

**Review article:**

## **Impact of COVID - 19 on prospective child education in India: Review**

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**Abstract:**

In view of COVID - 2019 pandemic, different countries have adopted different strategies, ranging from complete closures in Germany and Italy to targeted closures of child workers in key industries in the UK. Although the purpose of these closures is to prevent the spread of the virus within institutions and prevent transport to vulnerable people, they also have far-reaching socio-economic implications. This review article highlights the impact of COVID - 2019 on the education of children, which can directly affect their mental and physical health and economic well-being. Questions range from whether it is possible to reinfect convalescent patients, to how long it will take to develop, license, and distribute a viable vaccine, to questions about the long-term impact of the disease on children and adolescents. It is difficult to say how long the schools will remain closed and how this will affect students' learning, but how much it will affect them will affect their learning as well as health. We do not yet know enough about what will happen; there is no clear answer to the question of how many schools and universities will close. Our intention is to highlight this important issue in health consequences point of view associated with online education , home stay etc and recommends policymakers for alternative mode like mohalla education pattern at small scale level , parents active participation learning models , small group teaching in society etc.

**Keywords:** Child education, COVID – 2019, online education.

**Introduction:**

In view of COVID-2019 pandemic, different countries have adopted different strategies, ranging from complete closures in Germany and Italy to targeted closures of child workers in key industries in the UK.<sup>1</sup> Although the purpose of these closures is to prevent the spread of the virus within institutions and prevent transport to vulnerable people, they also have far-reaching socio-economic implications. The data suggest that the COVID-2019 pandemic will have a huge impact on student learning around the world, and those students in countries with the highest level of education, such as the UK, will be most affected.<sup>2</sup> In some countries, governments have been able to provide teachers with guidance on distance learning to meet students "learning needs during the crisis. This review article highlights the impact of COVID -2019 on the education of children, which can directly affect their mental and physical health and economic well-being.<sup>3</sup>

**Worldwide scenario of COVID 19 impact on child education:**

Evidence from Argentina, the United States and Indonesia shows that COVID -2019 leads to an increase in the number of early school leavers.<sup>4</sup> These students, as well as their parents, are more likely to experience lower life

productivity and lower incomes. Previous health emergencies have also shown that the impact on education is likely to be most devastating in countries where there are already high levels of poverty, lack of access to basic education and poor quality education. The series also highlights lessons learned in recent years under the RTE Act of 2009. Despite all efforts to promote children's education and increase enrollment, India's learning crisis remains serious.

According to the WHO, 188 countries worldwide have closed schools in the last six months, affecting 1.5 billion students and accounting for more than a third of all students attending primary, secondary and tertiary schools in their countries.<sup>2</sup> It affects agriculture and other areas of the global economy, including the emotional well-being of citizens.

Although the impact would vary from context to context, the overall impact of higher education is likely to be quite significant. The impact on education has been most devastating in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), and these are precisely the most devastating, as demonstrated by the devastating impact of COVID 19 on primary education in India.

UNESCO has noted that dozens of countries, including China, Italy and Japan, have closed schools, affecting nearly 290 million students worldwide. In Ethiopia, schools were closed on 16 March 2020, and 22 countries on three different continents have introduced or announced school closures. Today 100 % of all children in India's primary and secondary schools remain at home.<sup>5</sup>

According to a new World Health Organization (WHO) report, 188 countries have either closed schools or ordered local school closures in response to the outbreak. They have the second highest number of closed schools in the world, behind the United States and Canada.

In Indonesia, some 68 million children and young people are affected by school closures, which is more than a third of the country's total school population of 1.5 million. In mid-April, UNESCO reported that 192 countries closed schools and universities last month, affecting some 2.2 million students and 1 million teachers.<sup>6</sup>

#### **Rural India and Education:**

Millions of children in rural India seem unable to learn at home because of the COVID 19 crisis. We are exploring how community - based on accountability and relationships - can improve the quality of education for children and their mental health and economic well-being.

Furthermore, there is growing evidence that child labour in schools close to the pandemic is increasing, "the agency said, adding that more than 1.5 million children in rural India are currently affected by temporary school closures. Studies have shown that a one percentage point increase in poverty triples the number of children under five in rural areas affected their education."<sup>7</sup>

Previous health emergencies have also shown that the impact on education is likely to be most devastating in countries that are already experiencing high levels of poverty and lack access to basic education and healthcare. Despite the government's efforts to educate children and increase enrollment, India's learning crisis remains serious, even after the RTE Act of 2009.

### **Government measures in India:**

The government has taken steps to mitigate the impact of COVID 19 on the education of children and young people in India by ensuring that education continues. Schools will be supported to prevent and control the spread of Co VID 19 by taking care to protect students and staff from discrimination and stigma associated with the infection. Children from already disadvantaged groups, such as the poor, the disabled and the elderly, are most at risk if their education is interrupted. Government promoted distance learning strategy in India. The students were shifted in next class without examination / assessment. Though distance learning strategy is supportive measures, but having its own limitations.<sup>7</sup>

Most public and tribal schools closed for weeks, and many remain closed, leading to major cancellations of classes for millions of students. Not surprisingly, the education of students outside their homes exposes and exacerbates long-standing inequalities in education, food security, and housing. The future is uncertain for millions of students scheduled to graduate this year, who will face a pandemic that is crippling the world economically. The United Nations Academic Impact (UNAI) has found out how COVID 19 has impacted the Indian primary and secondary education system and how students, faculty, staff and students in India are coping with these changes.<sup>7</sup>

Dealing with the emotional, physical, and economic difficulties that the disease brings has proved challenging, even as we do our part to stem the spread of the virus. Universities, colleges and schools across the country have been closed since March 2020, when the government announced a nationwide curfew as a key measure to contain the outbreak. Although school closures seem to be an opportunity to force social dissociation within the community, prolonged closures tend to have a negative impact on the quality of life of students and their families, as well as on their education. Taking time off from school can cause difficulties for parents who struggle to find longer childcare or even adequate nutrition without school meals, and some have little opportunity to study at home.

The hard-won gains of expanded access to education in India's rural areas could be reversed or stagnated if school closures are expanded, while access to alternative options, such as distance learning, remains out of reach for those who do not have the means to connect.

In a situation like this, the blatant emphasis on technology-driven education will exclude many children in the country from continuing education. More than 90% of India's population is unorganized, and pandemic lockouts affect not only students, but also teachers, nurses, health workers, and others working in an unorganized sector. With every day that passes, the closure of schools and colleges can only have a short-term impact, but the economic and social consequences go far beyond that. An immediate solution to the coronavirus is needed, and the classroom in India must be able to bring together the best and brightest students, teachers, nurses, health workers, students and parents.

### **Adverse effects of online education:**

During lockdown period and subsequently government promoted distance learning throughout India. Frequent use of mobile devices was significantly associated with higher levels of anxiety, depression, anxiety disorder, and

depression. Studies suggest that the effects of frequent use of mobile phones and tablets on children are linked.<sup>8</sup> Excessive use of mobile devices, including smartphones and tablets, can impair a child's development in terms of social adaptation.<sup>9,10</sup>

The amount of time children spend on their devices has become an increasingly worrying issue, but experts say there is still little evidence that screen time per se is harmful.<sup>11</sup> Experts believe that the use of mobile phones can affect children's social and emotional development, affect sleep patterns and even turn people into lazy thinkers. The survey results suggest that parents are letting their children use media and mobile technology as distractions. For example, the study showed that 73% of parents surveyed let their children play on mobile devices while doing chores.

According to the study, children are more likely to become overweight and develop seizures and vision problems if they spend too much time using devices. Studies found that children are considered obese or overweight due to excessive use of mobile devices at home. However, most scientists seem to agree that when mobile phones are dangerous, children have a higher risk of cancer than adults, especially children under the age of 5 years.<sup>10,11</sup>

Excessive use of smartphones is dangerous for children's health: children's bone marrow is exposed to ten times more radiation, and children's brain tissue absorbs up to 20 times more radiation than adults. European research published in the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA), the world's largest medical journal, concluded that children who use mobile phones have a higher risk of developing brain cancer than adults, especially children under the age of 5 years.<sup>12</sup> Technologies can easier our work but these risk factors should be considered.<sup>13</sup> Policymakers not considered such harmful consequences while promoting distance learning. Policymakers should think beyond financial constraints.<sup>14,15</sup>

### **Conclusion:**

Questions range from whether it is possible to reinfect convalescent patients, to how long it will take to develop, license, and distribute a viable vaccine, to questions about the long-term impact of the disease on children and adolescents. It is difficult to say how long the schools will remain closed and how this will affect students' learning, but how much it will affect them will affect their learning. We do not yet know enough about what will happen; there is no clear answer to the question of how many schools and universities will close. Our intention is to highlight this important issue in health consequences point of view associated with online education and recommends policymakers for alternative mode like mohalla education pattern at small scale level , parents own participation learning models , small group teaching etc.

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