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COVID 19- A CATASTROPHE TO EDUCATION!

P. G. Chavan

ShriShivaji Law College, Parbhani

ABSTRACT

Corona Virus came as surprise to everyone causing catastrophe all around. COVID-19 virus, which has locked down all economic activity in the world. Schools Colleges and Universities had no option but to switch over to online teaching to continue academic programs in an effort to minimize the suffering of the students. The sudden change in the mode of teaching- learning process caught both the students and the faculty members in dilemma. Education is basic need of the society & it is fundamental right of citizen. Higher education is very important sector for growth and development of human resource which can take responsibility for social, economic and scientific development of the country. We should redesign our education system in such a way that it caters to the needs, requirements and purposes of present-day situation. It must face the challenges of present-day individual and present-day society.

Key word: -- Covid-19, Education, and Challenges.

Introduction

Corona Virus came as surprise to everyone causing catastrophe all around. The education system was in dismay amongst other like economy, employment, poverty & other sectors. School, Colleges, & Universities closures impact was not only on the students, teachers, and families, but have far-reaching economic and societal consequence.COVID-19 virus, which has locked down all economic activity in the world. Schools Colleges and Universities had no option but to switch over to online teaching to continue academic programs in an effort to minimize the suffering of the students. The sudden change in the mode of teaching- learning process caught both the students and the faculty members in dilemma.

The working-class people also took a hit, if they come under the essential workers like health care they had to stay away from their kids, not able to inculcate ideas of home schooling or any other way of education.

As we know that India is one of the largest Higher education systems in the world. Education is basic need of the society. It is fundamental right of citizen and it is duty of the State to provide education. Higher education plays a pivotal role in nation building and it is one of the most powerful means to create knowledge-based education society. Education in India is seen as one of the ways to upward social mobility, good. Indian education system has been deeply strengthened and has been able to empower and transform the lives of its people. India has achieved remarkable growth in almost all areas related to development and this is true in the case of education. Higher education is very important sector for growth and development of human resource which can take responsibility for social economic and scientific development of the Country. But we have to change with situation & see that our education system should not collapsed with this unpredictable situation. We have experience in the history that this kind of situation do come after every 100 year& still we cope- up with it.The education material was improved as teachers sort out new & innovative ways to actively teach students. This is the silver lining in the black cloud surrounding us.

We all are unclear about the post-pandemic world. We don't know when this picture is going to clear about the Coronavirus & for how many days it is going to stay with us. So, we have to learn to live with it. According to UNICEF monitoring, . 134 countries are currently implementing nationwide closures and 38 are implementing local closures, impacting about 98.5 percent of the world's student population. 39 countries' schools are currently open. A UNESCO report has said that 157 crore students worldwide accounting a large majority of students in India of 32 crore have been affected in this pandemic.[1]

The trepidation of infection engendered over the past few months might additionally not peregrinate away even if the vaccine is going to discovered in the future. At the same time the students cannot afford to lose valuable time in

[1]Wikipedia, the free encyclopaedia (2020)https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Impact_of_the_COVID-19_pandemic_on_education

learning the skills that build their careers and the universities have to disclose out plans to avail them to consummate their degree programs. The education sector has taken the hit in various areas but is trying to find a way out, thanks to the ever-evolving technology of ours.

Challenges

REDESIGN OF CURRICULUM WITH TECHNOLOGEY:- This pandemic has really made us think about our traditional way of teaching & learning. The implementation of technology is new to many universities & everyone here has the learning curve. Many universities and colleges have opted for the online classes, but does everyone have the resources to attend those? Does everyone have the ability to handle the new technology? The sudden shift to online learning without any planning -- especially in countries like India where the backbone for online learning was not ready and the curriculum was not designed for such a format this has created the risk. The online sessions are not so effective as classroom teaching and there is lack of discipline, most of our students are passive learners.and they seem to be losing interest due to low levels of attention span.[2] But it is duty of teacher to make passive learning environment to active- learning environment. Covid-19 has given us opportunity to collect and grab resources for students benefit as we have to handle this situation in positive manner.

We should redesign our education system in such a way that it caters to the needs, requirements and purposes of present-day situation. It must face the challenges of present-day individual and present-day society. It must be associated with life, needs and aspiration of today, but not yesterday. Role of education has increased thousand times in the context of empowerment of individuals and the society. Man is making constant efforts in order to make education intervene in all spheres of development. Man wants to use education as one of the best means for human resource development. Man strives for transforming the present society to a space society through education and beneficial for all the parties concerned. Present problem is to cope up with situation. Immediate measures are essential to ensure continuity of learning in schools, Colleges, and universities. Education must go on; change can't happen without changed situation you don't have any option than to change. It is said that "To change with change is no change"

TEACHER AND TECHNOLOGY:- The teachers of most of the universities gathered experience and gained expertise in delivering lectures in regular classrooms than virtual classroom. All teachers are not perfect in online teaching. This will require all teachers to become more technology savvy and go through some training to bring themselves to the level that would be required. Teaching is not passion but it required technique. We have to solve problems of teacher not only from University level but till grass root level. It is said that child is like wax tablet or mud & teachers are their sculptors. If trainer is not perfect than how we expect from trainee. Though the teacher is well qualified with documents as required in qualification but is that teacher technically sound. It would be interesting to review how the teachers are performing with this new technology while delivering lectures in a virtual class rooms. What are the advantages and what are the disadvantage? Are the teachers able to update their knowledge base on technology? Are they able to cover the same amount of syllabus content as they did in usual class room? Are they able to complete the syllabus in time? Are all the students participating in the virtual classroom? How will the online education impact the career of the teachers? Do the teachers feel more motivated in conducting classes on a digital platform? Challenges involved for teachers are regarding teaching tools, student's involvement, interpersonal relationship. This is right to say that must be local to vocal. Before implementing online teaching methodology has anybody done survey regarding problems of teacher &

[2]India Today(2020-05-12)Covid-19: 4 negative impacts and 4 opportunities created for education https://www.indiatoday.in/education-today/featurephilia/story/covid-19-4-negative-impacts-and-4-opportunities-created-for-education-1677206-

students. Have they trained the teacher for this new technology?

It will be worthwhile collecting such information through a survey before forming an opinion on the efficacy of online education.

Added to this is that we may be leaving a large proportion of the student population untouched due to the digital world which divide the part of many developing nations including India. The effect is different in different places. The developed countries have issues like student filing legal suits regarding the payment of their tuition fees. The developing countries rather have a larger issue, they have to see forth that all their teaching staff has gone thfough the method of online teaching. See forth that students have understood the process. Other downfall of these online teaching is that you cannot ensure the student involvement. There are areas where you cannot even have this online teaching approach, like the rural. There have been reports of teachers calling their students in such areas to check on their problems. But as such there is no perfect solution for the ones who do not have the electronic resources.

The transport was a problem. It is also now clear that major universities overseas (china, Australia, USA, UK) will also take hit on their finances.

ECONOMIC:--Online education involves the students, the teachers and the medium that connects them. A major problem for the economically weaker sections of the students and those from the villages in India is to access to virtual classrooms. Such students may not be able to afford expensive equipment and bandwidth to access and download the gigabytes of the video or pdf materials from their small phones and then try to understand those by themselves without someone's help. Even they are not acquainted with these devices. Connectivity also depends on locality where the residence of the students is situated. Moreover, the residence of such students may not be able to provide an ambience to attend virtual classes without distractions.[3]Problem is not only of internet connectivity but also about electricity. How can they charge their devices? Major problem in rural areas is of electricity. Today there was news from newspaper one student committed suicide because he demands tablet to take school lesson and parents were not able to purchase tablet due to their economic condition. We know life is precious than all these things. While suggesting online education as an alternative, we cannot overlook the problems of the economically weaker section of the society.

DROPOUT: -The world is also at major risk of having large college dropouts in these stressed situations. There are many people now even questioning the worth of having a college degree. Universities and colleges worldwide are facing a major risk in the area of student recruitment and retention. The risk of losing students is so high that they will need to re-look at their admission criteria and the overall recruitment process itself.which will include, new methods of outreach and application process itself.

As we know that Indian higher education system is the third largest in the world, next to the United States and China.[4]

The switch to online education has been ensuring that students should not suffer loss in studies and their progress is being tracked simultaneously with timely evaluation.[5]These institutions are not required only to impart knowledge but also motivate the students to develop necessary soft skills to apply the

[3]MadhusudanChakraborty and AvijitGangopadhyayJune 15-21-2020HigherEducation–TheWayForwardwithCOVID-19 University News.Vol.58 No. 24. Delhi.

[4]World Bank Report, India Country Summary of Higher Education. Retrieved from htpp://siteresource. World bank, org/EDUCATION/278200-1121703274255/1439264-119324916302/ India Country Summary. Pdf.

[5]Dr. DNS Kumar, Vice-Chancellor, Ansal University (20-4-2020) Impact of COVID-19 on Higher Education https://www.highereducationdigest.com/impact-of-covid-19-on-higher-education/

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knowledge in the emerging disciplines and domains for life. Moreover, it is the important source of employment, income and standard of living. Knowledge is power it is acquired through education, which is the most important and powerful weapon in the hand of people to shape and mould himself for personal as well as social life, it prepares the man so everyone has to give importance to higher education. Education has become one of the basic needs of human life. In the developing society, the importance of education has assumed a great significance.

The educational reform in India in the COVID-19 era seems to be a live example of how need truly is the mother of invention or reinvention, in this scenario. Allowing educational institutions to adopt online learning and infuse a virtual study culture, the pandemic is already steering the sector forward with technological innovation and advancements.[6]

Somehow the decisions made by some universities is also at question, In India many primary school learners and college students were promoted to their next class, just like that no assessment or not even caring to complete the semester. Entrance exams got cancelled. Coming to the issue of exams & assessment, many universities have been figuring out on smooth conduction of online exams. If these exams are not conducted then the students will only be learning passively.

The timeline of everything is also affected in the pandemic, the graduated student took a major blow because they couldn't be employed. All the exams were postponed causing disrupter in every planning, admission process, semester tenure and almost everything. Government and education provider have to think' over this situation and want to say look before you leap; think before you speak; plan before you act. These simple instructions can save you an enormous amount of time and help you get much better results.[7]

Conclusion

To conclude everything is ambiguous, everything is yet to figured out. We need to learn from these situation's& inculcate new ways to fight this off.COVID-19 is not the first crisis to destroy the world, and it certainly would not be the last. But history is our witness, every 100 year this kind of crises pops up and remains with us for few days, and then things became normal. But we know that we will come out stronger every single time. There are doctors, paramedics, sanitation workers, police & other government officers who have devoted their life at this COVID-19 pandemic. Let us all salute the Corona warriors. Definitely there will be positive outputs from it. But on the other hand, there are much more big problems yet to be discovered and yet to be solved. As I already said that every cloud has silver line so think positive.

[6]Dr. DNS Kumar, Vice-Chancellor, Ansal University (20-4-2020) Impact of COVID-19 on Higher Education https://www.highereducationdigest.com/impact-of-covid-19-on-higher-education/

[7]Robert W. Bly—JaicoTime Management make every Second Count. JaicoPublishing House.