Covid 19 Impact on Children's Education

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ABSTRACT

COVID-19 affected the lives of all sections of society as people were asked to self-quarantine in their homes to prevent the spread of the virus. The lockdown had serious implications on mental health, resulting in psychological problems including frustration, stress, and depression. This study suggests that public authorities should take all the necessary. Measures to enhance the learning experience by mitigating the negative impacts caused due to the COVID-19 outbreak on children's education. Moreover, the harmful effects of this pandemic will not be distributed equally. They are expected to be most damaging for children.

Keywords: Online-teaching, learning modes, pandemic outbreak, lockdown period, dis-advantages of online education

Highlights:
1. Rural area children are missing the quality education.
2. About 70 percent of rural area children are missing the learning activities through online.
3. Two thirds of rural children nationwide reported that they had not received any learning materials or activities at all.
4. 75 percent of school interaction is through what's app only.
5. A wide gap is seen between the teachers and children's.
6. **The mental status of students of different age group is taken in to consideration.**

INTRODUCTION

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused the largest disruption of education system in history, the crisis has exacerbated pre-existing educational inequalities while referring to the United Nation's 'Policy Brief: Education during COVID-19 and beyond'. "It has also reduced opportunities for millions of the most vulnerable children. This has particularly affected hundreds of people living in poor or rural areas, girls, refugees and displaced persons," Teachers, parents and children are still grappling with the realities of the impact of COVID-19. There would be inter-generational setbacks, especially regarding violence against women from low income backgrounds, due to loss of income and education. He added that those in the professional education segment would have a more cushioned situation, To improve the e-learning experience, the education institutions are required to comply with the guidelines and recommendations by government agencies, while keeping students encouraged to continue learning remotely in this tough environment (Aucejo et al. 2020). Bao (2020) addresses five high-impact guidelines for the efficient conduct of online education. It is expected that the continued spread of the disease, travel restrictions and the closure of educational institutions across the country would have a significant effect on the education, social life, and mental health of students.

How is the education sector responding to COVID-19?
a) Schools that invested in digital technology are proving to be more agile and resilient during COVID-19.
b) The education system has made a significant shift during the current pandemic and may never return to what it once was.
c) Here are five key trends on movements within the higher education system, including connection, trust and wellbeing.

Higher education has gone through tremendous change during the COVID-19 pandemic. In the face of uncertainty, it's become evident that institutions with prior investment in digital technologies are emerging more agile and resilient. For example, online communities have helped **30% of students** feel more connected with other students during this time.

Students are forced to the online learning!
The Corona Virus has made institutions to go from offline mode to online mode of pedagogy. This crisis will make the institutions, which were earlier reluctant to change, to accept modern technology. This catastrophe will show us the lucrative side of online teaching and learning. With the help of online teaching modes, we can sermonize a large number of

students at any time and in any part of the world. All institutions must scramble different options of online pedagogical approaches and try to use technology more aptly. Many universities around the world have fully digitalized their operations understanding the dire need of this current situation. Online learning is emerging as a victor ludorum amidst this chaos. Therefore, the quality enhancement of online teaching–learning is crucial at this stage. Online education in Chinese universities has increased exponentially after the Covid-19 outbreak. During this tough time, the concern is not about whether online teaching–learning methods can provide quality education; it is rather how academic institutions will be able to adopt online learning.

How Rural Area Children Affected Through Online Education?

The report notes that there has been a marked shift in the number of children enrolled in government and private schools in 2020:

- Roughly, there are three to four percent more children enrolled in government schools than private institutions, as compared to 2018. This is true across all academic grades, for both boys and girls.
- For children between six to ten years of age, there as been a sharp increase in those not enrolled in school (from 1.8 percent to 5.3 percent). This can be explained by schools being shut, which implies that admissions for the Grade 1 are on hold.

When it comes to Online Education or E-Learning, rural population is not completely equipped with utilities like fast internet, uninterrupted power supply and electronic devices. There have been improvements regarding basic intfrastructual facilities but many rural areas in India are still grappling with these challenges to make education completely digital or online.

These are prominent hurdles that come in the way of enabling online education in the rural regions of India. Though the power and network infrastructure have improved leaps and bounds in the remote areas of the country, there is still a room for improvement. Teachers and students in villages are becoming more accepting towards digital means of learning, but the infrastructural facilities there have not developed fully to become at par with what online learning require. Steady flow of electricity and lack of high speed internet still pose major problems for the rural population.

Limited Availability of Technology:

Many students either don't have personal laptops/smart phones or they are available for a limited time. Hence, the learning remains restricted with the limited availability of technological devices. The necessity of online schooling during the Covid-19 pandemic and lockdown has thrown into relief the sharp difference between the economic classes

Students in rural areas or other underprivileged students do not have smart phones or internet connections to keep up with online learning like their city-dwelling peers. The majority of her students have seen their parents lose jobs as a result of the economic distress caused by India's protracted lockdown. She lost contact with some when they were forced to return to their villages.

Instead of innovating, governments and schools have gone for the easiest option available, said Shantha Sinha, founder of the research institute Mamidipudi Venkatarangaiya Foundation and the former head of the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights. "It's showing a lack of sensitivity."

The COVID-19 pandemic has aggravated structural disparities between rural and urban areas. It has had a critical impact on the education of children, especially the disadvantaged ones. Though private schools in urban set-ups are trying to cope with online class, the situation in rural areas is dismal: Children who stay at homes for a longer time risk being pulled into child labor or child marriage. They also face violence.

Disadvantages Of Online Education:

Safety Virtual learners are often exposed to the flaws of the Internet. They are subject to inappropriate websites and ads, online predators, and hackers. Their privacy is at risk as well. Also, unlike brick and mortar schools, students are not under the constant supervision of a teacher.

Lack of Interaction Online learners miss out on face-to-face interaction. This inhibits their communication skills because they do not get to communicate with fellow students and faculty on a daily basis. They also miss out on personal instruction from teachers as well as classroom discussion.

Lack of Motivation Online learners must exhibit self-discipline in order to be successful. Students who have trouble with procrastination and time management will have difficulties completing their work and avoiding distractions. Virtual schools also lack the structure found in traditional schools.

Unpreparedness Students enrolled in virtual schools are unprepared to meet the challenges of collegiate life. They often lack the social and academic skills to succeed at the next level. Many have trouble adapting to the normalcy and structure of brick and mortar schools. They also have difficulties adapting to paper and pencil tests and assignments.

CONCLUSION

In our opinion, the COVID-19 pandemic will have a far-reaching, long-term impacts on children worldwide. Although some of these may be positive, we believe that the negative impacts will be devastating and could affect millions of children in some way. International healthcare organizations, children's welfare organizations and governments need to work together to minimise the impact the pandemic will have on children in the post COVID-19 era.