

A COMPARATIVE STUDY ON IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS STUDENTS WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO AHMEDNAGAR DISTRICT

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ABSTRACT

With the outbreak of Pandemic Covid-19, every sector has been badly affected, whether in the manufacturing or service sectors or the agricultural sector. The educational sector has also been severely impacted, where students cannot learn and study in a normal situation. The online classes are conducted, which has become THE NEW NORMAL in this challenging phase. To follow social distancing norms, the pandemic has forced the schools and colleges to close down to fight against the spread of Coronavirus. With this covid-19, the student community has been affected very badly. The central government and state government have taken various measures to neutralize the pandemic's effect on the educational sector. Schools also are taking special efforts to evaluate the students. The students' assessment has also changed drastically, and this outbreak may severely impact the future of the students and their careers. From this research paper, the researcher would like to determine the significant challenges and difficulties faced by students of Government schools and private schools. This paper will try to study the various initiatives and measures taken by the state government and central government to revive the educational sector.

Keywords: Pandemic, The New Normal, Government schools, Private schools

Introduction

The World came to stand still when the Pandemic Covid-19 struck. The virus, which originated from China, spread rapidly worldwide, which resulted in the temporary closing down of all educational institutes globally. As of date round, about 1 billion students have got affected due to shut down of schools. Closure of schools have not only impacted students but have also impacted teachers and families, this impact was additionally severe for underprivileged kids and their families, resulting in disturbance in learning, lower nutrition, child care issues, and resulting in economic loss to families who couldn't work. In reply to school closures, UNESCO suggested the utilization of distance learning programs and open academic applications and platforms that teachers and school authorities will have to use to reach students living in remote areas and lower education disturbance. For schools and colleges to reopen, it may take a lot of time. Still, some measures can be taken to minimize the spread of the infection, such as cancelling morning prayers, cancelling or postponing field visits, banning meals in canteen/cafeteria, increasing space between the student benches, differed in-time and out-time for the students,

limited outside visitors in school time, keeping health care office continuously to check any symptoms in the students, use of face mask, hand sanitizer and frequent sanitization of the classrooms. If these measures are taken continuously, then may result in a substantial reduction in the number of infected cases.

Apart from schools being closed down, the students' assessment, the evaluation, and ultimately the exams of various courses have also been cancelled. Many institutes started adopting online methods and ways to evaluate the students, but that was not full proof. Due to its lesser authenticity, most of the online assessment has been cancelled. The shift of school education from the usual way to the online has exposed the inequality that exists in our society. The poor and underprivileged students or low-income students found it very difficult to cope with the demand for online teaching. The families who could not afford a computer, laptop, internet, or Wi-Fi were kept away from learning. According to a United Nations report, the lockdown has also severely impacted the girl child education, where girls are more exploited, and the number of early marriages, sexual harassment, and teenage pregnancies have increased drastically.

Literature review

Schleicher has discussed repercussions of Covid-19 in the areas of international student mobility; public financing of education in OECD countries; teachers' preparedness to support digital learning; the loss of instructional time delivered in a school setting; measures to continue students' learning during school closure; when and how to reopen schools; vocational education during the COVID-19 lockdown; and class size, a major parameter for the reopening of schools.

Marinoni et al., (2020) have expressed their concern stating that the effects will be felt way into the future. To understand the long-term and medium-term scenarios, it is significant to assess what is happening in the present, and also project the consequences for international and national students, and the staff.

Burgess and Sieversten (2020) predicted that the world-wide lockdown of education institutions was going to lead to a big interruption in students' learning; problems in internal assessments; and the also the cancellation of public assessments for qualifications.

Sintema (2020), in his study, discovered that there is probably going to be a drop in the pass level of optional school students in the current year's public assessments of the COVID-19 scourge isn't contained in the most limited conceivable time thinking about that the school scholastic schedule was unexpectedly upset by the early inauspicious conclusion of all schools in the nation.

Tran et al. (2020) dissected overview information from 420 K6–12 students in Hanoi, Vietnam; this work shows the distinctive learning propensities for students with various financial statuses and word related desires during the sickness' flare-up. Specifically, we highlighted the distinctions in students' learning practices between private schools and public schools, just as between students who intend to follow STEM-related vocations and the individuals who plan to participate in social science-related professions.

Okebukola et al. (2020) found an instructor limit shortage for conveying on the web education, helpless web access, an inconsistent force supply, and extreme insufficiencies in the foundation for open and distance education. Together with helpless educator inspiration prompted by low and unpredictable wages, these difficulties are depressants to quality science instructing during the COVID-19 period. We predict that these difficulties will continue.

Emon et al. (2020) found that albeit, developed nations (first and second world) are making acceptable steps with internet instructing while battles are found in rest (underdeveloped nations). Their article features how COVID-19 is influencing the education area and students in Bangladesh. Without a doubt, the most prompt effect of the Covid-19 on students of Bangladesh is abruptions in learning openings with various perspectives. Despite sincere government endeavors, COVID-19 is unfavorably influencing students in Bangladesh for a few critical reasons. Aggregate reactions and examination uncovered that not advances but rather, additional details are expected to run the education framework adjacent to this pandemic circumstance efficiently.

Studies in the Indian context are relatively less and hence considered as a research gap.

The government of India takes initiatives in the Education Sector.

Indian Government also has taken various steps for the educational sector in the lockdown, the initiative taken by MHRD like online portals, radio and television channels for students for uninterrupted learning. Students and schools for teaching-learning are primary tools used by Zoom, Microsoft Team, Google Meet, Youtube, etc. Some of the initiatives by the Indian government are:-

1. National Repository of Open Educational Resources (NROER) – this portal provided lots of resources for teachers and students, including books, videos, and learning-based games available in several different languages.
2. Diksha is a portal with e-learning resources for teachers, students, and parents, including textbooks, video lessons, and

- many more things. According to the guidance of NCERT and CBSE, the database is created in multiple languages.
3. E-pathshala – NCERT has created this learning app for students from Standard 1st to 12th in different languages. This app also has videos, books, and audio in various languages.
 4. E-PG pathshalas are the same as the above e-pathshala for the post-graduate students, which includes various contents like videos, e-books, and study material. The students need not have the internet to take advantage of this platform.
 5. SwayamPrabha—it has several TV channels providing continuous educational information ranging from school levels to college levels.

Effects of Covid-19 on Educational Sector

Positive Effects

1. An increase in usage of learning management systems like google classroom and many others have drastically increased.
2. Helped students and teachers to become technically updated. The majority of students and teachers were unaware of Zoom, Google meets, and various other apps.
3. Increase usage of soft copy as learning material, which will surely help in environmental conservation point of view
4. Effective use of social media for sharing study material, notes, books, etc.
5. International exposure to teachers and students. While sitting in their home, the students can now listen to experts all around the world.
6. Increase in Dual teaching Method (2 or more Teachers taking one class). Teachers have now started to innovate teaching methodology.
7. There has been a substantial increase in online/virtual meetings.

Negative Effects

1. Classes and examination have been suspended or postponed due to the outbreak of pandemic
2. The unemployment rate increased due to the postponement of recruitment by the majority of the companies

3. Students and teacher were unaware of the online teaching-learning process
4. Students are getting lesser employment opportunities in foreign countries
5. Nowadays, students are not going to schools; therefore, parents need to more aware and responsible for their child
6. Government schools cannot provide mid-day meals, which have an impact on the students' health and safety due to unbalanced nutrition.
7. The majority of parents have lost their jobs; therefore, non-payment of fees may impact teachers' salaries.

Research Methodology

Objectives

1. To know the effects of Covid-19 on the educational sector
2. To study the initiatives taken by the Government of India in the educational sector after pandemic covid-19
3. To know the impact of Covid-19 on students of government schools and private schools.

Scope

The scope of the study is limited to Ahmednagar district only (Maharashtra State)
 Research design - Researcher has collected a database through the exploratory research design.

Sources of Data Collection – Primary data is collected from a structured questionnaire, and secondary data is collected from journals, magazines, and websites. Various studies on this subject have also been referred to in this study.

Sample Size – the data is collected from 100 parents from government schools and 100 parents from private schools randomly selected from the Ahmednagar district.

Sampling Technique – Simple Random Sampling

Hypothesis - H0: Effect of Covid-19 on government school students is comparatively less than Private school students.

H1: Effect of Covid-19 on government school students is comparatively more than Private school students.

Data analysis & interpretation

It was found that 52% of the respondents from government schools are in the secondary phase of education and 61% of the respondents from private schools are in the secondary phase of education.

It was analyzed that 42% of parents from government school strongly agreed that covid-19 had affected their child’s academic progress, and only 9% of parents from the private school said that covid-19 had affected their child’s academic progress

89% of government schools are not conducting online classes, and 98% of private schools conduct online classes.

54% of parents from the government are highly dissatisfied with the online classes; on the other

hand, 50% of parents from private schools are highly satisfied with the online classes.

71% of parents from government school said the cost of purchasing mobile, laptop and computer had affected their budget, whereas 53% of parents from the private school said that it had not affected their budget

69% of parents from government schools agreed that online classes affect their child’s health, whereas 87% of parents from private schools agreed that online classes are affecting their child’s health.

87% of government schools think that the teachers are not guiding their child properly; on the other hand, 91% of parents of private schools think that the teachers are guiding the child in a proper way.

Hypothesis Testing

Table 1: Testing of Hypothesis

Effect of Covid-19 on various aspects like	Government School		Private School	
	Affected	Not affected	Affected	Not affected
Homework	61	39	9	91
Seriousness towards study	81	19	5	95
Interaction with teachers	89	11	7	39
Involvement in classroom discussion	75	25	12	88
Attentiveness during Class	93	7	19	81
Co-Curricular & Extra Curricular Activities	79	21	7	93
Outdoor Games / Sports	65	35	8	92
Social activities / participation	91	9	13	87

H₀: Effect of Covid-19 on government school students is comparatively less than Private school students.

H₁: Effect of Covid-19 on government school students is comparatively more than Private school students.

Table 2: Chi-square test

Chi-square (Observed value)	72.217
Chi-square (Critical value)	28.869
DF	18
p-value	< 0.0001
alpha	0.05

Inference from the testing of hypothesis:

From the above table, it is clear that the p-value is less than 0.05; hence the null hypothesis is rejected, and the alternative hypothesis is accepted. The critical value is

less than the observed value, i.e., 28.869 < 72.217. Therefore the null hypothesis is rejected, and the alternative hypothesis is accepted. It is proved that the effect of Covid-19 on government school students is comparatively more than private school students.

Findings

1. The academic progress of students from government schools are more affected
2. Private schools are more concerned towards their students in regards to taking online classes
3. Parents of private are more satisfied than parents of government schools about the online classes
4. Because of the lower-income of parents from a government school, their budget has

- been affected mainly for purchasing a laptop, computer, or mobile
5. Parents from government schools and private schools agreed that online classes are affecting their child's health.
 6. Teachers from private schools are guiding their students more efficiently & adequately as compared to government schools.

Conclusion

From the above study, the researcher wants to conclude that every sector has been affected because of this covid-19 pandemic, especially the educational sector. From this study, the researcher tried to determine the degree of

impact on the students of government schools and private schools; because of poor infrastructure at government schools, their students are more affected than private school students. The lower-income level of the parents of government schools also affects learning. Governments are taking various efforts to bring normalcy to the education sector. More efforts should be taken towards the underprivileged students who do not have a proper internet connection, mobile, or computer. Teachers from government schools also should take the initiative so that their students are not kept apart from learning.

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