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## Effects of health pandemic on Education Sector in Sweden: Case study of Covid-19 pandemic

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### Abstract

The study sought to examine the effect of COVID-19 on the education sector in Sweden. The study was a literature-based review. The COVID-19 has considerably interfered with every aspect of human life, including education. The worrying spread of the virus has caused havoc in the educational system hence making educational institutions close down. Lots of children across the globe have been severely affected by the short-lived closure of educational institutions. Nations have made use of different techniques to minimize the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic, different learning institutions have responded to the closure in different ways and in various contexts with a range of options for students, teachers and also guardians, relying on the resources, both materials and human, available to them. The research study found that Covid-19 has actually negatively affected the education and learning sector in lots of nations and likewise in many ways. The students, teachers as well as parents are mainly influenced considering that they are the direct individuals in this field. Students are the greatest losers since they are not going to school due to the COVID-19 and also the methods which the learning institutions are making use of to teach them are not convenient to a lot of the students. The study found that children from poor backgrounds are the most affected by the pandemic due to low exposure to modern technology. The study recommended that government should invest more in technology development to ensure that students in remote areas and also those from poor families can access the learning materials quickly and at an affordable cost. Also, both teachers and students need to be knowledgeable about new technology and its use for them to be reliable when using it. Parents should involve children in day-to-day tasks to ensure that they may not enter into bad companies and end up destroying their lives at a tender age when they are home due to the pandemic. Countries close schools from now and then depending on the COVID-19 situations in an area. Moreover, there is also a need for the government to offer free counseling to those students, especially those whose parents have lost jobs due to the pandemic.

**Keywords:** *Pandemic, COVID-19, students, teachers, Education, Sweden*

## **1.0 BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY**

The Swedish education system is ranked amongst the very best in the world. The Swedish Education and learning Act specifies that all kids and youths are to have equal access to education, no matter gender, where they live or social or financial aspects, making it the, education and learning of the future for many individuals across the world (Berhanu, 2021). The Swedish state school system comprises compulsory school and various kinds of voluntary schooling. The compulsory school includes nine years of compulsory basic school, a school for the Saami individuals of North Sweden, a unique school as well as a compulsory school for the mentally handicapped (Kim-Rivera, 2018). Post-compulsory education is provided through 17 National Programmes providing credentials that permit students to take place to higher institutions of education. Several of these programs likewise include industrial work placements. The Daycare center is open to youngsters from 1 to 5 years of age. The Swedish custom of preschool stresses the value of play in a child's development and also understanding. The needs and rate of interests of children are likewise vital components of their education and learning in preschool educational programs (Turja, Endepohls-Ulpe & Chatoney, 2020).

The education in Sweden is split right into four levels of schooling (Krueger & Lindahl, 2018). After preschool, the youngsters are taken to kindergarten when they transform six years of age. Kindergarten is compulsory schooling, separated into three levels; primary school consists of the very first three years of mandatory school, after that middle school for four to six years as well as finally junior high school for seven to nine years. After obligatory school, Swedish students may participate in an optional senior high school for three years (Olofsson & Thunqvist, 2018). There is a collective effort to enhance education and learning, as all trainees at the primary school level take the same restricted subject groups. More critics say that it has reduced outcomes significantly among skilled students without elevating them within various other groups. Sweden has school choice plans where you can select any other state school or a private school at no cost on your own. If your youngster does not like their institution, it can easily be altered or changed. The Swedish National Firm for education and learning has warned that it is mostly far better-informed middle-class parents that make the most of the right to choose institutions (Dahlstedt & Trumberg, 2019). Youngsters from middle-class histories tend to gather together in the same couple of, highly popular, schools.

The COVID-19 pandemic has influenced educational systems worldwide, causing the near-total closures of schools, early childhood year's education and also care services, colleges and also universities. A lot of governments decided to temporarily shut down educational institutions in an attempt to lower the spread of COVID-19 (Pragholapati, 2020). With the outbreak of the Coronavirus pandemic, the Swedish Federal government has determined to execute numerous actions to minimize the spread of the virus and also to minimize the Covid-19 impacts on education and learning. Sweden has followed various paths compared to various other European nations, leaving lots of education institutions open. Sweden has followed a one-of-a-kind plan worrying institution closures; maintaining colleges for kids aged seven to fifteen years and preschool open (Orr & Hovdhaugen, 2021). On 13 March 2020, a new act was embraced, allowing the government to briefly shut down kindergartens, institutions as well as other educational activities if the scenario deteriorated.

A new statute was implemented, giving the accountable organizer the ideal temporarily to shut an under specific conditions, for instance, if a great number of teachers should be incapable to teach

as a result of ailment or if Covid-19 ought to come to be widespread locally (Mair, Marti & Ventresca, 2019). The upper high schools, local adult education, vocational adult education and also higher education institutions have actually given distance learning out since mid-march and also will certainly continue to do so up until further notification. The overall perception so far is that the change to distance learning has worked out well. Schools have made wonderful efforts to overcome digital difficulties and also protected accessibility to internet resources (Ruggeri, Farrington & Brayne, 2018). Numerous schools were already making use of digital systems as well as digital devices also before the pandemic episode. The use of existing digital devices and also teaching techniques facilitated a smooth shift to distance learning.

The level of digital capability differs significantly between teachers, students and schools which challenge educational equity on a national level (Napal Fraile, Peñalva-Vélez & Mendióroz Lacambra, 2018). However, this inequity is in some cases highlighted by differences in between households concerning digital competence, digital tools and also accessibility to web or internet from home. Particularly in rarely populated locations, accessibility to web or internet could be a problem. To make up for these differences, some schools have equipped the students with the essential tools as well as accessibility to Wi-Fi (Jimenez, Casado, Moreno & Garitaonandia, 2019). One more primary difficulty has been to identify and also reach out to students with unique requirements and those who are not coping too with the brand-new situation for various other reasons. Students are at danger of being left behind if they do not get adequate support. Teachers are worried that students are not offered fair chances in the present situation. Grades could be less legitimate and trustworthy, a detrimental effect in any type of education system however probably a lot more so in a system like Sweden's where high stakes qualities play a considerable function in admission to higher education institutions (Sahlberg, 2020).

## **2.0 LITERATURE REVIEW**

Numerous institutions were closed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic have clarified different social as well as economic concerns, including student financial debt, digital understanding, food instability as well as being homeless in addition to access to childcare, healthcare, housing, internet as well as impairment solutions (Owusu-Fordjour, Koomson & Hanson, 2020). The influence was a lot more serious for disadvantaged children as well as their households, causing interrupted learning, jeopardized nutrition, child care problems as well as consequent financial price to families that might not work. Sweden closed top secondary schools, while lower secondary schools continued to be open permitting an analysis of school closures (Arreman & Holm, 2018). These closures additionally affected work supply, not least among healthcare workers hence decreasing health care capability. Sweden was an exemption to the standard of global school closures. One week after the very first reported fatality from COVID-19, upper senior high schools relocated to online instruction, while schools for younger schools stayed open till the end of the school year in mid-june. This partial school closure allows for a comparison of people and households who were in a different way subjected to open as well as shut institutions, yet or else faced similar problems throughout the duration of extensive pollution (Vlachos, Hertegard & Svaleryd, 2020).

Various countries have adopted a range of steps to react to the COVID-19 pandemic depending on their available resources (Dawadi, Giri & Simkhada, 2020). As an example, counties which are technologically progressed, such as Italy, France, Germany, Australia, the UK, and the United States, have taken on distance learning as a means to compensating for the loss. They quickly



improved their e-learning systems to create common distance learning centre portals and provided students accessibility to e-content and repository via mobile phones (Stoyanov, Popchev, Doychev, Mitev, Valkanov, Stoyanova-Doycheva & Minov, 2021). In these nations textbooks and discovering materials were delivered via digital classrooms. Moreover, both most populated countries in the world, China and India, have both established nationwide e-learning websites with access to the national database of learning sources for parents, teachers, students, and education administrators. China has set in motion all rural as well as nationwide on-line platforms and telecom service providers, updated the transmission capacity of significant digital systems, and also set in motion the society-wide resources, both human and material, to make certain learning is undisrupted when courses are interfered with.

In addition, China has actually adapted flexible internet teaching methodologies to promote learning as well as it has actually enhanced on-line safety and security with the partnership of all providers as well as developed an arrangement of psych-social assistance for making sure 100 % on-line learning (Kearns & Reghenzani-Kearns, 2020). Countries without appropriate infrastructure are resorting to conventional technologies, such as radio as well as TV, as a means to make up for the loss. As an example, in South American nations such as Argentina, Chile, and Brazil where access to web and internet connectivity is a significant problem. On the other hand Indonesia and Malaysia have set in motion all major technology providers, internet carriers and TV communication channels to sign up with hands of their ministries to supply live education and learning programs for students as well as teachers (Tinio, 2019). In Indonesia, education and learning TV, Discovering House and Online discovering System Program provide accessibility to learning sources. Both, they provide a finding out learning management system in addition to digital lessons, electronic textbooks and method of evaluation devices aligned to the educational program while in Malaysia has actually released a new TV network to deliver education and learning via television programs to all students, particularly those without Internet accessibility. These programs are likewise live-streamed on the Ministry's online learning system which uses access to on-demand web content along with digital books (Churchill, Pegrum & Churchill, 2018).

The accessibility of details as well as information and communication technologies (ICT) makes it possible to proceed instruction as well as learning when physical interactions are no longer feasible. However, both teachers and also students require to be really accustomed to these technologies and their use in order for them to be efficient (Bates & Poole, 2020). The extent to which teachers and their students were planned for institution closures is to examine how often these modern technologies were applied in the classroom prior to the COVID-19 situation hit. According to Teaching and also discovering International Study just slightly over half of lower-secondary educators (53%) reported letting students use ICT for research or class work regularly or always. In Sweden, 37% of teachers reported that use of ICT for mentor was consisted of in their formal education and learning or training. Pre-service training in ICT for training might not suffice to guarantee effective digital learning (Goktas, Yildirim & Yildirim, 2019). Since learning technologies are characterized by a fast speed of modification, it is vital for teachers to obtain accessibility to in-service training to consistently upgrade their skills in a particular area.

The implementation of ICT in school additionally needs the availability of adequate resources for its gain access as well as use (Yunus, 2019). In Sweden, 10% of principals reported that the scarcity or insufficiency of digital modern technology for instruction prevented the institution's capacity to give high quality direction. Additionally, inadequate internet access was reported to be a problem

by 5% of principals. The ability of institutions to introduce, adjust and support team varies from nation to nation and also school to school. Yet it is these school capacities that can confirm to be important assets for reacting to dilemmas and uncertain times, along with building durability when encountering obstacles in providing guideline. School closures in the majority of the countries have forced many learning institutions to think outside the box and come up with cutting-edge and practical solutions in order to supply teaching and ensure learning can happen from another location as well as efficiently (Bozkurt, Jung, Xiao, Vladimirschi, Schuwer, Egorov & Paskevicius, 2020). In Sweden, 75% of teachers concurred that most teachers in the school are open to alter.

In Nepal all kind of exterior assessments consisting of board exams such as the Secondary Education evaluation have been postponed and almost all the internal evaluations have actually been cancelled due to COVID-19 actions. The cancellation of assessments has negative impact on students' learning. Internal evaluations are really vital as they show students' understanding demands and afterwards support learning (Black & Wiliam 2018). Moreover, Dawadi (2018) highlights that assessment encourages students for learning. The pandemic has actually had debilitating effects on the education and learning market since it has actually created a large amount of uncertainties on Nepali students enrolled or aspiring to enroll in abroad colleges as they have actually now been disallowed from leaving for these nations. COVID-19 has actually significantly impacted the potential prospects of students for their abroad studies which might have long-lasting impacts in Nepalese education and also economy. The pandemic has, hence, developed a possible dent in Nepal's education and learning system, the causal sequence of which will be recognized when lockdown impacts are raised as well as schools/universities start to open up. There will certainly be so much stress on teachers and students to recuperate from the lost time i.e., teachers will have limited time to cover several topics in their curriculum and also students might really feel forced to learn a lot within a short time (Kalbfleisch & Tomlinson, 2019).

The COVID-19 school closure is likely to boost drop-out rates. It is estimated that the COVID-19 impact may appear like the influence of Ebola epidemic on education and learning in Africa which considerably increased drop-out rates throughout Guinea, Liberia as well as Sierra Leone, nations hardest hit by the outbreak (Okwilagwe, 2021). The longer schools are closed, the more drop-outs increase. More generally, the longer people pause a learning out programme, the less likely they are to see themselves as learners. Because lots of parents have actually lost their work due to the COVID-19 pandemic and their economic crisis has aggravated than ever. For that reason, it is most likely that some parents may not have the ability to afford their children to back to school or colleges and kids may need to work to give economic support to their different households. The circumstance will be worse in rural areas. Parents from rural regions may be reluctant to send their children back to learning institutions due to the fact that they might favor their children to continue to support them in farming and also animals herding (Skaalvik & Skaalvik, 2019). Those economies which are largely based on foreign employment are severely impacted due to the fact that lots of people from abroad are losing their jobs thus no remittances which might enhance the level of drop-outs.

The COVID-19 crisis is changing the life of numerous family members around the globe. Students as well as their families are finding out to operate under an environment of unpredictability and risk-prevention, which can negatively affect students' academic motivation (Zins, & Elias, 2018). Moreover, in a remote mentor as well as learning context, parents end up being a key resource for

education and learning arrangement as both incentives of student involvement and facilitators of student understanding. While lots of nations around the world are competing to fill up the void with e-learning remedies, the majority of them appear to lack correct strategies to face the challenges produced by the pandemic. The COVID-19 pandemic has a severe effect on health and wellness as well as well-being of young people because of that mental health issue are enhancing, as well as much more children have come to be a target of domestic violence (Fegert, Vitiello, Plener & Clemens, 2020). There might also be an absence of physical activities for children, particularly in metropolitan areas, due to lockdown which may cause childhood obesity. Some children are getting addicted to social media as well as digital devices. All of these might have indirect effect on their learning. On top of that, it is likely that several students come back to school, when schools resume, with more problems related to their households. Some students might return with a high level of anxiety associated with the wellness or family members concerns created by the pandemic and/or the loss of finding out throughout this pandemic. Managing health as well as well-being might come to be a significant challenge for institutions (Cowie, Boardman, Dawkins & Jennifer, 2020). An appropriate plan and also restorative activities in hand to encounter the obstacles will certainly be required.

### **3.0 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

The study was a literature-based review. The study relied upon the findings of the previous studies to make inferences. The study was conducted out thoroughly by examining the previous studies rather than physical investigations.

### **4.0 RESEARCH FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION**

The research study found that Covid-19 has actually negatively affected the education and learning sector in lots of nations and likewise in many ways. The students, teachers as well as parents are mainly influenced considering that they are the direct individuals in this field. Students are the greatest losers since they are not going to school due to the COVID-19 and also the methods which the learning institutions are making use of to teach them are not convenient to a lot of the students. Furthermore, the requirements of modern technology in some nations are extremely and a lot of the students cannot access this technology due to the poor status of the students' history. Various other learning institutions in a few of the nations do not have sufficient resources to apply the on-internet learning. The study revealed that the developed countries like Italy, France, China, India, Germany, Australia, UK, and US, are carrying out the online courses without a lot of problems given that they have technology which is a little bit sophisticated thus students can access learning materials via the mobile phones. The stakeholders in these nations have actually sacrificed a lot to maintain the learning to go on in its learning institutions. These nations have actually spent heavily in the technology field and also teachers, students and guardians are ready to accept these adjustments.

The study concluded that because some countries are highly technologically while others are not, so there is a requirement for the federal government in the developing countries to come up with immediate as well as short-term actions and make it possible for teachers as well as students to compensate for the wasted time. Because most of the students have practically no access to the internet in some nations, the new actions needed is to capitalize on low-tech approaches, as well

as additionally provide some e-learning platforms to those students who have no access to modern technology. This implies that new techniques to alleviate the influence of the COVID-19 ought to range from hi-tech alternatives such as real-time video classes conducted remotely to lower-tech or no-tech options such as information with post offices and academic programs on radio. The developing nations ought to additionally try the techniques of technology which the developed countries are utilizing to educate their students.

Given that the COVID-19 pandemic has created work losses to lots of guardians who were paying costs for the students these might create students to quit of the learning institutions because of lack of fees which in turn may boost the criminal activity rate. We have actually kept in mind that there could additionally be a lack of exercises for children, particularly in cities because of lockdown which may cause childhood obesity problems and also considering that they are not learning a number of them are participating in digital devices and social media sites which may negatively influence them in future since most of them are accessing details which is not of purpose at their age.

## **5.0 RECOMMENDATION**

The study recommended that government must invest more in technology development to ensure that students in remote areas and also those from poor families can access the learning materials quickly and at an affordable cost. Also, both teachers and students need to be knowledgeable about new technology and its use for them to be reliable when using it. The government should deal with the unemployment concern which has been triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic as well as lower the taxes for its citizens so that one can invest the few cash which he/she needs to buy the vital items as well as solutions for a longer time, therefore, decreasing the household troubles which are emerging due to absence of money. For the students that are still back at home, the parents should involve them to day-to-day tasks to ensure that they may not enter into bad companies and end up destroying their lives at a tender age. After the pandemic, when the learning institutions open the federal government must make sure that every student return to school to make sure that there is no high rates of students dropping out of school. There is also a need for the government to offer free counseling to those that have been affected mentally due to job loss caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.



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