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<b>Article:</b>	<b>Covid-19 and Emergence of New Educational Paradigm</b>
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### Abstract

Covid-19 outbreak poses serious effects on global education system. Institutes had been closed due to covid-19 for almost six to eight months in Pakistan which badly affected education system. Covid-19 spoiled more than one billion student's education schedule throughout the world. The study explains the influence of covid-19 on education system in Pakistan and changing the Paradigm. Quantitative method was used to analyze the results of this study. Data was gathered through organized questionnaire across Pakistan from the Students. The survey was filled by 300 students against 500 respondents, who faced these difficulties during the pandemic. The results were analyzed thoroughly keeping Online Education system in Pakistan. Most of the results express that covid-19 have inauspicious effects on education system counting tough approach to education and other services, job losses and the financial problems for students. Results showed that students opposed online education system in Pakistan. The study also includes that how various educational institutes are delivering online studies and what type of challenge it faces; by the teachers, the students and to the parents as well. However, online education is highly interrupted by poor infrastructure including network, electricity, inadequacy issues and poor digital skills. The research highlights that the pandemic has negative effects on educational system of Pakistan. Results of this study also showed that students attitude towards new paradigm is not favorable.

**Keywords:** Online Education, Pandemic, Covid-19, Students Learning, Educational Paradigm

## Introduction

COVID-19 outbreak was first time experienced in Wuhan which is the city in China at the end of December 19, 2019. This spread quickly in China and 209 countries of America, Europe, Australia and Asia including Pakistan. In 2020, there are more than 50 thousand mortalities and more than one million people were affected worldwide. While figure increased rapidly, various measures had been taken worldwide for the control of COVID-19.

Even with less assets Pakistan also took meticulous measures like originated new types of hospitals, laboratories for testing, quarantine facilities, awareness campaign and lockdown to control the spread of virus. We highlighted the efforts of government to combat this deadly pandemic. Due to lockdown, every institute had been shuttled down. It was impactful for students because they were facing loss. Students were depressed for their future and the time that was getting wasted.

The only option that was left is “Online studies”. Authorities checked all the matters and decided to move on virtual world to conduct online classes to save them from inconvenience which give birth to new paradigm of Online Education in Pakistan. On the other hand, management of Universities across the country decided to give a semester break in starting two months of lockdown and during that semester break; university management found a platform and scheduled the timetable and other things as well.

They made guidelines for teachers also that how can they manage students on an online platform. After all that procedure, finally they started online classes from 1<sup>st</sup> of the June, 2020. They are using different platforms for this purpose. But the main issue here is; many of the students and teachers belong to rural areas with no internet facilities. And some of them don't even have computers. It was quiet challenging for students and management also because it's not easy to move on another platform quickly. So, this case study is totally based on the issues that university faced during this virtual world session and the changing in education system that came after all that.

## Study Objectives

The main objective of this study is to understand the effects of Pandemic on higher education in Pakistan, and also to explore the student's perspective on the new paradigm of education system. The study also aimed to know the point of view of students about online studies and in which way it did affect them and to investigate the student's perspective regarding online education while to explore the structure of digital learning.

## Research questions

- Q-1: How Pandemic changes the education System in Pakistan?
- Q-2: What is the new paradigm of Pakistani education system?
- Q-3: How online education system impacts student's educational activities?
- Q-4: What sort of challenges face by the new digital structure of education?
- Q-5: What is the strength and Weaknesses of new education paradigm?

## Statement Problem

The education system of Pakistan is badly spoiled due to Covid-19. Students faced plenty of problems regarding their studies and career. Educational institutes are delivering online education through different platforms on social networking sites to cover the loss of students. Online education is not useful as compared to traditional system. Students and teachers of Universities across Pakistan are facing challenges to fulfill their duties. There are many things that we have learnt from this crisis but it will be very difficult for the institutes and students to settle again in their early situation. Pandemic changed the whole education system and it has bad and good effects at the same time. For some people, it has been a facility and for the rest, it has been a huge challenge.

## Literature Review

This case study is basically conducted for the purpose of evaluating the changes that online education brought in institutes. Whether they are positive or negative? Covid-19 changed everything very fast for students and for all the educational institutes. It also prolonged the institute's closure in all around the world, which affected 90% of the world's student population and led most educational organizations to think about alternative ways of providing education to ensure that learning should not be stopped. To continue education, many institutes adopt virtual platforms to teach students. Regarding to the rush to online and distance education, the World Economic Forum cited Wang Tao, Vice President of Tencent Cloud and Tencent Education, to highlight that the way forward is to further harness available technologies and the internet in education and that online education will become an integral component of school education. There were a lot of challenges for the teachers as they were forced to teach students on online platforms without any proper training. There were many things like short videos have gone viral on social media about the struggle of teachers during online education, some of them were funny.

Hilburg et al., (2020) noted that complying with social distancing has contributed to the introduction in clinical school of already available technologies. An understanding of their characteristics and weaknesses includes the effectual use of these technologies. We address the impact of the pandemic on the present circumstances of medical education in this study.

UNESCO identified that certain groups of students, such as those from low-income families, ethnic or religious minorities, migrants, in precarious home situations, in remote rural areas or with special needs, may require particular consideration and specific strategies when it comes to distance learning during COVID-19. It was surely a challenge for students who can't even afford an internet device. Closure of educational institutes not only affected students, teachers and families but also affected the economy of our country.

Espino-Díaz et al., (2020) observed that the role of the teacher in the successful use of ICT resources after the COVID-19 crisis in the teaching-learning process is important. In this way, brain awareness provides vital information that through emotions will promote effective learning. In order to encourage learning processes, this directly affects the need of the educational system to create school climates that foster appreciation and positive emotions. The suggestion put forward is to rely on the discipline of neuroeuropathy.

Although technology plays an important role in studying from home but it also holds some disadvantages. One of the most important benefits of studying online is that you have anything at your bestowal without leaving the chair. To get the notes and books you can access your personal computer. On the other hand, you will not have anyone around you to ask a question or to have debate on something, to do such things; you have to pick up your phone and make a call to your friend or classmate. Studying all day at home is also quite exhausting, sometimes you just need open air to breathe.

Roger Balmire, who is an educational consultant, argued in his article that the crisis have been "a wakeup call" for the organization of education system and has shown what can be done with technology, but also highlighted the things that only face-to-face interaction can do. (Roger Blamire, CEPS 2020). In fact the role of parents during these difficult times has been limitless. Regardless of other pressures, some parents become the teachers of their children, with the better understanding of the curriculum and appreciation of what is being held in institute. The sudden shift of studies from traditional to digital learning has a different effect on students of any age. This pandemic taught us to be prepared for every sudden disaster. We should be trained for every other option we can avail during pandemics or any other calamity.

Many other countries controlled this pandemic in the beginning but a country like Pakistan, which is underdeveloped and has a poor socio economic situation, cannot do things quickly. So, Pakistani Government also started a channel which is used as digital learning. They hired teachers to record lectures and then air them up on TV channel for school level students.

Kim (2020) noted that universities also started their online studies from during Pandemic. Where this pandemic affected education negatively, it also affected it in a positive way. Students can avail different type of facilities only by sitting in home. Universities provided all the social networking sites on which they can contact a student easily. They are using Google Classroom and Zoom for live interactions. Google Classroom is used for uploading lectures and different type of lectures in Pdf form. Whether Zoom App is used for live interactions, on which a meeting is being created by a teacher and all the students can participate in it and can study. This situation trained people naturally about technology and how it can be used.

But the problem is; there are things which can only be done by face-to-face interactions. For example students can not avail practical classes for their projects. One more problem that is faced by university students is poor conditions of internet connection. Students of university expressed that internet problems are severe in online education system. It spoils the whole environment of online class and causes lack of learning. It also causes irritation for teachers.

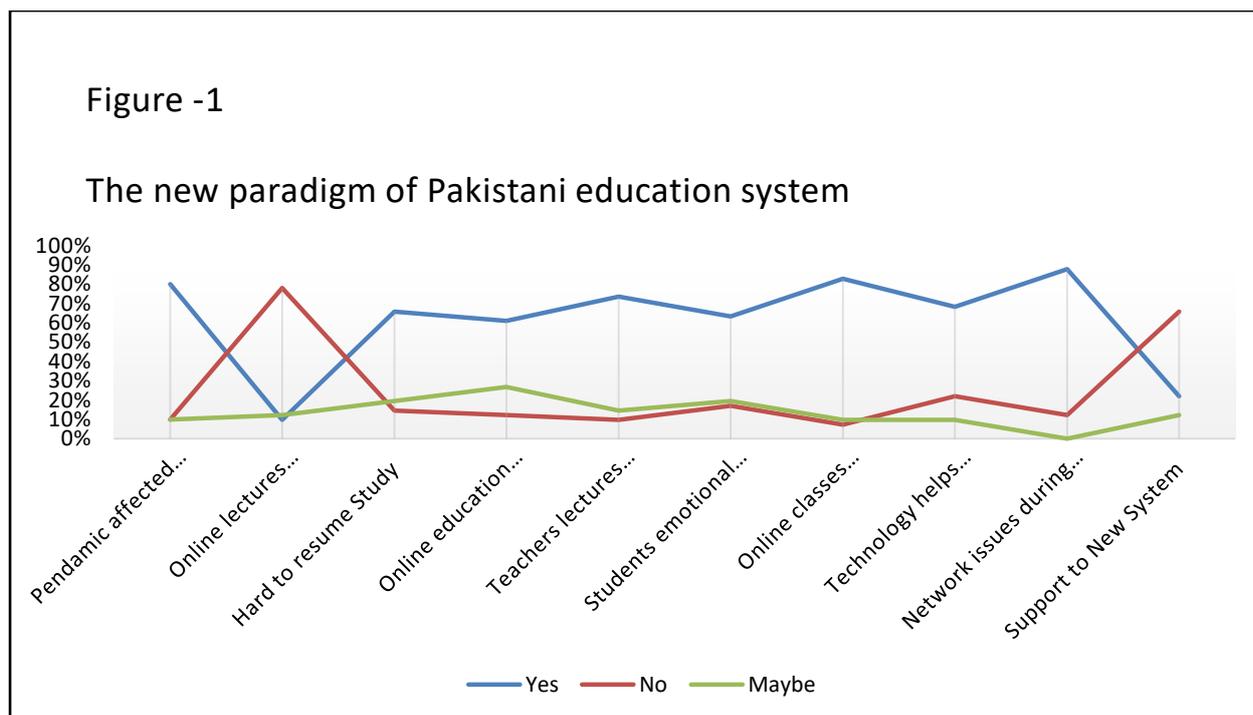
But the teachers of University are playing tremendous role in digital learning. They are educated enough about technology and its terms. They are being available for students 24/7 which decreases the negative effects of pandemic on education system of the Universities. It is good and bad for students in different ways. How you perceive it, is totally up to you.

### **Methodology**

The method we used in the survey is basically an online survey which contains open ended questions. We have concluded results through online method. The questions were based on our hypothesis. We have done a quantitative research. The survey was conducted for the purpose to prove hypothesis. The results are mostly according to our expectations. The opinions of youth are different about the impact of online education. This study is basically related to students so the unit of analysis will be the students of University. We have targeted higher education student of Pakistani Universities regardless of age group. Specifying the unit of analysis is always helpful to get the relative results according to the case study. The sample contains 4300 respondents mostly from the students of University across Pakistan. The sample population was totally students regardless of age group. The data is collected from the students who are involved in online education system. An online survey which contains 30 questions was presented to our sample. The questions were all about; how technology helps us through the pandemic, what role online education played during pandemic, if it was useful or useless for students and what did they prefer either online education or traditional education. It took one and 8 minute to answer the survey for every participant.

### **Results**

The results of this study showed that the new paradigm of Pakistani education system faces severe challenges as students were dissatisfied with the new paradigm i.e. online education system. The results showed that as pandemic negatively affected the education system however, the new paradigm has more weaknesses than strength. The response of 300 respondents out of 500 respondents is illustrated in the Figure-1, which is more than clear that this new paradigm rejected by the students.



**Survey results**

The survey was filled by both men and women. In which 70.7% were female and 29.3% were male. The survey was filled by different students of different age group but majority was round about 21-23. 7.1% respondents to the survey belong to the age group 15-19. 9.8% respondents to the survey belong to age group of 20. 24.10% respondents to the survey belong to age group of 21. 24.48% respondents to the survey belong to the age group 22. 19.5% respondents to the survey belong to age group 23 and the rest respondents to the survey belong to the age group 24-30. Students, who think that their studies are affected by Covid-19, have ratio of 80%. 78% of students think that online studies are not satisfactory as compared to traditional classes. Almost 66% students are agreeing that the changed routine during pandemic would be difficult to change when it's over. 61% students think that online education system affects studies and grades as well. 73% people agree that delivering lectures through online system is a challenge for teachers. 63.4% think that online environment brings changes in emotions and behaviors of students. People who agree with that technology helps in mitigating the effects of covid-19 crisis have ratio of 68.3%. 83% students think that it's challenging for students to tackle with online education system. 87.8% students are facing network issues during online class. 65.9% people are against that online education is better than traditional education.

**Discussion**

Teachers and students are adopting new education system and adapting current methods of teaching and learning to the changing educational environment. New barriers are raised by juggling home and workplace environment, which may just have limited physical separation and involve child care for others. Teachers may have little time for curriculum development with additional clinical duties and often total transition of lessons from in person to completely immersive scenarios. The study examined that pandemic totally change the traditional educational system of the country where students need to tight to syllabus however with the new system students conceptual learning are enhanced. The new educational paradigm is based on conceptual examination after the term where students need to attempt the open book papers.

This study noted that the new paradigm of Pakistani education system is less practical than traditional system; in new system students and teacher encircle to theoretical content and

based on assignment and quizzes. According to this study results online education system enormously impacted student's educational activities and keep them with high pressure. Lack of practical environment and only focused on theoretical content, new system kept the students in anxiety. Pakistan as underdeveloped country where internet is not available in most part of the country, this the big challenge for this new system. Teacher need to be trained to cope with this new digital educational system.

This study noted that majority of the students are agreeing with the statement that Covid-19 badly affected education system. All of them are learning from home and are fully aware of online education system. There are a few students who like to stay at home and study online. However, other students accept that learning from home is really challenging to students, teachers and parents too. Pakistan is still not that much advance that every institute can normalize education from home. The research also highlights the need of digital skills that almost every person should have to learn. The outcome of case study shows that Covid-19 disturbed the educational ventures and tended to lessen the educational occasions. Moreover, some of the students are also facing financial issues. Not everyone can afford an internet device and a good computer. The main issue that was faced by students of University was; proximity between students and teachers. Universities emphasize on practical work more than theoretical work, that's why students were lacked of coordination. In online classes; not every student can participate in class, which leads students to be careless. The routine during pandemic would be difficult to change after it will be over, for students and teachers. The loss we had due to this pandemic can never be filled by anything we will do in future. There are restricted skill tests of student abilities in these interactive environments. Generally speaking, to determine residual qualities required for graduation, virtual objective standardized assessments should be used, although these methods have never before acted as replacements.

### **Conclusion**

The study entrenched that covid-19 pandemic left inauspicious impact on education system. It also affected the economy of Pakistan however, education and students learning effected by at large. It affected outlook of students towards education and learning. The study acknowledged that closing the institutes was hurtful but it was a sensible decision to avoid health issues. This covid-19 crisis will be a great lesson for educational institutes and students also. Technology plays an important role in learning systems. Nothing can stop an educator from learning things and moving forward.

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