



ISSN Print: 2394-7500  
ISSN Online: 2394-5869  
Impact Factor: 8.4  
IJAR 2021; 7(5): 39-40  
[www.allresearchjournal.com](http://www.allresearchjournal.com)  
Received: 27-03-2021  
Accepted: 29-04-2021

**Caroline Satur**  
Principal, M.L.B.G.M.G.H.S.  
School, Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh,  
India

**Dr. Sunil Gouraha**  
Sports Officer, Rajiv Gandhi  
P.G. Govt. College,  
Ambikapur, Sarguja,  
Chhattisgarh, India

## COVID-19 brings challenges and opportunities in education

**Caroline Satur and Dr. Sunil Gouraha**

### Abstract

Every challenge opens up a new opportunity! Higher education has many possibilities and challenges during the “keep social distance” period. The COVID19 coronavirus pandemic situation is affecting the lives of many students, families & communities. In these challenging times, tools, resources and tips are plentiful, but to find ones that really work is the right way of facing the challenge, the most positive approach.

While other critical needs such as health, water and sanitation are being responded to, educational needs cannot be forgotten and these have an equally detrimental impact if left unaddressed. The ‘pile-on effect’ of the coronavirus is that, during the global COVID-19 pandemic, interruptions to education can have long term implication, especially for the most vulnerable.

Online education using various platforms offer big opportunities to reach out to students in remote locations. Virtual classrooms have become a popular reality, like Padhai Tuhar Dwar, etc. Online education will be successful only if it reaches every student. For this, certain issues need to be tackled. The internet infrastructure in the country needs to be leapfrogged first. This can be executed by governments only if the spectrum and infrastructure are regulated by them.

This paper deals with the challenges and opportunities in the field of education in the present scenario of COVID19.

**Keywords:** Education, COVID19, challenges, opportunities, online education, students

### Introduction

“Challenge and adversity are meant to help you know who you are. Storms hit your weakness, but unlock your true strength.”- Roy T. Bennett.

With every crisis comes deep challenges and opportunities for transformation-past education crises have shown that it is possible to build back better. COVID 19 has changed substantially, the way we live. Many newly emerged burning issues stare at us. In "live with COVID" era, many alternatives will be forced to develop to substitute the old style of functioning of man-machine and knowledge delivery. Field of education too cannot insulate itself from such alternatives and drastic changes are taking place in the educational field too at a rapid pace.

### Major risks and effects of COVID-19

Girls are likely to be out of school in crisis situations and face greater barriers to education and vulnerabilities such as domestic/gender-based violence when not in school.

Refugees, displaced and migrant children often fall between the cracks as national policies.

Children and youth with disabilities are neglected in the best of times and have lower educational outcomes than their peers.

Young people affected by trauma or mental health issues rely for their wellbeing and development in order to learn.

### Education is the need of the hour-education cannot wait

“To reach a port we must set sail-Sail, not tie at anchor- Sail, not drift.”- Franklin D. Roosevelt

**The Short Term Method:** This means we must maintain access to learning and ensure students retain knowledge and skills through temporary remote, alternative or distance learning programmes.

**Corresponding Author:**  
**Caroline Satur**  
Principal, M.L.B.G.M.G.H.S.  
School, Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh,  
India

**The Medium Term Method:** This means catching up and transitioning students who have fallen behind or had a break in their education to re-join their level of schooling and competency through automatic promotion with a mandatory catch-up/remedial period at the beginning.

**The Longer Term Method:** This means there is a need for education systems to be set up with contingency capacities to mitigate and manage risk in the future.

#### **The virtual world- online education-an opportunity**

"The secret of change is to focus all of your energy, not on fighting the old, but on building the new."- Socrates  
Since the COVID -19 pandemic has disrupted the normal lifestyle of people across the globe, the virtual world has come to the rescue. Amongst many institutions, schools have also shifted their base to virtual platforms to conduct classes online. Catering to the needs of all stages of education from pre-primary to university level, online education has emerged as an alternative to ordinary face to face classes. Efforts are being made by both government and non-government organisations and edtech companies to support the school system to make a smooth transition to the virtual world.

#### **Measures taken by the government**

The Central government has recently launched the PM e-VIDYA platform, with 12 new DTH channels, one for each class to reach out to all stratas of society. These efforts have proved beneficial to a sizable chunk of the school-going population. The DIKSHA platform, which reaches across all states in India, can be further strengthened to ensure accessibility of learning to the students.

#### **Online learning resources**

The current scenario has opened our eyes to free, online learning resources. Ten high-quality education channels on YouTube that parents and educators can use to help with remote learning: Khan Academy, TEDed, National Geographic Education, Google Arts and Culture, Headspace for Kids, Global Oneness Project, LEGO Discover, Code.org. Crash Course Kids, Go Noodle

#### **Online education-apps and channels**

Conferencing Apps, Online Radio, Terrestrial Radio Channels, Television Channels, Diksha, National Repository of Open Educational Resources (Nroer), National Initiative for School Heads and Teachers Holistic Advancement (Nesta), Swayam.

#### **Online education-challenges/barriers**

Students and teachers have their own struggles while accessing these online platforms.

Due to financial constraints, students are not able to access the internet, and are devoid of electronic gadgets and laptop, mobile, phone or computer or even radio and TV.

Those students who have facilities to attend to online classes face barriers in terms of unavailability of physical space, which is equally applicable to teachers who are supposed to conduct online classes from their home.

There are also social barriers such as discrimination against girls as they are expected to do household chores instead of attending online classes.

In rural areas, boys are often expected to work on the family farmlands.

In homes where TV and radio are available, the question of who has control over these gadgets is important.

Most of the time, girls are not allowed to watch educational programmes.

#### **The brighter side of the pandemic-online education**

"The secret of change is to focus all of your energy, not on fighting the old, but on building the new."-Socrates

There's an increase in teachers' digital skills. Radio and TV stations have recognised their key role in supporting national education goals, and are improving the quality of their programming and understanding their immense social responsibility. Parents are now more involved in their children's education process, and ministries of education have a much clearer understanding of the gaps and challenges (in connectivity, hardware, integration of digital tools in the curriculum, teachers' readiness) that exist in using technology effectively and act upon that. This will strengthen the future education system of our country.

#### **Suggestions for the government**

1. To prepare a better strategy to address and tackle the COVID induced educational disruption for 100% benefit.
2. To implement a plan to provide education which includes radio broadcast to all students.
3. To capitalize on developing a mobile phone-based educational intervention.
4. To come forward with a policy perspective on post COVID response to education.

#### **Conclusion**

The mission of the education system is to overcome the learning crisis. The challenge today is to reduce as much as possible the negative impact this pandemic will have on learning and schooling and build on this experience to get back on a path of faster improvement in learning. As education systems cope with this crisis to recover stronger, with a renewed sense of responsibility of all, with a better understanding and sense of urgency of the need to close the gap in opportunities, they are also assuring that all children have the same chances for a quality education for a better India!

"Ultimately, the greatest lesson that COVID-19 can teach humanity is that we are all in this together."- Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw

#### **References**

1. Government.economictimes.indiatimes.com>education
2. www.educationcannotwait.org>covid-19
3. www.brookings.edu>blog>2020