

## IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON EDUCATION OF TRIBAL CHILDREN

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### ABSTRACT

Covid 19 has created a paradigm shift in the way we approach education. From 'offline' classroom scenario the education has shifted towards an 'online' scenario which is based on the new advancements of information and communication technology. The main stream society was able to tackle the problems imposed by pandemic and lockdown on education by utilizing the facilities of information and communication technology which are developed in urban and semi urban centers and costly to common people. This has created a "digital divide" coined by American Lloyd Morrisett which can be defined as the disparity in accessing digital technology between various demographic groups. This digital divide has hit the tribal communities in India particularly hard and their children are not able to reap the benefits of education through information and communication technology. As a historically neglected community with inadequate socioeconomic development, the pandemic has put further strain on the educational advancements of tribal people throughout India. Concentrated efforts from various stakeholders like NGOs, state and central governments are necessary to lift out the tribal community from the quagmire they are in as their children are excluded

from e-learning solutions due to various factors ranging from low household income to lack of internet penetration in rural/forest areas. Further neglect to the cause of tribal education and introducing them to e-learning solutions will further hamper the socioeconomic development of tribal people. Data for this article are collected from secondary sources.

### INTRODUCTION

The lockdown and the pandemic has created disarray in educational sector in India. Education, which is considered as a liberating force is once again becoming the ground for have's and have-nots as pandemic has put a choke hold on accessibility to schools. Education for the past few months had been carried out through the online platforms and private schools and few government schools with good information and communication technology infrastructure is able to provide online classes to the students. Even if the schools are to be reopened in the upcoming months the loss of class hours will adversely impact the students ranging from loss of potential employment to untimely entry into the workforce. This situation is even graver for the vulnerable tribal students throughout India who have below par income levels compared to other social groups. According to the ministry of tribal affairs, scheduled tribal people living below the poverty

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