

# **Impact of Covid-19 on professional learners: - Technology & Other Challenges**

*Dr. Gauri Kala*  
*Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth*  
*gauri.kala@yahoo.com*

## **Abstract:**

The pandemic of covid-19 in the year 2020-21 is witnessed by each and every living being. It has spread worldwide like an uncontrollable fire in a short span. Its spread and infection has hugged a lot of peoples. To tackle with this pandemic only solution available with all the governments is to declare a strict lockdown all over the country. In order to identify the effect of covid-19 and lockdown on professional learners, researcher has adopted a case study method by taking a sample of 100 Students studying a professional course, data collection is done with the help of questionnaire, collected from the professional courses students, age between 18 years to 70 years. Researcher has tried a lot to cover most of the important factor both in the negative and positive way, paper also covers affected professional learner in their education as well as their off view on this subject matter.

## **Key Word:**

Lock down, Online platform, Pandemic, Quarantine, webinars,

## **Introduction:**

The pandemic of covid-19 in the year 2020-21 is witnessed by each and every living being. The inception of this virus is from Wuhan city of China, has not only affected to Chinese but it has spread worldwide like an uncontrollable fire in a very short period of time. Before government of any country could think of its solution, its spread and infection has hugged a lot of peoples. This virus has not only infected people but at the same time it was proved deadly. Many people has lost their loved ones, this lose is non recoverable and unforgettable. No discrimination on the basis of caste, creed, sex, religion, color or status is been done by corona virus. It has affected all equally, its major effect has been faced by person's having major pre illness, elderly population and even those who exposed outside without following covid standard operating procedure, issued by government time to time. This virus has affected all the sectors of our economy, because of which the financial position of our country has also drastically affected. In order to control this virus and protect the life of a people, each and every country has decided to put a complete lockdown in their own country, because this was the only way available with all the country to curtail the spread of virus. Unfortunately this lockdown had a very drastic impact on each and every human beings lifestyle, routine, mental and physical health, education, financial status and socially etc. Human being is a social animal, to live in society and work together with a feeling of oneness is the prime feeling of human being. Due to complete lockdown people could not move from one place to another, this has affected everyone in one or the other way. Some students are dependent on their parents for their education and some are themselves parents. Some People join professional courses in a vary letter stage of life, the hunger of education, knowledge and learning new and their interested areas of study is the factor which attract them towards joining professional courses. This pandemic has affected both the categories of professional learners both in good or unpleasant connection, every category is having their own experience, and this can be depicted in this paper. Researcher has tried a lot to cover most of the important factor both in the negative and positive way, affected professional learner in their education as well as their off view on this subject matter.

Professional course is a one of the most demandable course generally chosen by students after HSC & graduation from any stream. Due to high demand and ample scope of professional courses its fees is also high as compare to other simple vocational courses. This lockdown and virus has affected student's studies, their mental and physical wellbeing. The fear of getting attracted towards the virus was rampant among public. If any family member found out positive or even any friend, relative, neighbor or known person comes positive, was a major factor of concern. People were so scared that instead of leaving in cities, they preferred to shift in their native place, along with their kids and family, which is also one of the key factors, affected the mental physical wellbeing of the students.

## Objectives:

The present study is concentrated on the following objectives.

1. To highlight the impact of Covid -19 on professional courses learner
2. To identify the viewpoint of professional learners towards various emerging approaches of India for professional learners

3. To identify professional learners approach towards the adopting online mode of education for forever, post covid-19.

### **Impact of covid-19 on professional learners**

Efforts to slow down the spread of covid-19 through non pharmaceutical and preventive measures such as social distancing and self isolation have prompted the widespread closure of educational institution all over the world. It has been observed that due to lock down, people lost their job, income and is in a very high crunch of money, due to sudden unemployment it has a great impact on their monthly income, seen a difficult time in their life, it has directly affected to their livelihood, education fess, housing rent and health of the living being. Many people shifted to their native place in a very remote area. The country was in a complete full stop position. It cannot be remain in such a situation for a longer time, slowly-slowly people learned the concept of wearing mask, sanitizing hand frequently and importance of social distancing from each other. Government and health care sector has played a very vital role to educate everyone, result of which is seen within a period of seven to eight months things started unlocking due to control of covid-19 virus spread in worldwide. With the support of government, health care sector and essential commodities has provided necessary help to many part of the villages, town and cities. Sudden move from city to villages and no income has affected professional learners in getting knowledge and continuing in getting the same sort of lifestyle and education as compare to pre covid.

### **Viewpoint of professional learners towards various emerging approaches of India for professional learners**

There was a complete stoppage of education system all over the world, in order to bring education in an earlier position was very difficult, but way out has been traced to impart education to all learners by adopting online mode of education. Pre covid -19 also the mode of imparting education through online was followed by many but was an optional mode, due to pandemic this optional mode has converted into mandatory mode, because this is the only way left to impart knowledge, to teach students. The professional learner's academic curriculum activity covers many aspects like field visit; report Making, Presentation, viva Voice, offline exam, practical's etc. All this was possible only by way of offline mode of education. This pandemic had taught all of us to adopt a new normal mode of acquiring education through online mode. Various mode of online education is been adopted by all the students and various means of delivering lecture is been adopted by teachers, such as usage of telegram, whatsapp, face book, zoom meeting, Google classroom etc. is been increased tremendously. The difficulty faced by learners is the poor connectivity issue, non availability of internet in their villages, low data pack to cover all aspects of courses, some of them is not having smart phone on the other hand one mobile is been used by all the family members for online work and education, so was difficult to manage the things at the same time.. This unprecedented virus has dramatically changed the education process, from offline to online, digital platforms for teaching and learning was the only mode available to impart lecture more effectively and beneficially in order to continue education in our country.

### **Professional learners approach towards the adopting online mode of education for forever, post covid-19**

As the demand for professional courses is very high, in order to satisfy the desire and demand of professional courses, the curriculum activity need to be conducted on time and by following the way suggested by the Professional courses approval giving authorities and Institution. Syllabus completion, conducting of viva, presentation, internal exam, practical training, Laboratory work, Experiments etc was not possible without physical presence of students and teachers, but has made possible up to certain extent by using the online platform. Students of higher age group is facing difficulty to adopt the digital platform to gain knowledge, because they were not that much well versed with the technology, they were more comfortable with the offline education mode as compare to online education mode. Professional learners do not see the future of online mode of education as brighter also they do not welcome the online mode of conducting exam, many students are not fair during their exam, adopted unethical methods for clearing the exam, resulted in to hundred percent result with goods marks unfortunately it is effecting the quality of education and at the same time injustice with the student, studying hard for their better carrier.

### **Suggestion for giving educational activities of professional learners, facing the challenges created by Covid-19.**

Instead of declaring a zero year in an academic year 2020-21, central and state government with the joint efforts has brought a way out in the interest of all the category of students, the online mode of education and various educational applications is the best outcome seen in the pandemic. Eventually things turned into effective mode by way of adopting digital platform. Students were made aware about the usage of internet, usage of many teaching learning apps. Initially it was difficult for all the professionals and teachers to adopt the new technology for teaching and learning but within a few month time period, people has adopted the new mode of learning and working through the usage of technology. Again we all have witnessed the fact that difficult time give birth to opportunity and resulted into adoption of a novel mode of teaching and learning. All the sectors including educational sector is been effectively working with the help of online mode, colleges are shut down transportation is available only for few emergency services, students learning from home by attending on-line lectures. This online mode for imparting knowledge and lectures to students was like a hope of ray during the pandemic, many students grabbed the opportunity of learning many new things with the help of online platform during the pandemic. Introduction and promotion of online platform and various educational applications for students and learners were proved effective and beneficial, further it is one of the most appreciating and utilized approach of all.

**Methodology:** Each category of individual has their own experience, in order to identify the effect of covid-19 and lockdown on professional learners, researcher has adopted a case study method by taking a sample of 100 Students studying a professional course, data collection is done with the help of personal interview conducted by researcher from the professional courses students, age between 18 years to 70 years. Qualitative approach is been adopted for this research paper. Analysis of this collected data is been done with the help of using the tool of excel software.

**Analysis:** For doing this research, a set of questions has been interviewed with students for their feedback. Out of this data, researcher has analyzed that related to online mode of education, Out of the total sample size of 100 %, 80 % of the population, i.e. out of 100 students 80 students feel that the online mode of education has proved to be effective and of great help during the pandemic situation because of the following reasons:-

Online mode of education reduces travelling time; ensure safety during the pandemic, no compromise in the studies as the mode helped in keeping the curriculum in a continuous flow without any break in studies.

The another question related to facing difficulty in adopting technology, out of the total sample size of 100 %, 60 % of the population i.e. out of 100 students, 60 students did not face any difficulty and got easy adaptation to the technology, whereas 40 % i.e., 40 students faced difficulties in adopting the technology because of some technical glitches (being unable to join the lecture after repeated requests), foremost obstacle for the students became connectivity issue and network problem.

Further on the question related to the affect of online mode of education and lock down specifically, out of the total sample size of 100 %, 55 % of the population i.e. out of 100 students, 55 students have been affected by the lockdown or either online mode of education in following ways:-

Lazy and lethargic attitude has gradually developed towards the studies, with no growth and development in oneself.

Faced financial issues.

Online lectures didn't work well because of connectivity issues

Quality of education dropped drastically, concentration power also decreased.

Lockdown taught many important life lessons

Online education has completely precluded social development

Affected field visit and Internships

Practical knowledge lacking because of online mode of education

45 % i.e. 45 students out of 100 say that they have not been affected by lockdown or either online mode of education.

View on the very next question related to conducting exam and other practical aspects through online mode, out of the total sample size of 100 %, 65 % of the population, i.e. out of 100 students, 65 students don't find the online mode of education to be feasible mode for conducting practical aspects or exam due to the following reasons:

Server down or network problem makes it difficult at times for submission of the assignments.

Not justifiable as immoral activities are involved during online exams like cheating and copying.

Do not bring out the best as only visuals are known and not other minute details.

This online mode of exam is gradually decreasing thinking capacity

High leniency and students taking undue advantage of the situation.



35 % i.e. 35 students out of 100 students find this mode as a more effective because of the current pandemic situation, more importantly online system will save papers and ultimately saving papers will lead to saving the environment.

Finally on the last question related to adopting online mode of education for forever, out of the total sample size of 100 %, 80 % of the population, i.e. out of 100 students, 80 students do not see the future of online mode of education as brighter and do not even wish to see this platform to be used for education forever because:-

A student becoming highly lazy and lenient towards their studies, as there is no one to keep a strict check on them or on their work.

It will take a lot of investment and time

Distraction at home by family members or friends

Not a best way to learn especially for law students as it is a practical subject

Network issue becomes a big hindrance

Studies will gradually becoming boring rather than interesting

Teachers are unable to map the progress of the students.

20% i.e., 20 students out of 100 students, do find the online mode as a convenient mode for forever because it ensures flexibility and saves travelling time and resources in general.

### **Findings:**

The first and the utmost important finding out of this research is online mode of education during the pandemic is appreciated and found out great help for professional learners. Secondly the researcher has traced that, this pandemic has affected many of the professional learners in various forms, viz, financial issues, network and connectivity issue was a major challenge during online lectures, quality of education dropped drastically because of unethical mode of answering in online exam. Finally the approach towards the online education for forever is not welcomed by students, the future of online mode of education is not brighter and likes to see offline mode of education post pandemic.

## References

1. WHO. WHO corona virus dieses (Covid-19) dashboard. Retrieved on June 3, 2020 from [http:// Covid 19.who.int/](http://Covid19.who.int/)
2. UGC Notice 29<sup>th</sup> April 2020. UGC guidelines on examination and academic calendar in view of COVID-19 pandemic retrieved on June 5, 2020 from <https://www.ugc.ac.in/pdfnews/5369929> letter regarding UGC guidelines on Examination and Academic Calendar.pdf