

Covid-19 and its impact on education system in India.

DEBASISH NANDA

COVID-19, an infectious virus, spread all over the world and adversely affected all facets of the economy. This economic earthquake reached into an astonishing array of many sectors, mutilating them to a great extent. It is estimated that the impact of COVID-19 on the Indian economy during 2020 may reach nearly 8.8tn Indian rupees ([Keelery, 2020](#)). The pandemic had incurred an enormous loss to the economy and had a staggering impact on global education. According to UNESCO, 63 million teachers were affected in 165 countries. A total of 1.3 billion learners around the world were not able to attend school or university and approximately 32,07,13,810 learners are affected in India alone ([UNESCO, 2020](#)).

The current worldwide epidemic has wreaked havoc on one of the most important systems: education. Education is undeniably crucial in contributing to a country's welfare and an individual's growth, but it has been jeopardized by the emergence of Covid - 19. It has had a huge impact on the lives of millions of kids. There have been a number of severe targets that have had to be met since the lockdown was implemented. Education was also hampered by the economic crisis, which reduced its output. According to studies, the epidemic has denied almost 32 crore students of an education. This is being referred to as a national crisis, with an increase in unemployment as a result.

In India, online teaching is not very popular. Most of the teachers were not well trained to teach and conduct assessments online. Because of lockdown, with no choice, teachers started to teach and conduct assessments from their homes. They faced challenges such as a lack of technical infrastructure, namely, a laptop, internet and microphones in their home to teach or conduct assessments online. Many universities are still using the open-source platform for online teaching which raises questions on the assessment of quality and confidentiality.

It is pertinent that online teaching cannot be successful without the involvement of teachers, as they are the frontline workers of any educational institution.

The problem of gender discrimination has also been seen along with the decline in the level of education in 2020 and 21. Even today, in the Indian context, a difference is made between providing mobile and internet facilities to boys and girls. Its effect is being seen on the percentage of girls in education. At the same time, about 70% of the people in economically weaker families believed that due to the epidemic, employment and business are in danger and there is no money to eat. In such a situation, bypassing the education of girls was seen on a large scale. Of this, 37% of girls are likely to never return to school. Apart from all these things, a generation has been locked in the house for the last one year. This is having a negative effect on the mind and body of the students. It cannot be denied that online education is not an option for all children.

However at present there is no option for this. But in the coming times when the situation becomes normal then it will be challenging to work on the quality of education. Because more than 1 year has passed and there has been a lot of change in the routine of the students in the field of education. It will take time to get the train back on track again.