



# A Study on Educational System of Himachal Pradesh During COVID-19 with Special Reference to Emerging Opportunities and Confronting Challenges.

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**Abstract:** Human existence with potential mankind is prudent in human civilization for being human in real sense on this earth surface and to validate the subsistence of human being, the education strives its significant participation with greater responsibilities to make human presence and survival meaningful as well favourable to this mortal enlightenment. Education is a very primitive concept same as to human civilization. But in different periods and scenarios it has imprinted its incommensurable influence on human sophistication and cultures. It is the impact of education only upon the human civilization which has dragged out the human being from the age of primitiveness to the extreme of modernity. Number of institutions with their corresponding aims, objectives and methodologies have been introduced to humanity throughout the world heritage to increase the knowledge about everchanging and upgrowing mysteries of human nature as well as the nature of entire universe. Every religion, incompatible denominations and different sects of various religion have introduced some outstanding instructions with the respective didactic experiences to uplift the humanity from ground level of pristine culture to the pinnacle of innovation. As the world knowledge is increasing day by day with the advancement of scientific inventions and technological advancement, some enigmas of the cosmos are yet to be discovered, realise and to be justified thoroughly. In this association, education is continuously and comprehensibly striving to find out those subtleties and unrealised facts of the world edification. Life is uncertain and unpredictable to every person of the planet as anything might be occur with the common trend of life of humanity, weather it proves favourable or unfavourable to the mortal beings. The attack of Corona virus to mankind is one such unpredictable, undesirable and unfavourable phenomenon throughout the world edification which threatened the human sophistication to its greatest extent. The dreadful threat of epidemic Corona virus detrudes the entire human community of globe towards the path of death, destruction and psychological danger. Entire population of the world civilization straggled its way from the rapid growth of development to the and its marching growth to the unexpected and undesirable negative direction. This dreadful epidemic not only threatened the world heritage but also left its influential impacts upon the world civilization. The present paper is the study of negative as well as some of the positive effects of COVID-19 to the prevailing education system of the world cultivation with special reference to Himachal Pradesh.

**Key Words:** Civilisation, Culture, Customs, Epidemic and COVID-19.

## 1. INTRODUCTION:

COVID-19 emerged as a dreadful epidemic for the world civilization which not only effected the mental and physical health of the worldwide humanity but the social life, world economy, international relation and mainly the educational field with the other human phenomenon. It mainly originated in Wuhan city of China during November, 2019 and approximately within two- three months of duration, it enormously spread its harmful effect throughout the world health. This dreadful epidemic has swept the world for more than two years. This very phenomenon has made the whole



humanity to think of its causes of origin, preventive measures to come out of this terrible hazard and future plannings to be survive and proceed forward with certain aspects of humanity with special attention on the education system which has been affected during this dreadful pandemic. World Health Organization, Ministry of Health and Welfare, Government of India and Himachal Pradesh released advisory to protect from this terrible epidemic Such as; social distancing, wearing of quality masks, personal cleanliness, frequent sanitation of public places, proper environment and healthy diet to maintain strong immune system and vaccination in time etc. Accompanying to this, to preserve the life of citizens of India and to avoid the dangerous unfavourable circumstances of COVID-19, the honourable Prime Minister of India, make appeal to the public to be safe and took some stern decisions like; announcement of the Janata Curfew and Lockdown etc.

## **2. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:**

The present research paper has been prepared using the secondary data that has been already been collected or existed in different sources. Such as data published in News-papers, Books, Magazines, Research papers of different scholars, YouTube Channels, News Channel, and different Websites etc.

## **3. OBJECTIVES OF STUDY:**

- 1) To understand the basic nature of pandemic COVID -19.
- 2) To understand the emerging opportunities of COVID -19 on the educational system of Himachal Pradesh.
- 3) To understand the confronting challenges of COVID -19 on the educational system of Himachal Pradesh.

## **4. COVID-19; Basic Knowledge and its Impact on Education System of Himachal Pradesh:**

COVID-19 is an acronym. The word COVID-19 stands for **CORona VIRus Disease of 2019**. In a press conference on February 11, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) gave the coronavirus disease of 2019 the abbreviated name of COVID-19. The disease Coronavirus is basically an infectious disease caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus which is resulted to a respiratory disease COVID-19. SARS-CoV-2 is also known as the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2. It is a member of large family of viruses called Coronavirus. These viruses can infect human beings and some animals also. SARS-CoV-2 was discovered initially in 2019 to infect people. Health experts reveal that this virus is contemplated to spread from person to person through droplets released when an infected person coughs, sneezes or even talks with another person closely. It can also be happened to spread by the touch of those things which are already been covered by such virus but the spread of such kind is very rare in many cases. Research surveys and studies have been done and even going on to find remedial measures to prevent the infection with SARS-CoV-2. Most of the people throughout the word civilization were infected and many of them lost their lives. In fact, this disease results into mild to moderate respiratory illness and many times it automatically recovers without the requirement of any special medical treatment and attention. But the people who have lost their lives were those who had been getting medical attention due to some serious illness like cardiovascular disease, diabetes, chronic respiratory disease, cancer etc. This inordinate infestation has affected the social, cultural, economic, emotional and most effectively the educational animation of human being throughout the world but the present paper is the study to reveal the positive and negative impacts of COVID-19 on the educational system of Himachal Pradesh.

## **5. Emerging Opportunities of online study during COVID-19 in the educational system of Himachal Pradesh:**

### **5.1 Development of new era:**

The concept of education is not a new phenomenon. It is as old as the human civilization is. With the passage of time and development of human enlightenment, this concept has been developed up to great extent with the combination of science and technology. But as it is seen that there is great diversity and primitiveness in the education system of Himachal Pradesh due to the lack of awareness among people and lack of efficient educational institution. Learners has to join the educational institutions outside of H.P. for further higher studies or for the preparation of competitive examinations such as UPSC etc. Subsequently, the conviction of digitalization has not been consummated throughout the state. But during COVID-19, the lack of physical classes and more or compulsory use of online classes, access to eminent popular coaching institutes, there came the revolution of more use of technology. Even those persons who were not in favour of e-learning has to go through the digital media. Every teacher and every learner has to be involved in the process of education through digital platforms of online learning which developed a new era in the field of education system of Himachal Pradesh.



## **5.2 Removal of barriers in studies:**

The prevailed unfavourable conditions of COVID-19, create a biggest hurdle in the studies of all learners of H.P. The circumstances of lockdown, Janata curfew, social distancing etc. has been proved such remedial measures which were necessary to save the life of all human beings. But the beginning of online studies through the different platforms, proved a great measure to remove the barriers in the studies of all learners of the state.

## **5.3 More use of technology; itself a new learning:**

Use of technology is not a new phenomenon in the field of education and research which has been proved an emerging and innovative development in the field of all educational procedures. But unfortunately, all the persons have not been involved in this process. The adverse circumstances of COVID-19 prepared every person, teacher, learner and even the parents; whether literate or illiterate, forced to use technology in everywhere even if in studies, online shopping, online banking, booking of tickets, business and even using it to pass the leisure time during critical time through social media to avoid stress under the pressure of lockdown. This made every person to use technology easily and efficiently which itself has been demonstrate a new learning.

## **5.4 Safe from epidemic during studies:**

As it is well known that during this dreadful pandemic, the school, colleges and all other educational institutions of Himachal Pradesh were direly needed to be closed to save the life of all people of the state. The learners, the parents, the teachers, educators were all worried about the future of upcoming generations. But the use of online media in the field of education, lowered down the level of mental stress of all those, who were worried about the education of young generation. Moreover, all the learners were safe in their respective homes from this horrible rampant during their studies.

## **5.5 Easy way of learning with interest and enjoyment:**

The present concept of education is purely a consideration of child centred education where every child is supposed to gain education according to his/her need, interest, attitude, aptitude and mental level etc. Moreover, the younger generation is more efficient in the use of online media in their day-to-day life. Consequently, the use of technology through the online media proved an effective learning for the learners which they accepted with open arms and proceeded their studies with considerable interest and enjoyment.

## **5.6 Flexibility in learning:**

The use of online media in education provides both educators and learners an access to use technology as according to their pace and comfort with their personal lives. There are no such rigid rules of some institutional framework or working culture and scenario which create some hurdles for students in their learning progress. This contemplation provides learners an access to a free and flexible arrangement in their studies.

## **5.7 Convenient and time-saving:**

The organization of online learning has been proved convenient to both teacher and taught. The learner is able to communicate with his/her teachers and peers through the cyber classes. As per the needs of new generation, the learners found it more convenient as compare to the traditional system of classes and studies. Learners are also be able to save their time during the construction of online classes by maintaining the schedule of studies, attendance and other assignments with enough responsibilities.

## **5.8 Development of habit for self and independent studies:**

This system saves much time for preparation and travelling, energy, and money of students which is resulted to develop the habit among the students to enable them to be prepared for independent self-studies. The government of India has also launched the MOOC channels to promote the studies through the online media. These channels convey the lecture four to five time per day and the learners can attend the classes according to their suitable time schedule.

## **5.9 Connecting bright minds across the globe:**

Himachal Pradesh is a small state having most of the rural population which has low connectivity with the world civilization. But the study through the platforms of online media the physical gap between the people, locations, academic institutions and counties or even the world civilization has minimised up to the great extent. Now the educational institutions of Himachal Pradesh can recruit faculty and experts from various locations of the world to teach



their students with innovative teaching experiences. The students can also be benefitted as they can connect with their favourite eminent teachers throughout the world by online platforms by saving their precious time.

## **6. Confronting Challenges of online study during COVID-19 on educational system of Himachal Pradesh:**

### **6.1 Lack of actual classroom environment:**

Teaching and learning through the online platforms may have more positive impacts on the educational system of Himachal Pradesh. But there is the complete lack of actual classroom environment effective and healthy face to face interaction with teacher and taught and at the same time interaction within the peer groups may bring more positive outcomes as compare to the online modes of studies. Thus, it may not be more profitable to the active learners in the real sense.

### **6.2 Distraction from actual concepts of study:**

Most of the young learners may not be more attentive and particularly serious towards their studies. Consequently, when such learners proceed towards with their studies through the online medium of studies, they constantly get distracted by the various sites of social media and entertainment just a click away from their actual concepts of studies.

### **6.3 Technical Issues:**

Maximum number of the population of Himachal Pradesh lives in rural area which is 89.97% of the total population of the state. Some technical issues like poor network area or low internet connectivity with the different online platforms may be prove as the hindrance during online studies. Himachal Pradesh is comprising most of the communities with hilly areas with lots of ups and downs areas throughout the state where such problems like; internet access is notoriously slow and spotty which are common into the practice in some small village of the state. This problem creates the biggest impediment in the uninterrupted studies of the learners.

### **6.4 Degradation of mental and physical health of learners:**

The learners may confront with many of health risks when they spend most of the time before the screens of computers, laptops, tabs or mobile phones to attend their online classes through the different apps supporting to online studies. Many students face the risk of obesity, depression, depression, sleep deprivation and other such disease. Even a bad sitting posture with such devices may cause to back pain, headache or other such problems.

### **6.5 Sources of online studies were not accessible for every learner:**

Most of the people of Himachal Pradesh are dependent mainly upon agriculture, other small occupations and some laborious activities for their livelihood. Around 13.4% of people in the state is living below the national poverty percentage. Such people are mainly struggling for keeping themselves to themselves. Consequently, they are being unable to keep in touch with such costly mediums of online studies such as computers or smartphones etc. which creates a biggest hurdle in the way of successful implementation of online studies.

### **6.6 Dearth of attention:**

During the physical face-to-face interaction with the teacher and taught, the learners are attentive with a sense of responsibility towards studies as well as their teachers. But this sense of responsibility is missing in the system of online studies. Even the learners are not being able to have required amount of attention towards their courses of studies.

### **6.7 Insufficiency of comprehension in studies:**

In actual classroom environment, the teacher teaches the students with the use of gestures, facial expression or by making some reasonable demonstrations to the learners by which the main concepts of the studies become comprehensible for the students. Besides this very particular aspect, there are the individual differences within the class and a teacher has to take care of all such aspects. But in online system of studies, the learners may lack to have such instructional measures from their teacher as they might not have proper facilities to attend online classes, may have poor network connectivity or poor communication with the peers etc. may cause to less development of comprehension ability.

### **6.8 Undesirable disturbances:**

Some undesirable disturbances, such as; lack of interest in online classes, lack of motivation, unavailability of necessary equipment, technical issues, distractions, time management, noise, mental fatigue etc can create hurdles in online studies of the learners.

**6.9 Increase in social isolation:**

As it is well known that human beings are the social animals. Almost every individual learns and gets education within the socially arranged set up of system. Undoubtedly, the learners get chance to study, to work and pursue other interests all at the same time. But due to the physical absence of their teachers and classmates, they feel themselves socially isolated.

**7. Summarization:**

The humanity in world civilization has been met with numerous enormous crises since the time immemorial. The world has been witnessed with the two world wars already have been done and is threatened with the third one if the right decisions and approaches are not being taken into consideration in time. But the attack of coronavirus proved as an unpredictable phenomenon which not only threatened the world human civilization with the danger of possible consequences of this virus but also the possible endangers to be prevailed over the mankind after its survival. Coronavirus has been resulted to death and destruction of well-established social systems of humanity. One such system is education system, a fundamental need of the human civilization without which the existence is purely deniable in modern scenario of the universe. Because without education the humanity cannot be proceed towards the path of growth and development for the purpose of betterment for human civilization. Coronavirus has left its positive and negative effects on world human civilization but the special attention has been focussed upon the education system of Himachal Pradesh along with the world civilization.

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