

HOMESCHOOLING DURING COVID-19

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ABSTRACT

COVID 19 has caused a mayhem all across the globe. It has affected in all sectors of life. One of the major impact the pandemic has on may be discussed in the education sector. The pandemic disrupted the normal functioning of schools and universities since its outbreak in the late 19s. Still, the physical classroom has been on hold except for few selected classes. The online classes have taken over the traditional classroom during this period. A paradigm shift in the teaching learning could be seen. It may be mentioned that Homeschooling is the key change brought in, which is entirely based on e-learning or internet-based teaching. Lines, P.M. 2001 defined homeschooling as “educating children under the supervision of parents instead of school teachers”. Further, ‘Homeschooling’ or ‘Home Education’ or ‘Home based Education’ is a form of informal or less formal education offered to children by their parents either by themselves or through hired physical or online tutors’(Preethi, Lawrence, 2021). This form of schooling picks up the pace steadily in these few years as a result of the shutting down of schools and colleges and it may, in the coming years become a mainstream education too. Therefore, it is essential to critically analyse how this system of education is being implemented and what are the benefits and the challenges while adopting it. Hence, an attempt is being made to know the benefits and challenges of homeschooling. A few selected articles and papers downloaded from various internet sources are being reviewed to draw a conclusion on this aspect. The main findings after the review were: i) lockdown has reinforced family bonds; opened up spaces for homeschooling and digital learning; strengthened relationships with parents, communities, and teachers; and paved the way for technological adaptation (Vincent et. al.); ii) homeschooling is flexible, sustainable and family focused (Whitton, 2022); iii) homeschooling one of the better by product of COVID-19 (The tribune, 2020); iv) there is a lack of curriculum providers and educational guidelines that meet their unique educational needs(Beer et.al.); v) it was also found that many parents experienced a range of negative outcomes for themselves and their kids due to homeschooling, and a substantial number felt that homeschooling was lacking in quality, with schools providing insufficient support (cited in Vincent et al.) etc. All in all, homeschooling is a good alternative education system where children can learn independently and flexibly in a familiar environment. It has its benefits but its drawbacks can’t also be overlooked. It needs a proper curriculum framework, an effective monitoring mechanism and strategies to make it meaningful.

Keywords: COVID-19, homeschooling, e-learning, mainstream education, alternative education