

IMPACT OF LOCKDOWN ON EDUCATION OF COLLEGE STUDENTS IN A RURAL COMMUNITY OF PASCHIM MEDINIPUR, WEST BENGAL: A TELEPHONIC SURVEY

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Abstract: Lockdown is the most important pathway to prevent corona virus pandemic but this lockdown effects on our college students as well as the youth of rural areas. Youth are the backbone of the society, in an alternative way as we can say that college students or youth mostly teenagers are the backbone in our society. Education plays most important role in our society because without proper education man can do nothing. In present lockdown situation of pandemic of corona virus the students of every part of our society stay in home and their educational institution are also closed. In this situation many of the state or many of the educational institutions (i.e. college, school) are served their teaching materials and teachers are delivered their lectures through online system like, WhatsApp, Facebook live, YouTube, Zoom, Google class room etc. In rural areas most of the students has not a smartphone and that's why they are very much suffered from their education and many other cases students did not understand their teachers lecture. On the other hand majority of the state declared that student in the present time will be appeared in the next semester without their semester examination; they have to clear only their internal assessment. As their parent are workless due to lockdown, the students of rural areas are now in aimless situation. Many of the students has been stopped their studies and tried to help their parent to collect essential commodities to survive in this terrible situation. In this study we tried find out the impact of lockdown on students of rural areas and want to recognize their problems and it can be solved.

Keywords: commodities, education, lockdown, pandemic, students

I. INTRODUCTION

Swami Vivekananda says that “*Education is the manifestation of perfection already in man.*” But in pandemic situation of corona virus the normal education system of our state are not in a continuing mode. Though many of the education institution have been working on online process but the students those have not a smart phone are not access their study materials properly. Students those possess

smart phone also unable to collect their periodic study materials due to poor mobile network issue and also due to their insufficient balance in their mobile. They did not judge what would be done in this situation. So we have to find out the problem of this situation and how overcome it.

What is Education?

The world education comes from the Latin word e-ducere, mean “to lead out”. It is indeed, difficult to define education. Education is a relentless process of becoming. To the human being we educate and to the animal we train. According to Wikipedia Encyclopaedia, education in the broadest sense is any act or experience that has a formative effect on mind, character or physical ability of an individual. In its technical sense education is a process by which society deliberately transmits its accumulated knowledge, skills and values from one generation to another. Education is the basis for development and empowerment for every nation. It plays a vital role in understanding and participating in day to day activities of today’s world. It builds one’s character and plays a significant role in transmitting one’s culture, belief and values to others in society. It helps in creating innovations and meeting the growing needs of every nation. The development of a nation is not measured through the buildings it has built, the roads it has laid down, bridges it has constructed but by the human resources, the nation has developed through a well-defined system of education. Although the physical facilities are usually important they are perishable and valuable. In the absence of proper education, the nation can hardly develop these and maintain them. Education is therefore more crucial factor not only to equip the new generations with skills so essential for earning a livelihood but also to create among them an awareness to social and environmental realities and inculcate in them scientific temper, independence of mind and spirit which are of paramount importance for them to become responsible citizens.

The growth of society is not possible without education. It is with this reason that almost all the eminent educationists have unanimously agreed that education is the pillar on which the entire fabric of nation resides. Whether a society is formed through contract or communication, education plays its vital role in preservation and transmission of social values. The process through which they are transmitted is educational and the process through people are brought up and made conscious of their rights and duties are social. A non-social human being is made social through and educational process and therefore education is called a social process. It prepares the child for adult life where he will be in a position to fulfil his responsibility of adult life. In the words of Lodge, “Life is Education and Education is Life”. Education has been defined as “a process of development in which consists the passage of human being from infancy, to Maturity, the process by which he adopts himself gradually in various ways to his physical and spiritual environment.” In this definition the ability of

social adaptation means the development of social qualities like co-operation, co-ordination among social groups and communities. Article 26 (2) of Universal Declaration of Human Rights has stated the purpose of Education as – “Education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. It shall promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations, racial or religious group, and shall further the activities of the United Nations for the maintenance of peace”. “Everyone has the right to education. Education shall be free, at least in the elementary and fundamental stages. Elementary education shall be compulsory. Technical and professional education shall be made generally available and higher education shall be equally accessible to all on the basis of merit.

What is lockdown?

A lockdown is a prison protocol that usually prevents people or information from leaving an area. The protocol can usually only be initiated by someone in a position of authority. Lockdowns can also be used to protect people inside a facility or, for example, a computing system, from a threat or other external event. Of buildings, a drill lockdown usually means that doors leading outside are locked such that no person may enter or exit. A full lockdown usually means that people must stay where they are and may not enter or exit a building or rooms within said building. If people are in a hallway, they should go to the nearest safe, enclosed room.

Why lockdown is necessary?

Researchers are well on their way to discovering vaccines and treatments for the virus, but even in a best-case scenario, these are likely to be 12-18 months away. Until then, extreme social distancing is pretty much the only intervention available to help individuals stay healthy, and to break the chain of transmission - giving more vulnerable populations a fighting chance of surviving this pandemic. But how exactly does a lockdown work? And why is it important for even younger and healthier people, who face a lower risk of severe illness, to remain in their homes as much as possible?

The purpose of a lockdown, explains a new study from the Imperial College London COVID-19 Response Team, is to reduce reproduction – in other words, to reduce the number of people each confirmed case infects. The goal is to keep reproduction, or “R,” below one ($R < 1$) – with each case infecting fewer than one other person, on average.

The authors of the study say there are two routes to try to get there:

Mitigation “slowing but not necessarily stopping epidemic spread – reducing peak healthcare demand while protecting those most at risk of severe disease from infection.” This is done by isolating suspected cases and their households, and social distancing the elderly and people at highest risk of serious illness. Suppression or basically, lockdown, which “aims to reverse epidemic growth, reducing case numbers to low levels” by social distancing the entire population “indefinitely” and closing schools and universities.

So, we can realize that huge population state like India lockdown is very important for prevent corona virus.

II . METHODOLOGY

The 19th district of our state is Paschim Medinipur. This district was formed as division of Midnapore on 01.01.2001. The headquarters of East Medinipur district is Tamluk, and the headquarters of Paschim Medinipur district is Medinipur. The subdivisions of Paschim Medinipur consist of the Medinipur, Ghatal, and Kharagpur and in this subdivision about 27 police stations are located.

Purpose of the study: The main objective of our study is to review the condition of the college students in rural areas of this district. It is a backward district of west Bengal, namely jangalmahal. Most of the people of this district are engaged in agriculture. Majority of the inhabitant of this district are poor and hard working people. In this region most of the students does not carry a smart phone and those students possess smart phone faces poor network problem and also problems related to insufficient balance. At the same time in this lockdown session mobile shops are closed; if open they have not enough money for recharging their mobile. The main purpose of the study to find out the linkage between lockdown and educational status of the students in Paschim Medinipur district.

Questionnaire: The present study is descriptive because here emphasis laid on the impacts of lockdown to the education of college student in rural areas of Paschim Medinipur.

In the questionnaire, we have enlisted various questions like - age of the student, gender, class of reading, economic status of the students' parent etc. By doing so, it has made it easier for the respondents to collect the relevant information from the study. Since the study is descriptive, we have not only asked questions such as Yes / No of the standardized answer. We have also tried to collect regional data through descriptive questions. Since we have taken this interview ourselves through

telephonic conversation, it has been possible for us to collect some compelling answers or information.

Interview: Field research experience suggests that adequate contact with respondents is a must. It also has the right attitude and feelings. If we can conduct the interview in this way, then it will be possible for our intimate, complex, emotion-filled past to collect information. Through this approach, respondents are interested in answering the normal situation. Insightful Interview In this case, if the most important answer is to allow yourself to think like yourself, then the usual rule is to ask him the answer. Consequently, before the commencement of the interview, the interviewer will be interested in spending some time with the respondent. If we have this identity issue done properly, there will be unnatural communication and the respondent will be obliged to give the correct answer. This whole process is time consuming. However, this is one of the data collection methods in the interest of the present study. The question is why we are so interested in collecting information through interviews. G. B. Allport describes it through his writing. He says, “If you want to know how people feel, what they experience and what they remember, what their emotions and motives are like, and the reasons for acting as they do why not ask them?” This indirect semi structured interview method with questionnaires helped us to conduct the research work in different ways in the lockdown situation.

One of our main purposes is to verify the truth of the assumptions. Having verified these assumptions, we have answered our questions. The purpose of which is to collect accurate information. Now the projections referred to in our study are projections. The assumptions of our present study are:

- 1) College students of this area are forced to stop their study for lockdown
- 2) Physical and mental retardation is one of the reasons effects on education
- 3) For lack of awareness, students are helpless and stop study.
- 4) A sudden change in the economic situation or an economic catastrophe makes student's panic.

One of our main objectives is to address the impact on education college students in rural area of Paschim Medinipur district. We interviewed 40 college students. We have collected data from Paschim Medinipur district for survey review. Who are associated with this profession? In collecting this information we are from various rural areas of the district. We have used Simple Random Sampling as a special method for collecting this information.

III. DATA TABULATION

Table3.1

Gender

| Gender | Total Number | Percentage (%) |
|---------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Male | 10 | 25.00% |
| Female | 30 | 75.00% |
| Total | 40 | 100.00% |

In the table 3.1 we have seen that among the respondents most of are female (75%) and rest are male (25%). Most of the respondents are female because in the session of 2019-2020 average students' admission in a college 80% are female students and "kanyashree prokolpo" is very influenced female students where as in the male students are deprived this type of method and there were no job in this sector.

Table3.2

Class of Reading

| Reading in Which Class | Total Number | Percentage (%) |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 2 nd Semester | 12 | 30.00% |
| 4 th Semester | 12 | 30.00% |
| 6 th Semester | 6 | 15.00% |
| 3 rd year | 10 | 25.00% |
| Total | 40 | 100.00% |

In the table 3.2 we have seen that among the respondents most of the students are reading 2nd semester and 4th semester both are mostly all over 60% and 6th semester and 3rd year students nearly all over 40%

Table 3.3

Parents Occupation

| Parents Occupation | Total Number | Percentage |
|--------------------|--------------|------------|
| Cultivation | 27 | 67.50% |
| Business | 9 | 22.50% |
| Other | 4 | 10.00% |
| Total | 40 | 100.00% |

In the table 3.3 we have seen that among the respondents (students) their parents occupation is maximum is cultivation 67.50% and 22.50% are engaged with business purpose and other 10.00% engaged to the other purpose.

Table 3.4

Income

| Classification of Income | Total Number | Percentage (%) |
|--------------------------|--------------|----------------|
| 2000-4000 | 4 | 10.00% |
| 4000-6000 | 20 | 50.00% |
| 6000-8000 | 8 | 20.00% |
| 8000-10000 | 6 | 15.00% |
| 10000 above | 2 | 5.00% |
| Total | 40 | 100.0% |

In the table 3.4 we have seen among the respondents (students) their families monthly income average 4000-6000 are 50.00% and only few families monthly income 8000-1000(15.00%). So, we can say that the respondent's family are belonging in a poor condition.

Table 3.5

Causes of Stop Study

| Causes to Stop study | Total Number | Percentage (%) |
|----------------------|--------------|----------------|
|----------------------|--------------|----------------|

| | | |
|----------|----|---------|
| Economic | 27 | 67.50% |
| Social | 9 | 22.50% |
| Other | 4 | 10.00% |
| Total | 40 | 100.00% |

In the table 3.5 we have seen that among the respondents most of the respondents nearly (67.50%) stop their study for economic causes. And some respondents stop their study social causes(22.50%) and other are 10.00%.

Table 3.6
Healthy Food availability

| Healthy food available | Total Number | Percentage (%) |
|------------------------|--------------|----------------|
| Yes | 11 | 27.50% |
| No | 7 | 17.50% |
| No comment | 22 | 55.00% |
| Total | 40 | 100.00% |

In the table 3.6 we have seen that among the respondent's healthy food available in their home only 27.50% and not available healthy food in their home is nearly 17.50%. many of the respondents no comments in this regard they are mostly 55.00%.

Table 3.7
Not attended online class

| Causes of Not Attended Online Class | Total Number | Percentage (%) |
|--|--------------|----------------|
| Having Smart phone(Mobile Network Issue) | 17 | 42.5 |
| Not Having Smart phone | 23 | 57.50% |
| Total | 40 | 100.00% |

In the table 3.7 we have seen among the respondents not attended online class in lockdown period from their college maximum respondents have not smart phone 57.50% and those have smart phone there have network issue.

II. DATA ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

After reviewing the above information, the main purpose of this study is to inform the public. Whereby our predictions are inaccurate. The major respondent of the research work are belong to poor condition and most of the respondents not have smartphone, those who have smartphone they were not attended their college or institute given online lecture case of network issue. We can also see that most of the respondent is not eating well at home for lack of money. We also see that many of respondents parents are attached with cultivation and in the lockdown period cultivation system are very much suffered. For example they did not go to market for sell their production and as well as they did not buy any kinds of healthy foods. In that circumstances college students in rural community are very much suffered of their study and they did not think what to do now. So, in this context they stop their education and help their parents for maintain their daily life that they as alive.

Limitations: Completed data is reviewed, analysed and summarized using a simple statistical method for review and analysis. Limitations while doing this research field survey, I have encountered difficulties in various aspects. As a result, research cannot be called accurate. For this reason, several limitations have been mentioned in the research project. First, most of the respondents are not saying about their family condition. Second, Members expression not resentment for a short time. Thirdly, privacy is noticed in the members' answers. Fourth, Many times the members have expressed reluctance to answer. Fifth, Informants have repeatedly asked many questions, what their profit with the question.

III. CONCLUSION

India is one of the most populous and agro-developing countries in the Third World, whose population has exceeded 130 core. In this huge population driven India, the pandemic period of corona virus lockdown is the effective measure as said by the researcher and doctor also. But the rural areas college students are very much suffered for lockdown. Their daily activities are for the purpose of eating and livings are not very well and as well as they did not continue their study. Because for a

developing country, this problem of its society will not go forward if the problem is not resolved. According to the specific plan. For example, if infrastructure development, the government takes full control of all these tasks and maintain houses, roads, then the people below the labour force will be able to lift themselves. This will make long-term benefits possible for the state. After all, the next generation of education will be entitled to the labour force of the market economy, with the benefit of health. In this way, if the residents of the rural areas people are involved in various types of industrial work. As a result, the problems of college students in rural community can be alleviated minor.

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