Virus (SARS-CoV-2) shook the entire world. Around 35 crore learners stopped to move **schools**/colleges/University and all **educational** activities halted in **India**. The outbreak of **COVID-19** has taught us that change is inevitable. It has worked as a catalyst for the **educational** institutions to grow and opt for platforms with technologies, which have not been used before The World Health Organization declared it as a pandemic. This situation challenged the education system across the world and forced educators to shift to an online mode of teaching overnight. Many academic institutions that were earlier reluctant to change their traditional pedagogical approach had no option but to shift entirely too online teaching–learning. The article includes the importance of online learning and Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, & Challenges (SWOC) analysis of e-learning modes in the time of crisis. This Research paper also put some light on the growth of EdTech Start-ups during the time of pandemic and natural disasters and includes suggestions for academic institutions of how to deal with challenges associated with online learning. The Research paper will attempt an analysis of Origin of Covid-19, its impact on education, Role and importance of Internet during covid-19, internet barring in Kashmir, and more importantly this paper will through a shift of light to the important scenarios of Covid-19.

Keynotes: Orgin of covid-19, positive and negative impact of covid on education, internet connectivity in J@K, Life of Private University Professor.

Methodology:

In this research paper the data for the present study is collected mainly through secondary sources the objectivity of historical and current writings has been used to develop a frame work of the study and to arrive at an unbiased conclusion. The data collected with a view to identify and analysis the impact of covid-19 on education in India.

Research Questions:
1. What is the origin of covid 19?
2. How India combat with covid 19?
3. Importance of internet during covid 19?
4. Can virtual learning replace Professor?
5. To evaluate the impact of Covid 19 on education in India?
6. Why there is internet Limit connectivity in J&K?

Objectives of the study:
The specific objectives of the evaluation study include the assessments / examination of the following:
1. The rise and origin of deadly coronavirus
2. To which extent the deadly virus laid down cascading effect on education in India.
3. The portray as to what extent the virus has affected the poor students and private teachers.
4. To identify can virtual learning replace teachers.
5. To identify the limit of internet connectivity in J&K.

Introduction:

The COVID-19 pandemic has graphically illustrated the importance of digital networks and service platforms. Digital networks that deliver the internet to our homes, and the services that ride on those networks have leapt from an ancillary "nice to have" to something that is critical to economic activity and our daily lives. It is time to consider whether these companies are too important to be left to make the rules governing their behavior themselves. There is a new public health crises threatening the world with the emergence and spread of 2019 novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) or the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2). The virus originated in bats and was transmitted to humans through yet unknown intermediary animals in Wuhan, Hubei province, China in December 2019. There have been around 96,000 reported cases of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-2019) and 3300 reported deaths to date (05/03/2020). The disease is transmitted by inhalation or contact with infected droplets and the incubation period ranges from 2 to 14 days. The symptoms are usually fever, cough, sore throat, breathlessness, fatigue, malaise among others. The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in India crossed 80 lakh on October 28, according to data collated from various State Health Departments. As of 7 p.m. on October 28, the figure stood at 80, 01,583 with 1, 20,185 deaths. India's COVID-19 tally crossed the 20-lakh mark on August 7, 30 lakh on August 23 and 40 lakh on September 5. It went past 50 lakh on September 16, 60 lakh on September 28 and crossed 70 lakh on October 11.We may be social distancing physically but mentally and emotionally we are all still so connected. A pandemic like the COVID-19 may have restricted any form of outdoor activity and we are not complaining about it as much. There are two reasons for this: Surviving is a priority for all (of course!) and social media is not letting us miss out on anything! While we also spend most of our time on streaming platforms such as Netflix, Hot star, and Prime, there has been a definite change in the way we use social media. If there is one thing that we will remember in years to come about this pandemic is how we used social media to its full capacity.

Impact of Covid 19 on Education:

Corona virus that originated in china, spread at an alarming rate throughout the world, took lives in thousands and put its adverse effects on millions. Every advanced country has knelt before it bewilderingly. The endeavors of every developed country in terms of health system have resulted in failure. The world is in bafflement, failing to get its cure BENJAMIN FRANKLIN, one of the founding fathers of United States of America has wisely analyzed that an investment in education pays the best interest. This analysis of Franklin about investment should be an eye-opener for policy makers or rulers. As education a basic right of an individual is in pitiable form in our country India especially in its union territory 'Kashmir'. The new entry of Covid-19 has changed the scenario once again .The world is facing the Grasim gibbets of Corona virus. It has become so that people fear it more than the tutelary deity of death. Lockdown is pivotal and effective step taken by the rulers. But at the same time around more than 2 hundred countries in the world, majority of them are investing huge amounts of money in education sector to uplift their countries by boosting diligent ones who yearn to prove their valor in any field. In our country unfortunately this sector is run by bureaucrats selected by ruling parties who have no experience. The more we bureaucratize the education system the more it will fall down. The trauma can be solved only by establishing modern systems equipped with scientific technologies and scrupulous teachers. This will definitely yield paramount mountains and help in solidification of education system. Without investing there will be no change and if done it should be utilized in a proper manner. Internet the attention grabbing blessing of science is crippled in the India's paradise named union territory Kashmir. As from last 9 months 4G internet service is still switched off in the valley.one can guess how adversely it had affected the education sector .Some zealous teachers started to teach on Google class room , Tube but it too needs fast internet speed , on 2G service it pinches and creates frustration . Moreover not everyone in the valley can

afford smartphones to attend u Tube lectures, so an act of segregation is created. We believe education is crucial for spawning societies which are impartial and are free from regionalism, dogmas and paroissial notions about others. We believe the world has started moving like leopards speed from breaking up to oneness .The more intricate or tough the world becomes the more inventive we need to be to meet its difficulties. Undoubtedly the meaning of life has changed in the current century. But our country is yet to adjust its motives and objectives to meet the needs of momentum and upcoming generation's .Allah Almighty says if i wrap any nation in any disease the same disease is associated with its remedy .But that remedy can only be discovered by the people who possess such knowledge and facilities. Our country need to bring improvement in education sector by investing huge amount so as to erase all the barriers. There is a Chinese proverb which says that if you want to live for more than hundred years then you have only one option to educate people. I hope effective and pivotal steps will be taken to overcome the high lightened problems which have not been taken yet.

Indias Response:

• **Diksha portal** contains e-Learning content for students, teachers, and parents aligned to the curriculum, including video lessons, worksheets, textbooks and assessments. Under the guidance of its national boards of education (CBSE) and NCERT, the content has been created by more than 250 teachers who teach in multiple languages. The app is available to use offline. It has more than 80,000 e-Books for classes 1 to 12 created by CBSE, NCERT in multiple languages. The contents can also be viewed through QR codes on textbooks. The app can be downloaded from IOS and Google Play Store. Website: https://diksha.qov.in or https://seshaqun.qov.in/shaqun

• **e-Pathshala** is an e-Learning app by NCERT for classes 1 to 12 in multiple languages. The app houses books, videos, audio, etc. aimed at students, educators and parents in multiple languages including Hindi, Urdu, and English. In this web portal NCERT has deployed 1886 audios, 2000 videos, 696 e-Books and 504 Flip Books for classes 1 to 12 in different languages. Mobile Apps is available. Website: http://epathshala.nic.in or http://epathshala.qov.in.

• **National Repository of Open Educational Resources (NROER) portal** provides a host of resources for students and teachers in multiple languages including books, interactive modules and videos including a host of STEM-based games. Content is mapped to the curriculum for classes 1-12, including aligned resources for teachers. It has a total of 14527 files including 401 collections, 2779 documents, 1345 interactive, 1664 audios, 2586 images and 6153 videos on different languages. Website: http://nroer.qov.in/welcome

Higher Education

• **Swayam** is the national online education platform hosting 1900 courses covering both school (classes 9 to 12) and higher education (under graduate, post graduate programs) in all subjects including engineering, humanities and social sciences, law and management courses. The unique feature is that, it is integrated with the conventional education. Credit transfers are possible for SWAYAM courses (max. 20%). Website: https://swayam.gov.in/

• **Swayam Prabha** has 32 DTH TV channels transmitting educational contents on 24 x 7 basis. These channels are available for viewing all across the country using DD Free Dish Set Top Box and Antenna. The channel schedule and other details are available in the portal. The channels cover both school education (classes 9 to 12) and higher education (undergraduate, postgraduate, engineering Out-of-school children, vocational courses and teacher training) in arts, science, commerce, performing arts, social sciences and humanities subjects, engineering, technology, law, medicine, agriculture. Website: https://swayamprabha.gov.in/

• **e-PG Pathshala** is for postgraduate students. Postgraduate students can access this platform for e-books, online courses and study materials during this lockdown period. The importance of this platform is that students can access these facilities without having internet for the whole day. Website: https://epgp.inflibnet.ac.in/

Positive impact of COVID-19 on education:

Though the outbreak of COVID-19 has created many negative impacts on education, educational institutions of India have accepted the challenges and trying their best to provide seamless support services to the students during the pandemic. Indian education system got the opportunity for transformation from traditional system to a new era. The following points may be considered as the positive impacts.

• Move towards Blended Learning: COVID-19 has accelerated adoption of digital technologies to deliver education. Educational institutions moved towards blended mode of learning. It encouraged all teachers and students to become more technology savvy. New ways of delivery and assessments of learning opened immense opportunities for a major transformation in the area of curriculum development and pedagogy. It also gives access to large pools of learners at a time.

• Rise in use of Learning Management Systems: Use of learning management systems by educational institutions became a great demand. It opened a great opportunity for the companies those have been developing and strengthening learning management systems for use educational institutions (Misra, 2020).

• Enhance the use of soft copy of learning material: In lockdown situation students were not able to collect the hard copies of study materials and hence most of the students used of soft copies materials for reference.

• Improvement in collaborative work- There is a new opportunity where collaborative teaching and learning can take on new forms. Collaborations can also happen among faculty/teachers across the world to benefit from each other (Misra, 2020).

• Rise in online meetings- The pandemic has created a massive rise in teleconferencing, virtual meetings, webinars and e-conferencing opportunities

• Enhanced Digital Literacy: The pandemic situation induced people to learn and use digital technology and resulted in increasing the digital literacy.

• Improved the use of electronic media for sharing information: Learning materials are shared among the students easily and the related queries are resolved through e-mail, SMS, phone calls and using different social Medias like WhatsApp or Facebook.

• World wide exposure: Educators and learners are getting opportunities to interact with peers from around the world. Learners adapted to an international community.

• Better time management: Students are able to manage their time more efficiently in online education during pandemics.

• Demand for Open and Distance Learning (ODL): During the pandemic situation most of the students preferred ODL mode as it encourages self-learning providing opportunities to learn from diverse resources and customized learning as per their needs.

Negative impact of COVID-19 on education:

Education sector has suffered a lot due to the outbreak of COVID-19. It has created many negative impacts on education and some of them are as pointed below:

• Educational activity hampered: Classes have been suspended and exams at different levels postponed. Different boards have already postponed the annual examinations and entrance tests. Admission process got delayed. Due to continuity in lockdown, student suffered a loss of nearly 3 months of the full academic year of 2020-21 which is going to further deteriorate the situation of continuity in education and the as students would face much difficulty in resuming schooling again after a huge gap.

• Impact on employment: Most of the recruitment got postponed due to COVID-19 Placements for students may also be affected with companies delaying the on board of students. Unemployment rate is expected to be increased due to this pandemic. In India, there is no recruitment in Govt. sector and fresh graduates fear withdrawal of their job offers from private sectors because of the current situation. The Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy's estimates on unemployment shot up from

8.4% in mid-March to 23% in early April and the urban unemployment rate to 30.9% (Educationasia.in). When the unemployment increases then the education gradually decreases as people struggle for food rather than education.

• Unprepared teachers/students for online education- Not all teachers/students are good at it or at least not all of them were ready for this sudden transition from face to face learning to online learning. Most of the teachers are just conducting lectures on video platforms such as Zoom, Google meet etc. which may not be real online learning without any dedicated online learning platform.

• Reduced global employment opportunity- Some may lose their jobs from other countries and the pass out students may not get their job outside India due to restrictions caused by COVID-19. Many Indians might have returned home after losing their jobs overseas due to COVID-19. Hence, the fresh students who are likely to enter the job market shortly may face difficulty in getting suitable employment. Many students who have already got jobs through campus interviews may not be able to join their jobs due to lockdown. The Indians who have been doing their jobs abroad may lose their jobs. Recent graduates in India are of also fearing for

withdrawal of job offers from corporate sectors because of movement restriction in the current pandemic situation

• Increased responsibility of parents to educate their wards: Some educated parents are able to guide but some may not have the adequate level of education needed to teach children in the house.

• Loss of nutrition due to school closure: Mid-day meals is a school meal programme of the Government of India which is designed to provide better the nutritional food to school-age children nationwide. The closure of schools has serious implications on the daily nutrition of students as the mid-day meal schemes have temporarily been shut. Various studies have pointed out that mid-day meals are also an important contributing factor for increased enrolment in the schools

• Access to digital world: As many students have limited or no internet access and many students may not be able to afford computer, laptop or supporting mobile phones in their homes, online teaching-learning may create a digital divide among students. The lockdown has hit the poor students very hard in India as most of them are unable to explore online learning according to various reports. Thus the online teaching-learning method during pandemic COVID-19 may enhance the gap between rich/poor and urban/rural.

• Access to global education: The pandemic has significantly disrupted the higher education sector. A large number of Indian students who are enrolled in many Universities abroad, especially in worst affected countries are now leaving those countries and if the situation persists, in the long run, a there will be a significant decline in the demand for international higher education.

• Payment of Schools, Colleges fee got delayed: During this lockdown most of the parents will be facing the unemployment situation so they may not be able to pay the fee for that particular time periods which may affect the private institutes integrated with a present-day mainstream higher education system.

• Govt. and educational institutes should plan to continue the educational activities maintaining social distancing. 30-40% students and teachers may attend schools/colleges in two shifts per day to carry on educational activities by obeying guidelines for COVID-19.

• At current times, access to technology and internet is an urgent requirement. So, the digital capabilities and the required infrastructure must reach to the remotest and poorest communities to facilitate the students to continue their education during the pandemics. There is a need to deploy public funds to fix the internet gap and ensure that students continue to learn digitally. The state governments/private organizations should come up with ideas to address this issue of digital education.

• Some significant issues associated with distance learning strategies like the availability and access to digital devices with internet connectivity, the need for safe learning spaces, creating capabilities for teachers, families and students to operate and navigate digital devices, and engaging lesson plans for disabled students and other marginalised groups should be addressed by Govt. and the stakeholders.
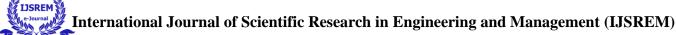
Why their is Still Limit connectivity in Kashmir:

Why Shackles and fetters is only for Kashmir "The Internet is becoming the town square for the global village of tomorrow. We are all now connected by the Internet, like neurons in a giant brain .the percentage of netizens is tremedenoulsy increasing day by day and percentage is expected to increase .How will Bharat achieve the Digital India plan of making the Internet available to everybody if we curb access to it in some parts of the country? In today's time, access to the Internet is a democratic right, and it should not be taken away from citizens on the pretext of law and order. Continued curbs on Internet here are devoid of any merit and logic and rationale today, but the authorities, for some unknown reasons, are refusing to heed countless appeals for a review of current impasse. The students of Kashmir are not able to enjoy online classes just because of internet barring which was imposed before eight months ago due to reason of abrogation of article 370. The article had been abrogated but very sad the internet is still on 2g or in snail's pace. In the modern era internet is like the oxygen and blood for people and government is snatching this fundamental right from Kashmiri people now and then. Why Shackles and fetters is only for Kashmir "The Internet is becoming the town square for the global village of tomorrow. We are all now connected by the Internet, like neurons in a giant brain .The percentage of netizens is tremedenoulsy increasing day by day and percentage is expected to increase .How will Bharat achieve the Digital India plan of making the Internet available to everybody if we curb access to it in some parts of the country? In today's time, access to the Internet is a democratic right, and it should not be taken away from citizens on the pretext of law and order. Continued curbs on Internet here are devoid of any merit and logic and rationale today, but the authorities, for some unknown reasons, are refusing to heed countless appeals for a review of current impasse. Even as the measure has attracted lot of bad press, including open criticism from many western nations and even admonitions from the Supreme Court of India, and the rights bodies like Amnesty International, about the denial of Internet connectivity being a violation of peoples' fundamental rights, the government has remained visibly opposed and resistant to any change in its stance.

Life of private school teachers and his / her sufferings:

Teachers are a special blessing from God to us. They are the ones who build a good nation and make the world a better place. A teacher teaches us the importance of a pen over that of a sword. They are much esteemed in society as they elevate the living standards of people. They are like the building blocks of society who educate people and make them better human beings. A teacher does not merely stick to the role of a teacher. They adapt into various roles as and when the need arises. They become our friends when we are sad, they care for us like our parents when we are hurt. Thus, we see how great a teacher impacts a student's life and shapes it but very unfortunate that most teachers in our society feel marginalized, underappreciated and underpaid; this statement is more accurate for teachers working in the private sector. Teachers in private schools are facing exploitation similar in nature to the exploitation suffered by manual laborers in our textile mills and brick kilns, and yet very few people realize the extent and scale of this exploitation. During the ongoing pandemic i.e. covid 19 first time the parents and students realized the utmost importance of a teacher .Once the covid 19 hit the road all the school teachers tighten their belts and impart online education to their students through various online study applications. Infact Private school teachers are playing an important and titanic role during this ongoing pandemic in terms of online education. They don't left any stone unturned in order to provide online education to the students. From time to time private schools principles are providing orders to their teachers and teachers are fallowing their orders from heart and spirit .The orders are like online examination, checking of papers , preparing of assignments for students, call parents regarding fee etc. etc. .The school principal never takes the life of their teachers into consideration. Do you know why during the imposition of section 144 private school teachers receives call in the morning from their heads to reach at school and do the different tasks. These principals never think that there is an imposition of section of 144 and how these teachers will come

to school. Infact private school teachers can't utter a word because they knows that if they will say anything to their heads they will be kicked out or disengaged from school. However it's reality that these teachers don't have any other source of income except this teaching .From March 2020 to till date private school teachers don't take a single penny from the school just imagine how will they survive and fill their stomach .Hence, private school became a sector of imperialism in Kashmir .During this ongoing pandemic only the sector of education and life of private school teachers gets much affected in all aspects. May God have mercy on all private teachers and helps all these private school teachers to come out from the mental torture and traumatic situation. The government decided to give some level of financial relief to the private teachers. But till date nothing has been done and life of private school teachers is persistently burning. Let's assume the role of government school teacher they are taking huge salary from the government exchequer every month without performing any duty and online class. The government promised the welfare state but I don't think so this is called welfare state where some people don't have food for eat and sleeps with empty stomach. Yes, the private schools are imparting quality education that is why every child of beau crate is studying in private schools not in government schools. Why not government is framing any sound policy of salary for private teachers, why not government is framing any fixed fee structure for private schools, why not government is framing fixed transportation fee for the private schools. I must say that the government is in deep slumber and government is intentionally supports these mafias of private schools for their poll drum and contributions.

Vitual learning: Can it replace teachers?

When COVID-19 is threatening the very existence of humankind, and has forced on the people world-over a secluded existence within the walled cast is of their homes, Internet has become a sole window of hope. It is a vital tool for the people to maintain social contacts in virtual world when physical connections are discouraged for their potential and ability to aid and facilitate dangerous transmission of novel coronavirus. Internet connectivity is also the only aid for the health practitioners to keep themselves abreast with latest happenings – in terms of medical research about containment and treatment of the coronavirus infections, as well as effective preventive strategies that ordinary people are encouraged to educate themselves about, and adopt so as to keep the disease at bay, both for its physical dangers and its psycho-social impacts**.** E learning In the rapidly evolving world, knowledge is considered to be just a click away. The traditional books have given way to e books and the brick and mortar classrooms have given way to virtual classrooms. The term virtual learning stem from the concept of virtual learning environment also knows as e learning or Ed tech. A virtual learning environment is a set of teaching and learning tools, which incorporate the computers and the internet as important components of the education process. They are in a way designed to enhance the learning experience of the student .instant messaging, wikis and weblogs, discussion forums, audio and video conferencing, email, smart boards, online games and activities, internet and computer software's all come under the umbrella of VLE. This concept is slowly gaining popularity owing to the benefits it others. Virtual learning has completely revolutionized the education sector in India. A student is no longer dependent on a teacher and the classroom teaching has transcended the four walls of the classroom. Weaker students can escape from the shame of facing a classroom full of students and can work on improving their scores. Virtual leaning thus improves their confidence and provides positive motivation for learning .The student centered teaching approaches of virtual learning reduces student's dependence on teachers and makes them more confident. Virtual learning also offers pedagogical benefits like increasing confidence of students, providing reinforcement and positive motivation. Virtual learning has come as a breeze of fresh air for all those, which found it difficult to relate to the concept of classroom teaching .it leads to understand online discussion and further understanding of the topic at hand. All said and done, never ever can technology substitute a teacher in a student's life? Over the years, the schools have been the learning grounds for the students. Right from interacting with the people and learning the art of socializing. The schools have much more to offer. During the growing years of one's life, it's the

teacher who is always there as friend, guided, mentor and support for the students. E learning can never replace a teacher.in the case, system suddenly suffers from one software to hardware breakdown, it's the teacher who will come to their rescue. The complete arena of the virtual learning is based on the fact that the computers and the internet are used to teach the student. This somehow defies the basic principle of education.in an online world, there is nobody to guide, teach and make the students learn the social skills, which are of Paramount importance. virtual learning is an emerging concept which can greatly help to bridge the learning gap and prove to be an excellent teaching aid in the classroom. Some students are very comfortable in working with technology while the less techno savvy students have the problem of getting left behind. Thus it became the responsibility of the teacher to use technology to her advantage and cater to the needs of every student. The teachers have played the role of mentors, guides, leaders and facilitators in the lives of the students. They have encouraged, motivated and inspired the students to aspire, dream and fulfill their desires. This is something which no robot or artificial intelligence machinery can do. This type of warmth and personal care offered by the teacher can in no way be substituted by a machine .Thus we can say that virtual learning resources can revolutionize the teaching learning process, but they can't completely replace the teacher.

Suggestions:

1.India should accept the Full technology for development of education.

2.The Indian Govt should enact sound laws for private schools so that their will be no exploitation with the teachers.

3.Internet is a fundamental right of citizen so it should be open for all without any discrimination.

4. India must invest more and more on education.

5. The schools should start classwork of internet for students so, that during any crisis they can use it well for education.

6. The teachers should take training of accessing internet and electronic devices.

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