IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON EDUCATION SECTOR-A STUDY ON PROBLEMS FACED BY THE COLLEGE STUDENTS FROM ONLINE LEARNING WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO DAKSHINA KANNADA DISTRICT OF KARNATALKA

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ABSTRACT

COVID-19 is affecting almost every sector of the economy and the education sector is no exception. Schools, colleges, universities and institutes of all levels have deferred or dropped examinations and the fate of students is hanging in a critical state. According to a report of the Ministry of Human Resource Development, there are 993 universities, 39931 Colleges and 10725 standalone institutions listed on their portal, which contribute to education. These institutions further reflect the student density of India, as the total enrolments in higher education every year are nearly 37.4 million, reflecting the expanding horizons of the education sector. The interference in the education system due to the COVID-19 is a reminder that there is a need for transformation. Now we are observing that in future there will be shift from thinking digital to being digital. Even though the country has been adapting to the new age learning, but there still lies an obstacle in making the endeavors entirely successful. What remains intact is that only 45 crore people of our total population of the country have access to the internet and thus to online learning. The people residing in rural areas are still very much deprived of the latest advancements and therefore hampering the cause of online learning. In this context, the study was undertaken to know the problems faced by the college students from the online learning. A sample size of 120 students studying in Dakshina Kannada District of Karnataka was selected by following convenient sampling method with a hypothesis that there is an association between place of residence and problems faced by the college students from online learning. The study aimed at to bring out some policy measure for problem free online learning

Keywords: Transformation, Online learning, Coronavirus, Internet

Introduction

Our health and wealth are highly influenced by various emerging viral diseases. The viral outbreaks like Crimean Congo haemorrhagic fever, Ebola, Lassa fever, Marburg virus, SARS- CoV, MERS-CoV, Nipah, Zika virus, Rift Valley fever virus and COVID-19 are some evidence ofour disaster. Some of these outbreaks are highly influenced global life and WHO declared them as a public health emergency of international concern. Just recently, in December 2019, a novel coronavirus (2019- nCoV), now COVID-19 has emerged in Wuhan, China and spread its wing over the whole globe. A large segment of the world population are affecting by it. Therefore, the WHO declared the COVID-19 as pandemics on 30[th]January 2020. Adaptations to human infection, easy way of transmission, and absence of immunity make the COVID-19 highly contagious in nature. Modern transport systems converted the world into a global village and made a way for the quick spreading of any contagious agents like COVID-19 viruses. As per the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare's data, released on 14th June 2020, highest single-day spike of 11,929 new COVID-19 cases and 311 deaths has been reported in the 24 hours. The total number of cases in the country now stood at 3,20,922 including 1,49,348 active cases, 1,62,379 cured/discharged/migrated. The death toll has reached 9,195.Maharashtra, Delhi, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat continue to be among the worst hit states. In Maharashtra alone, the total number of cases is now over one lakh. Corona virus has affected almost all the sectors of the economy. While the corona virus has badly affected education sector. It is widely agreed that radical changes in the education sector are needed until the corona virus is eradicated.

Literature Survey

Previous studies made on COVID-19 highlighted below:

Samander Kaushik, Sulochana Kaushik, Yashika Sharma, Ramesh Kumar, Jaya Parkash Yadav(2020)in their article on "The Indian perspective of COVID-19 outbreak" reviewed the general continent, virology, pathogenesis, global epidemiology, clinical presentation, diagnosis, treatment and control of COVID-19 with the reference to India.**Vikram R. Jadhav, Tushar D. Bagul, Sagar R. Aswale(2020)** in their article on " COVID-19 Era: Students' Role to Look at Problems in Education System during Lockdown Issues in Maharashtra, India" highlighted the impact of lockdown on schools and colleges in Maharashtra, students opinion on online education during the lockdown period and its consequences.**Amit Kumar Arora , R. Srinivasan(2020)** in their article on "Impact of Pandemic COVID-19 on the Teaching – Learning Process: A Study of Higher Education Teachers" mentioned changes brought about by COVID-19 on teaching and learning process in higher education sector

Statement of Research Problem

All of us know it very well that COVID-19 has severe impact on education sector all over the world. By throwing light on literature survey, it is clear that no previous study was done on problems faced by the college students from online learning. To fill up this research gap, present study titled **"Impact of COVID-19 on Education Sector-A Study on Problems faced by the College Students from Online Learning with Special Reference to Dakshina Kannada District of Karnatalka"** is undertaken.

Objectives of the Study

The present study was based on the following objectives:

- To know the transformation in education sector due to COVID-19
- To analyze the concept of online learning
- To study the problems faced by the college students from online learning.
- To offer some suggestions to the problems

Research Hypothesis

In the light of above objectives following research hypothesis was developed:

H_0:There is no association between place of residence and problems faced by the college students from online learning

H_1:There is an association between place of residence and problems faced by the college students from online learning

Research Methodology

The present study was based on both primary data and secondary data. The primary data was collected from the sample of 120 college students of Dakshina Kannada District of Karnataka. The sample size was collected by following convenient sampling method. Questionnaire in Google Form was prepared to collect data from the respondents. Likert's five-point scale and percentage analysis were used to analyze the data.Chi square test was applied to test the hypothesis. Secondary data was collected from the reports, journals and websites.

Covid-19-Transformation In Education Sector

Covid-19 has changed the entire scene of education sector all over the world. There is a lot of confusion in the education system of India and students are unable to follow their regular academic routines. Against the backdrop of this emergency and considering the safety of students and their educational issues, most of the institutions have taken initiative to facilitate telecommunication, Skype call, Zoom application and other virtual options to reduce the distance in education. In India, some private colleges could adopt online teaching methods. Low-income private and government colleges may not be able to adopt online teaching methods. As a result, there will be completely shut down due to no access to online learning solutions.Again, Higher education sectors are also disrupted which again pave an impact on the country's economic future. Various students from India took admissions in abroad like US, UK, Australia, China etc. And these countries are badly affected due to COVID-19. Maybe there is a possibility that students will not take

admissions there in future and if the situation persists, in the long run then there will be a decline in the demand for international higher education also. Another major concern is employment. Students those have completed their graduation may have fear in their minds of withdrawal of job offers from the corporate sector due to the current situation. The Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy's estimates unemployment rate from 8.4% in mid-March to 23% in early April and the urban unemployment rate is 30.9%.

Concept of Online Learning

Online teaching or online learning or eLearning or electronic learning is the learning through electronic devices such as computers, tablets and even smart phones that are connected to the internet. It aims at digital transformation in the classroom with help of the internet. It provides an opportunity of distance education to the remote students by means of web-based online learning programs as well as the teachers with innovative teaching tools to teach virtually from anywhere at any time, irrespective of the geographical area. Elliott Maisie coined the term "eLearning" in 1999, marking the first time the phrase was used professionally. In the years since, eLearning's reputation has gone from strength to strength

Advantages of Online Teaching

Online learning provides following benefits:

- Students can learn at their own time and phase
- Encourages long distance learning
- Enhances collaboration and communication
- Real-time teaching and learning
- Effective and efficient time management
- Gives students and teacher a worldwide exposure
- Access to everyone equally from anywhere and at anytime
- Affordable
- Introduces students and educators to education technology
- Encourages digital and smart classrooms
- Improves Visualization

Disadvantages of Online Teaching

Online learning has following limitations:

- No control over the students or classroom
- Virtual Classroom requires computers and internet access, which might not be at hand to everyone
- Enrolling into online live class or courses can be costly
- Students lack real-time teaching experience
- Affects the traditional student-teacher collaboration
- Problem of security of online learning programs.
- Gives a way for health issue

Findings And Discussion

To study the problems faced by the college students from online learning a sample of 120 students residing in Dakshinakannada district were selected.Questionnaire in google form was prepared to collect data from the respondents. Data collected from the respondents were analysed as follows..

Table 1 shows educational profile of respondents:

Educational profile of the respondents given in the Table 1 shows that out 120 respondents surveyed 17% were PU students, 33% were Degree students, 25% were Engineering students, 8% were Diploma students and remaining 17% were Post graduates.

Table2 showsgender of respondents

Gender classification of respondents given in the Table 2 shows that 53% of the respondents were male and remaining 47% were female.

Table 3 showsarea of residence of respondents

Area of residence of respondents given in Table 3 shows that 29% of the respondents resided in rural areas, 43% of the respondents resided in semi urban areas and remaining 28% resided in urban areas

Table 4 shows Apps used for online learning

Table 4 gives information about apps used by the respondents for online class. 28% of the respondents were using ZOOM App, 21% were using Moodle, 18% were using Google classroom, 10% were using others including social media particularly WhatsApp, 8% were respectively using Google Meet and AZ Recorder and remaining 7% were using Skype.

Table 5 shows problems faced by the respondents from online learning

12 different types of problems faced by the respondents from online learning were selected and the respondents were asked to rate them on Likert's Five Point scale as 'very high', 'high', 'average', 'low' and 'very low'. The response gathered was analysed and mean scoring was calculated and then ranking was done. It was found that 'Network problem'(4.68) was the major problem followed by 'No personal touch'(4.61), 'Health problems like head ache, eye problem, dozing etc'(4.55), 'Lack of concentration'(4.41), 'No effective doubt clarification'(4.28) , 'Power supply problem'(4.03), 'Not having own personal PC, Laptop, Smart phone etc'(3.85), 'Financial problem'(3.84) , 'May lead to addiction to mobile'(3.80), 'Operating problem'(3.22),'Thundering and lightening'(2.95) and 'Lack of family support'(2.46) in the order of importance.

Table 6 shows the result of Chi Square Test

Chi Square Test was used to test the association between place of residence and problems faced by the college students from online learning. It was found that calculated Chi Square value (64.71) was more than the Table value at 5% level of significance (For v=8; Chi Square Table Value at 5% level of significance is =15.507) thus rejecting the null hypothesis and accepting the alternate hypothesis and proving that there is an association between place of residence and problems faced by the college students from online learning

Suggestions

In the light of the problems faced by the college students from online teaching following suggestions are given:

- Government as well as private telecom operators and broad band service providers should move towards high speed data networks and offer facilities to students like additional data, free internet, subsidised package etc.

- Software such as video chat platforms and even VR applications can be used to create personal touch and clarify the doubts. Again small assignments, discussion on course materials, clearing points of confusion may be emphasised.

- To reduce health issues teachers should set class schedule, work with students to set milestones and help them to design a routine to meet those goals. Again, teacher should listen to the students about their obstacles that hinder their ability to study.

- Toenhance concentration,courseshould have coherent structure,well organized materials blended with challenges and adventures, videos, storytelling, gamified solutions and simulators

- Students as well as parents should be given chance to communicate their problems with teachers through e-mail, discussion groups, chat room office hours, cell phones, and even text messaging.

- To avoid the technical issues simple and comprehensive help page can be adopted with due care to sound system and try out on several smart phones, browser and operating systems

- Government or college should provide digital equipment freely to the students who cannot afford it

- Students need to accept the new learning circumstances with positive attitude and open mind and heart to avoid the stress and better prepare themselves for classes

- Students need to set small goals for themselves throughout the day and give themselves rewards for completing certain tasks

- Students should develop strong self-discipline, culture of independence,

internal motivation, responsibility, a certain level of maturity and time management skills.

- Students should see that the learning environment is conducive. Lighting in the room should be at least as bright as the computer screen to avoid eyestrain and seating arrangement should be comfortable

- Uninstall any computer games to avoid temptation

Conclusion

Teaching and learning in an online learning environment happens differently than in the traditional classroom and can present new challenges to both teachers and students. If the suggestions given above are taken care of as policy measures and if the students adapt themselves to the online learning environment with positive mind set, then the digital transformation will see successful endeavours in future.

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Appendix

Table 1: Educational profile of respondents

Educational Profile	No. of respondents	Percentage of respondents
PU Students	20	17
Degree Students	40	33
Engineering Students	30	25
Diploma Students	10	8
Post-Graduation Students	20	17
Total	120	100

Source :Survey Data

Table2: Gender of Respondents

Gender	No. of respondents	Percentage of respondents
Male	64	53
Female	56	47
Total	120	100

Source :Survey Data

Table3: Area of residence of Respondents

Area	No.of respondents	Percentage of respondents
Rural	35	29
Semi Urban	52	43
Urban	33	28
Total	120	100

Source :Survey Data

Table 4:Apps used for online class

Apps	No. of respondents	Percentage of respondents
ZOOM	34	28
Google Meet	10	8
Google Classroom	22	18
Moodle	25	21
Skype	8	7
AZ Recorder	9	8
Others including social media	12	10
Total	120	100

Source :Survey Data

Table 5: Problems faced by the respondents from online learning

Sr. No	Problems	Very High	High	Average	Low	Very low	Total	Mean scoring	Rank
1.	Not having own personal PC,Laptop,Smart phone etc	50	20	36	10	4	120	3.85	7
2.	Network problem	90	25	2	2	1	120	4.68	1
3.	Power supply problem	55	23	35	5	2	120	4.03	6
4.	Health problems like head ache, eye problem, dozing etc	85	20	12	2	1	120	4.55	3
5.	No personal touch	87	24	5	3	1	120	4.61	2
6.	No effective doubt clarification	70	30	8	7	5	120	4.28	5
7.	Lack of concentration	75	28	10	5	2	120	4.41	4
8.	Thundering and lightening	35	8	25	20	32	120	2.95	11
9.	Lack of family support	15	10	30	25	40	120	2.46	12
10.	Financial problem	45	30	28	15	2	120	3.84	8
11.	Operating problem	25	23	41	15	16	120	3.22	10
12.	May lead to addiction to mobile	45	32	25	10	8	120	3.8	9

Source :Survey Data

Table 6: Chi Square Test showing association between place of residence and problems faced by the college students from online learning

Area	Problems faced by the college students from online learning						Chi Square Test Value
	Very High	High	Average	Low	Very low	No.of respondents	
Rural	29	6	-	-	-	35	
Semi Urban	6	11	15	20	-	52	
Urban	5	7	15	4	2	33	64.71
Total	40	24	30	24	2	120	

Source :Survey Data

$$\text{Chi Square Test Value} = \sum \frac{(O-E)^2}{E} = 64.71$$

Degree of Freedom v = (r-1)(c-1)

$$=(3-1)(5-1)$$

$$=8$$

For v=8; Chi Square Table Value at 5% level of significance is =15.507