

CHAPTER-22

IMPACT OF LOCKDOWN ON EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT



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ABSTRACT

Education is the process of gaining knowledge, inculcating the values, developing skills. Education is also the way to enhance innovative ideas, develop potentials and build the judgment and understanding. Education enables the people know their rights; it expands the vision and outlook to see the world. Education enables us to fight against violence, injustice and corruption. Pandemic and lockdown created uncertainty.

Keywords: Knowledge, judgment, vision, pandemic, lockdown.

INTRODUCTION

Benjamin Franklin said “An investment in knowledge pays the best interest” The educated people of the country is valuable resource, they are the nation builders. Education will develop the economy and society. Lack of education may cause violence, poor health and superstition. Good education system makes us to accept challenges, build confidence, and acquire knowledge. It is useful to gain the economic and social

status. An educated person is better citizen and good decision maker and also differentiates good and bad.

Impact of lockdown on education and employment:

Covid -19 has affected the major sectors like education, employment, entertainment, health sector, tourism, hospitality sectors. The economy of the country adversely affected by the lockdown. The pandemic resulted in the lockdown and movement of people was totally restricted. Hotels, malls, cinema houses, etc completely stopped their operation in the initial lockdown period. The educational institutions were closed down. There were no physical interaction between the students and teachers. The traditional method of teaching was affected. In the traditional method the teachers and students used to interact physically, there is one to one approach. If the students having difficulties in the topic, he or she can clarify their doubts in the classroom or even they can meet the concerned teachers for more clarification or for extra information. Teachers can motivate the students by

offering reference books or advanced books to the advance learners. Teachers or the facilitators can take extra classes or extra coaching sessions for slow learners and also provide the required books to the slow learners. Generally in the classroom environment there is heterogeneity among the students as per the capacity to understand the topics. Teachers can meet the requirements of the students by understanding the ability to understand the topic and interest. A teacher is a master in the classroom and inspires the students.

The educational institutions conducts skill oriented programs for the students to prepare them for the career. It can be for corporate world, to start new ventures or take up professions like Chartered Accountants, Company Secretaries, Panchayath Development Officer, IAS, IPS Scientists etc .Educational institutions encourage the students to take up project works, internship, group discussions, case studies, mock interview, and guest talks from scholars, workshops, skill enhancement programs, preparing the students for campus interviews. These activities are more effective in

regular classroom environment. In offline class or face to face interaction there is more bondage, liveliness and interaction. The college undertakes more number of skill oriented programs to the students especially for the final year students so that they get the better opportunities. The pandemic resulted in lock down; the face to face interaction is affected.

The Covid-19 and lockdown impacted negatively for the development of the students. There are no regular offline classes and students cannot participate in various activities like quiz competition, debates, sports activities and cultural competitions. These activities are very much useful for the all-round development of the students. The inter-college, intra-college competitions has been affected due the Covid 19 and lockdown. These competitions are very much useful to develop the leadership qualities. Competitions are helpful to showcase the hidden talents of the students.

The NSS units, Rovers and Rangers etc are the volunteer student units who work for the social cause, due to lockdown these units are unable to serve the

society. The educational institutions are undertakes experiential learning through mini projects, jathas, industrial visits, internship or summer projects. These initiatives help the students to get the practical exposure. Research by the students regarding the customer surveys, market surveys are also badly influenced by the lockdown.

It is true that lockdown affected the students, but the modern ICT helped the students to prepare the examination. The teachers and students are interacting through the use of new technology. The students are now attending the online classes through Zoom, Google Meet and other apps. Educational institutions are conducting webinars to the students. The students can participate virtually and students can gain the knowledge. Students can make use of Infilbnet or N LIST for collecting materials. There are numerous apps which help the students to prepare for the exams or competitive exams. Teachers are now using the Whatsapp to share the materials to the students

Research scholars can meet the respondents by developing the questionnaire through Google form. There are number of educational institutions which organize virtual conferences, workshops, which students can access to such informative programs and enhance their knowledge.

It is true that through the use of internet the students can attend the virtual classes, but the students from rural, tribal and hilly areas cannot attend the virtual classes due poor internet connectivity. The reach of modern gazettes only to the people who are having good purchasing power. There are people who are living in below the poverty line. Laptops, mobiles and other sophisticated gazettes are the nightmare to the economically backward people.

Lockdown and its Impact on Employment

There students who are earning and also learning. There are incomes earning avenues for the students. They work in restaurant, petrol bunks, malls, retail outlets as part timers. Lockdown adversely affected the students as hotels; malls stopped their

functions in the lockdown period. These incomes help the students for their education and livelihood. The reduction in income may affect their higher education. Lockdown adversely affected the job market. The companies are postponing their campus interviews. The students are dependent on the parents, if the incomes of the parents are affected, and then there is direct effect on the education of their kids. Many people lost their jobs due Covid and they are not afford to pay the college fees. The parents may discontinue the education of their kids.

Conclusion

The pandemic affected the lives the people very badly by reducing the income. Lockdown resulted in unemployment and it also resulted in low purchasing power. Production has reduced. Education is also affected due to lockdown effect. There is no physical face to face interaction. Students are now using the virtual class room, attending online class classes through Zoom, Google Meet etc. There is network problem in rural, hilly and tribal areas. Government should take

initiatives for digital education for building strong nation. If we have to change the world, we need to build educated society. Swami Vivekananda rightly said “Educate and raise the masses, and thus alone a nation is possible”.