

INTRODUCTION

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a profound impact on various aspects of human life, and the education sector was among the most affected. Students across the world experienced an abrupt shift from traditional classroom learning to remote education, altering their learning experiences significantly. Schools, colleges, and universities were forced to close indefinitely, leading to disruptions in academic schedules, examinations, and learning outcomes. The sudden transition to online learning posed numerous challenges, especially for students who lacked access to digital resources, high-speed internet, and a conducive learning environment at home. These disruptions widened the educational gap, particularly among students from economically weaker backgrounds, rural areas, and marginalized communities.

Apart from academic disruptions, the pandemic also had severe psychological and emotional effects on students. The prolonged lockdowns, social distancing measures, and uncertainty regarding examinations and career opportunities resulted in increased levels of stress, anxiety, and depression among students. Many struggled with loneliness due to limited social interactions with friends and teachers. The pressure of adapting to new learning methods, coupled with the fear of falling behind in studies, led to a decline in motivation and concentration. For final-year students, the uncertainty surrounding placements, internships, and job opportunities further contributed to mental distress, making it difficult for them to plan their future effectively.

Despite these challenges, the pandemic also served as a catalyst for innovation and transformation in the education sector. Educational institutions worldwide embraced digital learning platforms, virtual classrooms, and hybrid education models, which may continue to be an integral part of education in the future. Online learning resources, e-books, and digital libraries became more accessible, allowing students to continue their education despite physical barriers. The crisis emphasized the importance of digital literacy, self-discipline, and adaptability, skills that will benefit students in their future careers. This study specifically examines the impact of COVID-19 on students in Taliparamba Municipality, analysing how academic,

psychological, and social factors have influenced their learning experiences and overall well-being.

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

This study examines the academic, psychological, and social impact of COVID-19 on students, focusing on the challenges they faced and their coping mechanisms. The findings will help educators and policymakers implement better strategies to support students in future disruptions.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To analyse how COVID-19 affected students' learning and academic performance.
- To examine the psychological impact of the pandemic on students.
- To understand the challenges students faced in online learning.
- To assess the social effects of limited peer interactions during the pandemic.
- To suggest ways to improve student support during future disruptions.

LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

- The study is based on 50 students from Taliparamba Municipality, which may not fully represent the experiences of all students.
- Time and cost constraints limited the scope of the research.
- Respondent bias may affect the accuracy of the responses.
- Things like family support, money problems, or health issues may also affect students, not only COVID-19.

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