

 <p>ISSN NO. 2320-5407</p>	<p>Journal Homepage: -www.journalijar.com</p> <h2>INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF ADVANCED RESEARCH (IJAR)</h2> <p>Article DOI:10.21474/IJAR01/11835 DOI URL: http://dx.doi.org/10.21474/IJAR01/11835</p>	 <p>INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF ADVANCED RESEARCH (IJAR) ISSN 2320-5407 Journal Homepage: http://www.journalijar.com Journal DOI:10.21474/IJAR01</p>
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RESEARCH ARTICLE

CORONA LOCKDOWN: CREATING NEW HORIZONS FOR PROFESSIONAL LEARNING TO TEACH

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Manuscript Info

Manuscript History

Received: 05 August 2020

Final Accepted: 10 September 2020

Published: October 2020

Key Words:-

Corona, Lockdown, Create, Space, Professional and Empower

Abstract

Educational institutions are shutdown across the world due to Covid-19. Covid-19 has made every house a school and every guardian a teacher. There is hardly any control over a structured learning environment at home. Most of the school teachers are conducting classes either through video apps, online or other various e-learning sources. These are the external signs of paradigm shift in teaching learning styles. Many rural schools and the parents are devoid of facilities as much as the well e-equipped, e-friendly teachers of town schools. Teachers' homes have become staff rooms, libraries, labs, playgrounds, assembly grounds and thus their homes have become a place for live telecast studios. Ample time is allotted by the teachers to prepare their lessons. Self preparations and wider discussions with their colleagues are leading them to be creative professional learners to teach skillfully. Keeping these aspects in mind, the scholar extensively discusses different nuances, which empowers teachers at home to be professional and creative. The scholar has focused central issues like crisis, method of crisis management, plans for continuity of teaching-learning skills, impact of pandemic lockdown, dreaming by teens for new milestones, role of teachers in the promotion of health education and time for deeper introspection.

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Introduction:-

The outbreak of corona virus disease (COVID-19) has been declared a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) and the virus has now spread to many countries and territories. COVID-19 is a disease caused by a new strain of corona virus. 'CO' stands for corona, 'VI' for virus, and 'D' for disease. The COVID-19 virus is a new virus linked to the same family of viruses as Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and some types of common cold. COVID-19 is a disease caused by a new strain of corona virus. Formerly, this disease was referred to as '2019 novel corona virus' or '2019-nCoV.' The COVID-19 virus is a new virus linked to the same family of viruses as Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and some types of common cold. COVID-19 continues to spread its wings wherever possible in communities far and wide. There is a need with immediate action to prevent further transmission, reduce the impacts of the outbreak and support control measures. The protection of children and educational facilities is important to be away from this fatal disease. Precautions are necessary to prevent the potential spread of COVID-19 in school settings. Utmost vigilant is the need of the hour to avoid stigmatizing students and staff who may have been exposed to the virus. It is important to remember that COVID-19 does not differentiate between borders, ethnicities, disability status, age or gender. Education settings need to continue their

welcoming, respectful, inclusive, and supportive environments to all. Preventive measures taken by schools can prevent the entry and spread of COVID-19 by students and staff who can be vulnerable to be exposed to the virus, while minimizing disruption and protecting students and staff from discrimination.

Objectives of the Study:-

1. To understand the meaning of crisis.
2. To explain different steps of crisis management.
3. To sort out the plan of teaching - learning skills at the time of corona.
4. To understand the impact of epidemic and dream of teens.
5. To explain the roles of teachers as mental health educator warriors.

Review of Related Literature:

Sangeetha, et al., (2015) conducted a descriptive research study to assess the level of knowledge on minor ailments in pregnancy among antenatal mothers in selected tertiary hospital, kanchipuram, Tamilnadu. The findings showed that there was a significant association between age of mothers with their knowledge on minor ailments during pregnancy, but on the variables like educational status, parity, and trimester of pregnancy had no association.

PapreenNahar (2010) studied the health seeking behavior of childless rural poor and urban middle class women in Bangladesh. The study shows that social class and the geographical location of the childless women determine their health seeking behavior.

Basu (2010) evaluated the mental health status of college teachers and investigated the influence of gender and marital status on their mental health. The result revealed that while male teacher exhibit significant better mental health than their female counterparts, marital status has no significant effect on the mental health of the college teachers.

Dewan et al. (2010) examined the effects of gender, religion and marital status upon mental health of tribal school teachers in Jharkhand. It revealed that gender, religion, and marital status, religion and gender were found to produce significant main effects on mental health. Neither second order nor third order interactions were found to be significant.

Khatri et al. (2010) studied some practices for ensuring mental health among students in higher education. The study revealed that there was needs of emphasizing mental health through practices aimed at helping students before serious problems emerge.

Method and Data:

Secondary data are used in this study. The scholar has focused mainly on the scholarly views, debates, writings in various magazines and journals for elaborately discussing the concept. The primary purpose was to understand the concept of being locked down because of COVID-19 and yet the schools and higher educational institutions made a space for themselves and continued teaching professionally. Moreover, the judicious utility of technology, the success story by taking regular online classes, creativity and collaboration among the teachers, parents and the students was unimaginable.

Discussion and Analysis:-

The important terms that affected the world in all the sectors that one need to understand the meanings . They are as follows:-

Corona / Coronavirus / Novel Coronavirus / COVID-19:

The word corona means crown. The scientists in 1968 came up with the term corona virus thought that, under a microscope, the virus they were looking at resembled a solar corona: the bright crown-like ring of gasses surrounding the sun that is visible during a solar eclipse. The word virus comes from a Latin word meaning venom and describes a tiny, tiny agent that causes infectious disease. Corona virus is a family of viruses that got its name from its appearance.

Outbreak / Epidemic / Pandemic:

An **outbreak** is “a sudden rise in the incidence of a disease,” which is usually confined to one area or group of people. When there are enough outbreaks, in places beyond that initial spot, that amounts to an epidemic. A pandemic is an epidemic that has become a worldwide phenomenon.

Quarantine / Self-quarantine / Isolation / Cordon Sanitaire:

The word quarantine, originally referred to a period of 40 days. The word’s earliest known uses were in religious contexts, like describing a 40-day period of fasting that emulated the 40 days Jesus fasted in the desert. It was also used in legal contexts, like describing the period of time that a widow could remain in her deceased husband’s home before she started owing somebody rent.

Social Distancing:

Social Distancing measures to slow the spread of a disease. These are courses of action designed to limit when and where people gather. his term can also be used to describe actions taken by individuals, like choosing not to take public transportation or opting to shop from home instead of going to the store. Social distancing measures might also include businesses telling employees to work from home or executives meeting via video call rather than in their usual conference room.

The terms mentioned above have been implemented in the worldwide school scenario. These terms have totally sabotaged the institutions, crippled them to the maximum extend to “ Stay home, Stay safe”. People all over the world remained blocked, stranded and remained isolated.

The epidemic has not only affected the teaching institutions but also to all the sectors in the world. The air, atmosphere was in utter silence. Never in the history of human kind that, everyone remained at home. Those who were away from home longed to come back home even to the extent of walking or cycling.

The educational institutions were basically guided by the following principles to keep students, teachers, and staff safe and help stop the spread of this disease:

1. students, teachers and other staff were debarred of coming to school .
2. Educational institutions were guided by the principle “stay home, stay safe”.
3. Educational institutions were made the centre of quarantine providing water, sanitation, health centers to stop the epidemic.
4. Educational institutions were successful in promoting social distancing in terms applying certain actions that are taken to slow down the spread of a highly contagious disease, including limiting large groups of people coming together.
5. The teaching and non-teaching staff were instruments of philanthropic activities like distributing food packets and other needed commodities at the time of isolation and social distancing

Types of Crisis:

Crisis refers to sudden unplanned events which cause major disturbances in the organization and trigger a feeling of fear and threat amongst the employees. Following are the types of crisis :

Natural Crisis:

Disturbances in the environment and nature lead to natural crisis.

Such events are generally beyond the control of human beings.

Tornadoes, Earthquakes, Hurricanes, Landslides, Tsunamis, Flood, Drought all result in natural disaster.

Technological Crisis:

Technological crisis arises as a result of failure in technology. Problems in the overall systems lead to technological crisis.

Breakdown of machine, corrupted software and so on give rise to technological crisis.

Confrontation Crisis:

Confrontation crises arise when employees fight amongst themselves. Individuals do not agree to each other and eventually depend on non productive acts like boycotts, strikes for indefinite periods and so on.

In such a type of crisis, employees disobey superiors; give them ultimatums and force them to accept their demands.

Internal disputes, ineffective communication and lack of coordination give rise to confrontation crisis.

Crisis of Malevolence:

Organizations face crisis of malevolence when some notorious employees take the help of criminal activities and extreme steps to fulfill their demands.

Acts like kidnapping company's officials, false rumors all lead to crisis of malevolence.

Crisis of Organizational Misdeeds:

Crises of organizational misdeeds arise when management takes certain decisions knowing the harmful consequences of the same towards the stakeholders and external parties.

In such cases, superiors ignore the after effects of strategies and implement the same for quick results.

Crisis of organizational misdeeds can be further classified into following three types:-

Crisis of Skewed Management Values:

Crisis of Skewed Management Values arises when management supports short term growth and ignores broader issues.

Crisis of Deception:

Organizations face crisis of deception when management purposely tampers data and information.

Management makes fake promises and wrong commitments to the customers. Communicating wrong information about the organization and products lead to crisis of deception.

Crisis of Management Misconduct:

Organizations face crisis of management misconduct when management indulges in deliberate acts of illegality like accepting bribes, passing on confidential information and so on.

Crisis due to Workplace Violence:

Such a type of crisis arises when employees are indulged in violent acts such as beating employees, superiors in the office premises itself.

Crisis due to Rumors:

Spreading false rumors about the organization and brand lead to crisis. Employees must not spread anything which would tarnish the image of their organization.

Bankruptcy:

A crisis also arises when organizations fail to pay its creditors and other parties. Lack of fund leads to crisis.

Crisis Due to Natural Factors:

Disturbances in environment and nature such as hurricanes, volcanoes, storms, flood; droughts, earthquakes etc result in crisis.

Sudden Crisis:

As the name suggests, such situations arise all of a sudden and on an extremely short notice.

Managers do not get warning signals and such a situation is in most cases beyond any one's control.

Smoldering Crisis:

Neglecting minor issues in the beginning lead to smoldering crisis later.

Managers often can foresee crisis but they should not ignore the same and wait for someone else to take action.

Warn the employees immediately to avoid such a situation.

Methods of Crisis Management:

Create a Solutions Team:

Effective team members assigning to a small team to manage the situation.

Responsible to clear authority from management.

Management need to communicate the team and clarify their purpose and role in assessing the problems.

Clear the table:

Management need to clear other responsibilities from the Team to get to the root cause.

Facts are our friends:

1. The team need to focus on gathering facts while understanding the emotional impact on the organization.
2. Search for the truth with compassion and empathy.
3. emotions should not drive one away from the root cause of the problem.

Resolve ASAP :

Fear paralyzes teams and rumors destroy confidence.

It is critical that your organization's solutions team gets information that will allow the leadership team to take the next step in resolving the issue

Be Poised and Positive :

organization need to feed off how the leader reacts to the situation.

It is important to show courage and to stay positive while these events occur.

Over - Communicate:

Communication is the upper most criteria in crisis management.

It is to be edited according to the situation and repeated.

The employees need to understand what is being communicated.

Ownership :

A leader needs to own up what has gone wrong.

Great leaders do not raise their fingers to blame others.

Be Present :

a leader needs to be present when challenges arise. this is a real sign of leadership .

Stay Focused :

the team need to identify the root causes of the crisis and recommend solutions, where everyone else need to remain focused.

The work needs to continue to move forward even if it is spoiled because of the crisis.

All leaders need to identify what can and can't be done and remain focused on the yardsticks of success.

Evaluate Team Remedies :

Once the team has successfully identified the new ways and means to overcome the obstacles, there should be an evaluation how did the team manage the crisis and implement later the crisis management strategy.

Bring in the right people on board for each crisis and keep people off those who are unable to keep with the principles above.

Real Crisis:

It is better to be careful not to create an environment where everything feels like a crisis and everyone wants to be a firefighter.

Organizations need to properly discern when the creation of a team is needed to solve the crisis.

Refresh Your Goals :

after resolving the problem, the team needs to get back into their usual business.

you may find their existing goals are behind due to the issue.

Once the goal is achieved is the sign that the goal expectations of the team are handled well.

Plan for Continuity of Teaching – Learning Skills:

In the case of total lockdown of educational institutions, support continued access to quality education. This can include: -

Institutional Discovery:

1. Use of online/e-learning strategies
2. Assigning reading and exercises for home study
3. Radio, podcast or television broadcasts of academic content
4. Assigning teachers to conduct remote daily or weekly follow up with students
5. Review/develop accelerated education strategies
6. Parents and guardians were responsible to be at the side of the children at the time of online classes

Revelation of Teacher:

1. Lot more to learn from nature to the teachers
2. Strived for better presentation of material
3. Improved in their communication skills
4. Have become techno savvy
5. Adjusted themselves to manage any sort of crises in the near future
6. Discovery of unimaginable milestones in terms of qualitative endeavors

Unfolding of Children’s Potentiality:

1. Have increased self confident in online classes
2. Discovered their hidden potentialities
3. Managed themselves to be techno savvy
4. Judicious utility of technology
5. Collaborative learning with their companions
6. Creativity in their presentation has developed

Creation of New platforms for imparting Progressive PducationalEndeavors :

The educational institutions were unfolding unexplored platforms for new possibilities

Increased inter institutional relationships for better performance

Judicial usage of technology for higher learning

Higher educational institutions are making use of technology as productive measures in administration

Technology has made the educationalists and philanthropists experts in their dealing with critical situations proactively.

Many higher educational institutions were able to conduct many national as well as international webinars based on COVID-19 now and then. Most of the topics undertaken were relevant and appropriate to respond to the need of the hour.

Impact of Pandemic Lockdown:

Reversed Roles:

Reversed the role of Parents and Children :

The children who have taken upon themselves to ensure their elderly parents and grandparents are safe and secure from the infection.

Making sure they practice Hand Hygiene :

The best precaution against COVID-19 is practicing hand hygiene. Washing hands with soap and water after coming back from home or touching public surfaces is a must. As kids your parents used to ensure that you wash our hands properly.

Fetching things from the market :

you need to step out of your homes every few days to fetch groceries and medicines. Buying weekly groceries was a task usually done by your mom or your dad, which has now been reversed. From running errands to doing outdoor chores, kids are ensuring that their elderly parents step out of their homes as less as possible.

Keeping a constant check on their Health:

Children are now worried about their parent's health. With COVID-19 symptoms ranging from fever, cough and breathless, children are ensuring that their elderly parents remain fit and healthy.

Keeping them informed about the Precautions:

Right from asking them to wear a mask, using a mask to washing hands and practicing social distancing, children are enlightening their elderly parents on how to protect themselves from contracting COVID-19.

Teen Dreaming for New Milestones:

Watching out for their New milestones:

Parents have realized that parenting a child is not an easy task. It is all the more a big challenging task with teenagers. As the adolescents and teens enter the teen years, they start distancing themselves from their parents and guardians. They look forward for becoming a little more capable of taking care of themselves. It is hard to track their academic assignments and prepping their future when they start to become tiny adults and try to become autonomous. Teenagers too like little babies have developmental milestones which parents should look for and need to accommodate the new emerging developments.

Physical Milestones:

changes continue happening for boys until later as opposed to girls and drain their teenager out. You will probably notice a change in their appetite, physical growth and weight. Teens undergo a shift in their sleep cycle too, which is fairly common and nothing to worry about. Parents need to make sure that they have a good diet, engage in physical activity and avoid stress early on.

Emotional Milestones:

Teenage years critical years for children and it can take them a while to get accustomed to. You need to understand child is acting up or showing mood swings, it's resultant of their emotions at play. They can experience days of being anxious, sad, dull or moody without any notice. Teen years can be the time you might see them behave or react in a more impulsive way. This is the time when teenagers are more prone to experience body image issues, self-confidence and esteem or look for negative coping mechanisms if they are struggling. You need to be on the lookout for all these signs and help your child in need.

Cognitive Milestones:

Your little child starts blooming into a mini adult who begins to think or act on his own wish. Teens do develop a more nuanced, critical view of thinking. It is obvious teen possibly think about their future, own up to or take responsibility for their action or be more affirmative in their views. These changes might not kick off overnight, but be patient and observe your child's analytical thinking.

Social Milestones and Developments:

When teens grow, they start to feel more connected with their friends or peers than with the family. It's not just any phase but something that happens with every child as they grow up. Some might even start having romantic relationships. When they become aware of their selves and their orientations, they can spark an interest in the opposite gender as they see your child withdraw from your side but remember not to completely forbid them from doing what they want and instead it is better to have an open and understanding mind.

What must a Parent Act :

It is to remember that not every child is the same and it doesn't mean that they grow up or have the same milestones as the others. It is better not to compare your child to another. If you are worried about growing apart from your child or not being able to know what's going on in their life, try to have a more open and honest conversation with them. This is the age when you have to build a fine tuning and managing as a parent and a friend in their lives guiding and orienting them to adulthood.

Role of Teachers in the Promotion of Mental Health:

Mental health is a state of wellbeing where people can meet their learning potential, cope with normal stresses, and are connected to community and their friends. The school staff, leaders, teachers and educators are given the resources and tools to promote and model behaviors, values and inclusivity, this improves teacher-student relationships and builds inclusive and safe school communities to support everyone's wellbeing and improved learning outcomes. The teachers can be resourceful to build up the ability to cope and thrive in the face of negative events, challenges or adversity. The students can build up the skills that can be developed through:-

1. Positive social connections
2. Protect and save environments
3. Life skills such as positive coping and problem solving skills
4. Pro-social values
5. Positive self-regard
6. Cultivate a sense of purpose and agency or responsibility.
7. Media literacy lessons to empower students to be critical thinkers and makers.

Time for Deeper Introspection:

It is true to say what goes around comes around. We all have to deal with the eventualities of our extreme actions. The COVID-19 situation is that eventuality. COVID-19 work from home has got us all thinking, and rethinking. The growth of unbiased and pure professional tradition of knowledge quest suffers in conditions of severe apathy towards tradition of knowledge-creation and dissemination, the essence of which may still be relevant. Education has fatally suffered because of a lack of courage to link it to the national tradition of growth of knowledge. Instead, we have been over dependent on inherited legacy. It should never be tough for a professional, unbiased educationist to conclude that education in every country must be a product of indigenous thought process and appropriate new scientific knowledge.

COVID-19 has given us time to slow down, time to breathe in and take life in, time to shut down time to restart and most importantly, time to be able to introspect, and self-reflect, on our actions as human beings and start respecting nature. We may continue to pray that even if we are slightly worse for wear, we all come out of it with more hope and resilience. Mahatma Gandhi once said to Young India in June 1, 1921, "I do not want my house to be walled in all sides and my windows to be stuffed. I want the cultures of all the lands to be blown about my house as freely as possible. But I refuse to be blown off my feet by any. I refuse to live in other people's houses as an interloper, a beggar or a slave." Albert Einstein once wrote to Mahatma Gandhi which was quoted by APJ Abdul Kalam in one his books: "You have shown through your works, that it is possible to succeed without violence even with those who have not discarded the method of violence."

The post corona incidents will prove to be the real litmus test of where societies really stand, on a moral plane, as economies plunge, jobs are lost and civil unrest takes its toll. The citizens will come to know the real price of allowing governments to meddle in the affairs of other countries, expanding military/ defence budgets to issue state-sponsored war to plunder their resources, for not doing enough to stop genocide of minorities and the human cost involved when our own economies are battered. The results of the times to come can be brutal but are inevitable. It is time for all the citizens of the universe to spend time in self-isolation seeking forgiveness for the collective human fallacy that we are part of turning away, not caring enough and not doing enough. Lifestyles of the whole human race have drastically changed in the past few days and hours. There is also a probability that the change is going to continue. Hence, we need to keep healthy at this time by following certain norms as follows:

1. Regularly Meditate or take time out for prayer daily in order to focus your mind and raise your consciousness.
2. To be away from victim mentality, which has negative effects on our health and remain focused on opportunities.
3. Be optimistic and inspire other too to be optimistic.
4. Be creative and take initiative to small acts of kindness which will do good for others.
5. Make sure to sleep at least eight hours every night.
6. Make up your mind to do regular exercise to be fit and healthy.
7. Eating balanced and healthy food to keep you mentally and physically healthy. Start eating non veg.
8. Protect nature so that your act does not lead the universe to face adverse situation.
9. Cultivate the habit of having deeper and longer conversations with people you love. Create opportunity for rebuilding relationships and not as a confinement.

Way Forwards:

Social distancing, Quarantine and other desired practices that may be included in the long run in the educational institutions as well as in the government to look forward actively to respond to such type of pandemics in future. The long term plan as well as short term plans need to be executed by the govt., Society and Educational institutions:-

Role of the Govt:

1. Prepare personnel to appropriate research to such type of pandemic in future
2. Generate and allocate funds for better equipments in the schools
3. Create job opportunities for self employment
4. Seek ways and means to protect nature and control the pollution
5. Prepare men and women to be part of awareness team with the disaster management
6. Appropriate curriculum design for the schools
7. Sufficient amount of finance to be allocated in infrastructure, medicines, research and crisis management schemes.

Role of the Society:

1. Empower the local leaders to take social issues and motivate the ordinary uneducated citizens
2. Should be the medium between government and other agencies
3. Motivate the villagers to transplant trees to beautify the nature
4. Proper place to dispose of the garbage to maintain the environment
5. Avoid utility of equipments which pollute the air and environment
6. Recycling of equipments for the sake of saving the nature

Role of Educational Institutions:

1. Methodology to respond to the Staggering the beginning and end of the school day
2. Alternate or redesign school assemblies, sports games, annual day celebrations that create crowded conditions
3. When possible, create space for children's desks to be at least one meter apart
4. Teach and model creating space and avoiding unnecessary touching
5. People friendly infrastructure and atmosphere in the campus to maintain social distancing and space.

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