

New Approach for Post-Covid Education

Why in News

Due to a **surge in** <u>Covid-19 infections</u> in the <u>Second Wave</u> of infections, the education of students in the entire nation is affected.

Key Points

- Concerns:
 - Availability of Online Education:
 - Online education was envisioned as an alternative means of spreading education, but it too fails, given the Indian students' conditions.
 - The availability and affordability of this system poses a barrier.
 - While e-education is a privilege for the students from an upper and middle class, it has proved to be a nuisance for students from the lower middle class and people living below the poverty line.
 - Long-Term Exposure to Internet:
 - There are also implications of longer exposure to the internet for these young kids.
 - This may create **impediments to the development of the thinking process** in the younger generation.
 - Decreasing Analytical Thinking:
 - The other important question is about the learning outcomes of online education.
 - Google is the prominent and only platform to all queries, and as a result of that, students are not thinking on their own.
 - Scientific outlook was the key parameter stressed upon since the inception of modern education in India.
 - Increasing Student Isolation:
 - Due to the pandemic and lack of physical classroom teaching, a peculiar feeling of isolation is developing in the minds of students. That's a very serious issue. The trauma of the second wave will put a deep imprint on the student's mind.
 - Physical interaction and activities have been entirely absent, and that may also be contributing to new problems.
- Possible Solutions:
 - Use of Infrastructure:
 - The whole **infrastructure should be fully utilised**, and if necessary, many **more facilities should be invested in** (and created) to impart education.
 - As classroom teaching gives us the opportunity to impart many more things

New Content:

- Institutions should contemplate new content generation for each subject to overcome the absence of classroom teaching within the framework of the existing syllabus.
- This content would be of a new type, self-explanatory, and considering the **lowest IQ of the class**, it has to be attractive.
- The content should produce the same effect on the minds of the students that the best book imparts on the thinking faculty.
- Personal Supervision:
 - The teachers and non-teaching staff should visit the locality of the students (in and around the school area) on a weekly basis to supervise the whole work.
 - They should take notes on the problems faced by students in understanding the reading material and also whether things are reaching them on time.
- New Evaluation System:
 - The evaluation should be based on the capacity of analysis, and the questions should be framed in such a way that students need to apply their **minds** to answer the questions on each subject.
- Prioritizing Vaccination:
 - In addition, the government should take the responsibility to vaccinate the whole teaching community as fast as possible to advance this learning process. lision
- Related Government Initiatives for E-Learning:
 - E-PG Pathshala:
 - An initiative of the Ministry of Human Resource Development to provide e-content for studies.
 - SWAYAM:
 - It provides for an integrated platform for online courses.
 - NEAT:
 - It aims to use <u>Artificial Intelligence</u> to make learning more personalized and customized as per the requirements of the learner
 - PRAGYATA:
 - The Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) released guidelines on digital education titled PRAGYATA.
 - Under the PRAGYATA guidelines, only 30 minutes of screen time per day for interacting with parents is recommended for kindergarten, nursery and pre-school.
 - National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning:
 - The NPTEL is a project of MHRD initiated by seven Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT), along with the Indian Institute of Science Bangalore.
 - It was started in 2003 and its aim was to have web and video courses in engineering, sciences, and management.

Way Forward

- Covid-19 has shown the extent to which the Indian system of education exploits inequalities.
- Thus, there is a need for renewed commitments to the synergy between the private and public education sector. In this context, there is a need to make education a common good and digital innovation can help in achieving the feat.

Source: IE

PDF Refernece URL: https://www.drishtiias.com/printpdf/new-approach-for-post-covid-education

