

# A Study on the Impact of Post-COVID Crisis on Education with Special Reference to Adolescent Group

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**Abstract:** *A highly educated person has lot many things to impart to the society and nation at large. It is observed that students have faced socio-psychological issues such as lack of motivation, anxiety, depression, sitting in one place, lack of concentration due to online mode, lack of reading and writing ability, managing time, and many more. The transition of classes from regular face-to-face to online mode across the globe led to several challenges for both students and teachers. As schools and colleges have opened after two years, many significant changes have been observed in the behavioural context among varied adolescent groups such as lack of sleep, ruthless behaviour, constant usage of mobile phones, aggression, and emotional disturbance however, this unfavourable behavior is expected to be constantly monitored, especially by those who have lost their near and dear ones. Hence the researcher is trying to understand what measures could be taken to bring the drop back to school and colleges and engage them again in the teaching-learning process as we have both pros and cons of this pandemic teaching-learning process*

**Keywords:** Post-Covid, Psychology, Behaviour, Dropouts, teaching-learning

## I. INTRODUCTION

The COVID-19 pandemic, caused by the novel coronavirus SARS-CoV-2, has been an unprecedented global crisis that has affected virtually every aspect of human life. The emergence of the virus in late 2019 and its rapid spread led to the declaration of a pandemic by the World Health Organization (WHO) in March 2020. The virus's contagious nature and the severity of the disease it causes, known as COVID-19, prompted governments and health authorities worldwide to implement a range of measures to curb its spread, including lockdowns, social distancing, and quarantine protocols.

One of the sectors profoundly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic is education. Educational institutions, from early childhood to higher education, have had to adapt rapidly to the challenges posed by the pandemic. The closure of schools, colleges, and universities in response to the health crisis disrupted traditional modes of teaching and learning. This disruption has forced educators, students, and families to navigate uncharted territory in the realm of education. The repercussions are not limited to a mere interruption of classroom instruction; they extend to a myriad of complexities, including shifts in instructional delivery methods, technological adaptations, socio-psychological effects on students and educators, and, most importantly, the long-term consequences on learning outcomes.

The impact of COVID-19 on education is far-reaching, with consequences that will likely be felt for years to come. Understanding these impacts is essential for designing effective strategies to address the challenges and capitalize on the opportunities presented by this extraordinary moment in the history of education.

## STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM:

The purpose of this research is to delve into the specific effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on education, with a focus on various aspects of the educational landscape. This study will examine how the pandemic has necessitated a transformation in educational approaches, revealing both the strengths and weaknesses of traditional educational systems and, by extension, the opportunities for growth and innovation in the field. Moreover, the researcher would

also like to find out the multifaceted challenges and potential solutions to mitigate the adverse impact of COVID-19 on adolescent education.

### **OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY**

1. To evaluate the transformation that happened in the educational sector from traditional learning to modern learning.
2. To investigate the multifaceted challenges and suggest potential solutions to mitigate the adverse effects on adolescent education.

### **SCOPE AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE RESEARCH:**

The research titled "A Study on the Impact of Post-COVID Crisis on Education with Special Reference to Adolescent Group" is of significant importance, especially in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, which had profound and lasting effects on various aspects of society, including education. This research investigates the effects of the pandemic on education, focusing specifically on adolescents, who represent a critical age group in terms of their cognitive and emotional development. The researcher has also tried to find the reason for the maximum dropout from the education sector and also evaluate the measures to be undertaken to bring them back to the education sector.

### **II. LITERATURE REVIEW**

**Mok, K. H., Xiong, W., & Ye, H. (2021)** evaluated that the number of school or college dropouts among the vulnerable group and adolescents was disproportionately higher in number. Improvement was observed in sanitation and hygiene facilities. Further, he does not address any possible learning loss of education of the adolescent for the amount of time being away from school or college.

**Miller, J. J., Cooley, M. E., & Mihalec-Adkins, B. P. (2020)** evaluated that the foster parent had faced huge difficulty in managing their foster child in three dimensions i.e. lack of control, parental-related stressors, and parenting-related satisfaction. Financial burden also caused a heavy amount of stress in order to mitigate the child's expenses.

**L. Moscoviz, (2022)** has pointed out that the majority of the learning loss was not in low and middle-income countries and is not as significant as the model predicted, however, learning loss was observed consistently in much higher among students with lower socioeconomic backgrounds. Further, education inequality was observed among many classes. Significant dropouts could be seen ranging from under 1 percent to more than 35 percent, and closures— of many educational institutes together with other pandemic-related shocks have curtailed many adolescents' careers.

**Shuja, A., et.al (2022)** found that education is required for all irrespective of age group or class. For any country to grow and prosper education acts as a vehicle for bringing major transformation to every individual. Teachers, Management, and Policymakers are equally responsible for imparting education not only to classes but the masses. They need to encourage not only the students but also their parents who are affected due to socioeconomic problems in this pandemic environment. The effect of the highest dropout will have devastating effects on social, intellectual, and moral values.

**Aucejo., et.al., (2020)** stated that underprivileged students from poor socio-economic backgrounds faced the negative impact of covid-19 outbreak.

**Lee (2020)**, explored that loss of job, reduction in family income, unable to have technological resources, and internet connectivity have created a huge hindrance in their academic life, moreover, 1,5 billion students across the globe were deprived of taking education resulting in into a change in their mundane activity like playing outdoor games, uneven sleeping behaviour, social distancing have mentally affected the adolescents.

**Chaturvedi, K., et.al (2021)** highlighted that online teaching does not comply with government guidelines. Peer-to-Peer help individual to grow and learn, and have healthy competition among themselves motivating each other, which was lost due to online teaching. Moreover, there was a bigger challenge of sustaining efficient digital infrastructure and digital skill sets for both teachers and students.

**Dumas, T. M., et.al., (2020)** State that adolescents use substances (vaping. Alcohol, cannabis, etc.) with peer groups putting themselves at high risk for contracting COVID-19 is of major concern that affects their mental health and coping with the situation.

**Myhr. A., et.al., (2021)** found that adolescents were vulnerable and interventions were needed to support them during this pandemic situation, particularly with social and health policy.

**Cohen. A. K., et.al (2020)** Initiate that many adolescents' (college students) behaviour has changed rapidly due to sudden isolation from communities, society, and all domains of their lives affecting them psychologically. Due to growing stress of COVID-19, it was essential to monitor them with their mental health sequels

**To evaluate the transformation that happened in the educational sector from traditional learning to modern learning:**

It is observed that there has been a paradigm shift in the education sector from the traditional method of chalk and talk to advancements in technology and changing pedagogical approach some key transformations observed from traditional to modern were integration of technological advancement in the classroom i.e. maximum usage of computers, tablets, Mobile phones, interactive whiteboard. This software has enhanced smooth teaching and learning experience.

**Online and Blended Learning:** COVID-19 has evolved the classroom from traditional learning to hybrid mode both online and blended learning models. Several online courses and workshops were conducted to groom the teachers which indirectly benefitted the wider range of students. Students were also provided with online course material, videos, group discussions, quizzes, and online assignments were also made part of their curriculum. Teaching and learning was actually a thrilling process for both spending hours on online learning and teachers

**Flipped Classroom:** where online content and study material were made handy to the students, hands-on activities, discussion, and collaboration have reversed the traditional method of learning of completing the books, the students were given time and space to evaluate and do their study at their own pace. This has also helped students with physical disabilities as well the study material was made available to them in various modes and formats.

**Gamification and Education tools:** made teaching and learning more engaging and interactive which includes educational games, simulation, and virtual reality experiences. Students could work on a real project that requires critical thinking, problem-solving skills, and application of knowledge. Many AI tools were introduced to the education field facilitating group projects, communication, and document sharing. One's life was not restricted only to formal education but a humungous transformation could be seen in evolving technology and meeting industry demands. Open Educational Resources are now freely available to all adolescent groups making education now more affordable and accessible. Teachers in modern times are seen as facilitators, mentors, and guides helping students select the best for their life journey rather than merely delivering content.

**To investigate the multifaceted challenges and suggest potential solutions to mitigate the adverse effects on adolescent education:**

**A) Multifaceted Challenges Faced by the Adolescent During Pandemic**

It is observed that pre-and- Post Covid has led to a huge disaster across the globe Many adolescents faced several crises due to the pandemic situation such as disruption to routine, schools and colleges being closed, increased family pressure, isolation, small houses, lack of technology, types of equipment and tools, many have faced exposure to family violence, which led to significant psychological difficulties. Further research based on the 'TELL' study pointed out many were lost confronting the changes, loss and uncertainty, loss of their dear ones, and many more, whereas others took the pandemic situation on a positive note and felt an opportunity to grow and develop, stay connected to other people through online mode, learning was altogether a fun, freedom from routine and academic deadlines and pressure, etc. there were many challenges faced by the adolescent group

**Education and Digital Disparities:** This pandemic exposed disparity in educational outcomes among different socio-economic groups and exacerbated inequalities in online learning resources, especially lower income groups face significant challenges such as a lack of Internet facilities, space problems, availability of learning (mobile) accessories/equipment, as they lose their jobs, some lose the sole breadwinner of their family, resulting in loss of income, distraction in studies, anxiety, and depression indirectly affecting education. Their creativity, writing skills, and reading skills were hampered drastically, weakening their concentration power, expression ability, and communication skills. COVID-19 transition from classroom learning to e-learning adversely affected nearly 320 million learners.

**Engagement and Motivation:** The online mode of learning works well with self-motivated and self-learners and not with those who are dependent upon teachers. Online have made students more flexible, responsible, and inherently motivated students with good time management, and complete tasks on time, but simultaneously peer group chatting, a lot of input distracting others, inability to sit in one place, and technical glitches have diverted the attention, causing eye problems, headaches and others problem among the adolescent. Adaptation to Online learning was a problem for many as hybrid learning was new to all and suddenly this change in the mode of learning environment was challenging. Some rely on one-to-one learning counselling, and special educational services as they need social interaction and socialdevelopment for emotional and mental support. Health issues were also a matter of concern for many. A sudden shift from traditional learning to modern learning created tremendous pressure on parents as they directly or indirectly have to support their children's education and constantly monitor their studies and behaviour as well.

#### **B) Potential Solutions to Mitigate the Adverse Effects on Adolescent Education:**

**Learning Loss and Academic Gaps:**If the Indian education system aims to transition to online learning in the future, must emphasize digital devices and upgrade our educational system to such an extent that both teachers and students must be well-equipped and trained with the technology. Since adolescents are facing socio-psychological issues regarding mental health and well-being they must be provided with counselors and psychologists conducting stress management, and mental health awareness programs through extra-curricular activities. Teachers can also organize some remedial teaching for weak students, and give personalized attention to address individual learning gaps. Those who belong to lower-income groups and areas must be provided with free meals or subsidized meals to provide support to at-risk students.

**Providing Technological Assistance:**Regarding providing technological assistancethe institution can distribute some electronic educational devices and internet access so students do not miss their studies and also motivate the community and other government agencies to fund the same. Those who are residing in remote areas need to provide necessary services supporting online teaching by offering them low or subsidized internet services. For enhancing the quality of teaching and professional development training needs to be provided to teachers making them more proficient in using technology, adapting these new formats of teaching, and ensuring a safe learning environment. The teachers need to include interactive and project-based learning, further providing assistance and resources to parents, home learning strategies, virtual clubs, and peer-mentoring teams should be arranged. The government should invest more in understanding and evaluating the impact on adolescent educational inclination and career prospects especially those who have lost their parents and do not have any financial aid to meet their basic needs.

### **III. CONCLUSION**

The transformation from traditional learning to modern learning has opened up new challenges and new possibilities in the field of education making it more engaging, comprehensive, flexible, and accessible. Those individuals interested in learning technology should be provided with the appropriate training, addressing the digital divide and ensuring that technology enhances the teaching-learning process more effectively and efficiently rather than distracting.

Further, from the literature review it is observed due to isolation, many adolescents have hampered their lives using certain substances, house pressure, lack of parental control, and insufficient space and money, which has affected them psychologically, however, they need special attention and care. Parents, teachers, and society need to encourage them to come out of the loneliness atmosphere and regain not only their normal life but back to their studies. Yet the online transformation will likelycontinue and evolve in the coming years as technology and educational practice advance further.

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