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IMPACT OF COVID-19 LOCKDOWN ON STATUS OF COLLEGE STUDENTS IN INDIA

Dr. S.SUBATHRA

Assistant Professor of Commerce,
AIMAN College of Arts and Science for Women,
Trichy 21.

Abstract

COVID 19 or Corona viruses are a large family of viruses that infect people and cause respiratory disease. Lakhs of people have affected by this virus all around the world. It mainly spreads from person to person. The severe impact of COVID-19 as pandemic, the government had taken the steps to protect its people by way of lockdown the whole. In India, the Government had announced nationwide lockdown, due to this lockdown all educational institutions had closed from the end of March 2020. Our system of education is based on curriculum with classroom based teaching learning process. It was totally collapsed and students are affected more and stress on their educational part of life. The main objective of this study is to know the status of college students during Covid-19 Lockdown, today's e-learning system of education and it focuses on progress of educational system by offering some suggestions. The study is based on secondary data that has been collected from websites, reports of AISHE, UNESCO, relevant articles, journals and other published information. It concludes that the government would provide more infra-structure facilities like electricity, internet connectivity to both urban and rural places to upgrade the college students in teaching learning process and to overcome the present pandemic situation.

Keywords: Covid-19 Lockdown, college students, e-learning, educational system, online courses, online classes.

Introduction

A Novel Corona virus or COVID-19 is causing respiratory illness in people. Most of the people all over the country infected the mild to moderate respiratory illness and recover without requiring special treatment. But older people and those with medical problems like

cardiovascular disease, diabetes, chronic respiratory disease and cancer are affected to serious illness. It leads to death in some cases. This virus spreads from person to person even when an infected person coughs or sneezes. At this time, there are no specific vaccines or treatments for COVID-19.

Table-1

No. of People Infected by COVID-19

COVID-19	America	Brazil	India	Russia	World
Infected People	43,15,926	23,96,434	13,85,522	8,12,485	1,62,37,957
Death	1,49,400	86,496	32,063	13,269	6,49,186

Sources: Report on Dinamalar Newspaper as on 27th July 2020

The Dinamalar newspaper reported that globally as many as 1,62,37,957 people have been infected with the Coronavirus while 6,49,186 had died. In India 13,85,522 people have been affected where as 13,269 had died. (Table 1) On 11th March World Health Organisation declared Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) outbreak as a pandemic and asked the countries to take immediate actions and scale up response to treat, detect and transmission to save people's lives. The government had taken the steps to protect its people by way of lockdown the whole. These nationwide closures are impacting over 91% of the worlds' student population. UNESCO is supporting countries in their efforts to mitigate the immediate impact of school closures, particularly for more vulnerable and disadvantaged communities, and to facilitate the continuity of education for all through remote learning. The UNESCO report estimates that the coronavirus pandemic will adversely impact over 290 million students across 22 countries.

Because of lockdown for continuation of education to students, the government has come up with e-learning program. The main challenge of higher education system through e-learning now-a-days is lack of infra-structure facility in our country. The main objective of this study is to know the status of college students during the Covid-19 lockdown and understand the e-learning system of education. It highlights modes to progress the system of education.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Vikram R. Jadhav et. al. (May 2020) explained that lockdown has a definite effect on education. Due to Lockdown issues, students can't concentrate on their studies and some students say that there is positive impact. These issues have increased the cost of education to some extent and these issues have not only affected the education sector but also all sectors.

Pravat Kumar Jena (June 2020) has outlined that the recent pandemic created an opportunity for change in pedagogical approaches and introduction of virtual education in all levels of education. UGC and MHRD have lunched many virtual platforms with online depositories, e-books and other online teaching/learning materials. It would enhance better accessibility and flexibility to education.

Veena Shenoy et.al. (April 2020) had specified that the revolution in Indian higher education, as there was lots of resistance in teaching fraternity towards adapting to technology pre-COVID 19 crisis and due to the situation most of the faculty has adapted technology and started taking virtual classes and their experience is great.

OBJECTIVES

1. To know the status of college students during COVID 19 Lockdown.
2. To understand the e-learning system of education.
3. To offer the suggestions to progress the educational system in India.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

In the present study, an attempt has been made to know the status of college students in higher education during COVID-19 Lockdown. It exhibits the various applications for e-learning system. It is concept based and descriptive study. This study is based on secondary data that has been collected from websites, reports of AISHE, UNESCO, articles, journals and other published information.

IMPACT OF COVID-19 LOCKDOWN IN INDIA

In India the Prime Minister Narendra Modi ordered a nationwide lockdown for 21 days on 24th March 2020 that affected the entire 1.3 billion populations. The lockdown was placed when the number of confirmed positive cases was approximately 500. The growth rate of pandemic was doubling for every six days. As the end of the first lockdown period approached, state governments and other advisory committees recommended extending the lockdown. But COVID-19 was spread severely. It showed in the table 2.

Table-2
No. of people Infected by COVID-19 in India

COVID-19	1 st April 2020	1 st May 2020	1 st June 2020	1 st July 2020	22 nd July 2020
No. of New Cases	437	1755	8392	18653	37724
Death	6	77	230	507	648

Sources: Corona.mygovt.in

Table 2 described that Number of people infected by Coronavirus in India from the starting on 1st April 2020 to now on 22nd July. On 1st April 2020 number of new cases recorded was 437, on that day number of people died was 6. On 1st May new cases recorded was 1755 and death was 77. New cases and death were increased day by day. Indian Government reported that the overall Tally in India rose to 12,38,635 after over 45,000 fresh cases were registered within a span of 24

hours. The death toll also increased from 28,732 to 29,861.

Impact of Covid-19 lockdown has not decrease the spreading of disease. Moreover it increases enormously and threatens the people in negative way of approach. In India, the Government had announced nationwide lockdown, due to this lockdown all educational institutions had closed from the end of March 2020. The UNESCO estimates that about 32 crores students are affected in India, including those in schools and colleges. Our system of education is based on curriculum with classroom based teaching learning process. It was totally collapsed and students are affected more and stress on their educational part of life.

E-LEARNING SYSTEM OF EDUCATION

E-learning is learning utilizing electronic technologies to access educational curriculum outside of a traditional classroom and it refers to a course, program or degree delivered completely online. Professor is teaching or communicating and also interactive with teachers, professors or other students in that class.

Each and every one of the world uses technology for their everyday lives. Whatsapp, telegram app are widely used to share and chat the communications though mobile phone. These education apps allow students to develop the learning process and to have access to invaluable resources and learning materials on laptops and mobile devices. Online classes and online courses are carried out with the help of following apps:

Zoom - It is a powerful cloud video conferencing platform that allows person to host “meetings” with hundreds of participants. Using zoom, educators can share lesson plans, give instruction, swap files with students and communicate

directly with the group of individuals via chat, all within the app.

Cisco Webex - Webex is a videoconferencing app that was acquired by Cisco in 2007. It is used mainly for business application and continuous to focus on service companies. For current emergency, it has used in educational purposes and widened the features like minimum 50 to 100 participants with time limit extended to 40 minutes on meetings and added call-in abilities.

Google Meet - Google Meet is available for those who have Google accounts, it is used to video chat with colleagues, friends and family. Now-a-days it is used for academic activities to conduct meetings, conferences, educate the students within simple process of online mode. It has a number of security features like admit to allow or deny entry within 40 minutes of time for upto 100 participants.

Google Classroom - This app, teacher share code with the class and the students can join by entering the codes. By using this app, student can complete the given homework and submit the assignments to the teacher. Teachers also have to review and grade them at the earliest. Many educational institutions are utilized this App for sending announcements, creating classes, starting discussions, submitting and grading assignments, asking for remarks and answers, sharing resources, and so on.

edX - This app is helpful to study the courses of top universities like Harvard, MIT, Columbia, etc. Students can learn desired courses from this app. There are more than 2000 courses of top universities in edX such as computer science, business studies, linguistics, engineering, and many more. They get the professional certificates and university credit from these courses that always valuable for building a professional career.

Khan Academy - Khan Academy invariably is one of the best free educational apps for students to provide a free and world-class education for all curious minds across the globe. It has a unique way to drive knowledge into student's brains. All lessons are in forms of video tutorials. Videos display a recording of drawings on a virtual blackboard (like a teacher giving a lecture). And the narrator describes each lesson through these drawings.

Udemy - Udemy is one of the best learning apps for students with more than 130,000 video tutorials includes machine leaning, artificial intelligence and block chain for courses ranging from technology and business to personal development lessons like drawing, writing, yoga, and photoshop.

Mobile apps along with new and advanced learning management software are changing the educational landscape. All students including medical, professional, arts and science are learning the courses through online platforms.

IMPACT ON COVID-19 LOCKDOWN ON THE STATUS OF COLLEGE STUDENTS

Lockdown has made significant disruption in academic activities of college students in India. New technologies adopted by this time are not aware by the rural students. Student's attendance in online classes slows down. Total number of universities and colleges are initiated the students to learn through online classes.

Table 3
Registered Number of Institutions in India

	University	Colleges	Stand-alone Institutions
Listed for AISHE 2018-19	993	39931	10725
Actual Response in AISHE 2018-19	944 (95.1%)	36308 (91%)	8354 (77.9%)
Total No. of Institutions after pooling data from AISHE 2016-17 to 2017-2018	962 (96.9%)	38179 (95.6%)	9190 (85.7%)

Sources: AISHE Reprt-2019

According to All India Survey on Higher Education report, there are 944 Universities, 36,308 Colleges and 8,354 Stand-alone Institutions are running for educational services. All are closed the classroom based education and started the process of teaching and learning through online. (Table 3)

Universities created e-portal websites to offer the e-content of syllabus to students. College students are aware of e-portal system but they are not showing much interest to learn. Enrolment of UG and PG students in Academic and Professional course are listed in Table 4.

Table 4
Enrolment in Professional Courses

Level	Management	Academic			Professional		
		Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Under Graduate	Government	5037807	5052191	10089998	919826	622714	1542540
	Government Aided	2060256	2457462	4517718	4517718	311328	568322
	Private	3052963	3270098	6323061	3289051	2266061	5555112
Post Graduate	Government	707275	1052210	1759485	235279	182373	417652
	Government Aided	150219	307244	457463	33972	35442	69414
	Private	191451	330483	521934	415506	333832	749338

Sources: Report on AISHE (2018-19), Ministry of HRD, New Delhi.

Ministry of HRD reported that the students enrolment in Professional Courses in India. Female students are enrolled more in Academic education but

in the case of Professional education male students are enrolled than female (Table 4).

Table-5
Population in India

State	Rural	Urban	Total Population	%
Uttar Pradesh	15,53,17,278 (77.73%)	4,44,95,063 (22.27%)	19,98,12,341	16.51%
Maharastra	6,15,56,074 (54.78%)	5,08,18,259 (45.22%)	11,23,74,333	9.28%
Tamil Nadu	3,72,29,590 (51.6%)	3,49,17,440 (48.4%)	7,21,47,030	5.96%
Other States and Union Territories	57,93,60,506 (70.12%)	24,68,75,363 (29.88%)	82,62,35,869	68.25
India	83,34,63,448	37,71,06,125	1,21,05,69,573	100%

Sources: Population census Report 2011, Planning Commission of India

Table 5 showed the population census report. In India Rural population is more than urban population. The status of college students in rural area is that they are not much involved in their academic activities. They are mainly affected by lack of internet facilities, lack of personal mobile phone, financial status of family, unemployment of family members and lack of interest to continue their study due to poverty. Many students are undergone by doing small income earning works like vegetable, greens, retail groceries selling etc.

College students in urban area are continuing their education through online mode. They attended online courses, seminars, quiz to equip themselves. They are also affected by financial issues in the family and unemployment in family members and also suffering from fear, stress and anxiety by the present unfavorable situation and poor economic condition.

The present status of them is psychologically affected, their mindset feared about the problems of disease, quarantine, unemployment, job insecurity, examination, evaluation pattern and uncertainty. They are financially affected

and afraid of present economic condition, poverty and cost of living.

Some students are taking risk and working as micro entrepreneur like vegetable seller, retailer, selling of essentials, etc. Some are developing their personal skill like learning tailoring, soft and hardware in computer, data entry operator, to do the online courses etc.

SUGGESTIONS

- The government should take steps to develop the online education for rural students in this pandemic period and quality of education.
- For development of online education, it should provide uninterrupted electricity and internet services.
- It should offer the financial aid like subsidies and loan to economically backward people to overcome from the fear and stress.
- It should declare the examination system, evaluation pattern and date of reopening of colleges.
- It should support the Higher Education Institutions to engage the students in both rural and urban by way of using advanced technology.

- It should motivate the learners by way of joy security and job opportunities.
- It should provide the online platform to enrich the knowledge, to progress the quality of education and to create interest to learn among the students. It should maintain regularity of teaching learning process by recording each and every class.
- It should initiate the process of earning by learning. Earnings help the students to carry on the higher education.

CONCLUSION

The Covid-19 lockdown has not decrease the range of spreading the disease but it increases the rate of infection among the people. The COVID-19 pandemic has exhibited inequalities in education systems in India. In this situation online education is carried out smoothly by teachers but college students are not showing much interest to learn. They are fear about Covid-19, lockdown and stress on their entire part of life. The government should raise the confidence in younger generation and to reduce the psychological stress by way of sureness of employment opportunities, skill development program and Personal development program. Then only they can concentrate on their education. It should offer loans and financial aid to decrease the dropouts of college students. Students should realize that online learning has lot of potentials, which create self-learning and to raise satisfaction of insight thirst of learning. In this situation also college students should acquire the knowledge, skills and competencies to rise the economic condition of family and our country.

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