

## THE COVID DIVIDE - EDUCATIONAL, PSYCHOLOGICAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT

---

Sadaf Mushtaq Nasti\*

### ABSTRACT

*Covid-19 has become so familiar with our lives that we have almost started to live with it as everything is virus and everywhere is virus. The Covid-19 virus has wreaked havoc on people all over the world. Preventive measures such as bans and lockdowns have had a negative impact on the economy, education, progress, and most importantly over precious lives. With the emergence of the Second Wave of Covid-19 across the lengths and breadths of world, catastrophic losses to human life and the economy have occurred. The second wave of the pandemic has come as a shock to India in general and the world in particular. People are caught in a devil and a deep sea as the new 'double mutant' variant of the deadly virus has come into vogue and once again afresh Covid wave looms in India. Earlier the virus had less mortality rate than the mutated one and little did one know that the virus will become even stronger and breathtaking. The aim of this paper is to bring to forefront the post Covid-19 opportunities and challenges and to find the risks of new Covid-19 variant found in India.*

**Keywords:** Covid-19, Havoc, Pandemic, Mutation, Deadly Virus, Mortality.

### Introduction

The current Covid-19 pandemic has wreaked havoc on the population's psychological and social well-being. Children, college students, and health care employees are more prone to acquire depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder, and other distress symptoms. The impact of Covid-19 is over day-to-day life, science, technology, communication, education, economy, industry, agriculture, social order, human behaviour, international peace. People's relationships and their perceptions of empathy toward others have been influenced by social distance and security measures. Tele psychology and technology equipment, in this context, play critical roles in reducing the pandemic's detrimental impacts. These tools offer advantages that could improve online psychiatric treatment for patients, such as the ability to meet from home or at work, saving money and time, and sustaining therapist-patient relationships. The development of Corona Virus Disease (COVID-19) has triggered a global public health emergency. In India, emergency protocols were devised to contain the virus's spread, resulting in limitations on all non-essential public movements (Saha et al. 2020). With the closing of educational institutions, the demand for a quick shift from physical to digital learning has arisen (Kapasia et al. 2020). Online learning has been identified as a viable alternative to traditional education (Adnan and Anwar 2020). However, an e-learning meta-analysis (Cook 2009) found that online learning is better than nothing and comparable to traditional learning. To improve the e-learning experience, educational institutions must follow government guidelines and recommendations while encouraging students to continue learning remotely in this challenging environment (Aucejo et al. 2020). Bao (2020) discusses five high-impact criteria for conducting online education effectively. Students of all ages have been influenced by this rapid evolution on such a vast scale (Hasan and Bao 2020). Continued illness transmission, travel restrictions, and the closure of educational institutions across the country are projected to have a substantial impact on students' education, social lives, and mental health (Odriozola-gonzalez et al. 2020). The Covid-19 outbreak has had a more negative impact on students from lower socioeconomic backgrounds (Aucejo et al. 2020). Students' academic lives have been disrupted by a decrease in family income, limited access

---

\* Research Scholar, DAVV, Indore, MP, India.

to digital resources, and the high cost of internet connectivity. Furthermore, 1.5 billion pupils are currently deprived of basic education around the world (Lee 2020), which has a negative psychological influence on their health. Changes in daily routine, such as a lack of outdoor activity, altered sleeping patterns, and social isolation, have also had an impact on students' mental health. The 7-item Generalized Anxiety Disorder Scale (GAD-7) is a diagnostic instrument for anxiety disorders, panic disorders, and social phobia (Cao et al. 2020). In addition, (Ye et al. 2020) investigates the mediating roles of resilience, coping, and social support in the treatment of psychological disorders.

### **Impact of Covid-19 in Indian Economy**

According to official government recommendations, India is preparing for the COVID-19 outbreak, and failing to take specified crisis actions or downplaying its significance will have highly serious consequences. All of India's neighbors have reported positive COVID-19 cases. To combat the deadly virus, the Indian government has implemented essential and stringent measures, such as installing health checkpoints at national borders to determine whether persons entering the country are infected (17). For citizens desiring to return from China, other countries have implemented rescue missions and surveillance measures. The first lesson gained from the SARS outbreak was that a lack of clarity and knowledge about the disease harmed China's international standing and slowed its economic progress (10, 18–20). The SARS outbreak in China was devastating, prompting changes in health-care and medical systems (18, 20). India's ability to combat a pandemic appears to be significantly lower than China's. According to a recent study, infected family members did not visit the Wuhan market in China, implying that SARS-CoV-2 could spread without causing symptoms (21). Many viruses, according to researchers, exhibit this behavior. India, which has a population of over 1.34 billion people and is the world's second-largest country, would have challenges in treating severe COVID-19 patients because it only has 49,000 ventilators, which is a small number. It would be a disaster for India if the number of COVID-19 cases in the country increased (22). Identifying infectious sources and those who come into contact with them would be difficult. To quickly create new vaccinations and pharmacological treatments, many tactics would be required to deal with the outbreak, including computational modeling as well as statistical and quantitative studies. India's medical system is woefully inadequate for such a large population. According to a study, approximately 1 million people die in India each year as a result of poor medical care systems (23). India trades with its neighboring countries, including Bangladesh, Bhutan, Pakistan, Myanmar, China, and Nepal. Indian regional trade was over \$12 billion in the fiscal year 2017–18 (FY2017–18), accounting for only 1.56 percent of total trade. The country's entire global trade value is \$769 billion dollars. The spread of such infections will have a substantial negative impact on the Indian economy. As trade ports with China are close, the epidemic in China might have a significant impact on the Indian economy, particularly in the sectors of electronics, medicines, and logistical operations.

### **Impact on Education**

The outbreak of COVID-19 has wreaked havoc on the education system. It has had numerous detrimental effects on education, some of which are listed below:

- **Educational Activity has been Obstructed:** Exams at various levels have been deferred and classes have been halted. Annual tests and entrance exams have already been postponed by various boards. The admissions procedure took longer than expected. Pupils lost approximately three months of the whole academic year of 2020-21 due to the continuation of lockdown, thus deteriorating the situation of educational continuity and making it impossible for students to resume schoolwork after such a long break.
- **Impact on Employment:** The majority of recruitment has been postponed as a result of COVID-19. Companies delaying student onboarding may also have an impact on student placements. The unemployment rate is likely to rise as a result of the pandemic. Because of the current circumstances, there is no recruitment in the government sector in India, and recent graduates fear losing their job offers in the private sector. Jobless estimates from the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy increased from 8.4 percent in mid-March to 23 percent in early April, with the urban unemployment rate rising to 30.9 percent (Educationasia.in). As people battle for food rather than educating themselves, education declines as unemployment rises.
- **Poorly Prepared Student/Teacher for Online Learning:** Not all teachers/students are adept at it, and not all of them were prepared for the abrupt shift from face-to-face to online learning. Most lecturers just deliver lectures using video platforms such as Zoom, Google Meet, Wiseapp, Oda Class, Teach Mint and others, which may not constitute true online learning in the absence of a specific online learning platform.

- **Access to Digital World:** Online teaching-learning may create a digital divide among students since many students have limited or no internet access and many students may not be able to afford a computer, laptop, or supporting mobile phone in their homes. According to numerous sources, the lockout has disproportionately impacted impoverished students in India, with the majority of them unable to study online learning. As a result, during the pandemic COVID-19, the online teaching-learning approach may widen the gap between affluent and poor, urban and rural.

COVID-19 has had a significant impact on India's education industry. Although it has generated numerous obstacles, it has also resulted in numerous opportunities. To deal with the current COVID-19 dilemma, the Indian government and several education stakeholders have looked into the prospect of Open and Distance Learning (ODL) by implementing various digital technologies. India isn't yet ready to use digital platforms to bring education to every corner of the country. Students who aren't as fortunate as their peers would suffer as a result of the current digital platform selection. However, universities and the Indian government are working tirelessly to find a solution to this problem. The objective should be to use digital technology to put millions of young Indian students in a better position. It is imperative that educational institutions improve their knowledge and information technology infrastructure in order to be prepared for COVID-19-like situations.

Even if the COVID-19 problem lasts longer, there is a pressing need to maximize the use of online platforms so that students can not only finish their degrees this academic year but also prepare for the future digitally oriented environment. In a pandemic situation like this, the concept of "work from home" is more relevant to limiting COVID-19 spread. During the COVID-19 pandemic, India should devise innovative measures to ensure that all children have continuous access to education. For efficient education delivery, Indian policy must incorporate persons from varied backgrounds, including distant regions, marginalized and minority groups. Because online practice is extremely beneficial to pupils, it should be continued after the lockdown. A more in-depth statistical assessment of COVID-19's effects on India's education system may be conducted.

#### **Impact of Covid-19 on Mental Health**

SARS-CoV-2, the virus that produces COVID-19, has been linked to a mental health problem, according to new research. The study, which was published in *The Lancet Psychiatry*, looked at the electronic health records of 69.8 million patients in the United States, and found that 62,354 of them had COVID-19. Psychiatric illnesses were detected in nearly 20% of those diagnosed with COVID-19 within three months after testing positive, including anxiety, depression, and insomnia. One in every four of individuals surveyed had never gotten a mental diagnosis. The findings are likely to represent underestimates of the real number of instances, according to the researchers.

People with a pre-existing psychiatric disease were 65 percent more likely to be diagnosed with COVID-19 than those without, according to researchers from the NIHR Oxford Health Biomedical Research Centre and the University of Oxford Department of Psychiatry. According to the experts, this discovery was unexpected and warrants more examination. Meanwhile, they argue that having a psychiatric disease should be included to the list of COVID-19 risk factors. Long-term COVID patients, who have symptoms months after testing positive, also appear to have mental health concerns, which can be induced by a variety of circumstances such as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), lethargy, exhaustion, and olfactory problems such as a loss of smell. Lockdown measures have heightened feelings of loneliness, isolation, restlessness, and anxiety among those who have not tested positive, since millions of individuals have been forced to fast adapt to new circumstances and make severe lifestyle changes.

#### **Conclusion**

The COVID-19 outbreak impacted people from all walks of life, with people being advised to self-quarantine in their homes to prevent the virus from spreading. The lockdown had a significant impact on mental health, resulting in psychological issues such as frustration, stress, and sadness. A small microscopic thing has caused lot of frustration, chaos, and anxiety. Since it appears the struggle is taking place outside, it is actually taking place inside our mind. Anxiety robs all the calm and joy as one begins to picture worst-case scenario, which is equivalent to paying in advance for awful disasters that would never happen. The massive pandemic is worse than a war zone and has resulted in both external and internal conflict. Depression, loneliness, and anxiety are all symptoms of this phobia. It is crucial to remember that mental health is just as vital as physical health. Self-harm or suicidal behavior are symptoms of poor mental health. As a result, mental health must be prioritized, since suicide kills more

people than any other disease. It is evident that whenever there is uncertainty, there is a great deal of irritation, worry, and anxiety, but a man must maintain a good attitude in order to deal with such uncertainties. He should upbeat in order to deal with the problem, and rather than fleeing, he should fight. Only having a positive attitude can resolve half of the battle in any issue. Positive thinking has a scientific foundation. One can't alter the world, but one can change the perspective of seeing and responding to things as famous restoration writer John Milton has put it "The mind is its own place, and in itself can make a heaven of hell, a hell of heaven..." This can have a significant impact on how he thinks about himself and others, as well as his overall health. Constant negative thinking can increase his stress levels and lead to more significant issues such as depression, tension, and anxiety. A person who believes in positive thinking accepts happiness, health, and success, and feels that he or she can conquer any challenge. Positive thinking isn't something that everyone believes in as some people dismiss it and consider it folly and mock those who follow it. However, an increasing number of people believe in the efficacy of positive thinking and accept it as a truth. As indicated by the numerous publications, talks, and courses on the subject, it appears to be increasing popularity. One needs more than just awareness of its presence to employ it in one's life. In everything he does, he must develop a positive mental attitude as Ella Wheeler Wilcox has rightly put it "And let its meaning permeate each day. Whatever comes, This too shall pass away".

### References

1. Basilaia, Giorgi, and David Kvavadze. "Transition to online education in schools during a SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic in Georgia." *Pedagogical Research* 5.4 (2020).
2. Dhawan, Shivangi. "Online learning: A panacea in the time of COVID-19 crisis." *Journal of Educational Technology Systems* 49.1 (2020): 5-22.
3. Fatonia, Nurce Arifiatib, et al. "University students online learning system during Covid-19 pandemic: Advantages, constraints and solutions." *Systematic Reviews in Pharmacy* 11.7 (2020): 570-576.
4. Habiburrahim, Habib. "Literacy in the new norm."
5. Hollweck, Trista, and Armand Doucet. "Pracademics in the pandemic: pedagogies and professionalism." *Journal of Professional Capital and Community* (2020).
6. Pokhrel, Sumitra, and Roshan Chhetri. "A literature review on impact of COVID-19 pandemic on teaching and learning." *Higher Education for the Future* 8.1 (2021): 133-141.
7. Robertson, Lorayne, and Bill Muirhead. "It is not just about the technology: School leadership during a pandemic."
8. Setyorini, In. "Pandemi COVID-19 Dan Online Learning: Apakah Berpengaruh Terhadap Proses Pembelajaran Pada Kurikulum 13?." *Journal of Industrial Engineering & Management Research* 1.1 (2020): 95-102.
9. Suryaman, Maman, et al. "COVID-19 pandemic and home online learning system: Does it affect the quality of pharmacy school learning?." *Syst. Rev. Pharm* 11 (2020): 524-530.
10. Teräs, Marko, et al. "Post-Covid-19 education and education technology 'solutionism': A seller's market." *Postdigital Science and Education* 2.3 (2020): 863-878.
11. Zainuddin, Zamzami, et al. "Literacy in the new norm: stay-home game plan for parents." *Information and Learning Sciences* (2020).

