

# Impact of Covid-19 Pandemic on Education: A Case Study of Indian Education

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**Abstract**— Indian Government had announced a nationwide lockdown from mid March of 2020 to prevent the spread of novel corona virus. All the educational institutions of the country have been closed to prevent the spread of the disease. Covid-19 has hampered the routine education of the students as they could not attend the educational institutions for a long time. Indian Government eventually introduced different online platforms which facilitate the online education of the students. But the students of rural areas are not getting the benefit of online education as they don't have the access to high speed internet connectivity and computer at their home. Covid-19 has provides ample opportunities to the policy makers for introduction of newer technologies such as virtual learning along with the classroom teaching. Indian Government should put more emphasis on infrastructural development of the rural areas so that students of both rural and urban areas can get the benefit of online education.

**Keywords-** Covid-19, Online education, Virtual learning, Infrastructural development.

## I. INTRODUCTION

The covid-19 pandemic has an adverse impact on every sector. To prevent the spread of the disease, lockdown was imposed by several nations. UNESCO in their report pointed out 290 million students of 22 countries may suffer due to shut down of schools. As the Schools, Colleges and Universities are remaining closed for a long time, it will definitely affect the basic learning of the students. This may also trigger the higher dropout rate in the future. Different educational institution has implemented E-learning procedure for the sustenance of the institution and the education system. The most advantage of E-learning is that it has no geographical barriers and ensures equitable education. The Indian Government has implemented several procedures and maintaining different platforms for online education. The PM E-Vidya platform is for online education of class 1-12 students. Swayam platform is used for online higher education. In India, Certain challenges need to be overcome for successful implementation of online education. The main infrastructure which is required for online education is availability of high speed internet connection and access to computers, laptops and smart phones. The problem is much higher in the rural areas in comparison to the urban areas. In the urban areas where internet facilities and computers are available, the students are getting the benefit of online education. But the students of the rural areas are being deprived of such online education as they don't have the internet connectivity and access to computers. So online education can't be taken as an alternative of face to face classroom teaching, rather it can be taken as a supplementary of online education system. The new age technologies and virtual realities can be mixed up along with the present brick and mortar model of education. The present covid-19 pandemic situation has given an opportunity for the policy makers for rethinking on present classroom teaching and realizing the importance of online learning.