EFFECT OF COVID-19 SITUATIONS ON TEACHER TRAINEES – A STUDY

B. Sukanya
Principal, KSEF College of Education
Sixa Road, Northern Extension, Tumkur, Karnataka, India

Abstract

The impact of pandemic COVID-19 is observed in every sector around the world. The education sectors of India as well as world are badly affected by this. It has enforced the worldwide lock down creating very bad effect on the students' life. Around 32 crore learners stopped to move schools/colleges and all educational activities halted in India. The outbreak of COVID-19 has taught us that change is inevitable. It has worked as a catalyst for the educational institutions to grow and opt for platforms with technologies, which have not been used before. The education sector has been fighting to survive the crises with a different approach and digitizing the challenges to wash away the threat of the pandemic. This research project highlights Impact of Covid-19 on teacher trainees of selected affiliated B.Ed. colleges under Tumkur University. Both the positive and negative impacts of COVID-19 on education are discussed and some fruitful suggestions are also pointed to carry out educational activities during the pandemic situation. This research study to be discussed "Effect of Covid-19 situations on Teacher Trainees – A Study"

Keywords: Covid-19 Pandemic, Corona Virus, Lockdown, In Effected People, Home Quarantine, Google Meet, Online Education

Introduction
Statement of the Problem

"The biggest lesson learnt from the Covid-19 pandemic is that compounded global supply chains can grind to a halt by even single broken chain."

Manish Bhatnagar, SKF India
A familiar motivated scholar and Writer

The large number of people are being infected and killed on daily basis all over the world. And the data of death, infected and recovered cases are being provided on different websites, Google, webpages etc. But these data are only limited to national and international level. Therefore, with the necessity to bring the data of local level with effective analysis, and to make a project work possible through effect of Covid-19 on student teachers of five selected affiliated colleges of Tumkur University.

With an outbreak of COVID -19 in India, 'Ministry of Health and Population' is providing the data on daily basis through websites, newspaper, Facebook and different Medias. But these data are only based on national level. Such sites highlight the national level infected, recovered, death cases. But it doesn't provide systematic district level data. Thus, proper analysis of district level data through pictorial representation are not available in these sites. Hence, with the need to highlight the district, local level data and to do effective analysis and evaluation we were assigned with the project on study of COVID-19 in our home Tumkur district.

During the research project, the researcher did the thorough study of COVID-19 cases in their home districts with help of available sites, web-pages, newspapers and virtual communication with local bodies like municipality, Rural Municipality, etc. From these we collect different random data and refined it in systematic research format. Hence, our project addressed the district level data.

Backdrop of the Pandemic situation

After observing the corona virus pandemic situation, the WHO advised to maintain social distancing as the first prevention step. So, every country started the action of lockdown to separate the contaminated people. The education sectors including schools, colleges and universities became closed. Classes suspended and all examinations of schools, colleges and universities including entrance tests were postponed indefinitely. Thus, the lockdown destroyed the schedules of every student teacher. Though it is an exceptional situation in the history of education, COVID-19 has created many opportunities to come out of the rigorous classroom teaching model to a new era of digital model.

The lockdown has compelled many educational institutions to cancel their classes, examinations, internships etc. and to choose the online modes. Initially, the educators and the teacher trainees were quite confused and didn't understand how to cope up with the situation of this sudden crisis that compelled closure of the educational activities. But later on all realized that the lockdown has taught so many lessons to manage with the emergence of such pandemics. Thus, COVID-19 has created many challenges and opportunities for the educational institutes to strengthen their technological knowledge and infrastructure. The lockdown has given

them a ray of hope for teachers and teacher trainees to continue their educational activities through online.

Advanced Online Education

The teachers assigned work to teacher trainees via internet, delivered lectures through live video conferencing using different Apps like Zoom, Google meet, Facebook, Youtube, and Skype etc. There are WhatsApp groups of guardians, teachers, teacher trainees and parents for affective communication through which they are always in touch to share their difficulties through this e-medium. In a nation like China that practices a considerably more centralization system, a change to digital learning may be simpler. Even in a nation like the U.S.A, there are some low pay teacher trainees who don't approach broad bands and unable to use computerized learning arrangement (Study Abroad Life). The same is the situation that happens with India where not every student is well equipped with the high-speed internet and digital gadgets and are along these lines of suffer. Numerous advanced educational institutions in India are not also equipped with digital facilities right now to cope up with sudden change from traditional education set up to the online education system.

Education during Covid-19

To prevent spread of pandemic COVID-19, the Government of India has taken number of preventive measures. The union government declared a countrywide lock-down of all educational institutions on 16 March 2020. Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) postponed all examinations of secondary and higher secondary schools on March 18, 2020 throughout India. CBSE released revised guidelines for examination centres to conduct examinations by maintaining a distance of at least 1 meter between the teacher trainees taking the exam with a class not having more than 24 students. If the rooms of the examination centres are small then the teacher trainees should be divided into different rooms accordingly.

The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) postponed the interview for the Civil Services Examination 2019. Similarly, the most of the state Governments and other educational boards postponed examinations due to outbreak of COVID-19. Govt. of India has observed one day nationwide Janta-curfew on March 22 and implement lockdown from March 25, 2020 onwards in different phases.

Government of India has been extending lockdown periods from time to time adopting different strategies to fight with the pandemic but educational institutions remained closed continuously. The lockdown 6.0 was declared on June 29, which is effective from 1st July to 31st July 2020 with some less restriction in other sectors except education. Almost all state government ministries have taken measures to ensure that the academic activities of schools and colleges do not hamper during the lockdown period.

Teaching Learning Strategies in Changing System

They have instructed the schools to hold all their classes online. The lockdown has accelerated adoption of digital technology. It has provided a chance to develop new and improved professional skills/knowledge through online learning in more efficient and productive way. Online learning is the best solution during this pandemic Covid-19 situation. So, the digital India vision of the government is emerging as a vital tool for solving the present crisis due to Covid-19. It is a fact that technology-based education is more transparent with all respect. Looking at this challenge of colleges and schools being shut, government of India, as well as state governments and private players have undertaken proper initiatives. The Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) has made several arrangements, including online portals and educational channels through Direct to Home TV, Radios for teacher trainees to continue learning. During lockdown, teacher trainees are using popular social media tools like WhatsApp, Zoom, Google meet, Telegram, Youtube live, Facebook live etc. for online teaching learning system. ICT initiative of MHRD (eBroucher-https://mhrd.gov.in/ict-initiatives) is a unique platform which combines all digital resources for online education.:

Health conditions return to B.Ed. Colleges?

Whether a child should go to school depends on their health condition, the current transmission of COVID-19 within their community, and the protective measures the school and community have in place to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission. While current evidence suggests that the risk of severe disease for children is lower overall than for adults, special precautions can be taken to minimize the risk of infection among children, and the benefits of returning to school should also be considered. Current evidence suggests that people with underlying conditions such as chronic respiratory illness including asthma (moderate-to-severe), obesity, diabetes or cancer, are at higher risk of developing severe disease and death than people without other health conditions. This also appears to be the case for children, but more information is still needed.

Review of Literature

COVID-19 is a disease caused by a new strain of corona virus. 'CO' stands for corona, 'VI' for virus, and 'D' for disease. Formerly this disease was referred to as '2019 novel corona virus' or '2019-nCoV'. It was first detected in the Wuhan city located in South China which mend its way to America and throughout the world devastating central Europe.

Its effect reached to our country in no time and now there are more than 200,000 cases in the country. The general public of the country have been facing lockdown since last six months and been going through numerous difficulties with lots of fear in their mind.

Lots of data have been published nationally but the people are unaware about the situation in their locality. As, we being from all parts of the country are analyzing the situation in our home districts so that we could provide some relevant information to the local people. Thus, we had picked up this project as emergency handling of covid- 19 in our home districts.

There have been Mapathon and thematic competition regarding the presentation and exposing of COVID-19 data by different media. It contributed a lot for researchers like us in completing our project. As the local data were unavailable through the web- pages of governmental offices and we were unable to participate physically in extracting through primary sources this competition helped us a lot in extracting the un-highlighted data and analyze them in a systematic manner.

The Mapathon held by the NGES, contributed us to get the data. There were many participants and they have presented the different Maps showing the COVID-19 Cases of different districts, municipalities and national level data.

Objectives of the Research Study

The specific objectives of present research study are

1. To study timely trend of Covid-19 in our home districts along with the comparative study of situations of B.Ed. Teacher trainees of Tumkur District
2. To determine the possible analytical outcomes of COVID-19 situations based on the teacher trainees' attitude in Covid Lockdown period.
3. To study and evaluate the provided facilities of B.Ed. College in their course study

Scope of the Research Study

The researcher collected the COVID-19 data samples 125 teacher trainees in various through different sources from the below mentioned colleges. We have used the 5 B.Ed. Colleges of Tumkur District of Karnataka State in India. The selected colleges

1) K.S.E.F. College of Education, Tumkur
2) Indira College of Education, Tumkur
3) SVS College of Education, Tumkur
4) Akshaya College of Education, Tumkur
5) Sridevi College of Education, Tumkur

are under affiliated B.Ed. College of Tumkur District. We have refined, and analyzed those data in different aspects and displayed it in a systematic form. So, this report/project can be helpful to different teacher trainees who are doing COVID -19 research and project of different districts. Similarly, local level bodies can utilize it to study the pattern of COVID-19 and formulate the further plans as per need.

Hypothesis of the Study

The specific objectives of the present research project are:

1) There is a significant difference of effect of covid 19 situations other courses and B.Ed. Course.
2) There are no significant differences between B.Ed. and other professional course students.
3) Practicals and course work is different from other general study course.

Limitations of the research Study

The present research study has to be following limitations

1) The time duration to conduct this research study was the major constrained obtaining opinion of the B.Ed. Students.
2) The sample has to be used in this study contained towards B.Ed. Teacher trainees of Tumkur Area.

3) Some information is in websites Internet and other human resources which might have been useful for the researchers present research project.

Discussion

This study explores under Tumkur university teacher trainees' experiences regarding the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on different aspects of their social and educational lives. These student teachers were pursuing their B.Ed. academic degrees in various B.Ed. Colleges throughout the curfew period in Tumkur District of Karnataka State.

In terms of the period of curfew associated with the COVID-19 pandemic situation taking into consideration this context in the current study, the results showed a high to moderate level of agreement for the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on different social and educational aspects of students' lives.

Environmental aspects of teacher trainees' lives

Teacher trainees responded with a high level of agreement in relation to societal and environmental aspects of their lives, that keeping the investment in environmental hygiene was a positive impact of the COVID-19 pandemic for their environment. This result reflects steps taken by the Karnataka State government to increase the environmental sanitation campaign and sterilization of streets, public sites, and markets to curb the spread of COVID-19. For society, students' perceptions indicated a high level of agreement for the feeling of societal destiny unity as a positive impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. This confirms that the pandemic acted as a catalyst for feelings of social unity and strengthening the connectedness of communities, despite the adversity this pandemic has also bought societies.

Online study aspect of student trainees

Findings demonstrated that online study was perceived as being more positively than negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic although the level of these impacts was at a moderate level of agreement. Teacher trainees found that online study was close to the reality of their learning environment throughout the curfew period. This can be attributed to the design of learning activities being suitable for the capabilities and expectations of students, related to level of increasing students' engagement, and accessible to everyone. On the other hand, missing the classroom social environment was one of the highest negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on students' online study throughout the curfew period.

This may highlight that addressing the missing social presence in online study for teacher trainees through the available communication channels must be attended to by teachers to maintain and enhance the lost spontaneous student-to-student and student-to-teacher interactions. In addition, cognitive presence, which focuses on the ability of teachers to consider the preparedness of teacher trainees to participate in the online study experience, and facilitatory presence through embodying direct instruction for the tools, resources and mentoring activities, are important for compensating for the missing social presence in online study.

Educational aspects of teacher trainees through online

Findings related to the online education showed that COVID-19, to a moderate level impacted positively and negatively on the online education aspect of students' lives. Enhancing social interaction among teacher trainees in online education was the main advantage of online education throughout the curfew period. The online education environment consists of two sets of interacting styles: the first one consists of students, instructor, and content, while the second consists of technologies, and methods of communication. As social distancing is necessary due to COVID-19 pandemic outbreak, e-applications (such as Zoom) or Discussion Board (For Blackboard) become important primary or supportive tools for online education to help keep teacher trainees connected and cope with being away from the classroom. The findings of the current study confirm the positive role of online education in enhancing students' social interactions.

Nevertheless, students' perceptions in the current study revealed a high negative impact in terms of finding online education inadequate for practical learning throughout the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak. This highlights the necessity of shedding light on the role of technologies' capabilities in terms of their methods of communication in supporting interaction among teacher trainees and delivering a quality educational experience.

Theoretical contribution

The findings of this research study contribute to the extant literature for SIT's framework about the impact of events in the social environment with the forces, that are involved in these events, and their influences on individuals engaged over the time of the event. Although this study did not target participants who were infected by COVID-19, the perceptions of current study participants

showed a high to moderate level of agreement with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the aspects of their social and educational lives. The COVID-19 pandemic in the framework of SIT in this study is the event that impacts on students' lives.

As mentioned in the framework of SIT for this study, the precautionary and preventive measures included: imposing a curfew; closing all universities, educational institutions, and schools; closing all places of daily social activities, such as sport centers, amusement parks, and entertainment zones; banning all social gatherings, including funerals and weddings; and closing shopping malls and shops with the exception of pharmacies and supermarkets. All these precautionary and preventive measures affected different aspects of students' lives as outlined in the next section.

Teacher Trainees precautionary and preventive measures.
Imposing a 24-hour curfew shifted the lives of teacher trainees to a new experience, especially at home where they spent their whole day. The findings of this study indicate that staying at home helped teacher trainees positively reorganize their priorities and that the period proved a positive time for spiritual reflections and achieving peace of mind, as well as providing the opportunity to be close to their family members. However, feelings of isolation and being away from their community members were confirmed as negative impacts, reflecting that an emotional part of students' lives was absent during their experience of curfew. Closing all places of daily social activities as a precautionary and preventive measure for containing COVID-19 had an impact on students' lives in relation to their being inactive physically and creating the feeling of a lack of space for movement, but not as much as getting an opportunity to learn how to take care of the body as a positive impact.

The banning of all social gatherings, including funerals and weddings, as a measure to contain COVID-19 coincided with the high level of agreement that a positive impact was investment in environmental hygiene. In addition, closing shopping malls and most shops received a high to moderate level of agreement by teacher trainees in relation to unnecessary purchasing of material things, highlighting the impact of this precautionary and preventive measure on the style of students' lives societally throughout the period of curfew.

Finally, universities and educational institutions closure and the shift to online education for all teacher trainees had a moderate impact on online study and education in their lives. In relation to the online study, students' perceptions confirmed that experiences of online study simulated their learning environment at the university. However, online study was not able to replace the social environment of the classroom. Moreover, teacher trainees found that while online education was adequate for supporting their social interaction, they missed the practical side of learning together.

COVID-19 pandemic impacts
Taking into consideration students' perceptions of the impact of COVID-19 on their lives, the SIT framework illustrates how students' lives were affected by the COVID-19 pandemic through its three factors (strength, immediacy, and number of sources). The precautionary and preventive measures drew their strength as protocols that were applied to contain the COVID-19 pandemic in students' lives but also acted as the number of sources impacting on the lives of the teacher trainees.

Suggestions
India should develop creative strategies to ensure that all teacher trainees must have sustainable access to learning during pandemic COVID-19. The Indian policies must include various individuals from diverse backgrounds including remote regions, marginalised and minority groups for effective delivery. Immediate measures are required to lessen the effects of the pandemic on job offers, internship programs, and research projects. Many online learning platforms offer multiple programmes on the same subjects with different levels of certifications, methodology and assessment parameters. So, the quality of programmes may differ across different online learning platforms. These are the concluded main themes of suggestions of the research project is herein under

1. Establishment of quality assurance mechanisms and quality benchmark for online learning programmes must be developed and offered by Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in India keeping in view of rapid growth of the online learning platforms Across the globe, Indian traditional knowledge is well known for its scientific innovations, values and benefits to develop sustainable technologies and medicines and this knowledge systems in different fields should be integrated with a present-day mainstream higher education system.
2. Government and private educational institutes should plan to continue the educational activities maintaining social distancing. 30-40% teacher trainees and teachers may attend schools/colleges in two shifts per day to carry on educational activities by obeying guidelines for COVID-19.
3. The internet access to technology and internet is an urgent requirement. So, the digital capabilities and the required

infrastructure must reach to the remotest and poorest communities to facilitate the teacher trainees to continue their education during the pandemics.

4. There is a need to deploy public funds to fix the internet gap and ensure that teacher trainees continue to learn digitally.
5. The state governments/private organisations should come up with ideas to address this issue of digital education.
6. Some significant issues associated with distance learning strategies like the availability and access to digital devices with internet connectivity, the need for safe learning spaces, creating capabilities for teachers, families and teacher trainees to operate and navigate digital devices, and engaging lesson plans for disabled teacher trainees and other marginalised groups should be addressed by Govt. and the stakeholders.

Summing Up

This research project study revealed a high to moderate level of agreement with regard to the positive and negative impacts on their social and educational lives associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on social aspects was higher than on the educational aspects of students' lives. Staying connected with family members, appreciating life and death, reorganizing priorities in life, practicing environmental hygiene, and feeling societal destiny unity were the prominent positive impacts that emerged. In contrast, concern over becoming a burden on others because of infection by COVID-19 was a perceived negative impact. On the other hand, aspects of online study and enhancing social interaction among teacher trainees in online education were notable positive impacts on the educational lives of teacher trainees throughout the period of curfew. However, missing the classroom social environment, and finding online education inadequate for practical learning were the highest reported negative impacts. The SIT framework was used to help demonstrate how the COVID-19 pandemic affected teacher trainees' lives throughout the curfew period.

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