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# EDUCATION2020

Summarizing Covid's Immediate Impact on Education in India

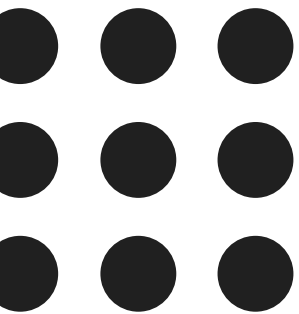
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Covid-19 has led to unprecedented changes in education.

The exams and academic calendars are uncertain. Students are stuck abroad away from home. Placement offers have been rolled back. Conferences are happening online.

This report provides a high-level view of the upcoming impact of Coronavirus on different segments of the education sector. From playschools to coaching centers, we look at how 2020 is going to be different for people in education.

# PLAYSCHOOLS



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While formal education is seen as an ‘essential’ requirement by parents, playschools are not fully there yet. So if a financial choice is to be made between a car loan and a child’s schooling, parents will choose the school. The same cannot be said for playschool fees with certainty.

Parent’s concerns around safety and well-being are much more at toddler age. They will not be as comfortable as before in sending kids to playschools.

Thus, after the lockdown, not all kids will come back to learning.

Playschools which run on a rented property are facing fund shortage to pay the rent. This will only increase because of a decrease in enrolments. Thus, some playschools will shut down, at least temporarily. A leading chain of playschools estimates that 10% of playschools may close down for 2020.



## **Staff and Financial Overview**

People working in playschools will be severely affected. Playschools work on a monthly earning and expenditure, unlike formal education institutes which in which students spend at least a few years in continuity. For the lost months, playschools will not be able to pay salaries. For the coming months, pay cuts are certain and layoffs are likely.

## **Recommendation**

Playschools that face an existential crisis should shift operations to a formal school in their area so that they can share resources and reduce losses.

# K-12 SCHOOLS



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Schools have adapted to online teaching and learning. This will continue after the lock-down too. Teachers, parents, and students have developed a comfort with digital tools. Thus, schools will use online learning for guest speakers, parent interactions, international sessions and more.

## **Financial Overview**

Incomes have reduced for all. In some states, the government has asked the schools not to force the parents to pay the fee during this period. These lost months will affect the schools' capacity to pay salaries.

Parents will have reduced incomes as a global recession hits us in the coming months. This may lead to a minor reduction in school fees. Thus, pay cuts are likely for school staff. Layoffs are unlikely but can happen in some geographies (read below).

Supposedly 'non-essential' developmental activities in schools will reduce to cut expenditure. This includes extracurricular sessions, fests, travel programs, inter-school competitions, etc. Businesses providing such services should be ready for this.



# K-12 SCHOOLS



## **Admissions**

Formal schools are seen as an essential service. The gross enrolment ratio is unlikely to drop and parents will continue to send students to school. Parents might shift their ward to more affordable schools if their existing school does not decrease the fee or provide scholarships.

Job losses in major urban centers will force some people to migrate back to their home location. Therefore, schools in such locations, especially those catering to migrant white-collar parents, are likely to see a drop in the number of students.

## **Recommendation**

Reduce the fee for the next 12 months slightly to increase affordability. Provide special scholarships to families that have been badly affected and are at a loss of income for 2020.



# HIGHER EDUCATION



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# HIGHER EDUCATION



Covid will have a net positive impact on Indian higher education in the long run.

Institutes are getting used to online learning. This is more important for adult learners than for K12 kids. Institutes should adapt to this. There will be a need for 'Chief Digital Officers' or 'Dean (Digital Initiatives)'.

## **Quality will Succeed**

Just as Coronavirus was coming to India, the Government announced in the budget session that online degrees will be recognized. Preceding that, a draft was released for the National Education Policy. The trinity of Coronavirus, Online Degrees, and NEP will change the higher education in India for better. Here is how:

Online Education: Institutes in top-100 ranking nationally will be able to provide online degrees (details awaited on how this provision will be executed). Online education can cater to a much larger audience. The costs are also lower for online teaching. Therefore, high-quality programs will attract students.



Affiliated Institutions: If NEP is implemented, the concept of affiliated colleges will be phased out. Thus, colleges will be on their own to design and deliver education. While some colleges will flourish with new autonomy, many will not be able to cope. Students from such colleges will start moving to online degrees.

International Student Movement: Parents and students are concerned about well-being more than ever before. For the academic year 2020, the schedules are not clear but it is clear that the number of students going abroad from India will drop considerably. The issue of unemployment and visas in other countries will add to this drop. Reduced affordability of tuition and living expenses abroad will add more to this drop. Thus, higher education institutes will be able to attract such students if they provide quality education.

## **Financial Overview**

It is unlikely that students will leave college. Like K12, higher education is also seen as essential for those who enroll. Thus, the total number of students will not be adversely affected. It will rather increase because of students not going abroad and some professionals getting back to study due to job loss.

If the social distancing norms are extended for educational institutes, finishing the current academic session and beginning the new session is difficult. Thus, institutes will face a lack of funds that came through student fees. Affordability will reduce so institutes will adjust the fee.



## **Employability**

Students in the final and pre-final years are worst affected because the job market is shrinking. It may take up to four years for the economy to get back to the pre-Covid stage.

Companies have already rolled back placement offers. Most internships have been called off. Therefore, placement packages will decrease. College fees will readjust to account for the salary rewards it offers.

## **Research and Philanthropy**

Private research grants and philanthropy will reduce in the coming years, and almost evaporate for 2020. The industry may shift research work to institutions to share human resource costs. Institutes and faculty capable of industry-grade research will benefit.

## Recommendations

- Plan flexible learning schedules. Introduce interdisciplinary selection of subjects
- Design blended programs in online-offline modes. Partner with the industry to deliver these programs for up-skilling
- Prepare for online examinations, online admissions, online thesis supervision etc.
- Ensure psychological support to students and faculty. If a psychologist is not on board, plan to have one.
- Train the faculty to develop 'digital first' courses rather than relying on digital learning as a back-up.
- Guide faculty and students to setup a 'learning space' at home which is conducive to work.

# INTERNATIONAL STUDENT MOVEMENT



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# INTERNATIONAL STUDENT MOVEMENT



Any kind of international travel will reduce for the rest of the year. For students, Covid-19 has special implications.

Countries that are top choices for students going abroad are worst affected by Coronavirus. Parents are in no mood to send their kids abroad, even if they can afford it this year.

Global unemployment and possible visa restrictions have made it unattractive to go abroad for studies, at least in the coming years. The students who are already studying abroad are the worst victims of the upcoming unemployment. They may prefer to return back if they find a way to continue and complete their education.

Students may still enroll in foreign universities if they allow the first year to be completed online, in the hope that the situation will be normal in the following year.

International student recruiters will, therefore, face a major shortage of business, both from parents as well as universities. People employed in the sector will face layoffs.

# INTERNATIONAL STUDENT MOVEMENT



## Recommendations

1. International student recruiters should find alternate sources of income.
2. Parents should take caution while sending the kids abroad.
3. Universities should create credit transfer processes so that international students in India can go back to their countries while Indians outside can come back to India and complete their studies.
4. Policymakers and embassies should support the students to make such an arrangement smooth.

# ONLINE EDUCATION



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Acceptability towards online education has increased. The trend will continue. For businesses offering online courses, the registrations will increase but it is yet to be seen if it leads to an increase in the completion rates.

## **Faculty**

Top-quality faculty has now access to and acceptability of digital learning. Those who teach well will get more and more recognition. This is a time when faculty can become entrepreneurs by achieving massive scales through online learning.

## **Recommendation**

A spike in registrations is temporary. Do not mistake it for a permanent increase in the customer base. So invest in marketing and HR cautiously.

Partner with formal education providers to expand B2B opportunities such as content licensing, technology solutions, and hybrid integrations.

# COACHING & HOBBY CENTERS



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# COACHING & HOBBY CENTERS



Learners from all age groups have got exposure to technology and online learning. In the short run, traditional coaching and hobby classes will be adversely affected.

## **Coaching Zones**

Geographic hubs that attract students from across the nation for competitive exam preparation, such as Kota in Rajasthan and Karol Bagh in Delhi, will see a change. Reduced income levels will encourage people to prepare at home rather than spending money in another city.

The availability of digital classes will make this shift easy. Therefore, people employed in the coaching industry will have to quickly adapt to this change.

## **Recommendation**

Coaching and hobby classes should develop hybrid models. Create a mix of online and offline teaching to expand the business in the long run.





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# COVID-19

A net-positive opportunity for Indian education

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