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Impact of covid 19 on Libraries: a selective review of literature

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Impact of covid 19 on Libraries: a selective review of literature

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Abstract

Education is the unstoppable procedure. Covid 19 has effected in every sectors. Education sector has been badly affected. Almost all educational institutes has been closed during pandemic. Library is also a part of an educational institution. In the present study authors studied the corona positive and negative effects of corona that had an impact on libraries. For the study author used descriptive research method. Data was collected from various article, webinar, and reports etc. Authors found the positive effects on libraries like digitization, remote access service, use social media and connect too many people etc. Negative impacts are decreasing use of print resources, financial crises, impact on health and many more.

Keywords: Corona, effect of corona, education, effect on library

1. **INTRODUCTION**

    Corona virus is a group of RNA disease. Corona virus originated from the city Wuhan, China, it has spared quickly to various countries, with many cases having been reported worldwide. All worldwide people stay in the city for education, business and for travel purposes. For the sake of corona virus spread at everywhere. Whole world is facing the corona virus problem. Covid 19 has disturbed political, social-economic, financial and religious structures of the world. world's top most economies like US, China, UK, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and many others at the verge of collapse. Education institutions have been closed globally and it is believed that 90percent of the world's students will be affected. Many institutions are scheduling their courses online and students are engaged with e-books, e-journals and online learning. In the present research paper will attempt an analysis of positive and negative impact of corona on libraries.

OBJECTIVE OF STUDY
1. To study Positive impact on library services
2. To Study Negative impact on Library Services.

2. METHODOLOGY

In the study descriptive research method is applied and it is based on a literature survey. For the study, data has collected from different articles published on numerous journals, webinars, reports, etc.

3. LITERATURE REVIEW

3.1. Mehta, Dipti and Wong Xiacom (2020) described the library position during the crisis and illustrates the uncharted challenges that the pandemic has posed to its digital services. The aim of the paper to make other university libraries aware of what the library has implemented with providing digital services to its teaching faculty and students during the pandemic. Authors also describes the challenges and implications for the library professionals working in-house and remotely.

3.2. Marc Kosciejew (2020) examined covid 19's early effects on libraries, information centers and their communities. Aim of the study to present and discussed the international library and information communities initial responses to the corona virus pandemic. Author found that the most libraries and information centers have been physically shuttered because of pandemic, but libraries has adopted digital services for all their library communities.

3.3. Kox, A. and Brewster, L. (2022) examined the library support activities offered by UK academic libraries prior to and during covid 19 pandemic. Prior to the pandemic libraries emphasis was on new library specific services such as a fiction collection, a type of initiative taken to proactively align with institutional policy. During the pandemic focus shifted somewhat t addressing the anxiety related to finding e-resources. The study represent a framework through which to examine how to an academic library can support student mental health and well-0beingh, and complements the whole university approach being increasingly adopted in the UK.

3.4. Tammaro, A. (2020) the investigation was carried out analyzing literature and online documentation together with administering a questionnaire to about 70 libraries. In the study author found that the covid emergency pushes for a transformation of libraries and a new vision of service, which focuses on new relationship with communities.

4. IMPACT ON LIBRARIES

POSITIVE IMPACT

1. Growing digitization

Due to covid 19 every library has closed for all readers. Not only library but also all educational institutes are also shuttered down. But as we know, there are not any permanent problems. For the sake of every library moved to digitization. All teachers, readers and library staffs to have adapted technology in their daily library work like, reference service, online question-answer, and library activities etc.

2. **Remote access resources**
   every library has closed for due to corona so library has provide online resources to reader, like e-books, selective dissemination service, current library service update etc. library has provide different types of databases for reader. Some library has developed their own library mobile application for patrons.

3. **Electronic Interlibrary loan**
   No any library is perfect for their own library collection. For the sake of they are depends on other library direct or indirectly. Interlibrary loan means, it is the cooperative arrangement among libraries that allows books and other materials or resources from one library to be loaned out to a patron from another library. Electronic interlibrary loan is same but not different service, which means its provided through digitally or online.

4. **Webinars**
   In the covid pandemic library has created distance free services, teleconferencing, and webinars on different topics. Library has celebrated each and every library program through webinars at national or international level. Following platforms are used for online meeting- Zoom, Microsoft team, Google meeting, Go to Webinar, YouTube, WebEx, etc.

5. **Use of social media platforms**
   Before pandemic maximum people were using social media for their entertainments or leisure purposes. But in covid period social media plays very important role for information. Learning materials, ideas are shared through social media.

6. **Online Membership**
   In pandemic there is no need to go library for library membership, maximum libraries are provide online membership form or facilities from their website. Readers needed to contact librarian by e-mail or contact number and pay the library fees or amount and that set they are enroll in the library.

7. **Increase Technical skill of library staff**
   Before two years ago not every library staffs did not had technical knowledge, but corona taught them these skill too. They were learned many such things like an online presentation, virtual meeting organize, learn how to deliver online as well as offline lecture at the same time, maintaining heterogeneous reader at same time etc.

8. **Document Delivery service**
   Physical distribution of newspapers were closed for some time in pandemic but were started again. Similarly, the document delivery services were closed for few days and the started again. Library was closed in corona period but services were being given to online readers. The library used to deliver documents which could not be given online to the readers.

9. **Growing SDI**-
   SDI's full form is selective dissemination information it is a part of reference service. SDI refers to tools and resources that are used to keep a user informed of new resources on specified topics, including the current-awareness services used to inform about new

library resources. It is not possible to give the entire book online to the user that is why they are given only as much content as they want.

10. **Connect to heterogamous reader**

Due to corona, it was possible to sit in one corner of the house and to connect to every corner of the world. Similarly organize a library workshop or webinars and have participants from all over the world join in.

Apart from the above positive impact of covid 19 on library, there are many others impacts like- save travel allowances, time save, no need to more space, provide 24/7 library service, virtual library new arrivals, e-mail service, online reference service, library activities, etc.

NEGATIVE IMPACT

1. **Reducing demand of print resources**

Everyone is a fan of digitization these days. But everything has good and bad effects. Similarly, the impact of digitization is starting to show its negative effect on print resources in pandemics. Because many peoples have started liking to read e-books, audio books summaries, audio podcasts, etc.

2. **Financial Crisis**

Maximum recruitments got postponed due to pandemic. Unemployment rate are increased day to day. Online library service can also be provided by a library staff. Lots of library professionals became jobless in pandemic. Some professionals were started their own business or turned to different sectors.

3. **Illiteracy of technology**

Everyone does not have has knowledge of technology. Those staffs who did not have basic information of technical skills they had to face a lot of technical problems in pandemic.

4. **Impact on Health**

Health has deteriorated due to corona, but its phobia has also affected on health. Working from a place staff were facing following problems-waist, eye, weight, etc. corona 19 impacted on physical health as well as mental health.

5. **Fail to maintain social distance**

Libraries were reopened after covid patients got reduced. But not everyone does not follows the covid 19 guidelines. Due to this reason many library staff were failing to maintain social distance.

6. **Decreasing reading habit**

Reading habit is decreasing in the reader due to start of online work everywhere. Students play video game, watching Television, YouTube and maximum use of social media because of staying at home.

5. CONCLUSIONS

In the covid 19 pandemic every library has physical closed, but they provided online services through various platforms. Just as everything has its own merits and demerits, similarly corona has also affected the library. Corona has given many positive effects on library like save the time, money, library digitization, knowledge of using social media, 24/7 library services, etc. and negative impact of decreased print resources, decreased reading habit, impact on health, etc. Therefore it is difficult to say whether corona is a curse or a boon for the library.

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