

Covid-19 Era: Problems in Higher Education System During Lockdown in Marathwada Region of Maharashtra, India

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Abstract

Marathwada regions have remained backward and less developed due mainly to prolonged neglect shown by Union governments in improving the region's connectivity, as well as the repeated deployment of administrative machinery that was incapable of effectively utilizing government funds allotted to the regions. Secondly, the world today is facing an epidemic as the Coronavirus infects the entire globe, and the Marathwada region is not away from it. The epidemic caused many deaths, thousands were left homeless, and led to a global health crisis. To prevent the spread of the virus, oral contraceptives are used strictly. To prevent the virus from spreading, social isolation and limiting contact with each other are necessary risks.

Like other sectors, educational institutions are also concerned about the backlog in the annual event calendar of events. This study outlines the strengths and its teaching capacity to endure the process of education at colleges and universities through the long-distance learning strategies and challenges encountered during this process, this paper reviews the various online forums used and challenges. experience both teaching skills with students during online classes. This affects the finally higher education system in the Marathwada region. Ultimately so-called backward area Marathwada region was left behind or pushed backward minimum of five years. Because all the students in this area do not have the PC, Systems, Laptops, or Smartphones. It is available still an inadequate supply of network or coverage issues in all rural parts of the study region. Because there is no proper internet availability. And Finlay the power cuts in the rural areas has been make a great impact on student's education performance and personal development *etc.*

In the country like India, where about 42.1% of people are suffering from inequality in education (UNDP, 2014), closures of educational institutions and lockdown will not only have a short-term impact on the continuity of edification for the young learners but also stimulate the comprehensive socio-economic consequences. The instant solution of corona virus is necessary or if like these days pass then closure of schools and colleges does not even have short term impact in India but can even cause far-reaching economic and societal consequences. Due to the closedown of educational institutes, it is estimated to affect around 600 million learners across the world and more than 285 million young learners in India. Also, Fernandes⁵ reported that more than 7.5 lakh of Indian students pursuing higher education abroad as of 2018. Incidentally, these students are most affected by the corona outbreak. To overcome the situation in education sector, there is need of immediate solutions.

Visible impact can be seen on paying capacity of several parents to the private educational institutions due to the inability to spend. Due to the economic losses of education sectors, students and young professionals may face difficulties in placements, trainings, apprenticeships, on campus and off campus interviews, internships and jobs Impact on educational institutions. Gupta and Goplani,⁶ also noticed some faculties and employees in private education sector may face the obstacle of job losses, salary cuts; bonuses and increments could also be postponed or reduced. Colleges and other institutions and universities may face shortcoming of slowdown in admissions, internships, trainings, apprenticeships and

placements of the students. Education sector may face the problems of lower fee collection which can creates complications to run and manage the institutions, especially for non-granted colleges and management colleges over Nanded University Jurisdiction (Figs. 3&4).

Infrastructural development, teaching styles, appraisal techniques and quality of education has been affected due to the situations faced by the education systems. Some educational institutions may cut the jobs or reduce the workforces because of economic stagnation situations may accure in the sector. Some institutions may completely close down due to the economic slowdown and recession in the sector. Kimberling⁸. As for University concern the staff is working under fifty percent attendance. Due to this reasons fellowship and grant release become delayed to research scholars in the university and subcenters in the regions. Admission procedures of various colleges and education institutions were delayed due to lockdown in all over the Nanded University Jurisdiction. Examinations of Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada university has been postponed or cancelled due to the protection measures from the pandemic. Entrance exams for admissions in various universities research and educational institutions were affected all Four districts in Marathwada over the Maharashtra.

Some skills and employees in the private sector may face the challenge of losing their jobs, lowering their salaries; bonuses and promotions can also be deferred or reduced. Schools, colleges and other institutions and universities may face declining admissions, internships, internships, apprenticeships and

placement of students. The education sector may be facing problems of low revenue that could create problems in running and managing institutions. Infrastructure development, teaching methods, analytical strategies and the level of education may be affected by the conditions facing the education systems. Some educational institutions may reduce their workload or reduce their workload due to the economic downturn that may be curtailed in the sector. Some institutions may be completely closed due to the economic downturn and the economic downturn in the sector. Pravat Kumar Jena¹⁰ and Sun, and Chen¹².

This study aims to analyze the impact of COVID-19 on educational institutions, especially the provision of higher education and other related stakeholders to date, where the government has taken early decisions to stem the spread of the virus in society. Research explains and analyzes where information has been collected from various official websites, newspapers, online newsletters, and interviews with colleagues working in higher education setting.

The research is based primarily on the main data obtained. The data was collected through personal interviews with a pre-tested interview schedule with the help of a user memory system that was less than the memory capacity of respondents in order to provide accurate data. The research focuses on university resources and colleges only. The current study was conducted in the Marathwada regions major four districts which come under the Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University Nanded Jurisdictions in Maharashtra (Fig. 1). This research is a separate component, mainly based on basic data of university and college

records. The field survey is conducted throughout the period April 2020 to March 2021, as one-year study period.

The research concludes that the coronavirus has an effect on students' learning, an issue that is mainly surveyed online and involves total hundred graduate and postgraduate students, and seeks to know what they think about it, and sent students from different areas through social networking and sought their views on the impact of lockdown's periods issues on education, survey issues included a variety of questions, the results of all opinions has mentioned in results and discussion point. In India, Marathwada is one of the important regions in terms of industry and agriculture in the in central west part in Maharashtra. The samples were obtained from this study region. The study is conducted in the Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University Jurisdictions as selected by using random sampling method. In view of the above, the opinions of local inhabitants, a questionnaire's schedule is applied and regular interaction is done with the local people. The data collected were carefully processed, edited and tabulated for analytical purposes.

This study is based on both primary and secondary data. The Survey method, questionnaires', interview, observations and check list this method is used to primary data collection. Interview schedules designed for the purpose of data collection, were administered to randomly designated sample parts. The questionnaire was so designed as to overcome recall bias to the possible extent with various checks. The secondary data were collected from collage recodes data, magazines, newspapers, thesis, project reports, annual

reports, books published, unpublished data and from the District Collector's office, the taluk office, various journals and websites these sources are used. The primary data will be generated by field survey in Marathwada Region. The detail survey will be carried out with respect to selected school and colleges in the city. The percentage of selected colleges with respect to student's attendance in online classes as well exam passing percentage can be evaluated. All these studies stated that impact of covid 19 cases is analysed due to their lack of available gadgets, inadequate network coverage, lack of electricity, poverty, etc.

This review study suggests that the government and relevant institutions were working well to protect their participants early on when COVID-19 was declared a pandemic. All institutional structures began informing their participants about the safety precautions that should be taken to protect themselves from the spread of coronavirus. According to our study, more than 90 percent of students think that Lockdown has had a significant impact on education, very few students feel that it has an impact and some students are not biased. More than 50 percent of students feel that the university has made the wrong decision to cancel the exams, an issue that particularly affects talented students, who think their past grades are guaranteed. Only 27.7 percent of students think the university decision is right and 16.9 percent say nothing.

More and more students feel like they can't focus on their studies, their minds are full of fears about the Corona virus, all of which has disturbed them, different daily stories greatly affect their mental state, so they should

focus more on their studies. I can't concentrate. Some students feel that there is a positive effect on Lockdown. However, students learn very different online courses, especially webinars, zoom app, Google classroom etc. They learned a lot from these Lockdown stories. Most students think that testing should be done online to reduce coronavirus infection. Some students think that the test should be taken after closing, but the test should not be canceled. More than 50% of students think it would be more beneficial for college professors to spend more hours online because students are more likely to teach their professors, students can read better. There are many teaching methods available online but students do not fully understand the results. Appana¹, Arasaratnam *et al.*,² and Arkorful, & Abaidoo³ have noticed the similar consequences.

More than 43% of students feel that school closures often affect their education, more than 41% say fewer problems affect school closure, and 12.3% think they will say nothing about it. More than 41% of students think that tuition costs will increase during and after Lockdown. 20% of students think that any money spent on education will be the same as before Lockdown and 18.5% of students think that the cost has not increased and will not increase in any way and another 20% of students can say nothing about it. 35.4% of students think Lockdown is an opportunity to change educational issues and 35.4% of students do not think this is an opportunity. Similar results have been observed by Kaushal, and Kaushal⁷.

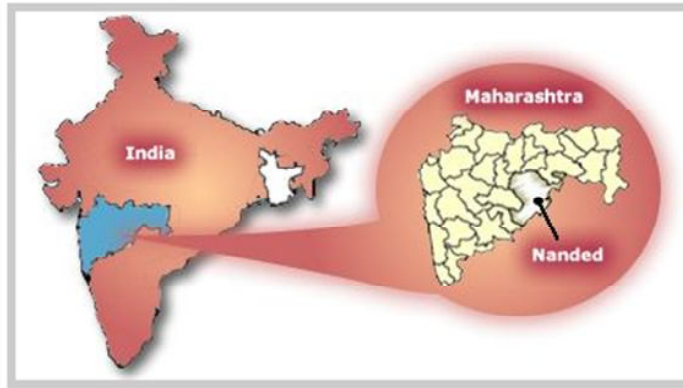


Fig. 1. Showing the study area of some selected districts in Marathwada Region



Fig. 2. Various online platforms available for teaching.

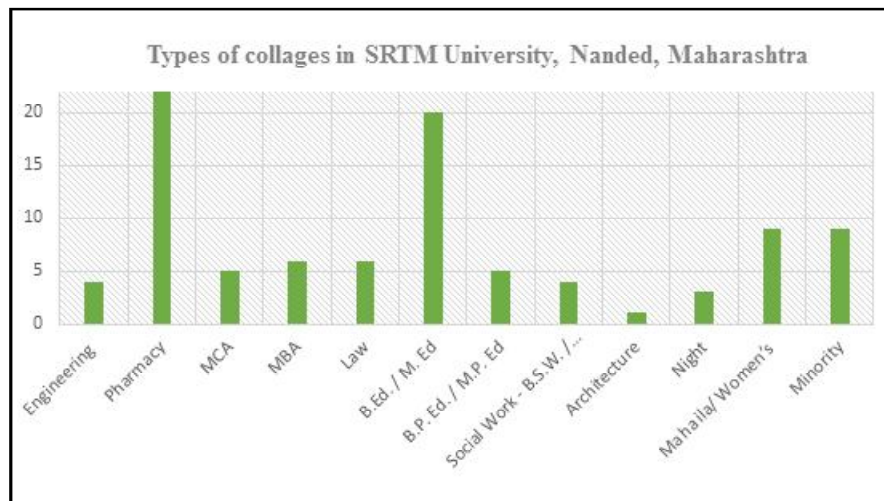


Fig. 3. Showing the types of colleges in SRTM University, Nanded, Maharashtra

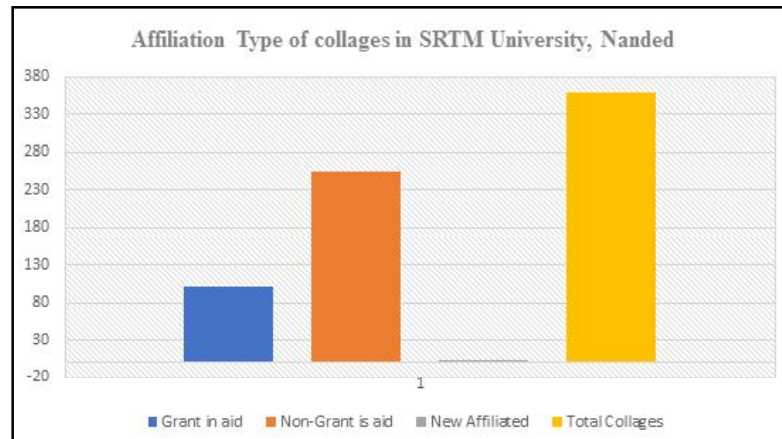


Fig. 4. Show the Affiliation Type of colleges in SRTM University, Nanded

The questionnaire-based survey is designed to collect data for students of different degrees, skills and parents in general. A total of 874 responses were collected from people from different backgrounds who participated in the study. Analysis of the collected responses confirms that chalk and normal speech are often better than online times. Results and analysis have shown that the lack of resources, infrastructure, technology tools and access to the Internet is a major obstacle to using internet times. Currently, undergraduate teaching is done in a variety of ways using various online platforms in many medical colleges without any similarities. Few colleges are still exploring online forums, and a few have chosen the best online course and invested in it. In such a complex situation, to survive, the free trial / free version of various online streaming / conference tools and free / inexpensive online data packages from telecommunications companies have made it possible to reach every student and educate them. All of these teaching / learning tools can be easily accessed, even on cell phones. Above all, various publishers have begun to provide free access

to e-resource resources, including e-books, e-journals, and websites (Fig. 2) during the epidemic.

Currently, videos, podcasts, simple virtual reality, and computer simulations are starting to be used to help teachers and facilitate student learning and training in these areas. Sudden change in teaching / learning approach creates new challenges and opportunities. Low-paid public and private schools, colleges and other educational institutions may not be able to use modern tools and strategies such as e-learning, online teaching methods, home schooling, practical learning strategies due to poor economic conditions. Negative socio-economic conditions will not allow people to develop and use internet infrastructure in rural areas. Naik *et al.*,⁹.

The study concluded that education plays a vital role in the socio-economic development of people in any country. In study region, there are some lacunae in the field of education and now the world of the day facing

the problem of the new coronavirus epidemic. To reduce the effects of the epidemic, necessary and urgent action is needed at this critical time. Special measures relating to hygiene and health as well as other socio-economic and technical measures were proposed by the authors to overcome this problem and redefine the education sector. Due to Lockdown issues, students are unable to focus on their studies and some students say there is a positive impact. Tests should only be done online and college professors should do online lectures during the closure. These issues have raised the cost of education to some extent and these issues affect not only the education sector but also all sectors. Some readers also think it is an opportunity to innovate in matters of lockdown closure.

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