The Impact of Lockdown on the Attitude of the Students towards Education with Special Reference to SRSMNGFG College, Barkur

SRIDEVI K.
Assistant Professor
Department of Social Work, Smt. Rukmini Shedthi Memorial National Government First Grade College
Barkur (Karnataka) India

ABSTRACT

In 2020 a great challenge was faced by countries all over the world when WHO declared the Novel Coronavirus a pandemic. Many have suffered and died due to the pandemic. Many suffered from financial issues and mental illnesses like depression, stress, anxiety. The study helps to understand the attitude changes which have taken place in the Post Graduate students towards the education due to lockdown. The questionnaire was developed, which included a variety of multiple-choice questions, to collect data. A web-based survey was conducted to students through the medium of Google online platform. The impact of lockdown has affected the education sector all over the globe. Due to the lockdown, every institution was confused, and even the university took certain steps to cope with the situation. The university was not able to take the right decision because of which students were not able to prepare for exams. The majority of students were satisfied with the knowledge they acquire from education but they had gone through stress during the lockdown period. From the authority to the learners, everyone faced the consequences of the pandemic. Education hasn't been the same since time, whether the system or the methods used in teaching and learning.

Key Words : Coronavirus, Education, Attitude, Mental Health, Students

INTRODUCTION

The COVID-19 pandemic has led to a dramatic loss of human life worldwide and presents an unprecedented challenge to public health, food systems, education, and therefore the world of labor. February 11, 2020, the World Health Organisation proposed the name of the virus as COVID acronym for Coronavirus disease 2019. It had been first identified in Wuhan, China on 31 December 2019. After observing the coronavirus pandemic situation the WHO advised us to take care of ourselves by social distancing because it was the first prevention step. So, every country started the action of lockdown to separate the contaminated people.

Education is a process of, inventing, discovering, learning, observing, and imparting knowledge from one to another. There are particularly three modes of providing education that can be seen openly. Since the pandemic has hit the education ground and society, it has forced the system to bring various changes in the system itself. The nationwide lockdown was imposed in most of the countries and citizens were told to stay inside their homes and maintain physical distance while going out of the home wearing mask and using sanitizers.

As we know the nationwide lockdown has affected the educational sector in such a way that the system had to change in a very short period of time. All the educational institutions were closed from primary to higher educational institutions. In India, most of the institutions have been following the pedagogy way of teaching for ages and there is some institution which has good financial support by which they have been

implementing the modern way of teaching which is using technologies and means of providing education. The schools and colleges were closed for years and months during all the phases of COVID.

The institutions tried and did adopt the modern way which is the online education system. Well, most of the students in India were not familiar with the new system and as we know that 60% of Indians are still considered to be living in rural areas by which they are not able to get all the basic facilities and even some facilities which are not impactful. Most of the students had network issues by which they were unable to attend the classes properly. Some even didn't have access to smartphones and other technologies. By looking at all these the government made the decision not to make the online classes compulsory and even some of the state governments took the step of providing smartphones and tablets to the students.

Many teachers started to make class videos and share them among groups and social networking sites. Even it was difficult for the teachers to adapt to such teaching methods but had to adapt to change. Below are some of the modes of teaching adopted by the educational institution:

1. Offline mode:
2. Online mode:
3. Videos and notes (PDF):

Review of literature:

This chapter includes a review of literature from different sources like articles, journals, and online sources. Most of the articles are related to the topic chosen like related to online learning, student attitude, and behavioural change.

According to a study done by Chaturvedi, Vishwakarma, and Singh in 2020 to explore the impacts of this pandemic on the lives of students since 2019 start of the pandemic in various educational institutions in Delhi (NCR), India using the Likert scale, multiple-choice questions, cross-sectional survey, Kruskal Wallis test. A non-parametric test, Fisher's exact test, Pearson Chi-Square test, and SAS were used in the study. This study has found out that the Covid-19 outbreak has made a significant impact on the mental health, education, and daily routine of students and has recommended investing more in the modern way of teaching as well as the policies that have been bought up due to Covid-19.

A study by Rawal, 2021 on the impact of Covid-19 on the Indian Education System, special reference to the online teaching system that has been effective since the start of the pandemic in India through articles, journals, and authentic websites related to the topic. Through the study, the findings state the lack of availability of technologies to move towards digital learning. The study indicates the positive as well as the negative impact of the pandemic on the education system. This study suggests or recommends having a combined approach to online learning with increased investment in technologies in educational institutes.

The research article by Kapasia and Paul, 2020 is to assess the impact of lockdown amidst COVID-19 on undergraduate and postgraduate learners of various colleges and universities of West Bengal. The data and information were collected through a structured questionnaire by conducting an online survey using Google Forms. The simple percentage distribution was used to assess the study. The findings of the paper state that most of the students have been learning through e-learning. The problem faced by the students is also studied in the paper. The study suggests targeted interventions to create a positive space for study among students from vulnerable sections of society.

Profile of the institution:

The Research was carried out in the college, Smt. Rukmini Shedthi Memorial National Government First Grade College & Post Graduate Study Center, Barkur, Udupi. SRSMNGFGC is a reputed Government First Grade College in Karnataka and is affiliated with Mangalore University. The college offers Bachelor's Programmes in Arts, Commerce, Science, Social Work, Business Management and Computer Application and Masters Programmes in Commerce, Mathematics, Economics, Social Work, and Physics. The total number of departments in the college is 17.

The seeds for the foundation of this college were sown at the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of Vidyabhivardhini Sangha Regd (Barkur Education Society Regd.) in 1997. The members of Barkur Education Society sent a request to the Government of Karnataka through the Department of Collegiate Education to start a Government First Grade College. Subsequently, a Government College was sanctioned with the condition that the infrastructure for the college should be provided by the local community.

The College secured a "B" Grade for NAAC assessment in March 2007 and is recognized under

Sections 2(f) and 12 (b) of the UGC Act. It was reaccredited in 2015 with B Grade 2.70 CGPA.

METHODOLOGY

The present paper includes the tools and techniques that are used in the whole process of research. Data and information presented in the current study are collected from the survey method as well as from various other sources like journals and articles

Aim of the study:

The aim of this study is to investigate the impact of the Lockdown/Pandemic due to COVID on the attitude of the PG students towards education.

Objectives of the study:

1. To study the socio-demographic profile of the respondents

2. To study the impact of the pandemic on the changing attitude of the students towards education.

3. To study the impact of the pandemic on the extent of stress experienced by the students

Study design:

A web-based survey was conducted to students through the medium of Google online platforms from September 19 to September 25, 2021.

Universe and sample size:

The postgraduate students of Smt. Rukmini Shedthi Memorial National Government First Grade College, Barkur was the universe and the sample size was 77 students.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The present paper deals with the analysis of data collected with the help of the self-designed questionnaire under the various heads with the help of tables and graphs.

Section-A: Demographic Profile:

A total of 77 respondents from different postgraduate courses in SRSNMGFG College Barkur participated in the online questionnaire survey. The demographic details of the participants were collected in order to study and analyze.

The Fig. 1 shows the gender status of the respondents. Among the 77 respondents, the majority of the respondents are female that is 59 (76.9%) and 17 (21.8%) of the respondents are male. 1(1.3%) preferred not to reveal the gender.

Fig. 1 : Gender of the respondents
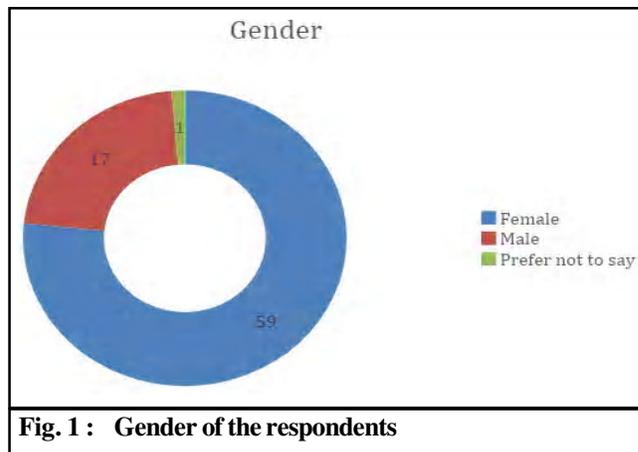
The Table 1 shows the caste category in which 58 (74.4%) students belonged to OBC out of 77, 11(15.4%) belonged to general, 3 (3.8%) SCs, 2 (2.6%) STs, and 3 (3.8%) belonged to other categories.

Table 1: Category of respondents

Category	Frequency	Percentage
General	11	15.4%
OBC	58	74.4%
Other	3	3.8%
SC	3	3.8%
ST	2	2.6%
Total	77	100

The Table 2 represents the status of the respondent's family. There were 66(85%) respondents belonging to Below Poverty Line and 11(14.1%) belonging to Above Poverty Line. By analyzing the above graph, it is obvious that most of the respondents belong to the Below Poverty line.

Table 2: Type of Ration Card

Type of Ration Card	Frequency	Percentage
APL	11	14.1%
BPL	66	85%

The Table 3 represents the place of residence of the respondents. Out of 77 respondents, 73(94.8%) of the respondents lived in rural areas and only 4(5.2%) lived in urban.

Table 3 : Place of residence

Place of residence	Frequency	Percentage
Rural	73	94.8%
Urban	4	5.2%

Section-B: Attitude towards Education:

The Fig. 2 represents the meaning of education in the view of the respondents. A majority 39(52.6%) of the respondents have opted for all the above, 29 (38.2%) of the respondents take education for knowledge-oriented, 4 (5.3%) of the respondents think education as job oriented. 2 (2.6%) of the respondents think education as certificate oriented and 1(1.3%) for marks oriented.
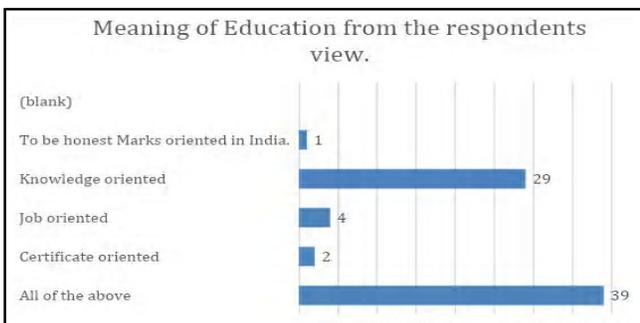

Fig. 2 : Meaning of education to respondents

The Table 4 shows the respondent's opinion on whether the decision-makers or the university took the right decision during the pandemic. A majority 42(55.1%) of the respondents replied affirmatively and 35 (44.9%) of the respondents replied negatively.

Table 4 : The decision of the university during the pandemic

Do you think the decision-makers or the university took the right decision during the pandemic?	Frequency	Percentage
No	35	44.9%
Yes	42	55.1%
Total	77	100%

The Fig. 3 shows whether the respondents wanted any changes in the academic structure and what kind of changes would they like to see. A majority 42(54.5%) of the respondents wanted to see the change in the education system, 11(15.6%) of the respondents wanted changes in the teaching methods, 2 (2.6%) of the respondents wanted changes in the syllabus, and 4(5.2%) of the respondents stated other changes. 17 (22.1%) of the respondents stated no changes were required.
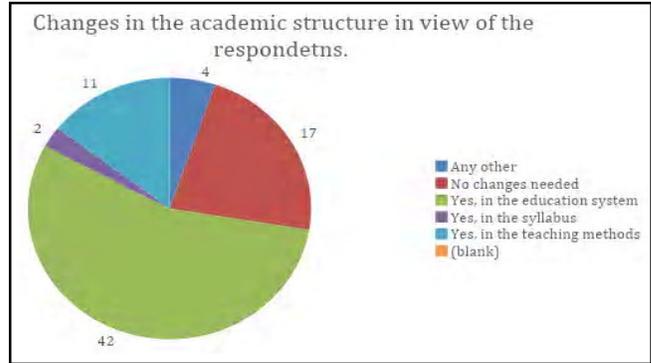

Fig. 3 : Respondent's view regarding the academic structure

The Table 5 shows which mode of teaching is preferred by the respondents. A majority 58(75.6%) of the respondents preferred offline class mode, 7(9%) of the respondents preferred online classes, 5(6.4%) of the respondents preferred watching videos and PDF notes and 7(9%) of the respondents preferred all the above.

Table 5 : Mode of teaching preferred by respondents

Which one of the modes of teaching is preferred?	Frequency	Percentage
All of the above	7	9%
Offline classes	58	75.6%
Online classes	7	9%
Videos and PDF	5	6.4%
Total	77	100%

Section-C: Physical and Mental Health:

The Fig. 4 shows whether the respondents faced any physical health-related issues during the pandemic. A majority 44(57.7%) of the respondents hadn't got any health-related issues, 26(33.3%) of the respondents had got some other health issues and 7(9%) of the respondents had been COVID positive.
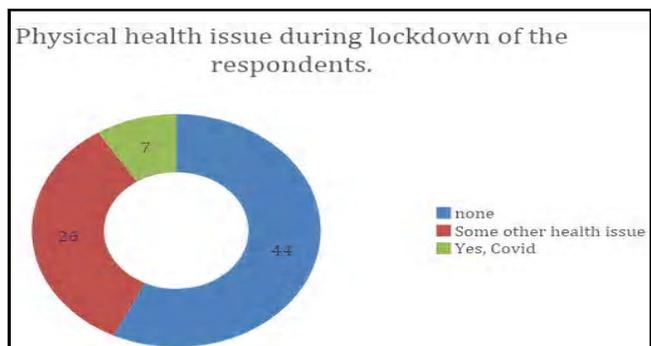

Fig. 4 : Physical health of respondents during lockdown

Internat. J. Appl. Soc. Sci. | Oct. - Dec., 2021 | **8** (10 - 12)

(287)

The Table 6 shows any mental health issues faced by the respondents during the pandemic. A majority 32(41%) of the respondents had gone through stress and 12(15.4%) of the respondents felt depressed, 8(10.3%) of the respondents were anxious and 25(33.3%) of the respondents felt none of these mental health issues.

Table 6: Mental Health status of respondents during lockdown

During the lockdown at any moment, did you feel?	Frequency	Percentage
Anxious	8	10.3%
Depressed	12	15.4%
None of the above	25	33.3%
Stressed	32	41%
Total	77	100%

The Table 7 shows the cause of mental health issues the respondents faced. A majority 27(39.4%) of the respondents faced it because of no college/social life due to lockdown, 22(31%) of the respondents had financial issues, 17(23.9%) of the respondents had some other reasons, 2 (2.8%) of the respondents had family issues, 1(1.4%) had a mental health issue and 1(1.4%) had relationship issue.

Table 7: Reasons for mental illness among respondents

If yes, was it because of	Frequency	Percentage
Any other	17	23.9%
Family issue	2	2.8%
Financial issue	22	31%
Mental issue	1	1.4%
No college/social life due to lockdown	27	39.4%
Relationship issue	1	1.4%
Total	77	100%

The Table 8 shows the respondents' responses to the mental health issue they faced. A majority 28(40%) of the respondents who faced the issue were helped by their family members, 17(25.7%) of the respondents helped themselves with their own activities, 5(7.1%) of the respondents were helped by the friend circle to come out of the mental health issue and 19 (27.1%) respondents had their own ways.

Suggestions:

Many of the educational institutions have been reopened and colleges too. But as we know since the reopening of the institutions, education is not like what it used to be. The teaching methods have changed, the classes schedule have changed, the mentality of the teachers and students have been changed. With all the problems that have been noted, we can provide some suggestions from the study and analysis. The following are the suggestions:

1. The university or the authorities need to take opinions from the students before taking any decisive decisions or actions.

2. The education or the method should be flexible in imparting online or offline both because students have gone through a long gap by which they may not be so much fond with the reading and studying. And also have network issues and technologies, not all the students are financially stable to afford a smartphone and internet every day and month.

3. The institutions or the authorities should not mount pressure on the students in a short period of time in a situation like this.

Table 8 : Responses to the mental health issue

If yes, then how did you manage to come out of depression/ anxiety/stress?	Frequency	Percentage
Help by a family member	28	40%
Help by oneself	17	25.7%
Help from Friends	5	7.1%
Other ways	19	27.1%
Total	77	100%

Conclusion:

The impact of lockdown has affected the education sector all over the globe. From the authority to the learners, everyone faced the consequences of the pandemic. Education hasn't been the same since time, whether the system or the methods used in teaching and learning. The history of education helps in suggesting the changes required in the present and future. Due to the pandemic, we could understand the importance of E-learning or E-education in each and every institution. The decision-makers have to understand and take steps wisely in order to make changes. The sudden changes will affect not only the system but as well as the attitude and thoughts towards the policy and education. Attitudes of the students have been changed and now it's up to the policymakers to make the right decision and make changes needed by the students for better learning and development.

REFERENCES

An analysis of COVID-19 Impacts On Indian Education SystemRetrieved 23 October 2021, from https://coed.dypvp.edu.in/educational-resurgence-journal/documents/jan-2021/35-40.pdf

COVID-19 and its impact on education, social life and mental health of students: A SurveyRetrieved 23 October 2021, from https://www.researchgate.net/publication/347935769_COVID-19_and_its_impact_on_education_social_life_and_mental_health_of_students_A_Survey/link/5fe8a11292851c13fec565cb/download

Impact of COVID-19 on people's livelihoods, their health and our food systems. Who.int. (2021). Retrieved 23 October 2021, from https://www.who.int/news/item/13-10-2020-impact-of-covid-19-on-people's-livelihoods-their-health-and-our-food-systems.

Impact of lockdown on learning status of undergraduate and postgraduate students during COVID-19 pandemic in West Bengal, IndiaRetrieved 23 October 2021https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32834270/

****