Higher Education Faced the Challenges during Covid-19

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ABSTRACT
The overall growth of the country including economic, industrial, and social depends on the higher education of that country. This is a very crucial time not only for India but for the world due to pandemic disease COVID-19, the whole world is disturbed and affected by it but pandemic diseases are not new for the world. The world had faced many epidemic diseases before COVID-19 and had successfully cured the disease with the help of science and technology. In India, higher education institutions deliver quality-based education. As soon as the corona (covid-19) was declared an epidemic by WHO it significantly impacted the Indian higher education system. Examinations were postponed and classes were suspended then shifted to online mode. Online classes present both opportunities and challenges for higher education in India.

KEYWORDS: Pandemic, Covid-19, Higher Education

INTRODUCTION
The pandemic has a long history before COVID-19 many pandemics Plague of Athens (430 to 426 BCE). A quarter of the Athenian warriors and population were killed by Typhoid during the Peloponnesian War. Antonine Plague (165 to 180 AD): Measles or smallpox was carried by the soldiers to the Italian peninsula by when returned from the middle east. It takes the life of every fourth person affected by this. Black Death (1331 to 1353): The worldwide death count was estimated to be between 75 and 200 million. During the 1918 flu pandemic, half-billion individuals were infected over the world, it spread to remote Pacific islands and in the Arctic, and approximately 20 to 200 million people lost their life due to this pandemic. The highly pathogenic virus produced smallpox, which was a contagious disease. At the end of the 18th century. 400,000 lost their lives per year. Smallpox is thought to have killed 300–500 million people over the twentieth century. Measles was once common all across the world due to its high contagiousness. By the age of 15, 90 percent of persons in the United States had been infected with measles, according to the United States National Immunization Program. There were an estimated three to four million infections per year in the United States before the vaccine was launched in 1963. Mycobacterium tuberculosis had infected every fourth person in the current population of the whole, and new infections are being developed at one percent per second. It was estimated that by the 19th century Europe s quarter population died due to Tuberculosis. Still, it is countable for one out of every six casualties in France. Approximately 100 million individuals died from tuberculosis during the twentieth century. In the inchoate world, tuberculosis remains one of the most affliction issues. Several devastating epidemics had been caused by yellow fever. Epidemics struck cities as far north as New York, Philadelphia, and Boston. Regarding American history, there were the worst yellow fever epidemics by 1973.

COVID -19 is different from all past pandemic diseases due to the special properties of the coronavirus. Coronavirus is similar to the influenza family virus but activation of corona virus is timely repeated and it makes a layer in lunges and positive patients show difficulty in breathing and lack of oxygen in the blood. Its death ratio is 1% to 3% in the

world but it is dangerous due to its fast-spreading quality. It is especially dangerous for people of old age and people having other serious diseases like diabetes, TB, high BP, weak immunity, etc.

Disturbing Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

Covid initially come up in Wuhan, China. Since December 2019 it has spread overwide, resulting in a pandemic. The first case was detected on November 17 `19. Some of the very common symptoms of it were fever, cold and cough breathing issues, etc. If we observe, we see that majority was having predate symptoms, some develop acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) and the count between subjection and the starting of symptoms is usually around five-six days, but it can be diagnosed between two to fourteen days. The studies said that the disease is caused by a virus that is transmitted by close contact, small droplets of cough, sneeze, or while talking. While traveling long distances, these droplets normally fall to the ground or onto the surfaces and travel through air as a medium.

Higher Education: After secondary education, higher education is the optional tertiary education as one of the final stages. Tertiary education is being studied at universities, colleges, seminaries, conservatories, and institutes of technology and management, as well as at some college-level institutions that offer degrees, such as vocational, trade, and others. As compared to tertiary education, non-degree tertiary education is sometimes assigned as continuing education or further education. Activities in the institute include teaching, research, applied work, and social services. It circumscribes both undergraduate and graduate-level teaching within that extent of education. In North America, Graduate school is a term used to describe the peak stage of education. Probable employers in any career are looking for the clue of cogitative thinking and analytical reasoning skills, teamwork, information literacy, ethical intention, decision-making skills, fluency in speaking and writing, problem-solving skills, and broad knowledge of liberal arts and sciences, in addition to the skills specific to any particular degree.

The pandemic, which has ruined economies all over the world, has also impacted negatively on education institutions in both poor and rich nations. Around 1.5 billion pupils, or nearly 90% of the world's primary, intermediate, and postsecondary students, are unable to physically attend school or universities. This was the most difficult time for the educators as they have to make the place workable as a short-term solution for e- teaching and learning, particularly in developing countries or we can say to those countries facing financial crises, where learners and administration face arduousness related to outlay and available base or infrastructure, the impact has been notable and cathartic. While each level of education has its own set of issues, it is higher education that may be forced to initiate a learning revolution. Higher Education students are distinctive as they are mature enough to undergo the thoroughness of e-learning and skilled enough in the aspect of technology to cross new podiums. The veracious difficulty which was observed in the colleges and universities where they have enrolled. One big question was Infront of us was, have tertiary education, and on-campus institutions adapted to the circumstances by selecting the appropriate technologies and methods for educating and engaging their learners? The accomplishments and regret that appear should provide a greater understanding of what is doable for all of us.

In March second week of 2020, our central governments put punitive restrictions in schools *to* **stem** *the* **spread** *of the* new corona virus. Nobody knows when all was going to end up it's been a month over. It was a high noon time for the education sector, as it was the time when all the levels of education had their peak whether we talk about preprimary admissions, or board exams enrollment in higher education. As the days passed there was no speedy way to break out of covid, it was continuously impacting the School and University education which cannot be considered as a short-term impact on the continuity of learning School and university closures would not only have a short-term impact on the continuity of learning but leads to a devastating setback. It has directly or indirectly affected two hundred eighty-five million learners.

Higher education was faced many problems and challenges due to COVID-19 as follows:

The mental health of students: It was a big challenge during COVID -19 because students were worried for their future. The corona virus as a result of the outbreak's impact on many aspects of students' lives, and it was possible that stress and anxiety levels will rise. Many of these issues were shared by university students, who also face a set of specific problems. Many people were concerned about how they will be able to continue their education while away from home, and whether their homework or exam grades will suffer as a result.

Challenges while shifting to Digital: When the Covid-19 crisis hit India, universities including Delhi University Aligarh Muslim University Chennai University and many other major Universities declared that classes were suspended till March 31, 2020. Many other universities had already decided to

adopt e-learning. Universities like IITs IIMs have also begun to provide study materials in audio-visual form. The chosen two methods of the teaching-learning process were recorded videos which the experts used to share via the internet, zoom meetings Google meet became common for delivering lectures and the second method was online recorded lessons which were referred to as MOOCs – Massive Open Online Courses. After all, there was one major issue in order to get everything stable in E-learning was the need for a high-speed network to overcome the issues. It was not only an issue with the administration but it was also a big issue for the students as well as their parents.to arrange the devices like computers/mobile connected to the high-speed network to attend the online lectures as well as to watch prerecorded lessons. In India, many platforms were introduced by the MHRD), (NCERT), and the Department of Technical Education and these were all supporting the initiatives. There were also projects such as e-PG Pathshala (e-content), SWAYAM (online teacher courses), and NEAT (online teacher training) (enhancing employability). Other online platforms aim to improve institutional connectedness and content accessibility. These were used for the delivery of course materials and classes, as well as the operation of online modules. Among them are NPTEL (National Project on Technology Enhanced Learning), NKN (National Knowledge Network), and NAD (National Academic Depository).

Specifically, if we talk about India, there was a problem with basic access to the internet so here we can consider Technology may be both helpful and restricting. At home, we cannot consider or assume that every student is available with the requirement which was the crucial problem with online session attendance and involvement. According to a poll conducted by IIT Kanpur, 9.3% of the institute's 2,789 students were unable to download or study online. Only 34.1 percent of them had a strong enough internet connection to broadcast real-time lectures. Only 57 percent of students have the requisite infrastructure — computer, router, and printer — at home to attend online classes, according to a Local Circles poll of 25,000 respondents.

Distance learning competencies and pedagogies: Different pedagogies were necessary for distant teaching and learning, and it was a struggle for experts to transition from offline to online teaching and learning in a smooth and apt manner. Seeing the current scenario, it was not easy for the teacher to shift from face-to-face learning to an online platform their readiness or preparedness to take on this challenge varies differently. It was not ensured about

the same level of quality but it was preferable than no education.

The field of study: The professors have to choose the method or technical equipment according to the topic of study. Now the second relevant issue that the teaching-learning, was facing was the courses like clinical medicine Veterinary studies and a variety of fields that need laboratory access and practices cannot be replaced by distance learning like many online laboratories' applications were also introduced but were totally teacher-centered students were not able to perform the experiments. The same way, students of many creative fields like art music and design cannot perform well because of the lack of equipment. Indeed, we can say that whether laboratory access or musical equipment orchestra needs practice and it was lacking in online learning.

Continuation of Job and Salary for Faculty members of Private Institutions: Government provides all facilities for central and state government employees but private institutes do not provide salary and job security for their employees, so faculty members of private institutions feel insecure about their job and future, which in turn affect their teaching ability, thus, affecting learners at higher education who, then, won't be able to continue learning and engagement in other learning activities.

International & National student mobility: Mobility has been a problem as well. When lockdowns were first announced, university students from all over the world and the United States found themselves among a massive crowd hoping to get home safely. India's fast move to prohibit all commercial flights and railways to the nation on March 23, 2020 came as a great shock to one million Indian university students studying around the world. The epidemic has also had a considerable impact on higher education. Large numbers of students were enrolled in foreign countries for higher education and the number was next to the Chinese students and this count was especially in those countries where students were banned from leaving. The condition was that if the situation continues then the rate will be dropped down for the long run.

Maintaining Partnership and Collaboration among International Universities: COVID-19 has seriously affected the Inter-University partnerships and collaborations for cultural and educational upliftment and exchange of scientific ideas and tours of students to learn about the universities and nations.

Conducting Examinations: Examination was the biggest challenge for higher institutions, as the traditional examination methods were not applicable

during COVID-19. Social distancing could not be followed easily during the examinations. Higher Education Institutions may use many new and modern methods for examination such as viva voice on online mode, assignment or they could promote students on the basis of their last year/semester exam results. All these methods do not fulfill the examination norms but these were the needs of the time. Today, Higher Institutes need to ensure that there is no loss of students' year/semester and they complete their year/semester Even with the current disturbances interfering with the academic calendar, plans, and procedures.

Planning for the next academic year: It was obvious when this pandemic period will get over online platforms will change into again traditional way or face-to-face instruction. This person who proposed the policy will have to prepare significant tasks in the planning for the next school year. These changes will make the planning more difficult and the circumstance needs more contingent measures, to deal with the uncertainty Indian Education system has to be vigorous and has to develop a multi-functional strategy.

Financial Crisis: The most significant challenge for higher education was financial crisis. As we all know that during the pandemic many had lost their job and it was very much difficult for parents to manage the tuition fees of specifically private schools or government schools and this had led to dropout rates. After moving to the face-to-face learning schools has to be opened and they are majorly facing a financial crisis. Others are alluding to the financial impact on students but for the learners, it seems impossible to manage the financial crisis, so some of them are returning to their rural areas as they were not able to cope with the financial crisis even after the pandemic gets over.

Improving crisis (disaster) management readiness: Crisis management of India was not ready for pandemic diseases and other problems but Kerala disaster management had played a significant role in the control and prevention of COVID-19 and Nipah's (2018) diseases. With the learning about crisis management, it might be a fresh way for the institutions as the Indian institutions are still dealing with the situation's urgency This leads to the flexibility and adaptability in the future of the institution when faced with unforeseen difficulties.

Maintaining the Job ratio after the lockdown: The greater issue on everyone's mind, though, there was the disease's impact on the employment rate. Due to the current scenario, freshers in India fear job insecurity. The estimate of Jobless 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. If higher education is productive then any qualified applicant should get a job after finishing their education but if higher education was not productive then applicants remain jobless even after having higher degrees. So, our goal must be to make higher education productive during the pandemic and after COVID-19.

Change in chalk-talk model: The Covid 19 period had forced the education system to shift from the old chalk tradition to E-learning or a technologically driven platform. And this change had made a policy maker to figure out how to make it students centered at a large pace with the equitable e-learning solutions and bridging the digital divide. Face-to-face method was not possible during the COVID-19, so changes in the classroom structure and preference for technological tools for teaching were required.

Student Safety in the hostel: Many universities provide accommodation facilities to the students in residential hostels. But, during the COVID-19, it was very challenging to follow proper social distancing norms as two or more students shares rooms and also it was not possible to maintain social distancing in the dining/mess, on the sports ground and in the common room, etc. Students from different states come to study at the university.

Precaution is better than cure, this Statement is the most suited quote during the pandemic. The discovery of a vaccine was considered to be the most suitable solution for the whole. Only solidarity and a sense of community will be able to solve the socioeconomic catastrophe. The issue of cultural tradition was also the same token that has to be tackled with collaboration. In both circumstances, the global higher education community plays a critical role at multiple levels.

The major hurdle is the continuous integration of technology in Education at the national level as it is the most diverse and largest in the world with over 1 million schools and 50000 educational institutions. It was very much critical to establish a quality benchmark and quality assurance processes for online learning developed. Many e-learning providers provide multiple courses on the same subject with varying degrees of certificates, methodologies, and assessment criteria. This results in many different courses but their quality may vary.

A holistic with successful educational practice is required for the process of developing and strengthening the skills, instincts, and abilities of the

young minds during crises. It will help them in developing skills that will improve their employment, productivity, health, and well-being in the coming decades, as well as India's overall progress.

Conclusion

Today, COVID-19 has ended in the world and in India, and COVID-19 left many questions for solutions to the World Health Organization (WHO) and world leaders. What is ready to solve pandemic disease in the future? What if our disaster management is ready to handle the pandemic diseases? What is our politician and world leader is mature and knowledgeable about the pandemics? How improve our education system to solve pandemic problems in the future?

How population aware of the precaution of pandemics? How to preserve the fund and grain for the solutions to pandemics? Higher education and all dimensions of the economy have been changed during the Covid -19 and this was a good sign for teaching and education as well as non-formal education because non-formal education improved during the pandemic, and online teaching will strengthen non-formal education. Two years was a huge loss of formal education but we hope that our education system will be reformed and solve the new challenges and problems which arise from COVID-19.

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