



Impact of COVID 19 on teaching -learning process with specific reference to online legal education in India

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Abstract:

Today, overall world is suffering from pandemic disease like COVID 19. It has global impact on social, economic, political and education includes legal education also. Due to the lockdown policy of the government it becomes difficult to provide direct education to students hence students are suffering and losing their valuable time. During lockdown period there are challenges before the government how to overcome this situation? As far as education sector is concern many of the school and colleges has started online education as per the instructions of the government. To start online legal education, it has some challenges before the educational institution and students. Online education can't replace the direct education, but it is an alternative way during the lockdown period. Online legal education has some advantages as well as disadvantages. Therefore, the researcher has tried to discuss the impact of COVID 19 on legal education in India. Researcher also highlighted issues and challenges before the government.

Key words: Impact, COVID 19, Online Legal Education, Lockdown, teaching, learning.

Introduction:

COVID 19 is caused due to virus and it is firstly found in Wuhan China in December 2019. It is also called as coronavirus and abbreviated as COVID-19. Due to this virus people get infected like high fever, dry cough, unable to take breathing etc. This is viral virus disease and spreads in the society from one person to another like other viral infection. Therefore, the government has taken decision to maintain social contacts, maintain social distancing, use mask etc this will help to breakdown chain of coronavirus. During lockdown period all the institutions including educational will remain close as declared by the Government. In India since March 2020 the lockdown period has been started and is continuously going on till the date.

The period of lockdown is affecting on student and educational institution from KG to PG and above PG including legal education institution. It is great challenge before students and educational institution that how provide education in current academic year. The University Grant Commission has granted permission for online education system but still there are some challenge before the students and educational institution. In India maximum people are living in the rural, village area and they are not knowledge about online education and online resources for providing and taking education. India is under developing country, over population, poverty, illiteracy, lack of awareness about online technology.

• Research methodology:

Research method means a systematic plan for doing research. While writing this article the researcher has adopted doctrinal method and collected data from various source including internet, research article and newspapers. It means that the researcher has collected second hand data.

Objectives of the research: researcher has framed following objectives as under

- To discuss the nature of online legal education in India.
- To discuss the impact of COVID 19 on Legal education in India.
- To examine the difficulties of online legal education.
- To examine the advantages and disadvantages of online legal education.
- To suggest remedies for overcome this problem.

Online Legal education and difficulties in India:

During the pandemic period direct classes of the school, colleges and Universities have been stopped. For last academic year the examinations have been cancelled and postponed and some decisions regarding cancellation of examination are still confusing and pending. There are great challenges before the universities and colleges that how to conduct examination during pandemic period. Form this academic year some institutions are trying to conduct online lectures for students but there are some technical problems facing students as well as teacher. In case of online legal education, there are few possibilities discussed as under.

- **Directions of the Bar Council of India:** The Bar council of India has also directed to the Universities and colleges to conduct online lectures and other curriculum activities for the benefit of the students. The object behind this online classes that, students should not suffer entire semester during the period of lockdown. The infection of coronavirus is increasing day by day in all countries including Maharashtra and therefore the lockdown period has been extended till August. During this period the government has given directions to the Universities and colleges to do work from home. Hence there is only the option to give priority to online education.
- **Lack of technical awareness:** This is one of the hurdles in case of online legal education. Some college teacher and students are not aware about the technological knowledge about online classes. Therefore, there is needed to provide training about online education to lecturers.
- **Lack of infrastructural facilities with law colleges and universities.** The coronavirus and pandemic situation occurred suddenly in all countries therefore, within this short period it is not possible to Universities and colleges to raise fund for online legal education facilities to the students.
- **Smart phone:** While conducting online classes there is need of PC or laptop, or smart mobile phone with Net package. It means that parents must provide or purchase smart phone or PC or laptop with Network connection and it is not affording to all parents to do this. It may create financial burden on parents those financial condition is weak.
- **Lack of physical control on students:** As we know that, there is indirect control on while conducting online classes. Students can misuse the online lectures; they can show that attending lectures and maintain the record of attendance. There are few options available on smart phone and laptop by which it is possible to keep record of attendance.
- **Poor Network:** poor network may create problem to both students and teachers. Due to poor network it is not possible to teacher to conduct lecture and for student not possible to attend lecture. To solve network problem is not in the hands of both the parties. It may result failure to attend the lectures
- **Online education is not permitted by Bar Council of India:** There is basic issue in case of online legal education that, the Bar council of India has not permitted or authorized to provide online legal education. As per the Rule 4 of the Bar Council of India for legal education, 2008 has permitted three years degree course and five years degree integrated courses. Hence the online legal education has no valid scope as per this rule and it is not approved by the Bar Council of India. Therefore, there is needed to make an amendment in the Rule of Bar Council of India in case of this type of emergency or pandemic situation has occurred.
- **Practical oriented subjects:** In case of legal education some subjects are practical oriented and so it is need of physical presence of the students and teacher in the class. Subjects like drafting and pleadings and

conveyancing, moot court, public interest lawyering etc. It is difficult to provide online education in case of practical oriented subjects.

- **Lack of expertise:** All teachers are not experts about the online education system. There is need to provide training to the teacher before conducting online classes. They get difficulties while providing online legal education.
- **Online examination and evaluation of students:** now coronavirus is spreading fast and daily percentage of patient is increasing so it is difficult to conduct direct examination therefore students of last academic year are promoting on the basis of their internal marks or grades as per the directions provided by the Bar Council of India and Universities. Again, it creates confusion for final year students about conducting of examination and the authenticity of their degree as per the Bar Council Rule. Online examinations are likely to distance education and distance education criteria is not allowed in case of law.
- **Fees structure of the institution as burden on students:** During the lockdown period, all the business, trade, commerce are affecting and close down therefore it is burden on parent to pay different fees of the educational institutions like admission fees, library fees, laboratory fees, infrastructural fees etc. during the period of lockdown people are not getting work and it imposes additional burden on them to pay these fees to the educational institution. In case of online education there is no direct teaching therefore educational institution must have to reduce the additional fees.
- **Examinations are postponed:** During the lockdown period all the entrance examinations including medical, engineering, law, agriculture and other professional courses have been postponed for the current academic year. Students are waiting for these examinations. During the lockdown period it is difficult to the universities and colleges to conduct direct examination. Till the date government has not displayed time tale of all entrance examination. Therefore, student and not sure about the selection of their field. They are getting confusing.
- **Financial burden on universities and colleges:** During the lockdown period admission procedure is also postponed by the universities and colleges as the directions provided by the governments. The universities and colleges are unable to collect admission fees from the students and it is creating financial burden on the colleges and universities to manage the financial transactions. Private unaided law colleges are depending on the fees collection of the students it becomes difficult to them to run the college and develop online classes.
- **New appointment has been stopped:**

During lockdown period new appointments of law teacher and administrative stop has been stopped due to the reason of financial burden on the universities and college and ultimately it also creates burden on the government. The economic condition of the nation become worst during lock down period. it is also impact on teaching learning process.

- **Technology plays vital role during lockdown period:** During the period of lockdown process the means of commutation is technology. The government has directed that, work from home it means that employee must have to perform their duties from home through online education system. Some private schools and colleges have started online lectures but the government schools still waiting for direct education. During this period technology become prior important for online teaching learning process. Only e- learning is solution in the hands of the people.
- **Impact on higher education in abroad:** During the pandemic situation and lockdown period students who want to take education in the foreign country like USA, UK, Australia, China any many more country, it become difficult to continue education in the foreign country. Today maximum countries are suffering from coronavirus hence it is direct impact on students. Student who are doing job in the companies they may afraid to lose the job. Some are voluntarily leaving the job due to the fear of coronavirus.

Advantages of online Legal education

- Online legal education is an alternative mode for direct education and solution for continuing education.
- Various online sources are available to the students for searching relevant information like e-books, notes, articles, graphs, charts etc. so they can easily access the books from internet and able to do study.
- Online courses are more feasible as compare to direct teaching in the classroom. At one time many students can join the online classes. We can save manpower through online education. eg. One lecturer can engage more than 250 or more students as per the limitation of different applications.
- There is no need to take notes while teaching, students can take screen shots, save videos, record the lecture etc. and able to do study as per their convenience.
- More clarity may be possible through animation effect and technology.
- Online legal teaching is possible in case of theoretical subject.
- Anyone can take online legal education without qualification and become aware about law subjects.
- It is easy method to gain the legal knowledge through online education system.
- Social distancing can be maintained through online legal education to the students.

Disadvantage of online legal education:

- Means of online legal education are not possible to poor student. India is developing country and there are some hurdles for development including poverty and illiteracy in the nation. In India most of the students are living in villages and their background may be comes under the head poverty and below poverty line so they are unable to manage means of online legal education.
- Online legal education may impact on physical and mental health of the student and teacher. There are side effects of the mobile and laptop and other means of communication technology.
- Lack of communication and visual means and disconnecting problem of the network in case of online legal education.
- Technical difficulties may face students as well as teacher in teaching learning process.
- Online sessions or classes are not interactive like direct classroom. During the teaching and learning process students as well as teachers may unable to join the meeting due to technical problem or network problems.
- Online courses have not proper evaluation method. In case of physical teaching in the classroom direct control of the teacher on the students but as far as online classes are concern, lack of physical control while conducting online examination.
- Student can't clear their doubts at any time through online education system, they have to convey message direct or indirect as per the time schedule provided by the teacher.
- Student can't get authentic and reliable information through online legal education. There are so many sources available on internet and student have no knowledge of authentic and reliable sources of law.
- Practical classes can't be conducted through online technology.

Suggestions:

- There should be training programme for student and teacher relating to online legal education.
- Modern tools and techniques regarding online legal education should be developed.
- All the education institution must start online legal education during lockdown period of pandemic.
- Online entrance examination should be conducted by the Universities and directions should be given by the government.
- Student must be familiar with the online education system. Online training programme should be conducted for awareness.
- Initiatives for spreading online legal education should be taken by the Universities and colleges.

Conclusion:

On the basis of above discussion researcher has concluded that, during the lockdown period we can't stop the teaching learning process. Online legal education is an alternative mode for teaching learning process. As the researcher has discussed about advantages and disadvantages of online legal education. But today there is need of alternative education for all students. The coronavirus is spread in most of all countries of the world and all the nations are searching alternative methods for teaching and learning process. The Bar Council of India has directed to the universities to conduct online lectures otherwise students will lose entire semester during the period of lockdown. In the 21st century there are new tools and techniques have been developed by the researcher to overcome this lockdown situation. These types of situations may occur in future so can we wait or stop our education during such period? We should be ready to face the problems and provide alternative remedy for teaching learning process. Every problem has the solution. Therefore, we have to think about solution instead of raising issues of the coronavirus. Government has to take such initiatives to overcome this situation. Modern tools and techniques should be developed as per changing time.

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