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## ARTICLE

### Post Corona Era: Dimensions in Education

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#### Abstract

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected educational systems worldwide, leading to the near-total closures of schools, universities and colleges. Most governments around the world have temporarily closed educational institutions in an attempt to contain the spread of COVID-19. Approximately 1.725 billion learners are currently affected due to school closures in response to the pandemic. After the initial shock of the Coronavirus pandemic and the nationwide lockdown, schools across India are slowly coming to terms with a new system of education in the post corona era. School administrators, teachers, children and parents are preparing for an academic life both within the classroom and at home, one that will be driven equally by traditional and disruptive learning. Their best bet will be to use technology to improve school and colleges processes, make education more student-centric and empower their teachers.

#### Introduction

COVID-19 is an infectious disease caused by a newly discovered coronavirus. Coronaviruses are a group of related RNA viruses that cause diseases in mammals and birds. In humans, these viruses cause respiratory tract infections that can range from mild to lethal. Mild illnesses include some cases of the common cold. While more lethal varieties can cause SARS, MERS, and COVID-

19. Online has become the default mode of education during this long lockdown period in the wake of Covid-19. What does this mean for the institutions and academic leaders, administrators and students in the long run is getting clearer.

### **What is Corona Virus and COVID-19?**

Corona viruses are a large family of viruses which may cause illness in animals or humans. In humans, several coronaviruses are known to cause respiratory infections ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases such as Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS). The most recently discovered coronavirus causes coronavirus disease COVID-19. COVID-19 is the infectious disease caused by the most recently discovered corona virus. This new virus and disease were unknown before the outbreak began in Wuhan, China, in December 2019. The most common symptoms of COVID-19 are fever, tiredness, and dry cough. Some patients may have aches and pains, nasal congestion, runny nose, sore throat or diarrhea. These symptoms are usually mild and begin gradually. Some people become infected but don't develop any symptoms and don't feel unwell. Most people (about 80%) recover from the disease without needing special treatment. Around 1 out of every 6 people who gets COVID-19 becomes seriously ill and develops difficulty breathing. Older people, and those with underlying medical problems like high blood pressure, heart problems or diabetes, are more likely to develop serious illness. People with fever, cough and difficulty breathing should seek medical attention.

### **How It Spreads?**

The virus that causes COVID-19 is mainly transmitted through droplets generated when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or exhales. These droplets are too heavy to hang in the air, and quickly fall on floors or surfaces. We can be infected by breathing in the virus if you are within close proximity of someone who has COVID-19, or by touching a contaminated surface and then your eyes, nose or mouth.

### **How does COVID-19 spread People can catch COVID-19 from others who have the virus?**

The disease can spread from person to person through small droplets from the nose or mouth which are spread when a person with COVID-19 coughs or exhales. These droplets land on objects and surfaces around the person. Other people then catch COVID-19 by touching these objects or surfaces, then touching their eyes,

nose or mouth. People can also catch COVID-19 if they breathe in droplets from a person with COVID-19 who coughs out or exhales droplets. This is why it is important to stay more than 1 meter (3 feet) away from a person who is sick.

### **Can the virus that causes COVID-19 be transmitted through the air?**

Studies to date suggest that the virus that causes COVID-19 is mainly transmitted through contact with respiratory droplets rather than through the air. See previous answer on “How does COVID-19 spread?”

### **Can CoVID-19 be caught from a person who has no symptoms?**

The main way the disease spreads is through respiratory droplets expelled by someone who is coughing. The risk of catching COVID-19 from someone with no symptoms at all is very low. However, many people with COVID-19 experience only mild symptoms. This is particularly true at the early stages of the disease. It is therefore possible to catch COVID-19 from someone who has, for example, just a mild cough and does not feel ill. Stay home and stay safe is best idea to prevent spreading of corona virus. There for social distencing should be there. So government apply lockdown from 25<sup>th</sup> march to prevent spreading.

The impact was more severe for disadvantaged children and their families, causing interrupted learning, compromised nutrition, childcare problems, and consequent economic cost to families who could not work. So now post corona era will have to be go for digital education. Online education just a substitute for face-to-face teaching. In response to school closures, UNESCO recommended the use of distance learning programmes and open educational applications and platforms that schools and teachers can use to reach learners remotely and limit the disruption of education.

### **POST COVID-19 ERA**

After the initial shock of the Coronavirus pandemic and the nationwide lockdown, schools across India are slowly coming to terms with a new system of education in the post-COVID-19 era. School administrators, teachers, children and parents are preparing for an academic life both within the classroom and at home, one that will be driven equally by traditional and disruptive learning.

Pre-schools and K-12 schools — the time-honoured pillars of learning — are here to stay. Brick-and-mortar schools are a necessity in a social milieu where students can thrive, perform, excel and forge peer relationships. These institutions, which have stood the test of time, provide our young generation with the benefits of peer learning, physical activities through kinesthetics or tactile learning, teacher guidance and mentorship, and shared experiences. Unlike schools, online or digital learning offers only audio and visual tools without face-to-face interaction that is so critical to the holistic growth of the students.

In the post-Covid era, while schools will still be around, education technology companies in India will collaborate with schools, teachers, parents and students to improve the overall learning experience of students and the efficacy of the education system. I foresee five ways in which education in our country will change in the aftermath of this crisis.

## **POSSIBLE DIMENSIONS IN EDUCATION**

### **Schools will be Forced to Accept and adopt Technology**

Schools will have no alternative but to give up the notion that they can run without technology. Schools that refuse to yield to technology will be left behind, leaving a question mark on their purpose. Their best bet will be to use technology to improve their processes, make education more student-centric and empower their teachers.

### **Teachers will be empowered through Technology**

Teachers will embrace technology to not only learn themselves but also engage with their students. Teacher training will move to a blended model that combines the power of online, on-demand learning with a few in-person practice sessions. This will be a significant departure from the current on-schedule, annual training calendars that most schools follow and that no one is missing during the Covid-19 era. In another trend, teachers have been utilising the lockdown period to coach their students, provide lesson plans and homework, and solve difficulties through smartphones, text messages, emails and WhatsApp. This trend will continue with higher engagement online between students and teachers.

**Tuitions will be disrupted**

Tuitions have prospered in our country as a parallel stream to schools. They deliver homework help, doubt clearing, advanced learning and test preparation. A lot of these supplemental efforts have stalled during Covid-19. Parents have realised that because of the personalisation power that technology can bring into play, students can revise, clarify doubts and do advanced learning from the comfort of their home. So, tuition will largely move online. The analog world of tuitions and schools, physically existing in parallel worlds and delivering mass education will be gone and be replaced with more integrated solutions.

**Data-based personalisation will make teaching more student-centric**

Every child learns at their own pace, in their own way and from their current level. Schools are inherently mass education based models. We will see data and technology play a larger role in personalising learning for students. Covid has forced this speed of adoption to accelerate. This will impact all forms of learning.

**Living in harmony with nature**

The corona outbreak, on a scale never seen before, has given all of humanity a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to understand the natural world and the importance of preserving the ecological balance, and at the same time reassess our lifestyles and priorities. The COVID-19 crisis is an opportune time to make our young children and students value nature and how they can — and must — learn to live in harmony with it. What is nature telling us through this pandemic? The answer to this critical question will be an important part of future school curriculums.

We will still have physical schools but how they run will be fundamentally transformed towards a blended model empowered by technology. Learning will continue but students will have more personalised, technology-enabled options to supplement their school learning.

**But the new digital landscape has its unsolved problems**

1. Online learning is NOT a library of video lectures and e-books that converts class-notes into PDFs. Creating high quality digitized learning content must be contextualized and 'byte-sized' to make learning interesting and engaging. Doing this takes a rare skill set which few organizations in the world can boast of.

Universities need to collaborate with such organizations for their digital pivots to be successful.

2. Subject matter covered in classroom is to be delivered online, but with technology as the intermediary. Blind replication of the same is a bad idea; it requires a great deal of understanding & application of learning science and digital pedagogy. Every teaching faculty needs to be enabled with this knowledge, or else collaboration with experts is the way forward.

3. Classrooms have typically diverse learner groups. In classical pedagogy, the best of teachers and subject matter experts derive a content-context cluster as a mean of the class' collective ability and prior knowledge. Then the teaching-learning transaction is crafted according to that constructed mean. This will not and cannot work in online learning. Institutions need to spend as much time on the context for the diverse learner profiles, as on the content, and weave it into the program design.

4. New technologies including the emerging sciences of artificial intelligence and deep learning models can help us create customized learning plans and methods. Higher education institutions must embrace these quickly to overcome the ills of current digital higher education.

5. Online learning is not about ONE pedagogical model but an aggregation of various models. And it is indeed a specialized learning science that combines learning psychology, behavioral analytics, content delivery, and assessments to gauge and measure individual learner's journey and progress. Working with specialists and 'hand-stitching' a delivery mechanism is the key.

6. Of course, even in the post COVID-19 era, offline or conventional education models will not become obsolete. They will survive. However, blended learning (a combination of classroom and online modes) will be the norm. Institutions and teachers will blend the two judiciously according to the context and the content.

- Faculty to let go off their existing practices of transposing classroom to online medium without applying the 'science of digital learning'
- Universities to let go off their academic know-all stance and become willing to collaborate with digital learning specialists to train their teachers and re-design higher education for the newest online education world.



But whatever may happen, things are not going to be the same again. The question is, how prepared are we?

## **CONCLUSION**

Education is one of the most important challenges, it will surely change after this episode and it will be essential for institutions to be up to speed. And post corona era will come with digital education. Should be Plan the study schedule of the distance learning programmes, Provide support to teachers and parents on the use of digital tools, Develop distance learning rules and monitor students' learning process, Define the duration of distance learning units based on students' self-regulation skills, Create communities and enhance connection, Ensure inclusion of the distance learning programmes and ofcourse Protect data privacy and data security.

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