

# COVID-19: IMPACT AND CHANGES IN KERALA EDUCATION SECTOR AND ROLE OF VICTERS CHANNEL

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**Abstract:**The NOVELcorona Virus outbreak officially known as Covid-19 has first emerged in Wuhan city in china. The virus has been spreading in the whole world since then in India the pandemic and the huge number of positive cases reported so far has stalled economic activity, threatening to push the economy into recession.All over the world. In this scenario of a pandemic, Technological Advancementhas a major role in continue education. In the present-day though schools are not open, the students gets the privilege to study at home. Theteachers make use of various virtual/online platform to teach from their own home. Most modern teaching supports System involved the use of ICT (Information Communication Technology). The state of Kerala in Indian union is ahead of other states in many respects. Kerala become first state in India to achieve total digital education. Education is the most important sector in Kerala which directly affected the Covid – 19 pandemics. This paper tries to bring out the role of KITEVICTERS channel in online learning and the advantage and disadvantages of it.

**Keywords:** Covid 19, Education sector in Kerala, Kitevicters channel

## INTRODUCTION

In India, the first Covid-19 case was reported in Trissur, Kerala on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2020.As of 5th August 2020, the number of positive cases as total of 27956 and 16299recoveries and87 deaths has

been reported. The pandemic has significantly disrupted the educational sector as well. Which is a critical determinant of Kerala's economic future. Education sector in Kerala has achieved worthwhile success so far. The state ranks first in literacy rate with 93.91 percent and provide free and universal primary education. Kerala has a long tradition of excellent teaching and learning. Every part of the world boasts of excellent academics from the state. Talented students and dedicated teachers are in abundance. But due to the impact of Covid-19 schools and colleges closed temporarily to stop the spread of virus. Kerala Government started online classes as of June 1<sup>st</sup> through VICTORS channel and same time the private schools in Kerala started classes through various other online platform like Zoom App, YouTube, Google Classroom, WhatsApp. Through the Lock down has unraveled the Governments plans to advance the academic calendar, Academician feel. The lockdown period of Covid-19 is an opportunity make reforms in the educational sector through virtual classroom and paved the way for easy acceptance of advancement of technology into remote area.

### **IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON KERALA EDUCATION SECTOR**

The social sector of Kerala is ahead of other states. Kerala's achievements in the field of Education near total literacy, free and universal primary education, low dropout rate at the school level, easy access to educational institutions gender equality in access etc. are well known. In these respects Kerala is often compared not only with the other Indian states or developing countries but also some of the developed countries (N Ajith Kumar and K K George 1999). But Covid -19 and the lockdown came as a shock to the education department, government had to cancel exams and shutdown schools, but they decided to make sure the learning process never stopped. Which was getting ready to finish the academic year. Therefore, the Government of Kerala is taking necessary steps to rectify the losses incurred in the field of Education during Covid-19.

Our present world is marked as technological one and E-Learning has become the need of the time. Still, it should be noted that it cannot replace traditional classroom based learning. However, it is noteworthy that online learning makes education system more interesting and enthusiastic. The contents which are employed in online courses seem to be more students – centric which offer platforms to listen, interact and solve the assignments through online mode. (Dr. D.M. Nerkar and Dr. S.S. Waghmare 2020)

In Kerala, the new academic year begins every year June 1<sup>st</sup> but this Year Covid-19 has forced the Government to suspend physical classroom and it will be completely online using multiple Virtual platform due to Corona Virus (Covid-19) pandemic. The Private Schools started their classes through online platforms like Zoom, Skype, YouTube, Google classroom, Google meeting. But Government schools in Kerala has started classes through Television Victors Channel.

Teachers prepare short videos, digitalbooks, audiostories, andpoems, animatedstories,informative memes and virtual classes and send them across to the students via whatsapp and others forms of digital mass media. (Jinoy Jose .P May 2020)

It is evident that pandemic has replaced the century old chalk and talk method of teaching to online teaching (S.Saradhamani andDr.S.Krishnakumari)Impact of corona virus on education: stay away from schools and colleges)

## ROLE OF VICTERS CHANNEL IN ONLINE TEACHING

KITE is the nodal agency for implementing the EDUSAT network and runs an expensive Channel for Education called VICTERS {Versatile ICT Enabled Resources for Students} which aired from 6 AM to 11 PM. India's epoch making first Broadband network on EDUSAT for School VICTERS inaugurated by APJ Abdul Kalam the President of India on 28<sup>th</sup> July 2005 in Trivandrum has revolutionized classroom methodology. Kerala has since demonstrated how EDUSAT could be used to successfully empower teachers. The scheme was mainly intended to meet the demand for an interactive satellite based distance education system for the country. It strongly reflects India's commitment to use space technology for national development, especially for the development of the population in remote and rural locations. Victers offers interactive virtual classroom that enable the students as well as the teachers to directly communicate with the subject experts and educationists. It is also ensuring the dissemination of high-quality Education to the students and teachers from the original source. (<https://kite.kerala.gov.in/KITE/index.php/welcome/aboutvicters>)

Victers has two modes of operation –the interactive mode and non-interactive mode. The non-interactive mode of victers is the complete educational channel, first of its kind in the country was officially inaugurated by Hon. chief minister of Kerala shri .V.S Achuthanathan on 3<sup>rd</sup> august 2006. the channel which telecast 24\*7, is unique in the sense that it caters to students and teachers on a need based manner, and programs are aired on demand, sensitive to school curriculum and even time table. The channel reaches out to as many as 15000 schools and about 50 lakhs children and covers almost entire households in the state. (<https://kite.kerala.gov.in/KITE/index.php/welcome/aboutvicters>)

The Interactive mode of VICTERS is used for video conferencing and other such educational training purposes, which is facilitated through Satellite Interactive Terminals (SITs). The main users of the facility under Thiruvananthapuram Hub are KITE, Directorate of Collegiate Education, Directorate of Technical Education, CDAC, SSA, Directorate of IT Lakshadweep and CIMR. (<https://kite.kerala.gov.in/KITE/index.php/welcome/aboutvicters>)

VICTERS is the only complete educational channel of the State which telecast programmes of educational value, general awareness programmes and content on general interest and is fast becoming the most sought channel by students, parents, teachers and general public. VICTERS telecast specific curriculum based programmes, regional, national and international programmes on education especially on Science and Technology. The channel is now available throughout the State through local cable, Receive Only Terminals and also via Live through internet at [www.victers.kite.kerala.gov.in](http://www.victers.kite.kerala.gov.in), enabling the students, teachers and general public to watch the channel 'LIVE' through internet from any part of the world. ([https://kite.kerala.gov.in/KITE/index.php/welcome/about\\_victers](https://kite.kerala.gov.in/KITE/index.php/welcome/about_victers))

The VICTERS channel which falls under the state General Education Department, Telecasts learning sessions for classes 1 to 12. The sessions named First bell goes on air from 8.30 AM to 5.30 PM on week days. On the 1<sup>st</sup> day a nine and half minute-long video on the Corona Virus was screened in all the Government and Government Aided Schools in Kerala to create awareness and avoid panic among the students. The state Government has directed the class teachers to remain in touch with students on social media platform or phone on a regular basis.

Online learning is quite flexible as it equips the teacher and the students to establish their own learning pace which results in improved balance in studies and work. The students need not to give up

anything due to their flexible online classes. This leads to the better time management for both the teachers as well as students. The online education system offers a broad scope for the students to choose the courses. It is quite true that we can adopt a wide range of skills and subjects through the medium of internet (Dr. D.M. Nerkar, Dr. S.S. Waghmare 2020)

. The VICTERS channel is made available on all cable and direct to home Television networks. The Government has also decided to stream the classes online on YouTube and Samagra portal. One session of 30 minutes each will be held for classes 1 to VII daily (One Subject Per day) one-hour session for classes VIII and XI (Two session each of 30 minutes) Class X will have 1.5 hours of class in three sessions and class XII will have four 2 hours of class in four session.

A total of 41 lakh students from about 12000 schools in the state switches to the Virtual system of Education.

E-learning poses a challenge to teachers and student but they are busy with Google forms, worksheets, video lectures and assignments. Instructors are unable to say that every students are turning in. Entire family is staying at home laptops/mobile phones are shared between father, mother, brother & sisters. Even teachers don't have laptops to plan their curriculum. Lack of familiarity with technology teachers heavily depends on children's to remove the technical glitches. Most of the online class rooms do not have 100% attendance (Erdamar & Demirel, 2014)

### ONLINE TEACHING

<b>Advantages</b>	<b>Disadvantages</b>
Covid-19 Pandemic create a new synergy for academic dealing through online	Activities on schools are suspended
Upliftment of information and communication technology (ICT) and adopt use of multimedia	Teachers want to redesign mode of teaching and redesign classes for online delivery
Opportunity to go paperless by relying on the digital document filling system	Students form backward community who have access to school meals no longer have access to healthy meals and are subject to economic and social stress
Technology has a rapid access and increase effectiveness of teaching, Innovative mobile based technology	Students who don't have smart phone or Television they may face difficulties to attend the online classes and follow the daily schedule.

## **CONCLUSION**

Covid-19 a pandemic has badly affected the Kerala economy and mainly its Education sector. Each home include school going children and schools were closed to limit the spread of Virus. In Kerala the online learning started on Jun 1st, 2020 onwards, it's so far successful. The impact of Corona Virus is an important consideration while online platform is opened. The shift in Education means the remote education will make opportunity for many students, can easily engage with online classes in future. They can easily find several courses, distance learning and various options through digital access. Even with online classes, parents need to help younger children to navigate classroom on digital screen. Although majority children are compatible with online teaching, but this was difficult for some children's who do not have internet access or mobile phone or TV in their home. Someone is left without proper meals, Government find solution to all their problem. Direct involvement of the Government or social service workers or other organizations deliver digital learning equipment's, internet facility and necessary food ingredients. If any of the student didn't get class at time it will re-telecasted and the classes are available through YouTube, What Sapp etc. Teachers of each subject codify the activities through What Sapp group. Similarly, classes are offered by Private Schools through Skype, Google classroom and YouTube etc.

So, the study concludes the online classes provided by the Government of Kerala through KITE VICTERS channel is very successful with the support of teachers, parents and social workers.

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