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**Dr. Santosh Kumar Dwivedi**  
Principal, Jyotsana Education  
College, Sidhi, Madhya  
Pradesh, India

## Observation of the impact of COVID-19 on the Indian education system

**Dr. Santosh Kumar Dwivedi**

### Abstract

The Indian education system is immature in both urban and rural areas. Midday meal is a program organized to attract students to education. Under these circumstances, the national blockade imposed by the government on March 25, 2020 to fight COVID-19 has seriously impacted the education system. India has the second largest school system in the world after China. According to UNESCO, 63 million teachers have been affected in 165 countries. A total of 1.3 billion learners worldwide are unable to attend schools and universities, affecting approximately 320 million learners in India alone. This has moved the traditional education system to an education technology model where education and evaluation are done online. Both positive and negative impacts of COVID-19 on the Indian education system have been observed. This paper aims to analyze the impact of COVID-19 on the Indian education system, focusing on education during online lessons and evaluation of students taking online lessons from home in this pandemic.

**Keywords:** COVID-19, education, and impact, urban and rural

### Introduction

The Indian government has announced lockdown and closure of educational institutions as a sensible solution to enforce social distancing in communities. The nationwide lockdown has had a huge impact on the country's education system, especially for students in rural areas. Since the Indian education system is largely based on classroom learning, the current scenario has made it difficult to operate educational institutions.

All educational activities such as exams, admissions, university entrance tests and competitions, etc., take place during this time. Days have passed without immediate solutions to contain this outbreak, the closure of schools and universities is having a huge impact on learning across the country. The structure of Indian education system i.e. learning methods, teaching techniques and assessment methods are heavily influenced leading to the shift to online education, focusing on virtual education to achieve the goals. Stated goals and objectives. But only a handful of schools and universities are able to adopt such methods, and low-income private and public schools are quite ineffective in adopting the same approach, thus leading to a door.

### Objectives

The overall objective of this study was to analyze the impact of COVID-19 on the Indian education system. In particular, this study will examine:

1. How India's education system is facing with the impact of COVID-19 and highlights the role of teachers and students through online education.
2. How beneficial positive impact is for students, parents and teachers in online education scenario.
3. How to minimize the negative impact of COVID-19 on students so that their learning goes smoothly.

### Methodology

Data and information presented in the study are collected from various reports and articles published by national and international agencies on impact of COVID-19 pandemic. Information is also collected from various authentic websites. Some journals are also referred relating to impact of COVID-19 on educational system are referred.

**Correspondence**  
**Dr. Santosh Kumar Dwivedi**  
Principal, Jyotsana Education  
College, Sidhi, Madhya  
Pradesh, India

**Purpose of the study**

All systems have strengths and weaknesses. The goal is to maximize strengths and minimize weaknesses so as not to miss an opportunity to move forward. The main objective of the study was to analyze the impact of COVID-19 on the Indian education system. It covers the impact of COVID-19 on urban and rural students, education institutions at India.

that the face of Indian educational institutions could change so drastically. Schools that never allow students to bring in electronic devices have turned into learning hubs for online classes. As teachers and students are getting used to this new normal, it's certainly more difficult for teachers to deal with this situation. Teachers also face challenges in designing effective lessons and modifying instruction when transitioning to online learning; this can also be solved by workshops and training.

**Digital Infrastructure in India**

Before the COVID-19 lockdown in India, no one believed

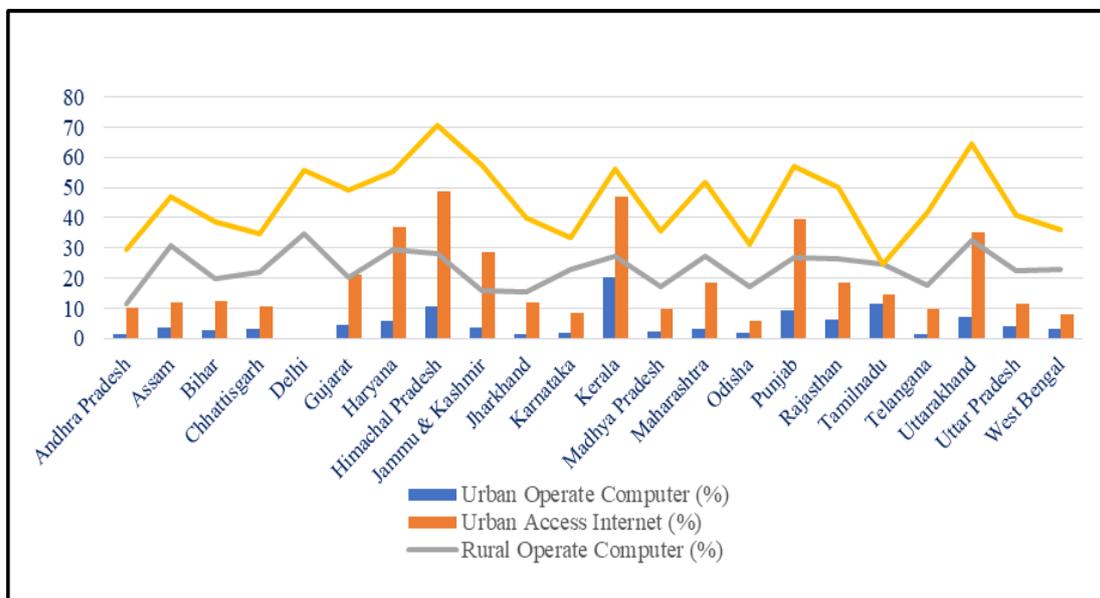
**Table 1:** According to the key indicators of Household Social Consumption on Education in India report, based on the 2017-18 NSSO, fewer than 15% of rural Indian households have internet access (as opposed to 42% urban Indian households).

S. No.	State	Urban		Rural	
		Operate Computer (%)	Access Internet (%)	Operate Computer (%)	Access Internet (%)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1.5	10.4	11.6	29.5
2.	Assam	3.7	12.1	30.8	46.9
3.	Bihar	2.7	12.5	20.0	38.6
4.	Chhattisgarh	3.2	10.6	22.0	34.6
5.	Delhi	NA	NA	34.7	55.8
6.	Gujarat	4.4	21.1	20.1	49.1
7.	Haryana	5.9	37.1	29.5	55.5
8.	Himachal Pradesh	10.5	48.6	28.3	70.6
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	3.5	28.7	16.0	57.7
10.	Jharkhand	1.3	11.9	15.6	40.2
11.	Karnataka	2.0	8.3	22.9	33.5
12.	Kerala	20.1	46.9	27.5	56.4
13.	Madhya Pradesh	2.3	9.7	17.2	35.4
14.	Maharashtra	3.3	18.5	27.4	52.0
15.	Odisha	1.8	5.8	17.2	31.2
16.	Punjab	9.4	39.4	26.7	57.1
17.	Rajasthan	6.4	18.5	26.6	49.9
18.	Tamilnadu	11.6	14.4	24.7	24.8
19.	Telangana	1.6	9.9	17.6	41.9
20.	Uttarakhand	7.0	35.2	32.5	64.3
21.	Uttar Pradesh	4.0	11.6	22.3	41.0
22.	West Bengal	3.3	7.9	23.0	36.0

**Source:** 75th round of National Sample survey conducted between July 2017 and June 2018.

The availability of electricity is a significant challenge for taking advantage of online education. In a recent survey from 2017-18, the Ministry of Rural Development found

that only 47% of Indian households receive electricity for more than 12 hours and more than 36% of schools in India operate without electricity.



**Fig 1:** Graph analysis urban and rural Indian households have internet access.

This suggests that while students from families with better livelihoods can easily switch to distance education, students from disadvantaged backgrounds are more likely to have poor access to educational programs. Ineffectiveness and lack of adaptability, due to lack of access to technology or low education level of parents to guide children. Unavailable technical infrastructure and frequent interruptions of internet connection across India are the biggest challenges facing students and teachers.

### **Impact on teachers and students**

Teachers and students face many obstacles in the process of online education. At home, lack of basic facilities, outside distractions, and family disruptions in the instructional process were the main problems observed. Barriers to supporting educational institutions such as budget to purchase advanced technology, lack of training, lack of technical support and lack of clarity and direction are also noted. Teachers also have technical difficulties. Difficulties are grouped by lack of technical support; it includes lack of technical infrastructure, limited knowledge of online teaching platforms and security issues. Teachers' personal problems, including a lack of technical knowledge and the integration of lessons with technology, are hindering their participation in online instruction.

### **Positive impact on education system**

Though the outbreak of COVID-19 has created many negative impacts on education, educational institutions of India have accepted the challenges and trying their best to provide seamless support services to the students during the pandemic. Indian education system got the opportunity for transformation from traditional system to a new era. The following points may be considered as the positive impacts.

### **Expanding the Use of Electronic Versions of Study Materials:**

During the lockdown, students were unable to collect hard copies of study materials and as a result, most students used electronic documents for reference. Survey.

**Improving collaborative work:** There is a new opportunity where cooperative teaching and learning can take new forms.

**Increase in online meetings:** The pandemic has created a massive increase in teleconferencing opportunities, virtual meetings, webinars, and electronic conferencing.

**Improving digital literacy:** The pandemic situation has spurred people to learn and use digital technology and lead to an increase in digital literacy rates.

### **Improved use of electronic media for information sharing:**

Learning materials are easily shared among students and related queries are resolved through email, SMS, phone calls, and use different social media like WhatsApp or Facebook.

**Global Expo:** Educators and learners have the opportunity to interact with peers from around the world. Learners adapt to the international community.

**Better Time:** Management Students can manage their time more effectively in online teaching during the pandemic.

**Need for Open and Distance Learning:** During the pandemic, most students prefer open and distance learning as it encourages self-study by providing the opportunity to learn from a variety of sources and learning is personalized to their needs.

**Negative impact on education system:** The Indian education system has been hit hard by the COVID-19 outbreak. This has produced many negative impacts on education and some of them are listed below:

**Educational activities impeded:** Schools are closed and classes are suspended. Various boards have postponed the annual exams and entrance exams across India.

**Lack of preparation of teachers and students:** Teachers and students are not prepared for online instruction; they are not ready for this abrupt transition from face-to-face to online learning.

**The Role of Parents:** In urban areas, some educated parents can provide guidance, but some may not have the necessary education to teach their children at home.

**Digital Gadgets:** Especially in rural areas, many students have limited or no Internet access and many students may not be able to afford a compatible computer, laptop or mobile phone like at home. Online education can create a digital divide between students. The closure has hit very hard on poor students in India as most of them are unable to explore online learning according to various reports.

**Making a Difference:** This online method of teaching and learning creates a huge divide between rich and poor students and urban and rural students.

### **Observation and Recommendation**

This pandemic has exposed some of the major shortcomings of the Indian education system. School closures have had a severe impact on disadvantaged students. One of the key trends that can be tracked is the need for a combined approach to e-learning with increased investment in upgrading the technological infrastructure of educational institutions. Emphasis should be placed on teacher training. All higher education institutions are now aware of the importance of technology and should take serious steps to provide technology-enabled education through a learning management system. It is recommended that educational institutions use technology in all its aspects. This pandemic shows that the partnership between technology and education will last forever.

Another suggestion is that educational institutions could divide courses into regular education and online education, which would help inculcate technology into classrooms. Online education will enhance the digital literacy of teachers and students, which will increase their exposure and learning, and make them more employable for global leadership roles. Digital needs, contributing to the sustainability of society.

### **Conclusion**

COVID-19 has had a huge impact on the education sector in India. While this has created many challenges, there are also many opportunities for growth. Government of India. And

various educational institutions have explored the possibility of distance and open learning by applying different digital technologies in response to the current COVID-19 crisis. India is ill-equipped to make education accessible everywhere in the country through digital platforms. Students who are not as privileged as others will have to endure the current choice of digital platforms. Prioritize the use of digital technology to create a favorable position for millions of young students in India. Educational institutions need to strengthen their knowledge and information technology infrastructure to be ready to deal with situations like COVID-19.

Even as the COVID-19 crisis lingers, urgent efforts are needed to make the most of online platforms. India should develop innovative strategies to ensure that all children have sustainable access to learning during the COVID-19 pandemic. Since online practice benefits students so much, it should be continued after the course. A more detailed statistical study can be carried out to explore the impact of COVID-19 on India's education system.

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