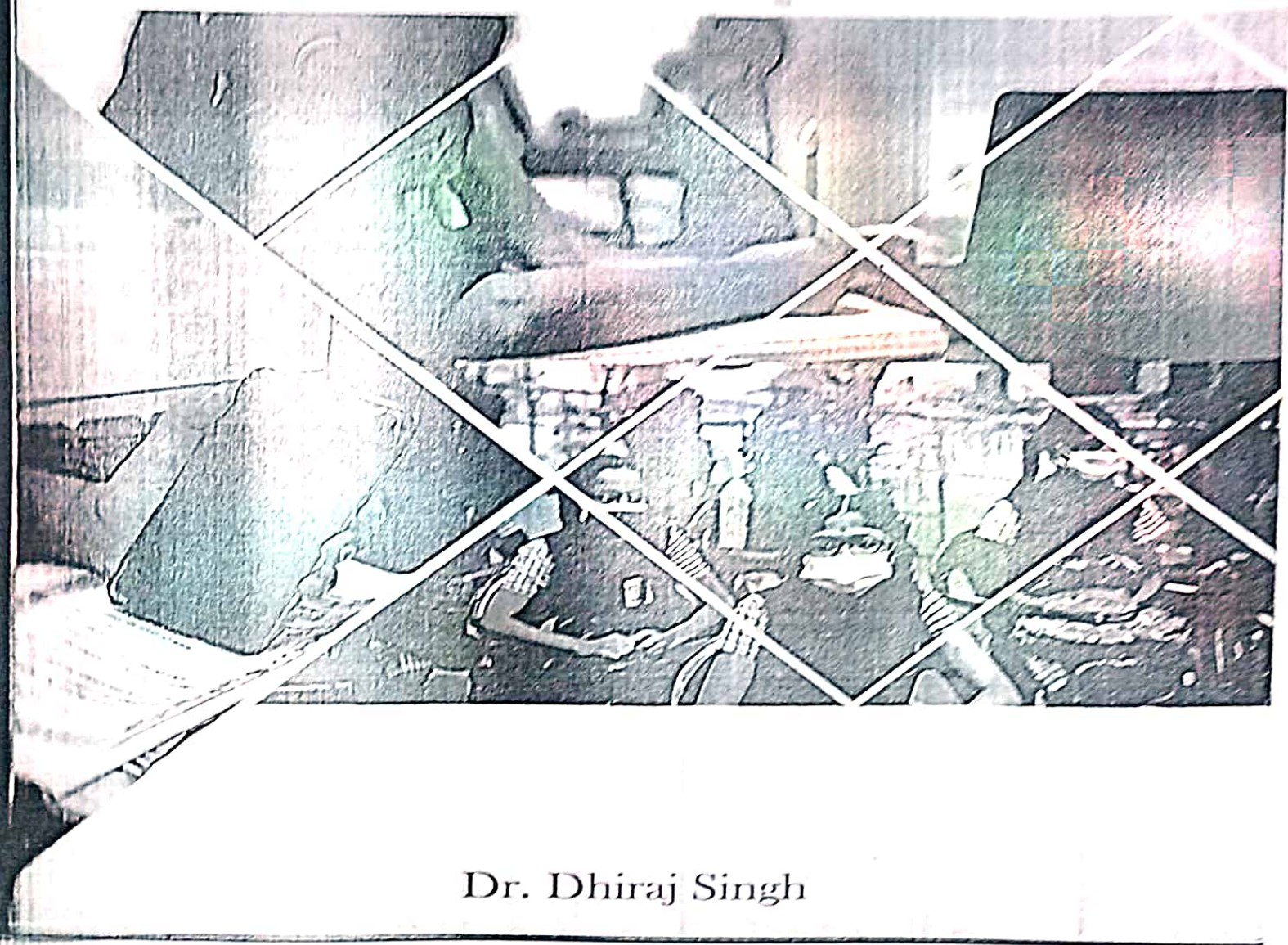


# COVID-19 AND INDIAN EDUCATION SYSTEM

Challenges and Opportunities



Dr. Dhiraj Singh

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## Challenges and Problems Faced in Educational Institutions During Pandemic

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*Dr. C. Umamaheswari, R. Karthiga Rani*

### Abstract

We are living in a panic stricken world with the novel corona virus becoming a pandemic. Education is the process of gaining knowledge .It is very important to live in the society. Our education system has become a big burden. In this study analysis that the COVID-19 pandemic that has forced people into their homes and forced schools, colleges, and universities to take virtual classes blew up educational dreams with ample conditions: a computer or at least a smart phone, a proper Internet connection. This paper is based on the primary data. The primary data were collected from the students and the teachers of the educational institutions where the researchers are working, which are in Sivagangai district. Students and the teachers are selected on the basis of cluster sampling method. Nearly, 10% of the students have less network Coverage. Even though, students are not physically present in the class. 40% of the students get pressure from the school. 45 % of the respondents uttered that they lost the job during the COVID-19. Nearly, 43% of the students stressed that online teaching doesn't create any effect on them. This may be due to aspect of spending

much of their time in front of the computers and laptops. One of the biggest challenges we teachers are facing is how to keep students on board and also difficult to avoid their distractions from other social networking sites during the learning period.

**KEY WORDS:** Covid -19, Education, Network, App, Teaching, Learning, Health Problems.

### **Introduction**

This is the once in the life time event something we have faced before. The sector of the economy that are most vulnerable and destructively affected are going to be the health care and education. This is due to the fact we have built systems in such a way, which are not adoptable or restraint. We have followed the same system of education for 100 years and a sudden change in the structures is quite difficult. There has been controversy thought about the mode of education that they are going to offer in schools and in colleges. Moreover it should in a more flexible and adoptable way.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, state governments across the country temporarily closed schools, colleges, and universities. Based on the current situation, it is uncertain when schools, colleges, and universities will be reopened. Undoubtedly, this is a critical time for the education sector, as several university entrance exams and competitive examinations are held during this period. The digital device has so far extended across India, further separating the wealthy from the underprivileged section, with millions of children are struggling to meet the challenges of online classrooms.

The COVID-19 pandemic that has forced people in their homes and has made schools, colleges, and universities to take virtual classes which blew up educational dreams with ample conditions: a computer or at least a smart phone, a proper Internet connection, and an uninterrupted power supply. The field of education, which never reached the real level, is now potholed, vibrant, and bumpy-lumpy as students, and their teachers, in villages, cities, and towns struggle to cope with the demands of the times.



## Objectives

Some of the objectives related to the study are

1. To know the App which was installed by the institution, in Sivagangai District.
2. To analyse the challenges faced by the institutions in carrying out in the online classes.
3. To examine the difficulties faced by the students during the pandemic period.

## Methodology

This paper is based on the primary data. The primary data were collected from the students and the teachers of the educational institutions where the researchers are working, which are in Sivagangai district. Students and the teachers are selected on the basis of cluster sampling method.

## Result and Discussion

**Table : 1 In What Way Covid-19 Pandemic Affected Your Studies? (For Students)**

S.No	Particulars	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	No special coaching	10	10
2	Lockdown affects education	30	30
3	Extra activities have stopped	10	10
4	Low network coverage	10	10
5	Fees Pressure	40	40
	Total	100	100

Source: Primary Data

Covid-19 has certainly, no doubt affected the educational process of the students all over the world. These are several factors which affect education during Covid-19 in our locality. 10% of the students was affected by the way of getting themselves in extra classes. This was due to the fact that they do not have Android phone. 30% of the student was affected during to the lockdown though they get material through online, they are not having direct

contact with the teachers, moreover they are not getting clear idea in the subject. 10 % of the students expressed that they do not involve in the extra curricular activities which they could have take part in the school as a part of curriculum. Though the students are interested in involving in online classes, nearly 10% of the students have less network Coverage. Even though, students are not physically present in the class. 40% of the students get pressure from the school to pay the term fees.

**TABLE : 2 Do you believe Covid-19 will affect the Education?**

S. No.	Particulars	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	YES	85	85
2.	NO	15	15
Total		100	100

Source: Primary Data

Nearly, 85% of the respondents believe that the prevalence of COVID-19 would affect the economy as a whole preferably the educational sector too. 15% of the respondents believe that online education would substitute the class room education to some extent.

**TABLE : 3 Has COVID-19 affected your members in the educational institutions?**

S.No.	Particulars	No of Respondents	Percentage
1	financial wise	35	35
2.	health problems	20	20
	others	45	45
Total		100	100

Source: Primary Data

COVID-19 in one or other way affected the members of the College, students and staffs in the educational institutions. 100% of the respondents answered that the covid 19 have affected them in the form of loss of finance, health problems and increase in unemployment. 35% of the respondents said that they are affected

financially. 20 % of the respondents said that they have severe health problems which are due to the loss of finance. 45 % of the respondents uttered that they lost the job during the COVID-19.

**TABLE: 4 How has covid-19 affected teaching and learning process for teachers?**

S. No.	Particulars	No of Respondents	Percentage
1	it is not affected	08	08
2.	class room teaching	72	72
3.	online teaching and learning	10	10
4.	teaching has to be cancelled	10	10
Total		100	100

Source: Primary Data

About 8% of the teachers said that teaching process had not been affected, even though there is no interaction between students and teachers. There are various educational channels such as vedhanthu and byjus to substitute class room teaching. 72 % of the students said that the teaching was affected without class room interaction. 10% said that online teaching and learning from their institutions can substitute to a certain extent. Nearly, 10% of the respondents stressed that teaching has to be cancelled.

**TABLE : 5 Has there been any impact of covid-19 in the student on teaching ?**

S. No.	Particulars	No of Respondents	Percentage
1	YES	57	57
2.	NO	43	43
Total		100	100

Source: Primary Data

Nearly, 57 % of the students said that online teaching has created impact among them. They also uttered that online teaching



could satisfy the needs of the students. Nearly, 43% of the students stressed that online teaching doesn't create any effect on them.

**TABLE : 6** Do you expect to be able to carry out exams as planned for this semester for 2nd and 3rd year students?\*

S.No.	Particulars	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1.	yes, as usual	45	45
2.	no, exams can be holded	21	21
3.	no majority of exams are at risk of being postponed	13	13
4.	don't know	21	21
Total		100	100

Source: Primary Data

Nearly 45 % of the students expressed that the exams can be carried out as planned for IInd and IIIrd year students, since most of the educational institutions are carrying out their learning and teaching process in online. 21% of the respondents expressed that the exams can be holded since the students have no clarity on the online teaching and exam. As a result of which the majority of the exam are at the risk of being postponed. 21% of the respondents said that they doesn't know, what would the impact or the effect of Covid-19 on the educational process since most of the countries are again under the pressure of Covid-19.

**TABLE : 7** What is the major challenge that your institutions has encountered in covid-19?

S.No.	Particulars	No of Respondents	Percentage
1	technical fault	40	40
2.	moving contact with students and teachers	30	30
3.	health problems	30	30
Total		100	100

Source: Primary Data

There are many challenges which are faced by the institutions. 40% of them expressed that they faced technical fault during these pandemic period. Even though they are willing to attend the classes, the technical fault does not allow them to do. 30% of them expressed that, it is difficult for them to have contact with the students and the teachers. This is due to the hanging of data as a result of over transfer of data. 30% expressed that they faced health problems such as back pain and diseases related to eye. This may be due to aspect of spending much of their time in front of the computers and laptops.

**TABLE: 8 What is the major opportunity and changes that you believe will impact your institutions in future?**

S.No.	Particulars	No of Respondents	Percentage
1	installing a common modem	60	60
2.	to have clear knowledge about the student app	40	40
	total	100	100

Source: Primary Data

The changes that the educational institutions should make are installing a common Modem and making the student to have a clear knowledge about the student app. 60% expressed that installing a common modem by the institutions would enable them to get uninterrupted net coverage for them to work. 40% thought that it is necessary for the student to have a clear knowledge about Google classroom, google meet and zoom.



TABLE : 9 Name of the app which was used in teaching in your institutions?

S.No.	Particulars	No of Respondents	Percentage
1	Class Room	20	20
2.	Google Meet	40	40
3.	Zoom	40	40
Total		100	100

Source: Primary Data

It is essential for the student and the teacher to download the app which was used to have uninterrupted studies. In our institutions 20% of them expressed that classroom app suits them well. They can post the material as and when they find convenient time. 40% expressed that google meet suits them well, because when the Strength of the students are more than 100, google company does not specify any time limit to conduct the class. Moreover when the strength of the class is less than 100 they prefer to have zoom app nearly 40% prefer zoom app.

TABLE: 10. Whether the class is audible using the above app?

S.No.	Particulars	No of Respondents	Percentage
1	YES	70	70
2.	NO	30	30
Total		100	100

Source: Primary Data

About 70% of them expressed that they are more comfortable with the above app. Somehow it is possible for the students and teachers to have a interaction. 30% of them expressed that above app does not help them to provide a congenial or classroom environment.

**TABLE: 11. Whether the portions are completed with the help of the above app?**

S.No.	Particulars	No of Respondents	Percentage
1	YES	75	75
2.	NO	25	25
Total		100	100

Source: Primary Data

Nearly 75% of the students expressed that the portions of the subjects in the odd semester were completed regularly. 25% of the students expressed that they are not interested in attending the online class.

**TABLE: 12 Whether the online classes are comfortable in the present situation?**

S.No.	Particulars	No of Respondents	Percentage
1	YES	75	75
2.	NO	25	25
Total		100	100

Source: Primary Data

Since the pandemic situation is unavoidable as most of the countries are affected, 75% of the students and the teachers accepted that online classes are comfortable for them to have a regular contact with the students. 25% of the students expressed that they are residing in the several areas and it was difficult for them to get uninterrupted net connection.

**TABLE : 13 Whether the time limit is enough or not?**

S.No.	Particulars	No of Respondents	Percentage
1	YES	50	50
2.	NO	50	50
Total		100	100

Source: Primary Data



About 50% of the students expressed that the time limit is enough for them to have conversations. In the same way 50% of the students expressed that the time limit is not enough.

### **Challenges We Are Facing:**

1. One of the biggest challenges the teachers are facing is to keep students on board when teaching-learning is going on and it is also difficult for the students and teachers to avoid their distractions from other social networking sites during the learning period.
2. Turning teaching materials into digital format at short notice of time has been a greater challenge as few teachers have strong digital knowledge and ICT skills.
3. Both teachers and students are facing internet connectivity issues in the rural area.
4. Students are from different social background and not every student has access to buy a laptop or an internet connection. As this is a necessity aspect today parents are ready to get loan from the private individual or to switch on to equated monthly installment mode which further become a burden.
5. It is not possible for such students to attend the online classes continuously.

### **Conclusion:**

More students in rural areas suffer from network problem and financial problem. Currently, the main challenge is the negative impact of this pandemic on learning and education. Many teachers have not received their salaries in the lockdown so there is a possibility that teachers give less attention to children while teaching online. In this study concluded that, 50% of the students expressed that the time limit is enough for them to have conversations. In the same way 50% of the students expressed that the time limit is not enough. 35% of the respondents said that they are affected financially. 25% of the students expressed that they are residing in the several areas and it was difficult for them to get

uninterrupted net connection. Therefore, Governments need to take the necessary steps and measures to ensure that students,

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