

The Protagonist on Education During COVID-19

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Abstract

The education system has been altered by the COVID-19 pandemic. Examine how the COVID-19 epidemic has changed how teachers and technologies are used. Everyone has been put to the test in some way by the present pandemic. Be it medical professionals, the executive branch, the police, or anyone else who has seen the COVID-19 pandemic. To stay viable and advance, every organization has had to innovate on its own. This has also applied to the educational field. The closure of schools and colleges has caused a significant disturbance in this industry as well. Nearly, 1.6 billion schoolchildren in more than 190 nations have been affected by the pandemic. Also, 94% of students around the world have been affected by school and college closures, with that number reaching up to 99% in nations with low and lower-middle incomes. More than 32 crore pupils in India alone have been affected by the closures. Not only are the figures shocking but younger minds have also had to adapt to different teaching methods.

Keywords: Education system, COVID-19, online learning, digital learning, teachers

INTRODUCTION

Unseen Corona Warrior: Teachers at our Schools and Colleges

People's lives have been disrupted as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak, which forced the nation to close its borders in order to stop the corona virus from spreading. Many "Corona Warriors" are going above and beyond to stop the outbreak. They all merit our appreciation and respect. All "Corona Warriors" are joined by our teaching community [1]. The teaching profession is one in which the nation takes great pride. Teachers have positively accepted the current circumstance and used it as a chance for personal development. Our teachers have been outstanding as they embraced this novel approach to online education with fervour, dedication, and originality. While managing their own confined families, teachers are also creating online curriculum. As more schools around the nation use distant learning, the pressures on teachers' schedules increase rapidly, much like the corona virus [2].

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Received Date: May 20, 2023

Accepted Date: June 01, 2023

Published Date: June 12, 2023

Citation: M. Rajakrishnan, P. Annamuthu, R. Sangeetha. The Protagonist on Education during COVID-19. NOLEGEIN Journal of Information Technology & Management. 2023; 6(1): 36–39p.

Most teachers say that managing their time is a constant issue. They encounter an increasing number of required meetings and training sessions while the facility is under lockdown. Burnout is a result of these expectations consuming personal time more than before. As opposed to a working day that is used to stretch from 7.30 am to roughly 2 pm, a teacher may find emailing or messaging management or parents as late as 8pm at this difficult time. We are all aware that excessive screen time that can cause headaches, dry eyes, strained eyes, and blurred vision [3]. Spending too much time in front of screens results in inefficient information processing because the blue light from digital gadgets inhibits the hormone melatonin, which helps us get a good night's sleep [4]. With the

constant assault of links, passwords, Google Classroom, Zoom, Hangout, conducting lessons, meeting sessions, PTMs, and other tasks, are our teachers already overworked. Lockdowns, according to psychologists, can have a negative influence not only on one's mental health but also on the economy and career prospects. Walking, reading, singing, dancing, and playing board games are all mind-stimulating activities [5].

Yoga and dance also couples can use this opportunity to strengthen their bonds with one another, as well as with other loved ones. But how many educators can find the time to partake in such an activity? They are worn out after spending hours in front of a screen and talking on the phone nonstop. Teachers are suffering from the effects of the corona virus. Online learning is unquestionably a useful choice for kids; with virtual class sessions and responses to each text, e-mail, and message, it shows them that their teachers care about them. However, aren't we going too far? One can understand for Class V and up; however, parents of young children are urged to attend daily Zoom sessions [6].

Is it not a touch excessive? Specifically for youngsters in the pre-primary grade? Without the online course, the children will be fine. We might even find that they benefited greatly from this time spent with their parents. Online learning should be optional, especially for elementary-aged children. I also wonder if a family of four would have access to as many PCs, laptops, or Android phones [7]. If not, the father will have to wait for his turn till the child has finished his online course and is ready to work on a computer or laptop. Without a question, our schools did a fantastic job quickly establishing distance learning at various educational levels, and rivalry between schools is now a recognised aspect of the educational system. Some schools are straining their staff to the limit in the pursuit. Online gathering, online interviews, and entrance tests. Let's not overbook, please. Why couldn't the schools come up with a different strategy like admitting students based on their grades from the previous class if CBSE can lower the curriculum? Why complicate matters? Some schools, once more, don't stop there. The management staff keeps an eye on the instructors when they conduct online lessons [8].

They should have some confidence in their instructors. Just think about how difficult it would be for a teacher to be under continual observation. online lessons in classical music? We must be joking since anyone who knows even a little about classical music would understand how important it is for the teacher to ensure that the pupil produces the perfect "Sa." I don't understand how the online music teacher helps [9]. The overbearing parents are doing this for their children's sake, and the schools are doing this for obvious reasons, but the recipient is the teacher who would otherwise finish her work in 7 to 8 school hours but is forced to work till late. We all recognise that social isolation is necessary today, but it also fosters emotional closeness. However, do our teachers have any family time? As a leadership team, school administration must lessen the demands placed on teachers, rejecting requests to increase their workload, and not only encourage kindness towards oneself but also refrain from being too harsh with them. They must keep in mind that pupils can catch instructor stress. Even if teachers survive the pandemic, there may be a teacher stress epidemic that results in decreased output and effectiveness [10].

Teachers: The COVID-Warriors who Work in the Background

The teachers had to employ increasingly sophisticated techniques during this first-ever lockdown and the future lockdowns to guarantee "excellent" online classes. To enhance the learning environment in the classroom, the teachers have to hunt for more efficient solutions like Google Classroom and Google Meet. Then, even if being tech savvy was no longer a requirement for most teaching jobs, having a solid understanding of the new online learning system has become crucial during this work-from-home era. For many of the teaching faculties, the transition was difficult. Furthermore, they faced a significant challenge in guaranteeing a quality class without any interruptions.

A teacher's concern about this new teaching-learning method is whether he can deliver the lesson as effectively and engagingly as he did in offline mode, whether the students will understand it, whether

the constantly worried parents would be satisfied, and, most importantly, whether he can maintain the same close bond with the students as before. In this epidemic era, teachers haven't exactly been on the front lines of battle. Teachers may not have actively aided the health sector except from giving generously a portion of their salaries and providing some charitable services to the poor and needy people affected by the pandemic.

Then, in this COVID age, their conflict is fierce and ongoing. They have been adapting regularly to keep up with the shifting educational environments and experimenting with various techniques to meaningfully connect with the kids, youths, and young adults who make up our future. Their conflict is silent because it is one of self-improvement. A silent fighter is also not praised loudly. A teacher's duty may seem meagre during this trying moment when the health team is working while risking their lives, therefore it is blamed that instructors are "sitting at home on full salary in lockdown!" Yes, during these tough times, many lack the courage to reflect on how they spend late nights creating films, written exercises, and other visual materials to assure effective and interesting instruction. Even after mastering new teaching techniques, teachers' woes persisted. After the initial wave of the virus, offline classes were resumed; for the colleges in Assam, this occurred in September 2020. This put them in some awkward and unfavourable circumstances.

Because they Work with Teenagers!

If I say that our college kids have a toddler mentality in an adolescent body, maybe I won't be wrong. Even after receiving explicit instructions from the government about maintaining social distance and donning masks, they would sit close to their buddies in class while lowering their masks to their chins. Masks must be worn correctly, and the teacher must keep an eye out for them. How many parents want their kids to obtain a COVID test during this pandemic is a painful question. To my chagrin, I have witnessed pupils fleeing from courses and sobbing hysterically when the institution's administrator arranges for them to take the COVID test. Since COVID-19 arrived at our location, getting a cold and coughing has become quite discreet. Some parents are still unaware of the need of keeping their kids home from school or college when they have a cold or fever. Now, referring to regulations at every turn snuffs out the heart of a warm relationship.

It is possible to impose sanctions on government employees who break the law. If the same can be done with the pupils who disgustingly turn the pages while spitting is still a sensitive subject. Will the invigilating teacher refuse to sign on students' response scripts if they cheat during the exam with their own answer scripts? likely not. Here, a teacher's duty, the students' future, and, above all, the excellence of the institution which also depends on how well the students perform come first. His concern of contracting an infection must be put on hold. Therefore, a teacher can fight without protective gear. He is fighting in secret, after all.

CONCLUSION

The pandemic and the changing circumstances have also altered teachers' roles. The traditional companionship between the teacher and the student was replaced by the occasional greeting, while the physical classroom was replaced by an online environment. Despite all of this, parents, educators, and students have been seen attempting to adjust to the shifting circumstances. With the help of technology, teachers now have a fantastic opportunity to integrate a variety of platforms and customise a better learning model for their pupils. Empowering teachers is essential for sustainability over the long term, as is investing in the capacity building and skill development required to fully utilise online and blended learning. Freeing up teachers' time from administrative duties, concentrating on what is pedagogically sound, and offering instructors socioemotional support are all equally crucial. To assure people's welfare and prevent burnout, we require a comprehensive approach for socioemotional monitoring and psychosocial assistance. Teachers around the world have had to reinvent how things are managed in a similar way to how medical professionals and other civic entities have had to do so to secure the safety of people. Given the limitations and circumstances, they undoubtedly appeared to have done a

respectable job, but much work has to be done for the benefit of all the many stakeholders in the greater educational establishment.

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