

# COVID-19 and Its Impact on Education (Physical Learning and Teaching with 3R's)



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## ABSTRACT

When COVID-19 engulfed the entire world, no one would have guessed that it would change the lifestyle of people everywhere. However, with the COVID-19 impact, adopting a new normal was a significant change that included WFH, lifting loads of precautionary measures into our daily lives, and the closure of parks, offices and another central facility- school and other educational institutions! Yes, the government initially decided to close schools to reduce the spread of COVID-19 temporarily, but this increased the infection rate. The pandemic opened the doors to innovative ways of learning, and efforts were made to help all students with online learning methods. The adoption of modern digital technologies accelerated learning, and educational institutions encouraged teachers and students to work with webinars, virtual classrooms, digital assessments and exams for better learning from home. Although the outbreak of COVID-19 had many positive effects on the education sector, the negative impacts should not be ignored. Many students, who did not have the resources to attend online classes, faced much trouble and struggled to get gadgets to attend online classes. The academic activities got hampered due to too much confusion and delayed the exams and other sessions. Teachers who use books, chalk, blackboards and classroom methods for traditional teaching methods had to be trained to deal with the current teaching state.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

It has been more than a year since March 2020 that the first wave of Covid in India. Now from April 2021, the second wave has wreaked havoc. In the coming times, experts are discussing the third wave, which can significantly impact children. After the first wave, the life cycle in terms of business and economy was slowly coming back on track, and people also started moving freely. However, one primary sector which could not come back on track even after the first wave was the education sector.

Online education took the place of the classroom, but it could not take shape due to infrastructure and technical, economic, social and other reasons. Students of classes 1st to fifth have not gone to school since March 2020. In 2020, first-year and second-year students of colleges and universities mainly were promoted without exams. School students were also promoted mainly without exams. This year, the board examination has been cancelled, and there is doubt about the college examination in higher education. In this incident, students,

parents, and teachers are confused regarding the future.

In the second wave, school teaching has been shifted to online teaching keeping in mind the health security of children due to the closure of schools and colleges. However, the challenging reality of online teaching can be assessed based on these facts.

## 2. EFFECTS ON EDUCATION

Digital platforms have been made possible through online learning, government portals, direct-to-home (DTH) channels and other means. However, distance learning is a challenge for many students in India. They have considerable disparity in access to electricity, devices such as computers and smartphones, and basic digital infrastructure, including internet connectivity. About 99.9 per cent of households in India have electricity connections, but the quality and power supply are inferior, especially in rural areas. Only 47 per cent of rural households get electricity for more than 12 hours. (Kundu, 2020a). While 24 per cent of Indians have a Smartphone, only 11 per cent of households have a computer, and only 24 per cent of Indian households have internet access (MOSPI, 2019). Unfortunately, only 8 per cent of the family group with children aged 5-24 years have both computer and Internet connections available (Kundu, 2020a).

Furthermore, there is also a huge gap between rural and urban India that only 4.4 per cent of rural India households have a computer, compared to 23.4 per cent in urban India; Only 15 per cent of rural Indian households have access to an internet facility, compared to 42 per cent of urban Indian households (MOSPI, 2019). Further, as per the IMRB report, data expenditure to sound expenditure has increased for most users in the last four years. Between 2013 and 2017, the ratio of data: compared to proper expenditure has risen from 45:55 to 84:16 (IMRB, 2017). Regular online classes have a cost impact as students have to bear the cost of the Internet.

Education delivery has always been a problem in India. This problem is further aggravated due to a lack of connectivity. Despite internet penetration being close to 50%, students aged 5 to 25 only get 15% access. With more institutions offering online courses and many resources emerging to improve the online model and make it a viable alternative to the traditional classroom, change is likely.

Education has been one of the most significant casualties of the current COVID-19 pandemic. The UNICEF-ITU report indicates that it was the most significant mass disruption in education in modern history and has affected 1.6 billion children globally. Across the world, policymakers have called for a move to distance learning to tackle the crisis. However, this has given rise to an unbalanced scenario given the lack of Internet for many.

## 3. TEACHING WITH 3R

COVID-19 has caused irreparable damage to the lives of children in decades of progress in school education and the prevention of child marriage and child labour. It has also brought to mind the short gap between the rich and the underprivileged. With laptops, iPods, tablets, smartphones and educated parents, the rich have access to decent online education in 2020. Nothing was found without electronic assistance. We run free schools for impoverished children. We gave them textbooks and notebooks and asked them to follow the (education) TV of the government. Unfortunately, without educated parents, children could not follow through and dropped out, thereby re-establishing the importance of the teacher.

Online education cannot replace school or teachers. Children learn more than the 3R's (Relationship; Repetition & Routines) in school. They learn to socialize, play sports, celebrate national days and festivals together, and make friends, an essential part of their emotional life.

Online education is not a permanent option. For one thing, it is expensive, requiring

investment in high-priced laptops, Wi-Fi and e-platforms, smartphones for filming each teacher, and scanners to scan pages for projection. All this, along with the monthly salary of teachers, makes it costly. Sitting at home with a laptop is not conducive to effective teaching. It prevents sports and other physical activities, which are essential for the well being of the child. Inadequate exposure to sunlight leads to vitamin D deficiency. Indiscipline, addiction to online games and loss of interest in studies are other problems. Lack of access and unfamiliarity with electronic devices and lack of educated home supervision in the absence of teachers means socio-economically disadvantaged people are far behind. How do you assess elementary school children who can hardly write while older children copy from textbooks to collect correct answer sheets? All this and worse happened in 2020.

The year 2020 was disastrous as all schools remained closed. Unfortunately, we cannot allow this to repeat in 2021. So here are some ideas on how to avoid another bad year for your kids.

#### 4. OVERVIEW

Firstly, every teacher, parent and non-teaching school staff should be compulsorily vaccinated. If necessary, classes should be divided into no more than 20 children per class (assuming the average class count is 40). To avoid physical contact, physical education can be limited to non-contact sports such as badminton, table tennis and stand-alone physical exercise. Finally, there is a need to create awareness about online teaching among parents; in online teaching, the school is an essential link between the students and the parent. Parents need to understand that distance learning has not only provided methods of teaching and differentiated assessment but has also encouraged self-learning.

Finally, we should develop a COVID vaccine for children from toddlers to 18 years old.

Not everyone believes that online education is a similar alternative to traditional education, but a hybrid model may gain traction in the future. The blended learning model redefines the traditional education paradigm and positively influences the four fundamental equations in the process – teacher-student, students; Parent-student and parent-teacher. All four equations are reproducible when a new associative model is developed.

#### 5. CONCLUSION & SUGGESTIONS

Challenges are unfolding as we navigate the post-COVID 19 scenes. The transition period will have to be managed through a combination of digital and physical approaches to teaching and learning. This blended pedagogy, called physique, is going to be the way of the future. Similarly, in Rajasthan, physical, educational programs like "Aao Ghar Se Learn, Shiksha Darshan, Shiksha Vani" are being organized in government schools. Institutions should adopt this as it allows flexible teaching and learning in the new world we enter.

Schools can redesign their architecture to reflect this new reality, and academics can modify curricula and assessments to factor into the changing learning environment. Technology is reshaping our collective ambition to improve universal quality education and learning outcomes. Access to technology and the Internet is an urgent necessity and no longer a luxury.

In today's time, until the situation becomes normal, the physical medium is presented logically in connection with the student's education, teacher and school, in which all those students can be brought back into the stream of education and learning by mixing digital and physical. Furthermore, the physical medium also substantiates the 3R's concept of child psychology which includes relation; Repetition and routine can be conceptualized. Also, it can prove to be a valuable tool in learning in elementary education to pre-primary students.

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