



Pandemic to Endemic: Perceptions of Teacher Trainees on Challenges of Education

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ABSTRACT:

The pandemic has brought a dramatic loss of human life worldwide and challenged the normal life of a human being with unprecedented challenges to public health and the world of work. The pandemics economic and social disruption of millions of people forcing them into poverty and malnourishment. The education sector too is not a limitation which was hitherto slow to change. The pandemic shocked the system with lockdown and transition to online teaching – learning during shutdown of schools. The challenges of pandemic are unending with increased dropouts, learning loss and high digital divide.

During this pandemic, education experienced a shift from regular contact classes to online platforms with teachers adapting to online pedagogy and the examinations being conducted online too. This situation exposed many deficiencies of education system right from access to supportive environments necessary to focus on learning. The Covid – 19 had severe impact on higher education as universities and all higher education institutions were shut and countries shut their borders as part of lockdown. Though higher education institutions quickly replaced their face-to-face lectures with online learning, it affected the teaching, learning and evaluation process. The safety and legal status of international students is highly jeopardized in their host country during lockdown.

The covid-19 pandemic sent shock waves across the globe. The education system switched to remote learning with challenges like access to technology, internet connectivity and managerial imperfections. Remote learning modalities adapted as an emergency response failed to reach all the students, handle mismanagement and control the flaws of students. India being a developing country faced tough challenges in providing access to all the students and the Government did its best by using satellite channels and television networks. The Government adapted and came up with immediate and innovative schemes and subsidies for free internet access, distribute free tablets and smartphones etc.

In the post-pandemic era though the traditional classroom teaching learning process is restored the drastic changes in social and physical living conditions of human society brought different set of challenges before the teaching fraternity. Students suffer with pandemic trauma, stress and other health issues. Learning capacity naturally depends on the good health of a child. Dedicated hours of study and rigorous routine are necessary for good academic achievement. Children who often fall sick show considerably low learning capabilities than a healthy child. Health is a must for agile learning. The recent pandemic has affected the health of the children as well as their concentration and skills. The students are hampered in their reading, writing and other academic skills. Added to this a series of endemic diseases like typhoid, malaria, dengue are creating multiple health issues for children. The student's ability to attend classes, cope with their weaknesses, lack of coordination, reduced memory and other health issues.



The present study focusses on the pandemic and endemic challenges of education in the pandemic and post pandemic era.

Related Literature

Blume, C. (2022) in his study on ‘German Teachers’ Digital Habitus and Their Pandemic Pedagogy’ found that learning through digital tools in early 2020 during Covid – 19 resulted in insufficient competence and inadequate technology leading to inequitable access and uneven implementation. Though the transition to digital platforms may have positive development it may also bring about a number of challenges.

Grussendorf, J. (2022) in their study titled ‘Teacher Presence and Engagement: Lessons for Effective Post-Pandemic Pedagogy’ presents reflections of students on transition from face to face to fully online format. The researcher opines that online teaching is feasible as well as effective. It requires proper design, timely preparation and continuous engagement which requires institutional support.

Felten, P (2022) in his study on ‘From Pandemic to Endemic Pedagogy: Being CLEAR in our Teaching’ reflects on the happenings in the pandemic portal for teaching and learning in higher education with the five interlocking characteristics of post pandemic pedagogy i.e. CLEAR Context, Learning, Equity, Agency and Relationship.

Jamaludin, A. & So, H.J. (2021) in their study titled ‘From Pandemic to Endemic: Why Evidence-Informed

Practices are more important than ever?’ Opined that as a community we can further propel the use of educational evidence to address the grand challenges we face today.

Objectives

- To study the perceptions of teacher trainees on Pandemic challenges of Education
- To study the perceptions of teacher trainees on Endemic challenges of Education
- To study the perceptions of teacher trainees with reference to Pandemic and Endemic challenges of Education

Research Method

Descriptive survey method is used in the present study.

Research Tool

Pandemic Challenges Perception Scale and Endemic Challenges Perception Scale prepared by the researcher herself are used in the present study.

Sample and Sample techniques

The study was done on teacher trainees of Babasaheb Bhimaro Ambedkar University of 2021-23 batch. A sample of 74 teacher trainees were selected for the study using simple random sampling technique.

Findings

Table 1 Perceptions of teacher trainees on Pandemic Challenges of Education

Mean	SD	Skewness	Kurtosis
33.69	10.57	0.65	-0.69

From the above table the mean of the sample is 33.61. The standard deviation is found to be 10.51. The value of skewness obtained is 0.65 in which the distribution is positively skewed. The kurtosis value is found to be -0.69 therefore, the curve of distribution is platykurtic. Hence, the distribution is not normal and is heterogeneous.

The education system, especially the teaching

community faced one of its toughest challenges during pandemic. The teacher trainees of the present society were neither trained nor ever experienced against anything like pandemic. The teacher trainees felt pandemic challenges due to lack of exposure and experience of teaching in risky environment and also the inability to deal with students on online platforms and who do not



meet the minimum academic requirements of successful learning.

Table 2 Perceptions of teacher trainees on Endemic Challenges of Education

Mean	SD	skewness	Kurtosis
38.61	10.96	-1.36	-0.023

From the above table the mean of the sample is 38.61 the standard deviation is 10.96. The value of skewness obtained is -1.36 in which the distribution is negatively skewed. The kurtosis value is found to be -0.023 therefore the curve of distribution is Platykurtic. Hence the distribution is not normal and is heterogenous.

Endemics always hamper the education of students. Pandemic and Endemic together created havoc with students' life. Teacher trainees faced many challenges like frequent absenteeism of students, weakness, inability to study for long hours etc. due to endemic diseases.

Table 4.3 Pandemic and Endemic Challenges of Teacher Trainees

	N	Mean	SD	t
Pandemic	74	33.66	111.75	4.92*
Endemic	74	38.60	120.15	

* Significant at 0.05 level

The above table indicates that the 't' value 4.92 is greater than the table value 1.96 at 0.05 level of significance. Hence there is significant difference between pandemic and endemic challenges of teacher trainees.

Pandemic happens once in a blue moon. Pandemic is highly unpredictable and it is not possible to take countermeasures or prepare in advance to face the challenges of pandemic whereas endemic is predictable and counter precautions can be taken in advance and teacher trainees already trained to face endemic challenges.

Impression

Education is a complex process which involves not only effective teaching and learning but also requires sound health and good academic atmosphere for effective learning. Pandemic and Endemic diseases both result in many health issues which ultimately effect the learning of student through frequent absenteeism, lack of

concentration, irregular response to academic needs etc. There is every need to maintain good and healthy life style with regular exercise, yoga, nutritious and balanced diet.

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