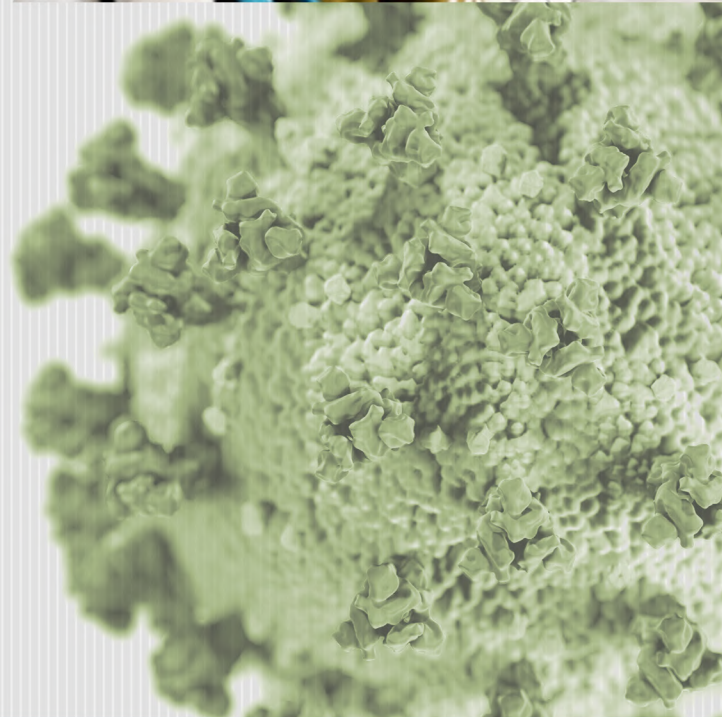


SCHOOL EDUCATION AMIDST COVID-19 SITUATION IN MANIPUR

IMPACT, DIMENSIONS AND OBSERVATIONS



Report prepared by:
**Directorate of Education (Schools), Manipur
& Samagra Shiksha, Manipur**

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FOREWORD

The COVID-19 outbreak has now engulfed the entire nation, and every sector of the country is facing a major crisis. One of the worst hit sectors is the education sector. It is an undeniable fact that the closure of schools has had a multiple cascading effect on the children and the department is fully aware of it. It has resulted in increasing risk to health & nutrition, reducing learning levels, economy, social cohesion, behavioural changes, etc.

Closure of schools to contain spread of the virus initially and now finding a way out for reopening of schools, requires support & contribution from various stakeholders. The Department of Education (Schools) believes in joining hands and working together with other stakeholders for promoting and safeguarding every child's right to education. The best interest of the child must be paramount.

As the lockdown continued for more than three months now, the period of stand-still is slowly turning into period of stress. With the regular teaching-learning process in schools adversely affected, the challenge now is of keeping the students meaningfully engaged in academic learning through alternative means. The department is of the view that any alternative means of education cannot be a replacement of normal schooling that was prevalent earlier. We have to now adapt to the 'new normal' in the post lockdown period.

This report is the department's endeavour to find a new landscape for education after the lockdown. The contribution, inputs, opinions and suggestions of the experts, stakeholders and well-wishers are very crucial in taking a strategic decision specially related to reopening of the educational institution.

We have tried our best to make this study as encompassing and inclusive as possible within this limited time and resource. It is hoped that the observations and recommendations derived in this report will serve the interest of School Education in Manipur and the interest of the students in particular.

Th. Kirankumar, IAS
Director, Education (S) Manipur
&
State Project Director,
Samagra Shiksha, Manipur

Acknowledgment

The Directorate of Education (S) Manipur and Samagra Shiksha, Manipur expresses its gratitude to the Hon'ble Minister, Education, Manipur Shri Thokchom Radheshyam Singh for his guidance all throughout the process of the formulation of this report.

The Department would also like to convey our acknowledgement to Shri. T. Ranjit Singh, IAS, Commissioner of Education (S), Manipur as well as Shri M. Harekrishna, IAS, Commissioner, Higher & Technical Education for their whole hearted support and suggestions during this extraordinary times requiring extraordinary responses.

The Department is also indebted to all the renowned Academicians, Educationists, Student Activist, Media, Parents and all Stakeholders who have contributed their mite in whatever way possible during the whole exercise of this report preparation.

This report would not have seen the light of the day without the involvement of the Officers & Officials of the Department, NEST Advertising & Marketing Pvt. Ltd. and innumerable persons across media fraternity.

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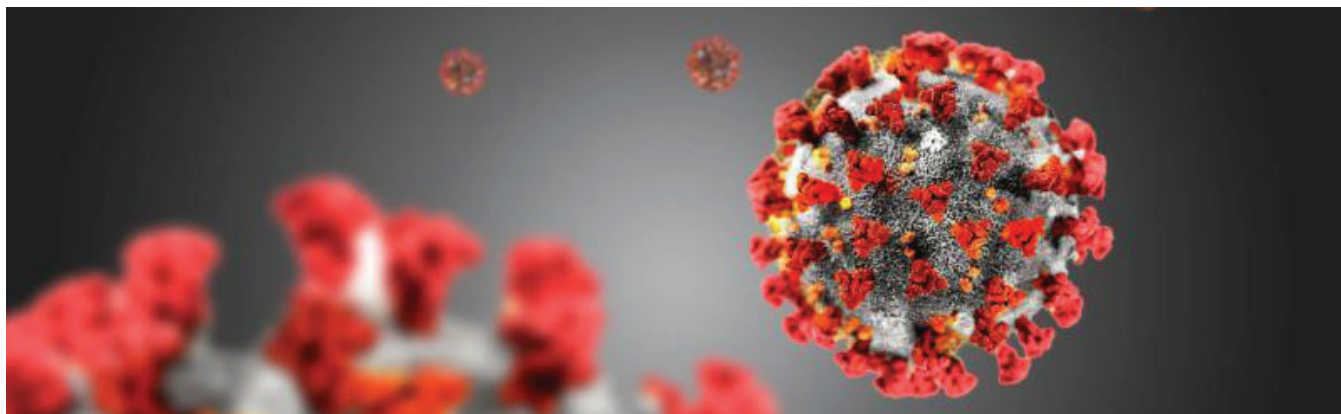
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General Background



The coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic is the defining global health crisis of our time and one of the greatest challenges we are facing since World War Two. The pandemic is much more than a health crisis. It is also a socio-economic crisis unprecedented in recent history. Considering its widespread spread, it has the potential to create devastating social, economic and political effects that will leave deep and longstanding scars.

The novel coronavirus (CoV) is a new strain of coronavirus. The disease caused by the novel coronavirus, first identified in Wuhan, China, has been named coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) – ‘CO’ stands for corona, ‘VI’ for virus, and ‘D’ for disease.

India too responded by locking down the entire country on 24th March 2020, initially for 21 days. Prior to the **LOCKDOWN 1**, a 14-hour **JANTA CURFEW** [voluntary public curfew] was ordered on 22nd March 2020. The Lockdown has been continued till date in various phases. Now we are in UNLOCK 2 phase. In lines with the directives from the Central Government,

State government too has taken the initiative of imposing total lockdown of the entire state since 25th March 2020

The COVID-19 pandemic has already had profound impacts on education due to closure of schools at all levels almost everywhere. Even before the pandemic, many countries including India were seriously off-track in achieving Sustainable Development Goals [Goal 4]. Goal 4 commits the world to ensure **“inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning by all” by 2030.**

At the outset, let it be stated that there is no post-COVID-19 world. There is only a post-lockdown world. The virus is here to stay and we will need to learn to live with it. Some experts term the post lock down period to be the ‘New Normal’. So, in the post-Lockdown world, the Education Department need to strengthen its resources and work together with schools, parents, communities, and local governments to create safe and healthy environments of learning and working for students, teachers and staff.

Consequences & Challenges (Education in Manipur)

Education in Manipur was swift to response anticipating the threat posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. All schools were closed by an order of the Government dated the 12th March, 2020 in Manipur. Closing of schools in response to the nationwide lockdown call is just one

step out of the many challenges pose by the lockdown.

To understand better the challenges posed by the lockdown, a statistical data is provided below:

Number of Schools with Enrollment in the State: Source: UDISE 2018-19

Sl.	Management	No. of Schools				Total	Enrollment
		Primary	Upper Primary	Secondary	Hr. Secondary		
2	ADC	894	56	0	0	950	41750
3	Social Welfare Dept.	2	1	4	0	7	548
4	Govt. Aided	400	95	87	5	587	28210
5	Private and others	135	425	467	171	1198	420218
6	Kendriya Vidyalaya	1	1	2	3	7	3190
7	JNV	0	0	0	11	11	4289
8	Sainik School	0	0	0	1	1	583
Total		2600	1084	914	246	4844	638491

Enrollment in the State:

Source: UDISE 2018-19

SL.	Management	(I- V)	(VI – VIII)	(IX - X)	(XI- XII)	Total
1	DE(S)	73653	33022	16824	16204	139703
2	Social Welfare	309	130	109	0	548
8	ADC	40337	1413	0	0	41750
3	Govt. Aided	16892	6160	3567	1591	28210
4	Private	185517	107104	61655	43855	398131
5	Others	1604	1288	615	424	3931
6	Central Govt. (KV, JNV)	1219	3259	2063	1521	8062
7	Un-Recognised	13873	3171	148	0	17192
9	Madarsa	938	26	0	0	964
Total		334342	155573	84981	63595	638491

Large numbers of schools are not uniformly distributed against the habitations and concentration of the population. Large concentration of schools and educational institution are in urban locations and districts headquarters. Even within these broad zones, heavy concentration of private schools in certain compact areas is also observed. To name few, tiddim road, Canchipur area, Pangai hostel areas, Mantripukhri etc.

As a result of which presence of numerous hostel/boarding in the vicinity of these areas is another issue which the department has to look into with respect to safety and well-being of the public in general and the in particular for

the students and the teaching community.

Residential hostels and boarding's for the student are at present not within the ambit of any act or regulation. Hence, the exact number of students, category of students, fees, facilities, operation of the hostels/boarding, etc. are not known to the government except for few Government run hostels, boarding or residential schools. This may put some obstacle while taking decision.

Teachers in the State: Source: UDISE 2018-19

As per UDISE 2018-19, there are 45101 Teachers serving in those 4844 schools (Class 1 -12). Management wise categorisation of teachers is as

Management	Primary	Upper Primary	Secondary	Hr. Secondary	Total
Department of Education(S)	6113	2588	2369	1601	12671
Social Welfare	25	19	12	0	56
ADC/Tribal Welfare Department	5754	172	0	0	5926
Govt. Aided	1363	658	498	149	2668
Private and others	7660	8446	5232	2442	23780
Total (All management)	20915	11883	8111	4192	45101

Academic Calendar followed in schools are of two different norms. Class I – X follow a separate norms while those of class XI-XII follow another norms.

Classes	Session Starts	Session End	Final Exam
I - IX	Mid January	Mid December	December
X	Mid January	Mid December	February/March
XI	July	January	February/March
XII	Last week of May	January	February/March

Some of the challenges that the Education, Manipur faces were as follows.

1. Ensuring Uninterrupted Learning for all Students

The best way to finding a solution to uninterrupted learning is to assume that the Virus is here to stay for a long time. This means that the department would not waste time waiting for the virus to dies out or for the introduction of a vaccine. The department has thus separated the schooling and the learning. Governments will be proactive and will shut down schools or parts of a school multiple times during the current and the next academic year.

Irrespective of this, learning should continue uninterrupted. It is important that schools (both Government and Private) should factor this into account while planning their operations and ensure that there is no major learning loss during these multiple interruptions, if any.

2. Ensuring Student and Staff Safety

Ensuring the safety of students and staff will be foremost in the mind of the Government. A single case of COVID-19 found in the school may not only pose a threat to the students and the staff of the schools but to the families of the students and the staff too. Moreover, Parents

may decide not to send their children to school, or worse, move them to another school. Hence any decision that the department takes in this regard has to be very strategic and taken with the consent and understanding of the stakeholders.

3. Managing Increased Costs

Enforcing safety protocols in schools which includes fewer numbers of students in a class, increasing teaching and non-teaching staff, investing in cleaning material, sanitizers and personal protective equipment (masks, gloves etc.) will result in increased spending. Due to the current economic and social climate, schools may not be in a position to collect school fees, resulting in reduced income. Increase in expenditure and quality safety expectations from parents and reduced income will mean schools will have to find innovative and prudent ways to manage their costs. How best the government intervene in this regard will be critical in overcoming the challenges.

4. Managing Interruptions of schooling

A post-lockdown world will look different from the pre-lockdown for schools. Post lockdown may even have frequent interruptions in schooling even after reopening. Some of the reason could be change in the zone status (red/yellow/green) of a particular school area leading to shutdown of the school buildings in the area.

The closure of schools since Mid-March has left our students high and dry bereft of any kind of responsibility expected of a student. Except for a few, most students are stuck in situations where there are no tasks to do, where meeting with friends and close relatives are unthinkable and have lots of idle time in their hands. This leads to another challenges i.e. the psychological stress amongst the adolescence and young adult which is an indirect outcome of this new situation of having no work to do.

Government schools students are from amongst the most economically deprived and vulnerable section of the society. For them having access to technology to ensure their continued learning outcomes is a distance

dream as to them the foremost aim would be to have two meals a day and learning would be secondary. **This leads to technological divides and learning gap amongst the students.** Herein lays the important role of the department to ensure their learning process continues in one way or the other. Ensuring that drop out particularly amongst girl children do not occur is another task ahead of us.

Inspite of a number of limitations, the conventional classroom transaction have attempted to bridge the learning levels between the haves and the have-nots. The pandemic has open up a new challenge to the society specially the student community. After long closure of schools, learning through digital platform has been used widely as a medium of teaching- learning. This has open another level of disparity as parents without smart phone, TV, network shadow area are not able to readily access the digital content.

Apart from these, some other challenges that the department could face are student absenteeism due to migration, students overload in some schools due to fresh admissions etc. The above realities will throw new challenges for schools in the post-lockdown world.

Charles Darwin, the famous British naturalist, once said that **“It is not the strongest of the species that survives, nor the most intelligent; it is the one most adaptable to change”**. We are in the midst of unprecedented change. Covid-19 and the subsequent lockdown have changed the dynamics of schooling, teaching and learning. Schools and school buildings have become two different things. All stakeholders of education are confused and uncertain about what to do.

When there is uncertainty, chaos and rapid change, most people merely react or wait for things to settle down. The department, on the other hand, has to take the lead in coping with the 'New Change'. The department is starting to connect the dots through consultation and working on various out of the box opinions provided by various stakeholders.

Opinions & Viewpoints

Opinions & Viewpoints

[illegible]

Lockdown Brands Online Education the Norm of Day
By Fr Hans Ignese

Secondly, the Government should encourage entrepreneurship and skill development institutes for students. These should be established in rural areas.

Thirdly, the Government should encourage the return of students from abroad to start their own businesses.

Exemption of tuition
By A Staff Reporter
IMPHAL, Jun 24
Hill District Private School
Education has cautioned the
Government that exemp-
tion of fees for stu-
dents may

**No room for re
schools as of now.**
By A Staff Reporter
IMPHAL

The decision on reopening of the schools in the State will be taken according to the guidelines of the Centre ground rules.

May 26 (DIPR)
Education minister Thok
adhesyam on Tues-
day held a meeting of the
Curriculum & Syllabus
Committee was con-
vened on the agenda-
renewal of syllabus.

Schools may r

By A1

The On reopen

6.6 -2020

ts of India. At the time of filing
out of 128 positive cases
him than

Nevertheless, to tide over the denizens easier, there has been speculation that the face of present challenges is the true is the financially.

Many countries across the globe have decided to shut down schools as the Covid-19 virus started to spread. The schools were closed as part of a social distancing policy in order to prevent the spread of deadly Corona virus. The closure of schools has led to the education of more than 1.5 billion children being disrupted worldwide to the Corona virus pandemic. The children have been deprived of learning for several months. Many countries have started lifting the lockdowns and schools are starting to open again. However, the impact of the pandemic on the education of children is still a major concern.

Union HRD Minister re...
academic calendar

IFP Bureau
 IMPHAL | Jul 2
 In order to engage st...
 dents meaningfully
 their er...

er, parents
 while

reopening

CHAPTER - 3

Opinions & Viewpoints

reopen by end of July or mid-August, S

the psychological impact
Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'

ing of schools in Manipal

COVID-19 lockdown on schools

turning for nearly
lifting lockdown

releases 8 weeks' alternative for primary stage

By A Staff Reporter
MPHAL | Jun 30

As COVID-19 crisis bet-
new normal

Mizoram has...
open educational inst-
classroom atmosphere and
costs and colleges may be
All educational institu-
week down since the sec-
100 of them are being
secondary of education d-
state on Tuesday de-
pening of ed-
funds like
to, coun-

**ons recommend
onal institutions**

st, says education minister

...e affected due to this lock-
down. Salaries of teaching
... shall be given according to
... (teaching or non-teaching) for
the months of April to July
... shall be given according to
... about schools with e

Impact of Corona

Nishank'

lethargic, bored, and isolated. The access and priority on receiving infected.

numerous telephone

warriors, be it doctors, nurses, or they have the stress of saving others from **hattle their anxiety of** a 1-metre distance in the class, room raises a difficult problem, and a dreaded scene. **such agri-riors: A**

school children

about their examinations. They don't know when their exams would be held. Even the governments are uncertain whether they would be promoted to another level taking into account their internal performances or their exams would be conducted in due course of time.

The shut down of schools has had far reaching impact on the health and well being of children, especially those children who are enrolled in government or community schools and

Opinions & Viewpoints

The best decisions are based on the consolidation of inputs and observation of stakeholders supported by logical thought processes and scientific facts and reasoning. The pandemic being new and lack of appropriate knowledge and procedures to handle the situation require opinion and viewpoints of a large number of stakeholders. The pandemic being a massive scale and considering the fact as to how to face it is being a challenge in itself, a whole set of opinions and viewpoints from several frontline workers and stakeholders is necessary to come together to adopt an acceptable and appropriate set of guidelines.

Given below are the extracts of opinions and viewpoints from

1. Media/newspapers published in the state
2. Online mode through a dedicated email address
3. Views from various department meetings
4. Consultation with experts and stakeholders in the joint consultative meeting.

3.1 Viewpoints from Media sources including Newspaper

As media both print & electronic form a very crucial role in education and creating awareness of the virus and the challenges posed by it, particularly the Education Sector, Department has collated some viewpoints which were covered by the media during this period. Some of them are given below:

Date	Paper details	Heading	About
18.5.2020	Sangai Express, English Edition	'COVID -19 knocks our education system' by Pamreihor Khashimwo	Our education systems urgently need to get along with the globalised education system of the world. It is important to reconsider the current delivery and pedagogical methods in school by seamlessly integrating classrooms with e learning modes to build a unified learning system.
18.5.2020	Sangai Express, English Edition	An open letter to Education Minister. Thangminlun Haokip, secretary, Thadou Students Association (TSA)	Initiatives of the Department for providing content/ educational videos is appreciated. It is however suggested for improving it by making it in English medium in the larger interest of all students.

23.5.2020	Imphal Free Press	DC holds meeting with school authorities, parents' body in Tamenglong.	The meeting chaired by the Deputy Commissioner deliberated on waiving of school fees and e-learning during the nationwide lockdown. Deputy Commissioner requested the Private School Association, Tamenglong to charge full amount of school fees from students whose parents are Govt. employees, 50 pc from students of unemployed parents and waive off completely for orphans. DC also assured assistance in availing loans from the Govt.
27.5.2020	Imphal Free Press	State level curriculum & syllabus committee meeting held.	Hon'ble Minister chaired a meeting of the committee on the revision of academic syllabus for classes 1- 9 this being a very crucial issue considering the continued closure of schools.
28.5.2020	Imphal Free press	Schools directed to submit details of fees charged.	Schools Education department directed all private schools to provide information pertaining to no. of students, no. of teaching and non teaching staff, fees, salary of teachers etc.
31.5.2020	Imphal Free press	Lockdown brands online education the norm of Day – by Fr Hans Ignesse	The continued closure of educational institutes, switch to on line classes have thrown open numerous challenges. Teachers and students need to be computer literate and trained for online delivery and several new methodologies. The other issue is its reach, & the stark divide in the socio- economic strata of the beneficiaries.
4.6.2020	Imphal Free press	CCpur parents association objects to online classes.	The issue is non-affordability to buy smartphone to gain access to the online classes. This is one of the biggest challenges particularly to students studying in govt. schools.
6.6.2020	Sangai Express , English Edition	'On reopening of schools in Manipur'. Homen Thangjam.	The pandemic is in an upward escalation. The modality of how learning ensues in the present challenges thrown up by online teaching and the issue of providing universal education is something policy makers have to grapple with. Added to this is the additional pressure in terms of enrolment caused by student returnees. The issue of student transportation is another cause of worry.
17.6.2020	Sangai Express , English Edition	Freebies on offer from schools, Understanding Competition. [Editorial]	Its about the usual norm of some reputed private schools offering various free ships and free waivers to students who scored high marks in the HSLC exam Result 2020. It also mentions about the better performance by govt school students.
18.6.2020	Sangai Express , English Edition	Time to be grateful to private schools by KV Zingkhai	In the absence of a decent govt. run educational institutions in the state for many years, the private run schools have come a long way in providing quality education in the state.

20.6.2020	Imphal Free press	KSA condemns closing of class XI online admission in short period.	The closing of online registration process for class XI within a short duration has been condemned by KSA & has urged the authority to take some action. It has also appealed for revamping the Govt schools.
21.6.2020	Imphal Free press	DESAM urges private schools to stop using unfair means	DESAM has appealed to private school authorities to stop converting schools into business hubs. This comes in the wake of many private schools admitting students who secured high marks in 10th Board Exams by giving them free ships and waiving off other related fees.
22.6.2020	Sangai Express , English Edition	The psychological impact of Corona by Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'	The pandemic has affected the students and others alike resulting in stressful situations on all frontiers exposing us to multiple challenges. Launching of initiatives for psychological well being and efforts to provide reading materials for all age groups for the post – corona needs is appreciable for a resilient & well adapted society.
22.6.2020	Sangai Express , English Edition	CHOSEM releases list of Exam centres.	To facilitate conduct of examination of the pending papers rescheduled due to the pandemic, CHOSEM released new Exam centres taking into account the social distancing norms as well to shift from centres which are used as quarantine centres.
22.6.2020	Sangai Express, English Edition	Impact of COVID -219 lockdown on school children. By Shan Basnet.	Though the closure of schools may be for containment of possible spread of the virus, it has affected more than 1.5 billion children. Prolonged closure has made life stressful paving way for a lasting impact on the child's well being. Children may be encouraged to tune in to online education and other practical learning.
23.6.2020	Imphal Free press	Schools may reopen by end of July or mid August, says Education Minister.	Educational Institutes have been shut since mid march and with the announcement of the HSLC Result on 15th June 2020 , and with the start of admissions, in various schools both in online and offline mode, many parents are worried about when educational institutes will be reopened . There is also the issue of closing of admission process in class XI in some prestigious private schools which is a cause for worry for many parents.
24.6.2020	Imphal Free press	UARSOM urges govt to revoke order.	The association has urged the govt to revoke the order for exemption of monthly tuition fees and payment of salaries to private schools during lockdown as the said Order is biased. Such schools used these meager funds for maintaining the school infrastructure apart from paying their staff salaries.
24.6.2020	Peoples Chronicle.	Stalemate continues over tuition fees, staff salary for private schools.	Issue and concern same as above.

25.6.2020	Imphal Free press	Exemption of tuition fees may result in closure of schools.	Hill District private schools association has cautioned that exemption of tuition fees for students from April to July, 2020 may result in closure of schools. The association questioned how the private school authorities will manage to run if the Govt. order is implemented.
25.6.2020	Imphal Free press	Fact check on Internet for online education in soi-disant Digital India. By Onkar Singh	Statistics of internet penetration and availability of interface like Smartphone etc is not suitable for embedding the conventional educational process with online resource sharing and teaching. The integration of on campus face to face teaching with online teaching in blended mode is feasible provided there is good internet connectivity.
1.7.2020	Sangai Express English Edition.	"Govt should recruit teachers by controlling private schools " by Dr Satyaban Saurabh	Today the network of private schools has spread to every corner of the country. Govt. schools are only playing an important role in the schooling of children of the most deprived and marginalised communities of this country. Public funded schools can run well when there is participation of the community and parents in its operation. The Allahabad High Court has some years back observed that unless the children of public representatives, officials in high positions and Judges do not study in govt. schools, the condition of govt. schools will not improve. The Central Government and the Judiciary should impose a complete ban on privatization of education.
1.7.2020	Imphal Free press	Manipur considers reopening of educational Institutions.	A Joint Consultative meeting was held on 30.6.2020 to deliberate on various serious issues and challenges faced by all stakeholders in the field of education. [A detailed report on the meeting is at Chapter 3.4]
3.7.2020	Imphal Free press	Union HRD Minister releases 8 weeks alternative academic calendar for primary stage.	To engage students meaningfully during the stay at home through educational activities at home with the help of parents and teachers, alternative academic calendar for students at primary and upper primary stage has been developed by NCERT. The calendar provides guidelines to teachers on the use of technology and social media for imparting education in a fun filled manner. HRD minister also informed that NCERT has already started live interactive sessions with students, teachers parents through SWAYAM PRABHA and other TV channels.
5.7.2020	Imphal Free press	No room for reopening of schools now.	Decision to reopen schools will be taken according to the Centre's guidelines and ground reality of the State, informed Hon'ble Minister of Education

6.7.2020	Sangai Express, English Edition and Imphal Free press	DESAM hosts academic discourse on COVID – 19 & Education. / Several Organisations demand opening of educational institutions.	An academic discourse on 'COVID – 19 & Education: diagnosis and prognosis was held at MIMS Conf Hall, The participants took 4 resolutions viz.) formulate an appropriate SOP for reopening of schools, ii) Govt. to encourage entrepreneurship & offer skill development. iii) student returnees to be given option to continue studies here and iv) Reduce curriculum and reform higher education sector.
7.7.2020	Sangai Express, English Edition	Don't conduct examinations now : NSUI	Considering the fact that classes have not been held for more than three months, NSUI has appealed to the state govt. not to conduct examinations for 1stand 2nd year students in Colleges and Universities. Besides, conducting examinations would expose the students to the Virus.
7.7.2020	Imphal Free press	'Online classes not for all students'. By Rakesh Sharma.	Although the state govt. has made efforts to provide online education to students so that their academic career is not affected by the prevailing pandemic, getting access to online classes has posed another challenge, particularly to the poor sections of the state.

3.2 Viewpoints received through online mode

In response to the Governments Notification/Memorandum soliciting suggestions from all concerned citizens, Department received an overwhelming response/suggestions. The inputs received through e-mail address manipur.education.s@gmail.com vide Notification of the Government dated 15th June, 2020.

Sl.	Received from	Extracts
1.	Tongbram Somorjit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extend the lockdown for 2/3 months more and open schools after Covid-19 free condition Upload digital contents in common website Encourage online classes/TV/Radio Channels
2.	Little Birds' School Moirang	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mandatory sanitization of schools before re-opening specially the Quarantine Centres Maintain Protocols/SOPs after re-opening Shift-wise classes (Morning/evening) Schools may open in shifts & may start from July, 2020
3.	Bishnupur District Recognised Private School Assn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All schools sanitized atleast 2-6 days before re-opening No school assembly, No recess, No canteen Maintain strict SOP Revised academic calendar not made available Staggering and shift wise classes Schools may open from July, 2020
4.	S. Indrani Principal CC Hr Secondary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adherence to SOP & health guidelines Batch wise classes on alternate days Emphasis on topics based on exams point of view Home assignments for internal assessments
5.	Jangminlun Guite	Supports re-opening of schools after strictly following protocols
6.	Doren Singh	Can be reopened if the do's and don'ts related to COVID 19 can be followed in Schools
7.	Awesome People	Against re-opening of Schools as cases of COVID-19 continue to rise
8.	Mathew Baite	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposes for promotion of all classes except for Cl. 10, 12 & final semester in colleges Promotion based on performances in the past/previous semester Reasons for promotion Covid has no cure, highly fatal Many students have been displaced Psychologically not prepared
9.	Ngachanso Pharung	Did not support re-opening
10.	Chun Thaimai	Re-opining not a wise decision

11.	Nobita Singson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-opening in July, 2020 can lead to out-spreading • As there is no public transportation, it will be difficult for students in far flung areas • Re-opening only when no Covid 19+ in the state or when no of cases decreases and stable
12.	Ningthoujam Yaiphaba	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shouldn't re-open educational institutions as Covid-19 cases is not yet contain in Manipur
13.	Abinash Saikhom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should find a way t re-open schools
14.	Langmeidong Hr Sec. School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full sanitization before re-opening and strict compliance to SOP/ protocols • Quarantine Centres in Districts may be reduced without disturbing other schools • Re-opening may be done by July, 2020 • Academic calendar may be reduced by Heads of Schools (till Class 8) • All holidays may be cancelled
15.	Shankar Lourembam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports re-opening
16.	Dk Justin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Didn't support re-opening and we should not play with the lives of children
17.	Ls. Leishilkham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Vaccine, no classes
18.	Pomameetei Yumnam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposes for controlled/regulated re-opening • Strict vigilance on entry of people to the State
19.	Sally Guite	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Didn't support re-opening. Life is more important than a year of academic break
20.	W. Lukhoi Singh, H/M Heingang H/S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start session in Sept, 2020 • All Quarantine Centres be restored and require cleaning • All requirements (books/uniforms) be kept ready – public will not tolerate shortcomings • Strict compliances to protocols/SOPs • Shift wise classes • Continue No school bag day & Holidays may continue • Residential mode for Classes 9-12
21.	Tanglei Khoihee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doesn't favour re-opening of schools • Most schools/colleges can not comply to norms • Available rooms cannot handle student capacity
22.	Jiwan Thongram	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-opening suggested by complying to strict rules
23.	Khangembam Bisharup	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does not favour re-opening. • Under the prevailing situation – it is too early to re-open and difficult to maintain protocol

24.	Paul Thikhao	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Doesn't support re-opening as long as long as pending test of returnees are complete. Re-opening only when there is no community transmission
25.	Nangom Langlang	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Too early to re-open but appreciated the initiatives taken up Promotion may be given for the academic session and next year session may start early Mandatory training to all families about COVID. Maintaining proper SOP and protocols
26.	Sobhachandra Kangabam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Too early for re-opening
27.	Krishna Tongbram	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Re-opening can be done a little bit later Many Schools are used as Quarantine Centres
28.	Brahmachari Devata Sharma	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Re-opening not an easy task as the no. of cases are increasing Parents not willing to send students Who would be responsible in case of fatal cases
29.	Joy Paohao	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Doesn't agree to re-opening, life is more important than education No Vaccine, no classes
30.	Mayanglambam Apex Singh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Re-opening in a phase wise manner with strict regulation
31.	Khoisnam Gambhir	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Re-opening with strict regulations
32.	Soram Sunilkumar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need for proper sanitization Clear cut SOP and awareness creation reqd. Exams for Classes VIII to XII only Shift-wise classes Continue "Lairik" platform and promote it
33.	Hembha Thingbaijam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Re-opening unlikely, go online mode Blended/remote learning mode proposed Have separate TV Channel, Radio Programme and create and upload educational videos by teachers in NPTEL
34.	Wayenbam Sunil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appreciate the intention of the Government Not right time to re-open as we lack technological & human resources to prevent the virus
35.	Laimayum Govinda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submission of observation as a parent Exact position and time when normalcy would be restored is not known Appreciate the Deptt. For the initiative taken up Parent would be reluctant to send their child to school Online classes has limitations. Make uniform online class contents (State Board & CBSE) Online classes using local Cable TV

36.	Krishna Guru	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better to prevent from fatality due to COVID than to miss out classes • Better to wait for re-opening of schools as our schools does not have well equip infrastructure as done Outside the State.
37.	Moirangthem Ranjit Singh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No need to panic • Proposes for normal classes after complying to SOP • Online classes are not applicable for students upto Class V and parent without phones/tablets or computers
38.	Tondon Singh Rajkumar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dangerous to re-open schools now • Life is more precious than education
39.	Shyam Gurumayum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-opening possible with proper sanitization & maintaining protocols
40.	Prem Kumar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-opening with strict guidelines of WHO
41.	Ranjan Chandam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use Halls instead of Classes • Use sound system • Furniture orientation • Self transport, No van services
42.	Rajkumar Thoithoi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Request for not re-opening of schools • Losing 1 academic year is a fair deal
43.	Wungmakhokzimik	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-open if there is no community transmission • If uncontrollable, it is better to wait for more days
44.	Ruheeda Shahni	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better to re-open with proper rules & norms
45.	Amir Khan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strict compliance to SOPs • No to tuition centre, school transport, agitation of students, functions and programmes, etc • No school fees
46.	Tarajeet Laishram Singh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examination may be online and based on MCQs • Counselling of students with stress may be done • Syllabi reduction • Online classes and TV/Radio Telecast • Smart phones may be distributed to AAY families • Committee of teachers, parents, school management may decide of school fees and teacher's salary in Private Schools • Strict compliance to SOPs
47.	Jamesreeves Loktongbam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maharashtra promotions given based on average performance in previous semesters • If children are not happy they can be given a chance to appear examination after lockdown • Parents will be apprehensive to send back their children to school
48.	Ningombam Tenjing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children are not safe and good to go to school at the present time

49.	Narayan Sharma	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change the academic calendar like those of CBSE • Exempt tuition fees (April to July) • 2 shift classes • Re-open schools from Mid-August with proper SOP/precautions
50.	Pradeep Subedi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-open schools/colleges with Classes on alternate days (by reducing 50% students)
51.	Orbind Tayengjam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not the right time to re-open schools/colleges
52.	Tiken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No of cases are increasing, re-open when the cases are nil • Willing to lose a year as a parent
53.	Chimiee E	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take decision after proper discussions • Covid cases are rising • Better to wait for re-opening
54.	Wahengbam Jurjit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There should be a free TV Channel by qualified teachers • Radio medium can also be used
55.	Barik Shah	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-opening of schools only after following proper guidelines
56.	Purnamala Paonam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many schools/colleges used as Quarantine Centre • As parent, not ready to send children to school • Govt. should not rush for taking decision for re-opening
57.	Zephyr Ngashangva, Principal North point Hr Sec	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Segregation of affected areas. • School teachers are also frontline warriors and should be incentivized • As alternate way of learning- DDK, AIR, Community radio be encouraged • Revised and shorten syllabus • Strict compliance to SOP, shorter class hours
58.	A. Sangeeta Devi Principal TG Hr Sec	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Session may start w.e.f. 1st September • Re-opening of schools after precautionary measures • Classes of various streams on alternate days
59.	Dr K. Nabachandra Singh, Principal Herbert School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reopening of schools after normalization of situation • Full sanitization of quarantine centres • Proper compliance with protocols/SOPs • Prepare revised syllabi for BOSEM/COHSEM as the academic calendar is shortened • Full payment of salaries for private school teachers and appreciation of their online classes during lockdown period • Make parents pay admission fee + 11 months salary while 1 month salary be borne by the school management committee

60.	L. Basanta Singh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness of Dos and Don'ts of COVID-19 • Proper compliance to Protocols/SPOs after re-opening • Reducing of class-size/attendee of students on rotational mode, Shift wise schooling (Morning/evening) • Shortened class period, school duration, textbook syllabus • Availability of trained staff nurses and preventive care kits • Re-opening of schools in phase wise manner • Convene classes w.e.f. 3rd week of August, 2020 treating all holidays as working days except Sunday in order to obtain 100-120 working days
61.	A Rajmata Devi Principal Ramlal Paul Hr Sec	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-opening after complying to strict SOP • Class XI-XII may start session from July, 2020 • Re-opening may not be appropriate in case there is local transmission
62.	Dr M. Priyobarata Singh, Principal, Imphal College	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proper compliance to protocols/SOPs before/after re-opening • Testing of COVID-19 for all staff & students • School admission for class XI-XII may be done in July, 2020 • Classes be started in August as per status of the Covid 19 pandemic • Conduct exams in Nov, 2020 & February, 2021 • Organise awareness programmes • Frame a broad assessment criteria
63.	Manipur Creative School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-opening of schools from Mid July, 2020 • Minimise the contents of Syllabus • Proper cleaning of schools before and after re-opening & proper compliance to SOPs
64.	Dr K. Anand Singh, Principal Moirang College	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sanitization and wide awareness of protocols & SOPs of Covid -19 before re-opening • Formation of "COVID Team" from amongst the teachers and students to monitor the compliance of SOPs • Re-opening from August, 2020 • Continuation of online classes parallel as parents may not be willing to send students
65.	Gin Lalsiam Munsong, Gen Secy, Siamsinpawlpi Lamka	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-opening of schools w.e.f. August, 2020 with proper compliance to protocols/SOPs • Opportunity for State Govt to revitalize the Higher Education Sector as students are not likely to go outside the State • Rationalisation of Admission in Colleges • Weightage on Adoption of Tutorial/home assignment Class Model • Graduates may have internal assessment • Adoption of Open Book Exam System for final year students • Shift-wise classes (Morning/evening) • All school activities except tutorial may be stopped

66.	Sieepakash J, Principal, Sainik School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Re-opening of Schools w.e.f. 15th July, 2020 for cadets of Class XII following SOPs Contents and revised academic calendar as decided by CBSE Proposal for non-admission of new inhabitants in the school used as community Quarantine Centre
67.	Sunbird Trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Re-opening of schools by 16th July, 2020 for schools located in rural areas by complying to SOPs/Protocols Re-opening of schools in areas having COVID incidence by 1st August, 2020 after assessment of risk with safety protocols Separate SOP be designed and developed by Education Department Strict compliance with SOPs of COVID-19 Revise & prioritise learning Outcomes, syllabus & Exams Schools be empowered to cancel or shortened holidays as per local context Organise awareness to avoid fears & stigma, etc
68.	RK Sanatombi Vidyalyaya, Imphal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awareness & Training about behavioural change and SOPs Installation of sanitization tunnel at the school entry point Attendance of students on ODD-EVEN mode Change of Rules & Regulations of Schools in the wake of COVID Encourage Online/Digital Classes Syllabus be reduced
69.	Keisham James Singh, Principal, Millennium School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support "NO school & No Class" Awareness programme on COVID 19 Proper compliance to SOPs & protocols No school for children below 10 years No student transportation except by individual parents Shortened syllabus Minimize school hours
70	H. Mangchinkhup & T. Vunglallian	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No room for ego in providing of education by Govt. Government schools is a wasteful expenditure with no ROI (return on Investment) Government school teachers may contribute Rs 5000-10000 and parents may pay 50% fees for private school teachers. Massive planning is needed for compliance to strict SOPs. Re-opening may start phase wise with class 9-10 first, then class 6-8. No formal schooling for classes 1-5 Provide tablets to students for online classes
71.	Fr. Bonio, Principal, St. Joseph's Hr Sec. School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Change of habits following SOPs Awareness & training programme on COVID-19
72.	Dr Th. Binarani Devi, Principal Idela Girls' College	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proper sanitization & cleaning of schools/colleges Re-opening after closing community quarantine centres & free movement of students and teachers Completion of syllabus is needed

73.	Dr O. Premila Chanu, Principal, Modern College	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proper sanitization before re-opening of college • Arrangement of thermal scanner, hand sanitizer • Counseling & awareness amongst the staff & students
74.	AtomiSiro, Kamjong Chambers of Commerce and Industries/KCCI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appointment of school health workers • Water tank/syntax not less than 500 l for hand-washing, etc • No transfer & posting of teachers • Re-opening of schools w.e.f. 3rd week of July
75.	Dr M. Chandra Singh, Principal, MB College	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proper compliance to SOPs/Protocols • Re-opening of Schools/Colleges in the month of August, 2020 • Revision of Academic calendar • Proposal for closure of Quarantine Centres at Schools/Colleges
76.	Dr A. Surenjit Singh, Principal, Lilong Haoreibi College	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-opening of schools/colleges after discontinuation of using them as quarantine centres • Proper implementation of SOPs • Strict adherence to protocols prescribed by WHO
77.	Benjamin Shakum, Administrator, Blooming Flower Children's Foundation School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proper sanitization & installation of thermal scanner at entry point of the institute • Shift-wise classes (Morning/evening) • Attendance of students on ODD & EVEN mode • Strict adherence to protocols for school bus • Re-opening of schools after 15th July, 2020
78.	Sinam Indrani Devi, Principal CC Hr Sec School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strict compliance of WHO guidelines on COVID-19 • Conduct of classes in group for different stream on alternate days • Selection of topics for more emphasis from Examination point of view • Emphasis on Home assignment
79.	All Manipur Gorkha Students' Union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proper implementation of SOPs/protocols • Reopening of schools for primary and upper primary classes as and when normalized. For Higher Classes after discontinuation of community quarantine centres at schools & colleges • Shortening of contents of syllabus
80.	Uchamtampak Chapikarong	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools be closed till the COVID is no longer a threat
81.	Kh. Nelson Singh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Syllabus be minimized • Classes be conducted in phase wise manner • Modification of academic calendar
82.	Maniwaheng	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools be closed till control of COVID 19
83.	Tarabai Sarangthem, Headmistress, Kids' Foundation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online classes may continue • Schools may re-open with class size of 10-15 • Parents may not risk sending students to schools
84.	Achan Shimray	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No schools until vaccine manufactured

85	Bishnupanchayan Samiti	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not right time to re-open schools • Life is more important than 1 academic session
86.	Minerva Thokchom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As parent, decided not to send students to school • Higher classes, Class IX onwards, options be given between online classes and physical class • Hand out notes be given to Govt school student • No to reopen schools
87.	Achan Shimray	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan for Online classes • No vaccine, no school
88.	Athokpam Bijesh Kumar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not to risk children by sending to schools until COVID free • Social distancing, wearing mask, transportation, monitoring of SOP, etc will not be possible for children • Parent should pay fees, teachers should be paid
89.	Principal, RK Sanatombi Devi College of Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sanitisation before and after opening of Institutions • Re-opening only when COVID is controlled • E-learning medium to be encouraged • Revised academic calendar with Minimised holidays
90.	Dr Sh. Mimoda Devi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No to re-opening of schools • How far the schools & Govt going to take the precautionary measures after re-opening
91.	Mesh Naorem	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st trial with re-opening of private coaching/boarding • 2nd trail with reopening of schools • Overuse of mobile phones by students • Rationalise syllabus • Reopening may start from Classes IX-XII
92.	Suanlian	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grievances against Dawn School, Churachandpur (BOSEM Affiliated) for charging 50% fees for March & April and salary of teaching & Non teaching staff @ 50%
93.	KhPremananda Singh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Private Schools have a big say in today's education. Govt primary schools should be revived • Children's family with Covid history may be ask to join schools later. • Compliance to proper safety measure
94.	Robert Kayenpaibam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents in a confuse state as Schools are asking for fees (St. Joseph Hr Sec, Saingaprou) while Govt. has instructed not to collect fees
95	ZEO, Chandel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 75% syllabi be completed through home assignment & 25% syllabi through weekly assessments after opening of Schools • Proper sanitization of all Schools used as Quarantine Centre • Class IX-XII students be run on residential mode • Prepare specific SOP • Extension of classroom schedule

3.3 Viewpoints from Departmental meetings

The Department has had several rounds of intra-Departmental meetings as well as quite a number of meetings with Private School teachers associations, Students organizations, etc to deliberate of various issues/challenges faced by the Education. Some common issues with suggestions is given below:

Fees and Salary of Teachers and Non-Teaching Staff:

One of the areas where multiple rounds of discussion was held was regarding regulation of fees charged by Private Schools during the lockdown and closure of Schools. It was generally observed that salary of Private School teachers should be paid even while the schools were closed down so that livelihood and income of the teachers and other staff were not affected by the lockdown. Majority of the opinions expressed by Private School owners / heads is that they should be allowed to collect tuition fees during the lockdown as well so as to enable them to pay salary of their teachers. All concerned expressed that distance learning of any kind should be made available to all students. Almost all stakeholders opined that Private Schools should also endeavor to provide distance learning to their students and supplement the efforts taken by the Department in that direction.

Sanitization of Premises:

Many schools and colleges in the State are being utilized as Quarantine Centers to house the people returning from other states during the mandatory quarantine periods. A number of people who have stayed in such Quarantine Centers have also tested positive for the virus. Ensuring safety of children when they return to schools/ colleges for their studies is another area which is at the top of Government's priority list. Also, it was realized that parents are anxious about the safety of their children while sending their children back to school after the lockdown. As such, the matter was discussed and it was felt that sanitization of school

premises was required but it was not enough. It was discussed that the Department should seek for Safety Certificate from the appropriate authority which will ensure that sanitization of school and college premises were taken up and monitored with due diligence. Such certification is also expected to allay the concerns of children and parents to a large extent.

Admission:

In another intra- Departmental meeting, it was discussed and opined that Schools including Private and Private Aided Schools should give sufficient number of days and opportunities to parents to get their wards admitted. It was agreed that it would not be appropriate to close admission process while lockdown and travel restrictions were still imposed without providing alternative means of admission such as online admission, etc.

Also, it was decided that opportunity for admission in Class XI in all schools should be provided to students graduating high schools from various Boards in the country for which admission process should not be frozen or closed until results of Class X examination of all Boards are declared or until a certain percentage of seats are reserved for future intake.

Online Classes for younger children:

In a meeting Chaired by Hon'ble Education Minister, it was expressed that allowing mobile phone access to very young children is a highly debatable topic. It was discussed that the benefits of online classes and the harmful effects of increased screen time amongst young children needs to be weighed carefully.

Curriculum:

As a number of working days were already lost because of the lockdown and closure of schools, it was agreed in a departmental meeting that the curriculum needs to be reviewed for Classes I to IX at least and may be reviewed if required for higher classes too.

It was further expressed that burdening students with the load of the curriculum of the entire academic year within a much reduced school days would be harmful and counter-productive.

Online Examination/ Assessment:

It was generally felt at the level of the Department that online classes should not be made mandatory keeping the concern of accessibility in mind. Further, the Department's view was that online assessments and examinations for young children upto Class V won't be appropriate.

Consultation with stakeholders:

In another Departmental meeting chaired by the Hon'ble Education Minister, he expressed that a Joint Consultative Meeting should be organized inviting representatives of Students Organizations, Teacher community, experts, social thinkers and other officials to discuss on the relevant issues pertaining to providing education during the pandemic. Accordingly, the Joint Consultative meeting was held on 30.06.2020 at City Convention Centre, Imphal with huge response and great success.

3.4 Joint Consultation with Experts & Stakeholders



A joint Consultative Meeting was organised on 30th June 2020 with all the stakeholders to deliberate on various issues and challenges posed by the COVID 19 pandemic and its repercussions.

The Joint Consultative Meeting had broadly two Sessions (a) Inaugural Session and (b) Technical Session. Hon'ble Minister of Education Shri. Thockchom Radheshyam Singh formally inaugurated the function. The Technical Session was started by Th. Kirankumar, Director, Department of School Education and Khumanthem Diana, Director, Department of University & Higher Education. Both of them laid down the statistics and issues on School and Higher Education. The Technical session was further sub grouped into 6 sessions, each session moderated by renowned academicians.

The six sessions are:

1. Education Institutions (Reopening & Conditionality) - Moderated by Prof. M.C. Arunkumar
2. Admission - Moderated by Associate Prof. Chinglen Maisnam
3. Curriculum / Syllabi - Moderated by Dr. Dhanabir Laishram
4. Assessment & Examination - Moderated by Dr. Ch. Sheelaramani
5. Teachers Shortage - Moderated by Prof. W. Nabakumar
6. Infrastructure - Moderated by Prof. Amar Yumnam



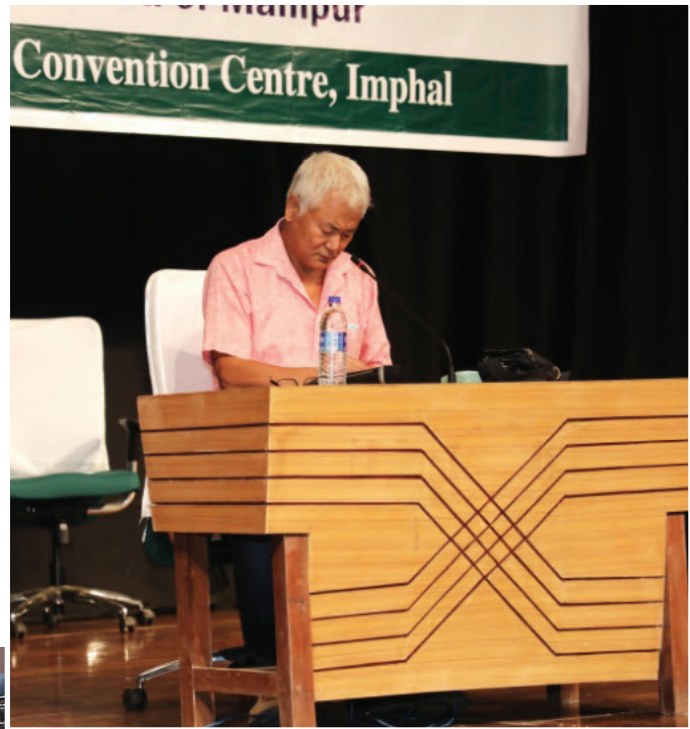
Theme :

EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

(REOPENING & CONDITIONALITY)

Moderator: Professor M.C. Arunkumar

*Professor M.C. Arunkumar teaches Social Anthropology in Manipur University. His area of study is on various facets of Social Problems. He is associated with AIR, Imphal & Other Electronic media as news analyst and social critic.





Moderator
PROF. M.C. ARUNKUMAR
gave the Opening Remarks

COVID-19 affects every walk of life and every aspect of society with education sector receiving a great hit. Despite all efforts from different fronts, the pandemic cannot be contained in the past 3 ½ months. Seemingly, we are conditioned to live with the virus. How to live with it is the question and how to handle it if we are to reopen our education system is the challenge of the day. Should we wait for the GOI's total lifting of the lockdown? Till date (Unlock 2), instruction is not to open educational institutions.

Against the instruction, should we have partial reopening of schools/colleges etc (if not running full-fledged class transactions) through activities with limited use of time and space? If ever to reopen, the house is open for opinions on the manner, timeline, degree, and choice of activities to be taken up.



Speaker 1: M. Indira Devi, Principal, DIET/Senapati

Need to prepare our teachers first before inviting students to Schools. 50% to 60% of teachers can attend school and do activities like preparation of notes/hand-outs and personally reach them out to students/parents. For those institutes occupied as Quarantine Centres, options of finding nearby Community Hall of Clubs can be considered. Teacher's readiness to be first in place and how to deal with students be taken up as next step.

Speaker 2: Somorendro, General Secretary, FEGOCTA

"When to start reopening "is the toughest decision. Until and unless, lockdown is totally lifted, nothing can be done. Even if there is avenue for reopening of schools/colleges, most are still panicky to enter place which are used as quarantine centres. Therefore, some basic health and awareness campaigns/ measures need to be taken up in convergence with concerned departments. Maintenance of protocols regarding use of hand sanitizers, mask, social distancing etc. need to be strictly followed.

Speaker 3: Pncipal, Moreh Hr./Sec School

He voted for opening of schools right away (keeping in mind the protocols) in phase wise manner. It may start with Class X and XII.

Online Class will do no good to most hill/rural areas just simply because there are no proper internet services there.

Speaker 4: Raiz Ahmed (Manipur Creative School)

Suggested opening of schools with due processes and required SOPs from Mid-July, 2020. Preferably in two shifts: Morning & Evening. Change in Academic Schedule may be made like happening elsewhere (e.g. Assam)

Speaker 5: M. Lokendro

How to accommodate the coming teachers/ students is important. Provision of sanitary measures (by Government/ Dept.) most preferably "Tunnel Sanitizers" in place of hand-sanitizers given in piece-meal manner. Tunnel Sanitizers helps in sanitizing one's whole body. Till date there are cases of returnees arriving in the state. Only when there is no more COVID-19 related stranded people left outside the state all Quarantine Centre schools may be sanitized and education reopened. Haste and unprepared reopening of schools may invite clash between the public and the Govt.

Speaker 6: Jugindro (Lecturer/ Hr. Sec) T.G Higher Sec School

Unwanted behavioural changes of students (especially those below Class XII) are witnessed

because of continuous lockdowns. Hence, it is imperative to reopen the institutions somehow. History tells even during wartime, educational institutions were functional. Our COVID-19 situation is in a controlled mode. Community transmission may be avoided if all ministers irrespective of portfolios collectively intervene the issue and monitor the schools.

Speaker 7: Dr. R.K Lenin, Prof & HOD, Dept. of Psychiatry, RIMS.

Suggested opening of Schools as soon as possible but not in a hasty way like opening the very next day as it may be counter productive. Talked about two types of Infrastructure: (a) Physical and (b) Mental. Students kept in tight schedule performs better than when they are in a monotonous situation like the present lockdown. These days they miss their teachers and playful school environment and long to be back there. Talked about a “New Normal” that may happen post COVID- 19 days for which children need to be trained for adaptation to the new days. Parents/ Guardians at home and teachers in schools need to be physically and mentally prepared. They are responsible for children’s behavioural changes for adapting to the post pandemic days. When we are ready with these, schools can be reopened any time.

Moderator: Closing Remarks

- Both Students and parents get mental pressure because of the lockdown.
- Students need to be brought back to institutions (Schools/Colleges etc.) to remove their unproductive days at home.
- Teachers’ preparation for activities/ interactions with students is the need of the day. Nearly 7 days of preparation may suffice. 10th July is recommendable for the reopening.
- In case of schools used as Quarantine Centres, alternative space like Community Halls or Clubs nearby may be used for the Teacher- Students interactions.

Views & Opinions of many participants were also submitted in writing. Extracts of these written opinion and suggestions are given below:

1. Paotinthang Lupheng, President KSO

- School/ Colleges should be reopened as soon as possible, but giving ample time for preparation.
- Separate SOP guideline may be prepared in consultation with experts to prevent community transmission of the disease.
- Sanitizers and masks may be provided for all the students irrespective of govt., govt. aided and private schools by the State govt.
- Further, delaying would affect the quality of the syllabi as the syllabi have been already minimised.

2. Hikolal Laisu Shang, Lamdeng, Chairman

- Terminal sanitizer of teachers and students may be installed at schools.
- School may be open classes in 3 shifts in a day for 1 subject per class with strength of 10 students per shift (Coverage of 30 students per day per class per subject).

3. Karnajit Laishram, Teacher

- School should be open shortly within the month of July 2020. Social distancing should be kept properly as per SOP of WHO.

4. L. Nirjit, Teacher

- School should open at the earliest time with maintaining social distancing. State Govt. should give awareness programme on “Preparation on how to open school”. And school should be open at phase wise.

5. A. Rajmata Devi, Principal, Ramlal Paul Hr. Sec. School

- Class may be started from August 2020 for Hr. Sec. Schools as per status of Covid 19 is pandemic.
- Precautionary measures should be taken up by cleaning school campus:

- ✓ Bifurcation of class size as per student strength.
- ✓ Testing of Covid-19 for all staff and students.
- ✓ Checking of body temperature by Infrared thermo.
- ✓ Wearing of face masks, hand washing, social distancing and sanitization.

6. Oinam Tharakleima Devi, Headmistress, Heirangoithong HS, IW

- Education to all is very must important but in Govt. schools in Manipur it is very difficult to consider about the reopening of schools during this Covid-19 period.
- Due to lack of proper infrastructure and teaching and non teaching staffs it is difficult to face the struggle during this Covid 19 period.

7. M. Lokendro Singh, President, AMCTA

- Formation of Covid Team of each institution from among the teachers and students to monitor and check whether protocol are strictly observed or not.
- Poster campaign and extension of up to date data regarding Covid-19 pandemic of the students.
- Seat arrangement of students.
- If lack of desk-bench in the school, students may be asked to attend the classes in alternative days since there is no possible to run morning/ evening shifts in the colleges due to travelling issue.
- School can be open with consultation with Health Department since many institutions are now used as quarantine centre.

8. Sucheta Khumukcham, ZEO, Zone-I

- Colleges should be open first and observe how it works. Then, we can plan to open Hr. Sec. schools and high schools.
- Water, safe food preparation and hygiene facilities may be provided.

9. Dr. Tingneichong Gangte, Principal, Presidency College, Motbung

- Re-opening of the colleges at this junction is not advisable because the colleges are used as quarantine centre with many positive cases among the inmates. Therefore, my suggestion is to wait till July end.
- It is also may suggestion that form-fill up for semester examinations should be open again once the inter district bus service starts.

10. Dr. Th. Minarani Devi, Principal, Ideal Girls College

- It will be better to discuss about the completion of the academic session 2019-20 for colleges before discussion about the opening of new session which are almost in lockdown period.

11. M. Premchandra Singh, ZEO, Imphal East

- Observing the general safety measures issued by the Government from time to time, the schools may re-open firstly for the teaching and non-teaching staffs and next staggered opening of class for the students from Class VI onwards with reduce crowding of the school space with fewer hours may be started in the present context in the Non-Containment Area.

12. Wahengbam Jotinkumar Singh, Lecturer, Chemistry, COMET School

- Re-opening of school on alternative days with section wise.
- Class timing and curriculum, syllabi should be re-checked to ensure timely completion of syllabi.

13. Maisnam Langam Singh, Lecturer, MGT (RMSA), General Secretary, RMSA Teachers Association

- Need to sanitize and clean the institutes before opening
- To vacate the institutions, it is necessary to stop the carrying of persons from outside the States.

- Transport and communication of the students and teachers.
- After solving the above problems we can reopen the institutions.

14. T. K. Moshilpha, Inspector of Schools, AOC Chandel

- Elementary Schools should be open in the middle of July, 2020.
- Special emphasis should be given to the interior & remote areas for opening of schools at the earliest since no online learning process are available there.
- Hand sanitizers and face masks should be provided by Government to the schools for students and teachers.

15. Y. Achouba Singh, ZEO, Kakching

- Opening of schools after 15th July, 2020.
- Sanitization of schools infrastructure and assets.
- Parents, teachers, SMC, SMDC meeting to be conducted before the opening of schools.

16. RK Makaohei Singh, ZEO, Ukhrul

- Before re-opening the schools especially minor children are to be prepared mentally and psychologically i.e., Behavioural Changes adapting to the new trend.

17. Dr. Kintuijinang Moremmei, Associate Prof., Principal, Tamenglong College

- Opening of college is alright for Tamenglong College as the college has enough space for social distancing.

18. Keisam James Singh, Principal, Millennium School

- No school classes below 10 years of age.
- SOPs for schools Primary, High School and Secondary section from Health Department, GOM.
- No student's transportation.

- Two shifts of 50% strength

19. Lasker Komol, Principal

- Opening of schools by second week of July, 2020 by following the pre-defined protocol of prevention set up with the concerned dept.

N. Lokendro Singh, Principal, Professor of History, MU

- Manipur University being a central University needs to follow the guidelines issued by UGC from time to time.
- For DMU and MTU, the State Govt. can take a decision based on realistic assessment of the prevalent situation.

20. Dr. N Sanjoy, Associate Professor

- Opening of classes are related with availability of transportation facility (both public and private, Hostel (college and university), rent (private) and canteen.

21. Th. Mantri Singh, C/E COHSEM

- Before opening physical and mental preparedness of teachers, students and parents by conducting awareness programmes at the educational institutes.
- To make team of teachers for effective enforcement of SOPs in the school premises.
- To vacate quarantine centres.
- Over all sanitization.

22. Dr. M. Priyobrata Singh, Principal, Imphal College

- Reopening of school itself it's a solution. But it is an interrelated issue that has many preconditions such as lifting of lockdown, etc. In order to save the academic career of our students, we need to reopen the colleges earliest by September, 2020.

23. L Jugendro Singh, Lecturer

- Opening of school is as much as the situation is out of control and seems to be threatening.

- We all know that because of the lockdown the changes of behaviour to the students are not that good.
- Classes to be conducted rotation wise.

24. Lhingneikim Kipgen, ZEO Kangpokpi

- Before opening of the school the concerned authorities should look into the matter from grass root level in a practical way as teachers, parents and children were in a mental stress because of the closure of the school.

25. P. Memthoi Devi, Principal, Ningthoukhong Hr. Sec. School

- Before opening of the institutions students, teachers and parents are to given awareness about social distancing, wearing of face mask and both students and teachers should come to school after mental preparedness.

26. Tkendrajit Nepam, ZEO Bishnupur

- School should be opened in a phase manner.

27. W. Lukhoi Singh, Head Master of Heingang H/S

- Before opening of School awareness of SOP must be given to parents, teachers and students.

28. Aribam Himananda Sharm, Manager Comet School

- School should be open after ensuring safety of the students.

29. N. Itocha Singh, Vice Principal, Kangvai Hr. Sec. School, CCpur.

- School should be opened after the completion of the lockdown.

30. K. Jugeshore Singh, Principal Kumbi College

- Opening of institutions be done only after due medical certification by competent medical authority

31. Dr. M. Bhubaneshwari Devi, Principal Thambal Marik College Oinam

- Before opening of schools physical, mental and psychological preparedness of the teachers, students and teachers are highly needed.

32. Dr. Raheijuddin Sheik, Principal, Kakching Khunou College & Director DDU Centre for KAUSHAL DM Community College

- Mental health Awareness would be necessary for students, parents, teachers and other staff before opening of the schools of colleges. The Awareness may be done through electronic media and community PA system.

33. N. Arunkumar Singh, ZEO Tengnaupal

- Opening of schools only after lockdown is lifted by the state Govt.
- Special training for sensitization of students for maintaining proper hygiene on reopening of schools
- Proper and timely sanitization of Quarantine centres and opening of such schools after a gap of one week after sanitization

34. (Namthiawangbow Newmei, Principal, Langmei Hr. Sec School, Tamei)

- Proper sanitization at school.
- Provide medical protection and facilities in the school before opening of the school.

35. Paonam Nandashyam Singh, AGT U.T.T H/S

- Students, teachers and parents should be prepared mentally prepared
- Teachers and students may attend the class in group wise or class wise if there is no possibility to have normal classes for all the classes in one time.

36. A. Sangeeta Devi, Principal T.G Hr.sec. School

- Installation of sanitization facilities at the school gate.
- Daily sanitization of classroom and campus
- Classes should be held on alternate basis
- Training of teachers and non –teaching staff for SOP is highly needed.

37. Dr. Chithung Mary Thomas, Secretary Board Of Secondary Education Manipur

- School in regions where COVID-19 is zero should open immediately.
- Others institutions should open only after QCs have been closed and all precautionary measures have been complete.

38. Dr. A. Nabachandra Singh, Principal DM College of Commerce

- Preparedness of the teaching/non teaching staff
- Cleaning the institutional campus & disinfect to make it ready anytime
- Re-opening by August 2020 (by 50/50 in case of abnormal situation), otherwise altogether if the situation subsides.

39. Th. Jilla Singh, Principal Mekola Gulap Hr. Sec School, Mekol

- School to be open in the month of August or September 2020.

40. Dr. Chungkham Sheelaraman, Principal D.M College of Arts Imphal

- Before opening of schools, schools authority should focus on health hygiene including mental health. Training on SOP is highly needed.

41. S.L Rangsong, ZEO Senapati

- School should be open after the quarantine centres are vacated.

42. Kh. Silas, Principal, Purul Hr. Sec School

- School should be open in the mid of July.

43. K.A.S Soreishang, Principal Pettigrew College Ukhrul

- Govt. should ensure safety of school staff and students before opening of the school.

44. Dr. S. Shokhothang Haokip, Principal, Moreh Govt. Higher Sec. School Moreh

- School shall be open from 1st July 2020

45. A. Sukumar Sing, Principal Johnstone Hr. Sec. School

- Every nook and corner of the campus to be cleaned/disinfected/sanitized as per guideline as many times as possible.
- Cleaning activities to be kept on record and publicised (to inatil a sense of safety and security and to avoid any risk and suspicion to all particularly to the students, teachers and parents)

46. Indrani Sinam, Principal C.C Higher Secondary School

- Proper sanitization of school /colleges and surrounding especially those which have been used as quarantine centres before opening of school.

47. Laishram Raichandra Meetei, General Secretary AMSSATA /Teacher

- School can be re-open directly right away after sanitizing school rooms staff rooms & surrounding.
- As the dreadful virus covid-19 is not originated from our soil & the returnees are quarantine properly, so no issue in the opening of school.
- Awareness must be given to the students besides bookish syllabus.

48. Ahanthem Surjalata Devi, AGT, Kebol High School, Imphal West

- School and colleges will open in the first week of August 2020
- It can be open in the phase manner i.e morning and evening session.
- Students should be wearing masks and physical distancing will be allowed in the classroom
- Students should be hand sanitised at schools frequently.

49. U. Khunjo Sing, Principal Langmeidong Hr. Sec. School, Kakching

- School should be open within 15th July 2020 in a phase manner

- 50. E. Suechand Singh, Principal, Kakching Hr. Sec. School
- Opening of school should be started in the middle of July 2020 in a phase manner.

51. P. Premjit Singh, Head Master in-charge, Meitei Mayek H/S

- School shall be open at 10th of July 2020

52. N. Prempyari Devi, Principal Ibotonsana Girls Hr. Sec.

- Preparedness of teachers, students and children before opening of schools

53. Moirangthem Bineshwar Singh, Asst. Prof. Botany Dept.

- Preparedness of teachers, students and children before opening of schools

54. N. Chingkhei Singh, ZEO, CCpur

- Before opening of the schools, the school should be sanitized properly.
- Each School should arrange facilities for hand washing/sanitizer and provide mask for students and teacher as precautionary measure

55. Dr. M. Rameshwar Singh, Coordinator IQAC D.M College of Arts

- School should reopen for higher section only by taking almost all the precautionary measures whatsoever necessary.

56. Dr. Kintuijinang Maremmei, Asst. Prof., Principal Tamenglong College, Tamenglong

- Before opening of the school should be sanitized properly
- Compulsory wearing of face mask of students, teachers and other staff.
- Installation of hand wash and providing hand sanitizer to the school.

57. Kharga Prasad Prasain, Head Master Bishnulal H/S, Kangpokpi

- Compulsory wearing of face mask of students, teachers and other staff.

- Sanitization of school before opening of school

58. Bidyalakshmi Devi Kongbrailakpam, Student

- If opened schools then transportation should be limit by dividing the sessions in classes and not providing break so that classes commence upto the half day.
- Focus should be given on 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th students.

59. Dr. Arambam Noni, Asst. Prof. D.M Arts

- The govt. need to ensure better digital infrastructure for better preparation of schools and colleges for meaningful online/ e-learning
- Classes can be start for classes IX and X.

60. Kharga Prasad Prasain, Head Master Bishnulal H/S, Kangpokpi

- School should be sanitized properly
- Provision for hand sanitizer, soap, mask for students, teachers and other staff.
- For safety measures schools should reduce double shift i.e. morning and evening shift.
- Awareness campaign to students, teachers and parents.
- Minimum 15 days should be kept before opening of schools after quarantine centre is over.

61. Kh. Dineshkumar, Associate Prof. DMCTE, Imphal

- School should be sanitized properly
- Provision for hand sanitizer , soap ,mask for students, teachers and other staff
- Mental and Physical Preparation among students, teachers and Parents.

61. Moirangthem Indira Devi, Principal, DIET Senapati, SCERT

- Institutional Preparation and teacher preparation before the students an physically present in the schools.

- Working at the school/conducting some activities at the schools by the teachers through the medium of the parents are required.

Summary of Feedbacks:

Out of 65 participants giving written feedback, most of them positively supported the idea of reopening our educational institutions. Most of them suggested for opening from Mid-July. Some opted for reopening in August. A few suggested opening earliest by September. Tamenglong College voted for opening the college straightway.

Some of the participants (nearly 12) voted for not opening the institutions until lockdowns are lifted totally or Quarantine centres in schools are evacuated.

Emerging Common Suggestions:

- **Overall sanitizing measures:** Almost all the feedbacks related to taking up of sanitising/ precautionary measures like provision of hand sanitizers/ masks/ hand wash and other hygiene facilities in the campus. Govt. should ensure this to happen.

Proposal for installation of Terminal/Tunnel Sanitizers and use of thermal scanners are there from a few teachers. Sanitisation points should be put in appropriate places in the campus.
- Evacuation of Quarantine centres @ Schools/Colleges & Cleanliness/Safety

Drive: Quarantine centres in schools should be evacuated. Then, used masks/ mineral bottles/testing halls/ rooms etc. should be cleaned first. Safety of Staffs/ students before opening the institutions is a necessary precondition.

- Recording and publicising of the activities taken up: This is mandatory to remove the doubts (regarding the safeties of the campus) on the part of students/teachers and parents.
- Institutional preparedness: Opening of the schools should be done with teaching/non-staffs attending there first and preparing for the students' arrival. One participant suggested for starting the class with Class VI onwards first)
- Classes in shifts/phases: Classes should be conducted in a shiftwise/phaseswise manner (say Morning/Evening) based on the strength of students/ availability of teachers etc.. A few suggested conducting on alternate days.
- Preparation of SOPs on how to open schools with experts and giving training/ awareness programmes to both teaching/ non-teaching staffs.
- Transport of teachers/students to be provided.

Theme :

ADMISSION

Moderator: Associate Professor
Chinglen Maisnam

*Dr. Chinglen Maisnam is an Associate Professor of the Department of Economics, Manipur University. Dr. Maisnam is a regular Columnist /Panelist of Poknapham, People's Chronicle, ISTV, Impact TV, Tom TV, Diamond Radio. He was Former General Secretary of Manipur University Teachers' Association.



Moderator
Dr. Chinglen Maisnam
Opening Remarks

Opening remark: Cited the example of Kerala which distributed 10 lakh laptops at subsidized rates to facilitate online education. Assam has already announced free admission for its students. As the economic condition is going downhill and as the disposable income with parents drastically decrease, many students have started migrating from private schools to Government schools in other states. We could also expect such shift in our State too.



- As we are gearing up to absorb students who graduated High School and Higher Secondary School from the State and also students who were studying outside the State and have now returned, there is a need to open new courses which were not existing earlier. Most of the students who migrated outside for studies were pursuing technical and professional courses.
- Mid-Year internal migration system should be allowed.

- Regulation of Fee for private schools is required.
- A Committee of Universities should be formed.
- Admission of lower classes should be given priority as age specific education is more relevant in case of lower classes.
- For schools affiliated to BoSEM/ CoHSEM, admissions have already been done for all classes except for Class XI. Admission process is still not complete in case of CBSE Schools. This should be addressed at the earliest.
- Even though students are not able to attend schools yet, getting themselves admitted will give them a sense of security in their educational future. Therefore, admission should be started as soon as possible.
- For colleges, there is a need to calculate intake requirement of each college based on its capacity. Common admission policy may be followed for all colleges.

Speaker 1: Milan, Manipur Students' Federation

Returnees to state during COVID-19 pandemic are mostly students who are having technical courses. And there is less possibility of their going to their study centres. Right time to have Intake of returnees by accommodating them wherever possible. Need to identify courses that can be opened up by developing required infrastructures. Admission issue may be discussed after considering all these.

Students completing some semesters in outside the state should be allowed to further continue their studies here in the state somehow by availing them the required course structures.

Fee structure may be fixed to cover Private schools. Absorption of returnees is the need of the hour and a right step to upgrade our state's reputation vis a vis other states. Confluence of Teachers and Universities needed through formation of committees to discuss and chalk

out the possible avenues of streamlining the inter university/ College courses wherever required.

Speaker 2: Director, Dhanamanjuri Community College

Bachelor of Vocational Educational is at par with any other degree courses. Hence Students of B. Voc. Is equal to those of B.Sc. Course. They can appear any competitive exam.

Speaker 3: Amar Yumnam

Urgency for intervention at school level are higher than at secondary, higher secondary levels. Greatest fear at the lower levels. Age appropriate intervention is more required here than the higher level students.

Speaker 4: Ningthoujam Chetan

Tackling with courses not available in the state is an issue. Somehow, admission of students is a must. As of now, admission is most important than exam. Students admitted in their course of study are happier than the left out ones. Government and staffs to take steps to complete admission process.

Speaker 5: Binarani,

Considering B. Voc at par with any degree course (Say B.Sc.) may be reviewed as Courses in B. Voc can be accessed by students from Arts stream.

Moderator: Closing Remarks

- All supports initiation of admission processes.
- Due to COVID-19 and the associated lockdowns, there will be drastic increase in drop outs and more importantly among girl children.

Views & Opinions of many participants were also submitted in writing. Extracts of these written opinion and suggestions are given below:

1. A. Sukumar Singh, Principal, Johnstone Higher Secondary School

- Students and parents to be mentally prepared and psychologically safe which can be brought when the school campus and classroom are totally cleaned/ sanitised/ disinfected. Then, admission can be processed.
- If the fees are reduced/free: This can be brought about when certain school activities are taken off by which fees relating to the activity may dropped at the time of admission.
- Conveyance to reach school by students to be considered.

2. M Hussain, Teacher

- Need to set up special arrangement for students (higher/ technical/vocational) coming / coming back from outside.
- Fee for all classes/courses should be fixed to curb charging of huge amount by Private Colleges.
- Government should help private colleges in managing their infrastructures.

3. Wahengbam Jotinkumar Singh, Lecturer (Chemistry), Comet School

- Minimum or no admission fee should be taken based on different categories (BPL, OBC etc.)
- Educational Institutions to accommodate maximum no. of students as far as possible.

4. Suraj Thokchom, Education & Academic Affairs, AIMS

- Taking the advantage of the pandemic, its time to target for a University of our own state.

5. Keisam James Singh, Principal, Millenium School

- More emphasis on the lower age group.
- Admission criteria/ rates to be fixed by the state Education Departments.

- Admission fees to differ for different social categories namely SC, ST, OBC, General and BPL families specially in private schools /colleges.

6. Dr. N. Somorendro, General Secretary, FEGOCTA

- Adopt a new admission policy by calculating intake capacity College wise and subject wise taking into account number of teachers and classrooms.
- Work out how many extra students can be taken by the colleges – if required two shifts.
- Adopt academic calendar in advance subject to reviewing later on as per emerging situation.
- Ensure no reduction in budget but increase funds allocation by the government.
- Facility of online admission procedure, admission tests etc. to avoid large gathering, plus other old procedure for those who cannot afford online/ internet etc.

7. Kh. Rameshor Singh, Asst. Professor, Kumbi College

- Government must appeal to the students/ parents to admit to nearby institutions through AIR Imphal and media.

8. Dr. M. Priyobrata Singh, Principal, Imphal College

- Admission needs to be started at the shortest period possible. Intake capacities, choice of institutes, Admission Fee, Structures, etc. may be decided/monitored by the authority concerned.

9. Dr. M. Bhubaneshwari Devi, Principal, Thambal Marik College, Oinam

- Common Admission Test for Colleges (Higher Education) particularly and equal distribution of students in all colleges.
- With the increase of intake capacity of students more classrooms, more infrastructure etc. should be developed by Higher Authority.

10. Dr. M. Rameshwar Singh, Co-ordinator, IQAC, DM College of Arts (Dhanamanjuri University)

- Provide broader guidelines giving room for adopting specific modalities of admission by institutions considering available resources (Human/ Physical)

11. T. K. Meshilpha, Inspector of Schools, ADC, Chandel

- Admission fee in all Govt. Institutions should be exempted.
- Exemption of at least 50% admission fee in private institutions.
- Feasible provisions should be provided for admission of returnee students wherever applicable.
- Framing of Admission Policy.

12. Dr. Rahujuddin Sheikh (Shamu) (Principal, Kakching Khunou College/Director, DDU centre for KAUSHAL, DM Community College

- As per D.O. No. F.2-7/2014(CC/NVEQF) Misc, B.Voc. Degree Programmes in DM Community College under DDU KAUSHAL at DM University are treated equivalent to any other Bachelor Degrees specified by UGC under section 22(3) of UGC Act, 1956. Students who went outside for allied healthcare sectors like Medical lab Technology, Radio Imaging Technology, Pharmaceuticals etc. may be accommodated by way of lateral entry or credit banking system. Special attention is drawn towards appropriate channelization & legislation of the skill based vocational degree programmes in drafting of the DM University Act.

13. S. Indrani Devi, Principal/Teacher

- Selection through merit basis based on BOSEM or other allied Board.
- More emphasis to those students of their own school.
- In case of admission there should not be any reservation of category (Gen/OBC/SC/

SC). It should be only in employment.

14. N. Prempyari Devi, Principal/Ibotonsana Girls Hr. Sec. School

- Admission should be done only through online to maintain physical distancing and to avoid mass gathering of students and parents in different schools.
- Minimal fee for admission as the COVID-19 pandemic has affected the parents'/ guardians' financial condition badly. Concerned authority to fix the fee structure for all schools.
- Mode of payment of admission fee be through net banking or online mode of payment payable to the bank account which is in the name of the institution where the student sought admission or selected for admission.
- Admission be started at the earliest since we are planning to open educational institutions by next month i.e. July.

15. U. Kunjo Singh, Principal/ Langmeidong Hr. Sec. School

- Admission facilities to be given to the students coming back from outside after completing some semester.

16. Bidyalaxmi Devi Kongbrailatpam, Student

- For School Admission for all grade till XII and due consideration in the amount of admission fees.
- For College: Admission to first Semester for Bachelor & master courses. Or even for migrated student can pursue distant education even they are more adaptable to the concerned education system.

17. L. Jugindro Singh, Lecturer

- Admission should start immediately to improve the mental stability of the students. Getting admitted will make them motivated and start reading.
- Need to increase the seats for technical & vocational courses.

18. Dr Kinthuijinang Maremmei, Associate Professor / Principal Tamenglong College

- Allow temporary admission of students in the state in the absence of original certificates submitted earlier elsewhere.
- Admission should be opened soon to avoid loss of academic year.
- Provision of study materials of every subject to the students.
- Open Science streams in Tamenglong College and provide facility of those who opt Science.

19. Dr. Arambam Noni, Asst. Professor/DM College

- Admission for relevant Classes should commence soon.
- Transfer of students (University to University) which will encourage better academic preparation. Students desiring to re-enrol back at state institutions should be welcome.
- School fees, particularly those of Private schools should be streamlined. Govt. should re-work and subsidise the school fees.

20. Dr. Oinam Premila Chanu, Principal

- Technical and professional students coming from outside the state (including MBBS and agricultural courses) be allowed to continue in Manipur as their original institutions are located in highly infected containment states.

21. Paonam Nandashyam Singh, AGT

- Proper arrangement of admission to higher classes for those who have passed X and XII.
- Initiative for provision of admission and resumption of classes for those students returning from outside the state.

22. Dr. Chithung Mary Thomas, Secretary/BSEM

- Admission must be done immediately. Technicalities have to be discussed and worked out.

- Returnees should be accommodated. Modalities should be worked out.
- New Admission fee structure should be worked.

23. Dr. A. Nabachandra Singh, Principal, DM College of Commerce, Imphal

- Only a few colleges are filled during admissions times with the rest lying vacant. So, initiative for even / satisfactory distribution of students (except for professional courses like medicine) may be taken up.

24. Kh. Dineshkumar, Associate Prof. DMCTE, Imphal

- For College and University, Common Selection Procedure on a particular day.
- Amount of admission may be two halves.
- Online and offline model at the same time subject to the limit of intake capacity.

25. W. Jyotirmoy Singh, Associate Professor

- Seating distance is needed in classroom
- If infrastructure (like classroom cannot be increased then, intake capacity needed to be reduced.

Summary of Feedbacks:

Out of 37 participants, most of them supported opening of Admission with most of them proposing to start the process in the month of July itself. Some opined that it should be started as early as possible so that it could be completed within August. This would save students from loss of Academic Year and give them a sense of being in schools /colleges and enable them to be on-track and mentally stabilized.

Emerging Suggestions:

- Free/ minimal admission fees by way of dropping charges for Library, Sports etc. and considering Social/Economic Categories like BPL/ OBC/ SC/ST etc.
- Adoption of Inclusive Admission Policy

on intake capacity, fee- structure, (to curb huge charging by Private Colleges), accommodation of COVID-19 returnees especially those from technical/ professional/ vocational courses with increase in seats wherever required, this should take into account availability of teachers /classrooms/ labs etc.

- Applications for admission to be entertained on cut-offs as set by institutions on merit basis and
- Selection through conducting entrance examination/ lottery system. Some even opted for Common Admission Test with fair distribution of seats in all institutions.
- Special Arrangement for returnee / migrating students considering their completed semesters in their previous study centres, allowing temporary admission without originals like Migration Certificates.
- Provision of Online admission which would avoid mass gathering.
- Opening of Science Stream in Hill Districts.
- Assistance to Private colleges by the Government.

Theme :

CURRICULUM / SYLLABI

Moderator: Dr. Dhanabir laishram

Dr. Dhanabir Laishram is a well known social critick and motivational Speaker. He has published various books and some of them include – (1) Trust Deficit in the Largest Democratic Country A Study on Civil Society and Governance In Manipur (2) Response Peace and Development in NE in General Manipur in Particular, etc. He is Columnist/Panelist of newspaper & Local Cable TV.



Moderator
Dr. Dhanabir Laishram
Opening Remarks

Available time for the academic session for the current year are August/ September/October/December. Proper Class can be done at 60 days at the most. Curriculum/ Syllabus are framed for students of age groups (1-6 years), (7-12 years) and (13-18 years). Regarding downsizing of this year's syllabus. Unnecessary repetition of same contents found in different text books. Condensation required and is being in process. Whether to adopt Condensed syllabus or uncondensed (full) syllabus is open for the house.

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Speaker 1: S. Mangi Singh, ZEO, Kamjong

Voted for Condensed syllabus. Experts to choose which parts to condense.

Speaker 2: N. Sanjoy, G.P. Women's college

We don't have credit system. Choice Based

Credit System (CBCS) may be started in the state.

Speaker 3: M. Lokendro –AMGOCTA

Condensed syllabus at Hr. Secondary Level is unreliable. If ever to take up, MHRD may be

consulted to have commonality with other states.

Speaker 4: L. Jugindro, Lecturer Hr. Sec.

There's a vast difference between CBSE books and BOSEM books. For instance, CBSE Maths have in-depth/basic concepts of the topics in concern and minimal problems. On the contrary, BOSEM ones have lots of problems rather than the basic concepts, Students with basic concepts excel in the long run. They have more ability to solve any given problem in their own their counterparts who lacks the concepts.

Speaker 5: M. Indira, Principal, DIET/Senapati

Condensation of syllabi so far is done considering the few points- (a) No compromise in Los (b)

Moderator: Closing Remarks

- Condensing of the Syllabi is recommended for other subjects other than Maths so that the lessons can be covered in the remaining 60-90 days timeline.
- No condensing of syllabus for Maths.
- Extension of working days till January is recommended.

Views & Opinions of many participants were also submitted in writing. Extracts of these written opinion and suggestions are given below:

1. P. Memthoi Devi, Principal, Ningthoukhong Hr. Sec School

- Curriculum and syllabi to be concise, brief and condensed. Due to Covid-19, whole syllabi to be covered within specific period of academic calendar.

2. Bidyalaxmi Devi Kongbrailatpam, Student, AIMS

- a) More focus on disciplinary learning process, extracurricular activity and play way method with less focus on cognitive learning and competition. Examination path can be introduce after grade 6th or 7th.

- b) No Bag Day: these curriculum should given to extra curricular teachers to focus many activities,

3. Khingniekim Kipgen, ZEO, Kangpokpi condensed content of syllabus and curriculum is the need of the hour

4. Suraj Thokchom, Education and Academic Affairs sec. AIMS

- For the year, 2020-21 Curriculum and syllabi to be concise, brief and condensed as there is no time in this academic year.
- For 10th and 12th standard it is suggested that only the important topics should be taught and removing some unnecessary topics.
- Inclusion of syllabus related to our State.
- Lastly, I would like to mention that completing all the topics within the short period of time will be a burdensome. So I suggest to shorten the syllabus otherwise students will get zero knowledge at the end.

5. N. Prempyari Devi, Principal Ibotonsana Girls Hr. Sec. School

- Online teaching alone cannot replace normal classroom teaching. Identifying more important topics to cover the syllabus within stipulated timeframe for post lockdown.

6. Sucheta Khumukcham, ZEO Zone-I

- Curriculum to be condense by retaining the core elements necessary for learning outcomes. Academic calendar should be revised by limiting the number of holidays and lengthening the school days.

7. Wahengbam Jotinkumar Singh, Lecturer Chemistry, COMET School

- Removing of irrelevant topics and condensing of syllabus.
- Inclusion of syllabus related to our State.
- Reducing the number of examination.

- Minimum and necessary knowledge should be given.

8. N. Itocha Singh, Vice Principal, Kangvai Hr. Sec School Condensed syllabus is suggested.

9. Keisam James Singh, Principal Millennium School

- No change of books and syllabus for session 2021-22.
- Condensed syllabus
- Extension of working days

10. Dr. Somorendro, Gen. Secretary FEGOCTA

- Syllabus should be reduced
- Revision of syllabus for B.A and B.Sc. of Manipur Universities.

11. K. Jugeshor, Principal, Kumbi College

- Condensing the syllabus is suggested.

12. Dr. M. Priyobrata Singh, Principal Imphal College

- Suggest for condense syllabus.

13. L. Jilla Singh, principal Heirok Hr. Sec. School suggest for condense syllabus.

14. M. Lokendro Singh, President AMCTA

- Syllabus condense
- Recommendation of expert committee for condensing the syllabus
- Syllabus / notification issued by MHRD / UGC should be followed strictly do that the quality may be maintained.

15. Ph. Mantri Singh, C/E COHSEM

- No change in curriculum and syllabus of class XI and XII
- If the institutions are opened in the 1st week of August 2020, the current syllabi could be covered up successfully since 187 working days are available before the commencement of their exam.

16. Oinam Premila Chanu, Principal

- condense syllabus

17. Kh. Silas Principal, Purul Hr. Sec. School

- Reducing Syllabus by concerning with experts.

18. Paonam Nandashyam Singh AGT/Teacher

- Condense syllabus

19. A. Sangeeta Devi, Principal T.G. Hr. Sec. School

- Condense Syllabus

20. Kh. Dineshkumar Associate Prof. DMCTE, Imphal

- Transfer of old pattern, curriculum into experiential or collaborative learning
- Pedagogical input for minimum level of learning then to maximum level
- For Collegiate/University Curriculum need to be choice based credit system need to be implemented quickly
- Formulation of shortest chain of curriculum and syllabi both in horizontally and vertically
- Goal specification orientation at every level of class.

21. Dr. N. Sanjoy, Associate Professor

- Need for updation and change into Choice based Credit System (CBCS) for Graduate Courses

22. Th. Jilla Singh, Principal, Mekola Gulap Hr. Sec. School, Mekola

- Condense syllabus
- Selection of syllabus which will be useful in the society and in the future

23. Kharga Prasad Prasain, Head Master, Bishnulal High School, Kangpokpi

- Reduce the syllabus by taking care that the basic concepts are not left out.
- Rescheduling the exam of class X (BOSEM) and XII (COHSEM) and other classes in the month of May-June 2021. If possible it is better to cancel the winter vacation.

24. Ahanthem Surjalata Devi, AGT, Kebol High School

- Reducing the syllabus by selecting the important topics

25. Dr. M. Bhubaneshwari Devi, Principal, Thambal Marik College

- Condense syllabus and curriculum

26. A. Sukumar Singh, Principal, Johnstone Hr. Sec. School

- To review the calendar by reducing the non-academic activities/ functions
- To review and revise the syllabus and contents for classes IX and above for session 2020-21
- Review and modify the question designs of different subject for assessment of classes IX and above for session 2020-21

27. Dr. Chungkham Sheelaramani, Principal, D.M. College of Arts, Imphal

- Condense syllabus

28. Moirangthem Indira Devi, Principal, DIET, Senapati

- Condense syllabus

29. S. Indrani Devi, Principal

- Syllabus should be in co-ordination with the number of working days.
- Avoiding repeated topics
- Syllabus should be strictly adhered depending upon their age group

Summary of Feedbacks:

Participants positively supported the idea of condensing the syllabus keeping in view the present situations caused by the consecutive lockdowns.

Emerging Suggestions:

- Curriculum/ Syllabi condensation should be done in a brief yet concise manner so that transactions may be possible within the limited remaining days. Taking up only the most important Topics (particularly for X & XII) was suggested. Inclusion of local content and retention of the core elements necessary for learning outcomes are further suggested.
- Mode of condensing Curriculum/ Syllabi should focus on extracurricular activities and play way method, shift from old pattern into experiential or collaborative learning , minimum Levels of Learning to Maximum Level of Learning, formulating shortest chain of curriculum /syllabi - horizontally and vertically, goal specification and orientation at every level.
- Devising ways for more working/ class days by way of limiting no. of holidays, lengthening school days etc.
- Implementing Choice-Based Credit System (CBCS) at college and University level.
- Recommendation of expert committee in the condensing process.
- Considering MHRD/UGC notifications on Curriculum/Syllabi so that the quality may be maintained.

Theme :

ASSESSMENT/ EXAMINATION

Moderator: Dr. Ch. Sheelaramani

Dr. Chungkham Sheelaramani is Principal of DM College of Arts, DMU. She was earlier HOD of Department of English. She has 32 years of Teaching experience and is a well known critic. Dr. Sheelaramani is a social activist championed the cause of girl child and women's right. She was a member of the expert Committee of NE of National Commission for Women (2005-07). She is also associated with various Boards, Council and University.



Moderator
Dr. Ch. Sheelaramani
Opening Remarks

Assessment and evaluation are very important part of education. Brilliance of students comes forth only when their achievement/ performance levels are tested.

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Speaker 1: Sajad, President, MSF

Suggested that keeping the paucity of time in mind, assessment of Graduate/ Under Graduate Courses may be done only at the final semester and students be simply promoted in the earlier semesters.

Speaker 2: Bipin, General Secy., AMSU

Suggested for considering all 5000+ students (Compartmental Examinees) as passed and no student should be left as failed.

Speaker 3: Bidyalaxmi, Ph. D. Scholar

Conduct of exam should be done maintaining COVID- 19 protocols like social distancing. Normal seat arrangement/ spacing of 20 students may be used for 10 students.

Speaker 4: Chetan, President, KSA

School Education needs more focus. Parents find a hard time to deal with the heavy home assignments given to children during this pandemic. This practice should be discontinued by some order of the authority.

Speaker 5: Kakai Singsit

Voted for no conduct of exam and questioned where students would stay during exam. Justified statement as extraordinary situations may arise.

Speaker 6: Professor Amar Yumnam

Irrespective of any notifications from MHRD banning conduct of exam, concerned academic Council in the state may be pressed to issue a single notification on the conducting the exam with necessary guidelines.

Moderator: Closing Remarks

- Giving promotion without testing is not a good idea. But we have no way as there are no internal assessment systems in courses under Manipur University.
- So, promotion of students by assessment through home - assignments is recommended.
- Exam of Final Semester in Degree Courses is the issue. There is no chance of getting improvement. University/ Master Level Exams won't have much issue.
- Transportation and accommodation of students is an issue.
- Need to frame online exam system.
- If all are given promotion, we need to accommodate all in the higher studies and classes would be over flushed.
- However, large avenues of education may

come up if we properly handle the over flush of students.

- Maintained that regarding no conduct of exams by MHRD, there is still room of relaxation in the notifications themselves.

Views & Opinions of many participants were also submitted in writing. Extracts of these written opinion and suggestions are given below:

1. Dr. M. Bhubaneshwari Devi, Principal, Thambal Marik College, Oinam

- Introduction of internal assessment system in under graduate and graduate level
- Terminal examination in the mid of session or semester is productive
- Introduction of unit test for every subject by the respective teachers
- Preparation of final examination for the last semester with strict SOP

2. S. Indrani Devi, Principal

- Allotment of home assignment and assessment of internal marks from this works
- Conducting examination with strict adherence to the norms of NCERT and WHO's directives

3. A. Sangeeta Devi, Principal, T.G. Hr. Sec. School

- Assessment and examination with strict SOP

4. P. Memthoi Devi, Principal, Ningthoukhong Hr. Sec. School

- Assessment and examination with strict SOP

5. Kakai Singsit, Education Secretary, ATSUM

- It is suggested to promote the students instead of conducting examination as there will be problems of accommodation, transportation and movement of students.

6. N. Prempyari Devi, Principal, Ibotonsana Hr. Sec School

- Conducting examination by considering the opinion of all stakeholders of Department of education and guidelines of MHRD.

7. (E. Surchand Singh, Principal, Kakching Hr. Sec. School

- Assessment and examination with strict SOP

8. Soibam Birajit Singh, Assistant Professor, Manipur College

- Internal assessment in the form of assignment as credit point
- Promotion for collegiate education can be conducted through internal assessment for 2nd and 4th semester

9. Kh. Dineskumar, Associate Prof. DMCTE

- Systematically formulated to include/ integrate home activity, classroom activity and term end examination to minimise the content load during examination
- Form of question from traditional pattern may change to source based questions and multiple based questions (MCQ) to minimise time and burden of rote learning.
- Nature of evaluation by evaluator may reached on hand on practice
- Teaching objectives should be strictly focus and correlated with assignment questions
- Rubrics and assessment tools should be made very clearly before hand of examination and examinees.

10. Dr. M. Priyabrata Singh, Principal, Imphal College

- Within the parameter of crisis management promotion or minimal means for awarding the students save academic concern becomes the need of the hour.

11. Dr. Oinam Premila Chanu, Principal Modern College

- Every teacher must perform classroom assessment result

- Every unit in the syllabus must be completed with test.

- Feedback form must be submitted from students after each unit

- Extracurricular assessment and Introduction of job oriented courses

- Assessment and examination with strict SOP

12. M. Lokendro Singh, President, AMCTA

- For School level relaxation of examination issued by MHRD may be followed
- For Higher Education level promotion of Semester II & IV to III & V may be done. We may recommend and proposed to the Academic Council of the concerned University to hold meeting and exempt examination.

13. Dr. N. Somorendro, General Secretary FEGOCTA

- Examination specially for 6th semester for B.A, B.Sc, B.Com etc. to be done.
- Introduction of internal assessment by M.U and Dhanamanjuri University is necessary
- Seek suggestion from UGC and MHRD

Summary of Feedbacks:

The discussion here was not so elaborate as in earlier sessions. Feedbacks here pertain more to Higher Education and less to the School Education.

Emerging Suggestions:

- Introduction of Internal Assessment in Graduate and under graduate classes by both Manipur University and Dhanamanjuri University. Some suggested the Internal Assessment may be in the form of Home assignments.
- Conduct of Unit Test for every subject and Terminal Examination in the mid- session are other suggestions. Every unit should be completed with a test.
- Preparation of Final Examination with strict

adherence to SOPs/ NCERT norms .Focus should be on ensuring the examinations for 6th Semester for BA/BSc/ B.Com. etc.

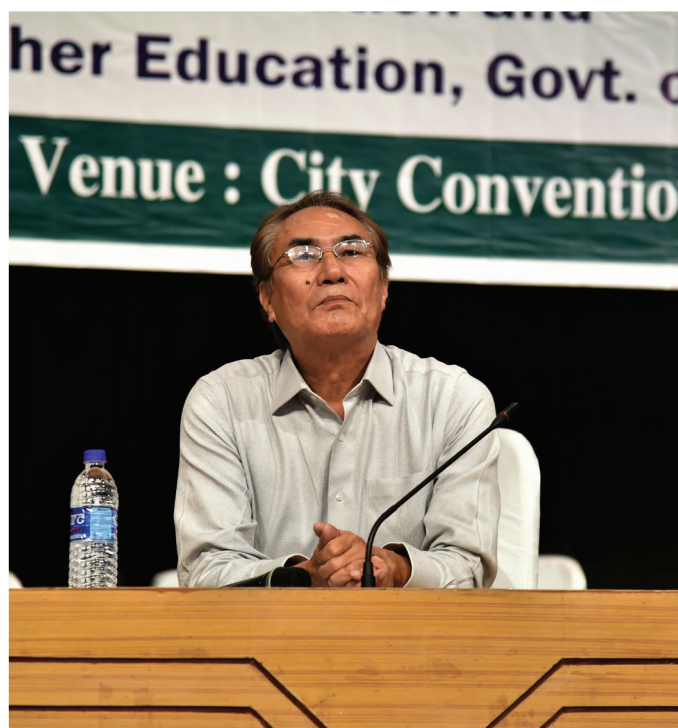
- Promotion of students to next higher level/semester instead of conducting examination in view of the issues relating to accommodation / transportation / movement etc. should be allowed. For instance, students of the 2nd and 4th Semesters may be promoted to the 3rd and 5th ones respectively.
- Shifting of Question Nature from traditional pattern to MCQs (Multiple Choice Questions) will help easy conduct of exam.
- Quick Assessment and feedbacks: Every assessment results should be displayed / let known to students as soon as possible. Feedbacks must be submitted from students after each Unit.
- Considering Suggestion from UGC/MHRD.

Theme :

TEACHERS SHORTAGE

Moderator: Professor W. Nabakumar

Professor W. Nabakumar Singh is presently a guest faculty in Anthropology Department, Manipur University with specialisation in Social and Cultural Anthropology. He was earlier HOD of the Department. He had guided a number of Research Scholars. Professor Nabakumar had earlier served as the Director of Centre for Mayan Studies. He is a regular social critic and columnist.



Moderator
PROF. W. Nabakumar
Opening Remarks

Teacher shortage must be everywhere at every level – school/secondary/collegiate etc. Our task at hand is how we manage teacher shortage in an abnormal situation like the present pandemic. Technology may be updated and made more users friendly as additional support for imparting education. But, it cannot substitute teachers on the whole.



Speaker 1: Peter Laishram, AMSU

Opined that in the absence of adequate no. of teachers, opening of class in Morning shift & Evening Shift (as proposed by many) will be impractical. Suggested that services of

Ph. D. Students of MU and teacher trainees of DIETs (who have no chance to have Practice Teachings- an essential part of their course) be utilised in teaching students. Likewise volunteering Retd. Teachers and resourceful scholars who had been outside the state and

now returnees may be welcomed to meet the teacher shortage. Fresh recruitment of teachers will be an issue because of the present state budget situation. As for the engaged resource persons tokens of appreciation/Certificates may be given.

Speaker 2: Kunjo Singh, Langmeidong Hr. Sec School

Extension of Service period of teachers should be done. Local MLAs may be requested for contribution of 10% - 20% of their Local Area Development Fund to the education sector.

Speaker 3: Professor Amar Yumnam

Need to find out shortage of teachers in Subjectwise/ Classwise/ Blockwise manner. More focus should be given to school education as this state is the prime stage. It is high time that we sent back teachers to schools/places where they are genuinely required through proper rationalisation.

Speaker 4: Chetan

Engagement of any teacher should be based on qualifications as per prescribed norms by concerned authorities (NCTE, UGC etc)

Speaker 5: Representative, ATSUM

Wittingly or unwittingly, rationalisation of teachers in terms of distribution has not been fair enough. Total no. of teachers in a hill College (e.g. Tadubi) is less than the no. of teachers in one Department of Valley College. (e.g. DM Arts). Unfair utilisation of school teachers posted in hills in valley schools is seen. Suggested that as teachers hailing from valleys are not comfortable in the hill situations, qualified local teachers be given more priority while selecting/recruiting teachers.

Moderator: Closing Remarks

- Recommended engagement of volunteer and qualified teachers from nearby locality/ and teacher trainees from DIETS/Teacher Training Institutes/MU etc.

- For higher education, re- engagement of retired teachers as Guest Faculties may be done to meet the need of teacher shortage.
- Educational Institutions in hills need more attention during rationalisation/ engagement of teachers.

Views & Opinions of many participants were also submitted in writing. Extracts of these written opinion and suggestions are given below:

1. Dr M. Priyobrata Singh, Principal , Imphal College.

- Volunteering teacher (from retired and competent teachers) many of who are willing to teach from closed quarters may be considered positively.

2. Dr. Oinam Premila Chanu, Principal, Modern School

- Recruitment of teachers in schools, secondary and colleges through proper channel based on written test not based on marks.
- Regarding R.R for teachers for colleges please give the minimum qualification on M.A and M.Sc with 60% and above and NET/ SLET/ M.Phil/ Ph.D /Research scholars who have started research work.

3. Dr. N. Somendro, General Secretary, FEGOCTA

- Recruit the vacant post of the teacher at earliest.
- Recruit guest faculties as the requirement in the colleges as temporary measures, if required.
- Retired teachers can be re-employed up to the age 70years in the colleges as temporary measures to meet the shortage as per the UGC regularities 2018.

4. N. Arunkumar Singh, ZEO (Zonal education officer) Tengoupal.

- Local Teachers on Contractual Basis can be appoint for limited period.

5. Dr. N. Sanjoy, Associate professor

- Appointment of teachers for all the disciplines is not feasible.
- Appointment of part- time lecture may be contrary to the equal opportunity to the qualified persons.
- Engagement of guest- faculty from senior students and research scholars for selected topics may be suggested. This lecturer can be acknowledged with honorarium and certification of acknowledgement.

6. KH. Dineshkumar, Associate Professor, DMCTE, Imphal.

- NGO,s and well qualified well wishers of community/neighbour may be requested for their Honorary service.
- Diet Trainers/B.Ed. Trainers may be used as stop gap arrangement as part of their internship of 4 to 6 months in school.
- For college level, NET on JRF, PhD. research scholars may be used as small arrangement between the experienced teacher. It will also enable them to get 3 pts. on the API,s

7. E. Surchand Singh, Principal, Kakching Hr. Sec School

- There is shortage of teachers in most of the school of Manipur. Regarding the appointment of shortage teachers, it is necessary to count the subject wise teachers because one maths teachers cannot teach Manipur subject vice versa. So it is highly needed to consult the head of institution for details.

8. U. Kunjo Singh, Principal, Langmeidong Hr. Sec. School.

- Superannuation of teachers may be extended from 60 yrs to 62 yrs or more.
- Construction of light, buildings , recruitment of teachers/ lecturers to make up the shortage may be done with the help of MLA,s local area development fund of the

respective MLA,s of the Kendra school is situated

9. N. Prempyari Devi, Principal, Ibotonsana Girls Hr. Sec School.

- With the shortage of teacher, education will never improve. Therefore, concerned authority should identify the schools where there is shortage of teachers and arrangement be made to provide the required teachers to that positive school so as to avoid lapses in giving education to students, in particular during the limited working days in post COVID-19 period.

10. Kakai Singset, Education Secretary, ATSUM

- There should be rationalisation in the distribution of teachers between the hills and the valley.
- Utilization of teachers from hill to valley should be stop.
- Engaging local teachers (educated students with pre-requisite degree)on part time basis
- There should be inclusive policy when it comes to recruitment of teachers.

11. Sangeeta Devi, Principal, T.G Hr. Sec. School

- We have to detect teachers shortage in particulars subject and particulars schools, then the department try to manage to make –up the shortage of teacher. Teachers cannot be replaced by any others machineries

12. S. Indrani Devi, Principal / Teacher

- Voluntary participation / engagement by the local authorities on part time basis.
- Distribution of teachers not on partiality.
- Engagement of qualified local person in specified subjects (remuneration in any condition).

13. Khonnulung Riamei, D.I.s, ZEO/ Tamenglong District

- In the hill Districts, the schools are ran

in the absence of the following subjects (Maths, Science, Hindi, physical education and Meitei mayek) plus on top of that utilization of teachers from hill districts to valley districts mainly of above subjects. The utilization trend placed mostly within 2-3 yrs, therefore may look into before too late.

- Hence the trend of education system of Manipur be treated equally both hill and valley so as to bring about the emotional integrity of Manipur.

14. W. Lukhoi Singh, Head master of Heingang H/S

- Regular zone-wise collection of reports from the shortage of teachers of every school will be required to have healthy atmosphere of education in the school.

15. Dr. M. Bhubaneshwari Devi, Principal, Thambal Marik College, Oinam

- Utilization of Research scholars, retired persons, etc. in different subjects is must to make complement of the shortage of teachers during pandemic situation.
- Extension of superannuation period of about 2 or 3 yrs to compromise the shortage of teacher.

Summary of Feedbacks:

15 of the participants gave written feedbacks on Teachers Shortage. Shortage

of teachers is another area of concern if the institutions are to be reopened because of the pressing demands that would certainly come up with the overflow of students caused by the pandemic.

Emerging Suggestions:

- Engagement of volunteering /Retd. Competent Teachers/Guest Faculty / NET/JRF/Ph. D. Research Scholars in higher/college education: Their services may be recognised and appreciated with Honorariums / Certificates of Appreciation.
- Engagement of DIET/B.Ed. Teacher Trainees in Schools as part of their internship of 4-6 months will partly solve school teachers' shortage.
- Extension of service of superannuated / engaged teachers till 62 years of age.
- Recruitment of teachers based on written Test with required Minimum Qualifications (Educational & Professional) prescribed by concerned Academic Authority. e.g. MA/ MSc with NET/SLET/M.Phil. /Ph.D. etc.
- Identification of subjects teachers shortage/required at particular schools/ blocks/ zones.
- Identification of Schools requiring teachers(sub-specific)
- Rationalisation in the distribution of teachers between the hills and Valleys
- No Utilisation of teachers posted (in hills) to valleys.

Theme :

INFRASTRUCTURE GAPS

Moderator: Professor Amar Yumnam

Dr. Amar Yumnam is presently serving as a Professor in Economics Department, Manipur University with specialisation in Development Economics and Institutional Economics. Professor Amar has guided a number of Research Scholars and publish a large number of papers. He is a regular social critic and columnist.



Moderator
PROF. Amar Yumnam
Opening Remarks

Infrastructure by itself is not useful. But it enhances us in performing other activities. In the COVID-19 situations, infrastructure may be interpreted with newer meaning.

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Speaker 1: Sanjoy

There are issues in accessing to online classes because of no network and no smart phones for many. Suggested to open studios in schools/ colleges to record normal class events. IT Capacity building programmes

needed for teachers so that they can deal with online classes.

Speaker 3: M. Indira, Principal, DIET/Senapati

DIET/ Senapati uses projectors and during lockdown recording is done at SCERT. Have

visited around 10 schools every year. Gadgets are found not available in schools. Despite notifications served for online class (Class I-V), nothing substantial came up. Recommended basic requirements of ICT at school level and special monitoring of schools in rural/hill areas.

Speaker 4: Representative, ATSUM

Most infrastructures meant for schools/colleges do not reached the target with recommended quality because of faulty practice and misuse of sanctioned amount at different level. Integrity and sincerity of officers needed for proper implementation.

Speaker 5: Milan

Infrastructure Gaps occur in the Government schools and not in Private schools. Politicisation in the implementation process leads to Infrastructure Gaps in Government Schools.

Speaker 6: Chetan

Computers/ gadgets are present in many schools lying unused and outdated because of lack of efficient operators. There is no return of any sort to the schools/colleges or to the Govt. from investment of such assets.

Speaker 7: Sheelaramani

Provision of Infrastructure should not be relied on the govt. support alone. We can come together and make our contribution towards realising the dream – beginning with Officers, Students Organisations, and CSOs etc.

Moderator: Closing Remarks

- Integrity and sincerity of Government functionaries must be there.
- It's seen that teachers have no training for online education and we don't have adequate online facilities/gadgets.
- Infrastructure can be viewed from two perspectives: Short Term and Long Term.
- Involvement of different stakeholders like Social Scientist, Technologists etc .while we talk about infrastructure.

- If we are to think for a Welfare Society, planning of infrastructure in a long term (e.g. 50 years down the line) should be thought of.
- Hence Collective application of minds (not leaving to the Govts. only) is necessary to plan for Post COVID-19 situations in education.

Views & Opinions of many participants were also submitted in writing. Extracts of these written opinion and suggestions are given below:

1. Ch. Rameshwar Singh, Asst. Prof Kumbi College

- Provide necessary minimum requirements equally to the institutions based on the number of students to fight this pandemic situation.

2. Dr. M. Bhubaneshwari Devi, Principal, Thambal Marik College, Oinam

- Providing more IT infrastructure during pandemic situation.
- Follow strict SOP and providing sanitization kits

3. P. Koireng Singh, Head Master Poireikhongjil High School

- Providing more IT infrastructure and other physical infrastructure required during pandemic situation.

4. Moirangthem Indira Devi, Principal, DIET Senapati

- Providing IT infrastructure during pandemic
- Initialization of ICT

5. M. Lokendro Singh, President AMCTA

- Providing tunnel sanitization facility
- Conducting online classes may not be a correct way because it cannot be treated as the regular classes. Instead of that option, interested students may be subscribe digital ie. Learning DTH channel which provide a subscription of 32 DTH channel that are telecast through the

GSAT-15 satellite. Prominent educational institutions such as UGC, NCERT, IITs etc. are the content partners of that channels (SWAYAM PRABHA). A daily content of 4 hours can be availed through DTH channel by learners all levels. So government should try to provide better connectivity of TV channel.

6. Dr. N. Somorendro, General Secretary, FEGOCTA

- First to identify the infrastructure gaps/ shortage- classroom, etc. college wise
- Second – budget estimation for required room
- Engagement of teachers
- Immediate provision of recording facilities, ITC facilities etc. in the college with some funding by the Government.
- More and functional toilets with water facilities, water supply to be available with soap and sanitizers during/ post covid-19 era in Manipur.

7. Dr. Oinam Premila Chanu, Principal, Modern College

- Improvement of infrastructure

8. Dr. M. Priyobrata Singh, Principal, Imphal College

- Improvement of infrastructure

9. Dr. N. Sanjoy, Associate Prof

- In post covid-19, lockdown it is suggested to set up IT infrastructure so that recording of regular classes for future uses.
- Incorporation of specify building vis-à-vis IT and e-resources in the use of technical equipments/instruments among the teachers. It is because many teachers are not prepared or well acquainted with use of IT tools.

10. N. Prempyari Devi, Principal, Ibotonsana Girls Hr. Sec. School

- ICT needs to be provided to all schools. Internet connection, mini studio, videography are the need of the time.

11. S. Indrani Devi Principal/Teacher

- Proper utilization of the infrastructure in the institutions.
- Proper maintenance of school infrastructure by teachers and community

12. A. Sukumar Singh, Principal, Johnstone Hr. Sec. School

- Provide basic and primary infrastructure in the campus
- The campus need to be cleansed and recorded and shall be published to create sense of safety and security to all.
- Transportation of student to be considered.

13. (A. Sangeeta Devi, Principal, T.G Hr Sec. School)

- Furniture is needed to maintain social distancing. ICT is necessary for teaching-learning process.
- Suggestion 14: (Dr. M. Rameshwar Singh, Co-ordinator, IQAC, D.M. College of Arts)
- Focus must be not only on physical infrastructure development but also human infrastructure development. Infrastructure as per the intake capacity is important.

14. Kh. Dineshkumar Associate Prof. DMCTE

- Empower the opening of community radio station for specific programme and arrangement of TV channels
- Washrooms and Drinking water facility need to be improved with proper student ratio
- ICT build up in minimum level.

Summary of Feedbacks:

Infrastructure discussed here are mostly about those needed by the education system in the absence of full-fledged normal class. Only a few inputs are submitted as written feedbacks to the discussion.

Emerging Suggestions:

- Provision of necessary requirements

equally to institutions based on enrollments, intake capacity etc. namely Drinking water/ Functional Toilets /Washroom facilities, adequate no. number of desks/benches (for having class with social distancing) etc.

- Provision of Sanitisation kits like Tunnel/ Thermal sanitizers etc.
- Facilitating students to subscribe to better connectivity TV channels (DTH Channel) by the Govt: This is suggested in lieu of other online classes which cannot be treated as regular classes. This said service has 32 Channels telecast through GSAT-15 satellite. Prominent educational Institutions

like UGC, NCERT, and IITS etc. are the content partners of the channels (SWAYAM PRABHA).

- Provision of ICT and initialization of related infrastructure by the Govt. to enable recording of regular classes for current and future use by keeping in the digital library.
- Incorporation of separate IT rooms in schools with proper Internet connection, mini studio etc. for enhanced teaching learning process.

Inputs and Developments Elsewhere

4.1 Instructions and correspondence from MHRD, NCERT, CBSE etc.

The pandemic being a worldwide phenomenon affecting all countries across the globe including India, unprecedented decision have been taken up elsewhere. Some of the decisions can pave the way to a better decision or take an informed decision in the State.

Instructions relating to Covid-19 lockdown

1. A. Letters from Department of School Education & Literacy MHRD, GoI

SI No	Letter No. with date	Subject of letter	Main message of the letter
1.	F.N-17-1/2020-IS 4 dated 8 May 2020	Minutes of the meeting chaired by H'ble HRM with the Ministers and Secretaries of School education department of all States and UTs through video conference (VC) held at 2 pm on 28th April 2020	<p>The minutes on the agenda "Digital/Online Education, Revised Academic Calendar, Continuation of the MDM Scheme, land and other issues of KVS and NVS, implementation of Samagra Shiksha.</p> <p>Students from Class I to VIII may be promoted to the next classes. In case of IX and XI the students may be promoted on the basis of the internal assessment and standard formula. The pending papers of 29 major subjects in CBSE exams for the class of X and XII will be held after normalisation of the present situation and adequate time of 10 days will be given to all stakeholders before starting the exams.</p> <p>Mid-Day-Meal will be provided to children during summer vacations to safeguard their immunity which is very vital during the COVID outbreak. In this regard an amount of Rs. 957 Crore has been approved for the MDM scheme during lockdown.</p>

			State and UTs to adopt alternative Academic Calender according to their local situation. NCERT has also developed an Academic calendar for the class I to VIII. The States/UTs may also adopt the same.
2.	D.O No. 14-4/2020-IS-10	DO letter regarding major focus and new initiatives taken by the School Education Department for expansion of primary education, schooling facility, inclusive education, vocational education, improving learning outcomes and transforming the curriculum to encourage holistic development.	To have a common format to appraise to the Ministry on a monthly basis about the new initiatives and major policy decisions and achievements. Matters may be different scheme/ programmes such as Samagra Shiksha, MDM, EBSB, Quality Intervention for improvement of Learning Outcomes, ICT initiatives.
3.	F.No. 15-2/2019-IS-4 dated 16th June 2020.	Participation in MYLIFEMYOGA contest for international day of YOGA 2020	Ministry of AYUSH & ICCR seek to raise awareness about YOGA and to inspire people to prepare for and become active participant via My Gov and the social media platforms of Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Instagram.
4.	F.No. 15-2/2019-IS-4 dated 17th June 2020.	Organizing of International Day of Yoga (IDY) on 21-06-2020 reg.	Ministry of AYUSH has started campaign called "Yoga at Home, Yoga with Family", to encourage the practice of Yoga with Family members to counter the effects of the viral infection, while practising all precautionary measures to slow down the spread of COVID-19.
5.	F.No. 12-1/2019-IS-4 dated 18th June 2020.	Special Live Session on 21st June, 2020 to celebrate International Yoga Day by Fit India Mission-reg.	The Fit India Mission proposes to organise a special live session at 5:00 pm on 21st June, 2020 to celebrate International Day of Yoga (IDY).
6.	F.No. 8-1/2020-IS-1(IS-4)	Proposal of NISA (National Independent Schools Alliance)-reg.	Keeping in view the present COVID pandemic situation, the NISA has proposed to extend its support to the Government in setting up quarantine facility centres in their private schools across India.

7.	F.No. 1-53/2020-KT dated 30th June 2020	Provision of FTTH connections to the Government Institutions at the GPs covered under Bharat Net Programme- Internet at SCHOOLS.	The School Education Departments of State Governments to issue appropriate instructions for taking FTTH connections.
8.	No. 16-6/2020-U1A dated 30th June 2020	MHA Guidelines for phased reopening (Unlock 2).	Colleges and educational institutions will remain closed till 31-07-2020.
9.	D.O. No. 1-2/2020-IS.5 dated 6th July 2020.	Guideline for Phased Re-opening (Unlock 2)	Guidelines issues as per Ministry of Home Affairs Order No. 40-3/2020-DM-I(A) dated 29th June 2020.

1.B. Ministry of Youth & Sports MHRD, GoI

SI No	Letter No. with date	Subject of letter	Main message of the letter
1	D.O. No. K-15017/2/2020-MD-SD dated 17th June, 2020	Fit India Mission	Fit India Mission - a campaign in partnership with MHRD for the overall physical, emotional & mental well-being continued efforts in partnership with MHRD.

2. Letters/Circulars from Central Board of Secondary Education

SI No	Letter No. with date	Subject of letter	Main message of the letter
1.	Circular No: Acad 47/2020 Date: 07 July, 2020	Revised Academic Curriculum for the session 2020-21	<p>One time revision of syllabi of CBSE affiliated schools for classes IX-XII for academic session 2020-21 has been reduced by 30%. However the reduced syllabus will not be part of the topics for Internal Assessment and year-end Board Examination.</p> <p>Alternative Academic Calendar and inputs from the NCERT on transacting the curriculum using different strategies may also be part of the teaching pedagogy. For Elementary Classes (I-VIII) schools may follow the Alternative Academic Calendar Link of Alternative Academic Calendar : http://ncert.nic.in/aac.html and Learning Outcomes specified by NCERT.</p> <p>The revised syllabi are available at the link: http://cbseacademic.nic.in/Revisedcurriculum_2021.html</p>

3. Press Information Bureau Publication

Sl No	Date	Matter	Main message
1.	15th June 2020	Safe online learning in the times of COVID 19 to raise awareness.	The booklet developed will be instrumental in keeping children, young people safe online through basic Do's & Don'ts that will help parents and educator teach their children how to used the internet safely. Union HRD Minister launches information booklet to raise awareness of students and teachers on staying safe online developed by NCERT and UNESCO, New Delhi.
2.	27th June, 2020	Union HRD Minister Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' highlights India's efforts to build resilience into the education system in face of COVID before G20 Member.	Organising historic and relevant meeting of the G20 nations to collaboratively address the widespread disruptions caused by the pandemic in the education sector. PM launched a clarion call for an 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' or Self Reliant India. Developed excellent digital educational content over the years. Available on various platforms like DIKSHA, SWAYAM, Virtual labs, e-PG Pathshala and national Digital Library to name a few.
3.	Dated 2nd July, 2020	Union HRD Minister releases 8 weeks' alternative academic calendar for Primary stage.	Union Minister of Human Resource Development Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank released Alternative Academic Calendar for Primary stage in New Delhi. NCERT has already started having live interactive session with students, parents and teachers through the TV channel Swayam Prabha, Jio TV, Airtel Channel etc.
4.	Dated: 03/07/2020	ICSE syllabus reduction	Syllabus reduction has been done by ICSE for all major subjects at ICSE and ISC levels. www.cisce.org

4. Notification/Circular regarding Examination (CBSE)

Sl.No	Notification/Circular No. with date	Main Message	Link/Site
1.	CBSE/CE/SPS/2020 Dated:25.06.2020	Examinations for classes X and XII which were scheduled from 1st July to 15th 2020 stand cancelled. However, for Class-XII, CBSE will conduct an optional examination in the subjects whose examinations were scheduled to be conducted from 1st July to 15th July, 2020 as soon as conditions are conducive, as assessed and decided by the Central Government.	http://cbse.nic.in/newsite/attach/Notification%20dt.%2025.06.2020.pdf
2.	F.No 1-10/2019-2020/NTS-1/18-04-2020 Dated: 20.04.2020	National Talent Search Stage-II Examination scheduled for May 10th, 2020 in all the States/UTs of the country has been postponed due to COVID-19 pandemic.	http://www.ncert.nic.in/programmes/talent_exam/pdf_files/NTSE_POSTPONEMENT.pdf
3.	CBSE/DIR./SE./NDLI/2020 Dated: 05.06.2020	National Digital Library of India (https://ndli.iitkgp.ac.in) has released the CBSE Examination Preparation Contents for classes X and XII.	http://cbseacademic.nic.in/web_material/Notifications/2020/56_Notification_2020.pdf

5.Academic Notification/Circular regarding Teachers Training

SI No	Notification/Circular No. with date	Main Message	Link/Site
1.	Date: July 4, 2020 Circular No: Acad 46/2020	Teacher training on Augmented Reality (AR) has been introduced by CBSE in partnership with Facebook. Three weeks' Augmented Reality program for 10,000 teachers. CBSE introduced Student training on Digital Safety and Online Well-being, in association with Facebook.	http://cbseacademic.nic.in/web_material/Circulars/2020/46_Circular_2020.pdf (Course detail) http://www.cbseacademic.nic.in/fb/facebookforeducation.html http://www.cbseacademic.nic.in/fb/facebookforeducation.html
2.	Circular No: Acad 45/2020 Date : July 1, 2020	Launching of Online Teacher Training Course on Experiential Learning on DIKSHA to promote experiential learning pedagogy in schools,	http://bit.ly/cbse-diksha https://bit.ly/cbse-explrn-wb http://cbseacademic.nic.in/tt-2020.html

		CBSE in association with Tata Trust has developed an interactive online course on 'Experiential Learning' for the Teachers and School leaders.	
3.	Circular No: Acad-44 /2020 Date: 02/07/2020	"Cogito" and "The Question Book"– A series on Thinking skills	CBSE Website: http://www.cbseacademic.nic.in/web_material/ComicBooks/Cogito.pdf http://www.cbseacademic.nic.in/web_material/ComicBooks/The_Question_Book.pdf Diksha Portal: https://diksha.gov.in/play/content/do_3130401411330211841875 https://diksha.gov.in/play/content/do_31304014477524992011150
4.	03th June 2020 Circular No: Acad-39/2020	Online trainings for teachers is made available on DIKSHA platform. Pedagogy of Environmental Studies Health and Well Being in Schools	http://cbseacademic.nic.in/web_material/Circulars/2020/39_Circular_2020.pdf http://bit.ly/cbse-diksha https://bit.ly/cbse-pedevs-course https://bit.ly/cbse-hnw-course
5.	May 05.2020 Circular No: Acad 32/2020	Online Awareness / Capacity Building Programme on Artificial Intelligence Online Awareness Programme to introduce Artificial Intelligence in class XI. Online Capacity Building Programme for teachers teaching AI in schools. Online Capacity Building Programme for teachers teaching AI (For Class X).	http://cbseacademic.nic.in/web_material/Circulars/2020/32_Circular_2020.pdf https://forms.gle/98LgrXa5kZtcrz3a6 https://forms.gle/98LgrXa5kZtcrz3a6 http://bit.ly/AI4CBSERL

6.	Date: May 5, 2020 Circular No : Acad-31/2020	Introduction of Online Teacher Training by CBSE –Centre of Excellence(CoE)	http://cbseacademic.nic.in/web_material/Circulars/2020/31_Circular_2020.pdf
7.	Date: 07.04.2020 Circular No.: Acad-25/2020	Introduction of Skill courses from classes VI to XI from the session 2020-21	http://cbseacademic.nic.in/web_material/Circulars/2020/25_Circular_2020.pdf
8.	04.04.2020 Circular No.Acad- 26/2020	Online Awareness Workshops/ Training programmes for teachers of CBSE schools offering Financial Markets based skill courses from Classes IX to XII	http://cbseacademic.nic.in/web_material/Circulars/2020/26_Circular_2020.pdf
9.	CBSE/DIR./SE./TRNG./2020 13.06.2020	Online Capacity Building Programme for Teachers on Design (Skill subject)	http://cbseacademic.nic.in/web_material/Notifications/2020/59_Notification_2020.pdf
10.	CBSE/DIR./SE./TRNG./2020 10.06.2020	Online Capacity Building Programme for Teachers on Fashion Studies	http://cbseacademic.nic.in/web_material/Notifications/2020/58_Notification_2020.pdf
11.	CBSE/DIR./SE./TRNG./2020 25.05.2020	Online Capacity Building Webinars for teachers on Artificial Intelligence curriculum of Class X	http://cbseacademic.nic.in/web_material/Notifications/2020/51_Notification_2020.pdf

Summary:

1. Alternative academic Calendar for each section of the students.
2. Revised curriculum/ syllabi for classes IX-XII by 30%.
3. No assessment for the deleted portion of the syllabi.
4. Postponement / cancellation of pending examinations.
5. Shift toward Online training for the teachers.
6. Promoting and creating digital e-content platforms in a unified mode.
7. Focus on personal health development & stress management.

4.2 IT initiatives of MHRD

To address the challenge of remote learning, MHRD has initiated a number of projects to assist students, scholars, teachers and lifelong learners in their studies. These initiatives cover educational requirements of learners ranging from school to Post Graduate. The introduction of those projects as follows.

E-Learning & Infrastructure and e-content

DIKSHA: The Unified platform for formal school education being imparted by all states and central government for grades 1 to 12 launched 2 years back. DIKSHA portal and mobile app created as storehouse of large number of e-Books and e-Content by States and National level organizations. Over 95,000 pieces of content are available in 15 different

languages, for grades 1 to 12 for teachers & students. It has so far more than 120 million content plays and 360 million page hits. Vidya Daan interface on DIKSHA allows contribution/ donation of e-learning resources for school education by educational bodies, private bodies, and individual experts.

Access through TV channels- Swayam Prabha TV Channels

Swayam Prabha DTH channels to support and reach those who do not have access to the internet. 32 channels devoted to telecast high quality educational programmes. Channels earmarked for school education and higher education separately. Provision made for telecast of live interactive sessions on these channels with experts from home through Skype. The department also tied up with private DTH operators like Tata Sky & Airtel to air educational video content to enhance the reach of these channels. Coordination with States of India to share air time (4 hrs daily) of the 5 SWAYAM PRABHA channels to telecast their education related contents.

For open schools and pre-service education

Online MOOC courses relating to school education (grades 9 to 12 of open schooling) on SWAYAM portal around 92 courses started and 15 million students enrolled. Students and teachers can access all the course modules - text, videos and assessment questions etc.

On AIR

Radio for children in remote areas and who are not online (specially for classes 1 to 5), Activity based learning, 289 Community Radio Stations started for school education for grades 9 to 12. A Podcast called Shiksha Vani of the Central Board for Secondary Education being effectively used by learners of grades 9 to 12.

For the differently-abled

One DTH channels being operated specifically hearing impaired students in sign language. For visually and hearing

impaired- Study material developed in Digitally Accessible Information System (DAISY) and in sign language on NIOS website/ YouTube.

E-textbooks

The e-textbooks can be accessible using e-Path Shala web portal and mobile app (Android, iOS, Windows), students, teachers, teacher educators and parents. More than 600 digital books including 377 e-textbooks (classes I to XII) and 3500 audios and videos of NCERT are on public domain in various languages (Hindi, English, Sanskrit and Urdu).

National Repository of Open Educational Resources (NROER)

Open store house of e-Contents for students, teachers, teacher educators and parents. Nearly 17,500 e-Contents of NCERT and other collaborative partners are available for all classes in various school subjects. Contents are also available on official YouTube channel of NCERT.

Imagining & shaping digital education as long term learning strategy/ Future Plans

- Integration of use of technology with education system along with cyber security.
- Developing digital classrooms as an instructional modality - Operation Digital Board.
- Inclusion of virtual vocational training, virtual labs & skill development courses.
- Multi-mode access to education using web portals, mobile apps, TV channels, Radio, Podcasts etc.
- Developing quality e-contents in local languages.
- Developing framework for enhancing learning within and outside the classroom, and for assessments in the era of digital education.
- Framing of Online/Digital Education Guidelines addressing the digital divide.

E-Learning

Priority for providing complete access to e-content and e-infrastructure for learners in schools:

- Classes 9 to 12 with 63 million children: Top priority
- Class 6 to 8 with 64 million children: Next priority
- Class 1 to 5 with 120 million children: Activity based learning at home along with digital content for learning at home

Efforts to activate the digital platform as a vital instrument for learning

- Online classes and e-learning to keep the learning process intact.
- Up skilling of teachers towards the usage of e-learning resource.
- Use of mobiles to increase penetration and enable ♦ anytime, anywhere ♦ access.
- Realigning various interventions to manage the crisis with specific emphasis on learning process, safety & security of children.
- Mechanisms developed to provide textbooks to all children at home.

4.3 Some initiatives in other States & Countries

Jharkhand:

Dumka District: With a very few of its students owning smart phones, a government school in the tribal-dominated has come up with a solution to hold 'effective e-classes' for its 246 students following social distancing norms and other safety protocols.

Closed for more than three months due to the Covid-19 outbreak, officials of the Bankathi upgraded middle school have placed a microphone on the stone slab at the village chowk and connected it to loudspeakers installed on branches and tree tops nearby.

Teachers for various classes conduct lessons from the virtual learning materials

provided by the state education department on the microphone as students sit outside their own homes or on their terraces- some as far as 150 meters from the chowk - with textbooks and take notes.

Ranchi:

The Jharkhand Education Project Council (JEPC) signed a contract with Doordarshan Ranchi. As per the agreement, the public broadcaster will telecast programmes on education for government school students for a period of one month from Monday onwards. The JEPC has booked a daily slot of three hours, of which one hour will be dedicated to cover syllabus for Classes X-XII. A programme on adolescents and hygiene will be held for half an hour, whereas lectures and videos for students of Classes I to IX will be aired for the remaining one and a half hour.

Kerala:

- The government allowed MLA's to use their local development fund to buy TV'S and laptop for students.
- The classes are being telecast on the educational Channel IT@schoolVictersChannel.
- High quality digital contents even 3D animations.

Chhattisgarh:

- Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Tuesday launched an e-learning platform "Padhai Tunhar Dwar", taking an innovative step to teach school children at home during the nationwide lockdown in the wake of the novel coronavirus outbreak.
- Radio Schooling: UNICEF in association with Chhattisgarh have initiated a campaign called Radio Schooling to get the Children continue with studying and learning at home and use the occasion together with family.

'Mirchi ki Pathshala' is another campaign targeting age group 3-12 years.

Puducherry:

- E-learning from classes 6 to 12 and framing a syllabus based on availability and access to devices amongst students: The content of subjects should be formatted for various online platform including smart phones, computers, television and audiomessaging. "One the syllabus is made available in multiple formats, the student could use it as per the availability of the gadget. For live online classes, the department favoured e-learning for two hours per day with each session not extending beyond one hour. The Department has already conducted more than 60 sessions to train teachers in online classes. A studio is also being set up at the Department premises. Some of the government schools have already started online classes for higher standards.
- Survey to identify device Availability: The Department launch a survey among the students to assess the availability of gadgets at home, when schools start distribution of the midday meal rice to the parents of children studying up to class 8. Parents have been asked to come to the schools to collect 4 kg of rice eligible for the students under the midday meal scheme which has not been distributed due to the pandemic. During the distribution of rice the department will collect details from parents and students about the kind of gadgets available at home and also whether they have access to the internet, their computer proficiency and their mode of preference for online teaching.

Himachal Pradesh:

Education Initiatives in the wake of COVID-19:

Within a week of the lockdown, the state launched 'Har Ghar Pathshala' programme to provide home-based teaching facility to students with a vision to convert every home into a school so that their studies do not suffer.

FEATURES:

- Simple design and accessibility for all: The technology used had to be easy to comprehend for all stakeholders involved in the program, from the Department of Education, teachers, students to parents.
- 3 hours slot per day on Doordarshan Shimla focusing on classes 10 and 12.
- Ensuring all students connected to their teachers: A drive was launched to collect phone numbers of students in order to create school-level WhatsApp groups and connect as many schools and students as possible through WhatsApp.
- Deciding the academic content for the program: While the state leveraged some freely available online resources from academic partners (like Pratham, TicTac Learn and Sampark Foundation), more than 100 teachers were tasked to create content, lesson plans, and practice worksheets specifically for the program.
- Ensuring students to access content: The state government created a simple website overnight to host all learning material and act as a one-stop repository. The content for each day was uploaded a day before, circulated to all officials every day at 8.30 am, and through the chain of WhatsApp groups, reaches students between 9.30 and 10 am.
- Ensuring reach to every student in the state: For those who were facing trouble accessing the learning material, the government planned for broadcasting the same content through television and radio.
- Providing best contents to the students on important subjects besides ensuring coverage of all classes from Class 1 to Class 12.

COVID-19: Collation of best practices from countries.

The pandemic is global; its lessons are, too.

The experience of countries that have tamed this virus does provide hope and courage to the rest of the world. It is our firm belief that the Pandemic being global; its lessons are, too. In this section we want to see some of the best practices from other countries with regards to those practices that may be of great help in taking a strategic decision for education in Manipur.

WHO's advice to countries is to first, prepare and be ready; second, detect, protect and treat; third, reduce transmission; and fourth, innovate and learn. The message though is simple, i.e. practice social distancing and maintain proper hygiene. One of the emerging lessons being learnt is that albeit the older population is more vulnerable, the younger population is not invincible; with data showing people under 50 make up a significant proportion of patients requiring hospitalization. This observation of the WHO vis-a-vis the school students (both schools and higher education) who are mostly under their thirties is what is cautioning the education department to carefully handle the situation in Manipur.

South Korea:

- Alerts were being sent to all citizens through SMS's about the location of people tested positive.
- Disinfecting tunnels at workplaces which spray and disinfect people in less than twenty seconds.

(In Manipur too an alert system amongst the school head and department heads may be formed through sms or WhatsApp group. This may not be as sophisticated like what is practiced elsewhere but at least help in communication.

Disinfectant tunnels in schools has also been under consideration)

Spain:

- Enlisting of medical students to shore up the overburdened healthcare system. This includes residents undergoing postgraduate training, recently retired physicians and last-year medical students.

(Opinions from various quarters have suggested for volunteers in the field of education in Manipur as a stop gap arrangement to bridge the shortage of teachers)

Taiwan:

- The production of masks, hand sanitizer, and other items of medical significance were quickly controlled by the government or otherwise rationed. By acting as the sole buyer of products like medical masks and providing a daily allotment to Taiwanese citizens, all households are adequately prepared, panic purchases have been prevented, and a supply surplus now exists.
- Information Management: The government quickly created an app which provided immediate information to Taiwanese citizens about transmissions, areas to avoid, and best health practices, thereby effectively tracking the virus and alerting citizens of its spread.

(A similar type of such information management by the department may help parents, teachers and other stakeholders gain confidence to support the various initiatives of the department in the reopening of schools)

Australia:

- "Wash hands" written in the sky to remind people about the same.

(DO's and Don'ts may be pasted judiciously on the wall of the schools)

Departments Initiatives During the Pandemic

5.1 Development of e-content & role out as a medium of Learning

- a) Objective e-content is a form of learning material provides digital accessibility for learners enabling them to achieve related learning outcomes.
- b) Proposed activities: For developing lesson wise specific videos for all subjects:
 - i. Elementary Class I – VIII- 48 textbooks and 815 lessons by covering all subjects like Language, Maths, EVS / Science, Social Science etc.
 - ii. Secondary Class IX –X – 70 textbooks and 700 lessons covering all subjects.
 - iii. Higher Secondary class XI-XII – 92 textbooks and 1380 lessons covering all subjects.
2. The e-learning videos planned to be developed will be in subject-wise/chapter-wise mode with the objective to cover the whole content of the text book in concern. However, they will be particularly based on the corresponding learning outcomes and not on particular lesson content.
3. Lockdowns keep on extending and when will they end is not certain. Even if the lockdown days are over, the materials that may be developed would be living examples of a joyful learning. Where other Teaching Aids are not readily available, videos containing animated contents like that of plants, animals, cooking processes etc. will provide necessary audio-visualizations that will never fail to interest students by expelling mental boredom. These videos may, later on, be kept as repertory of TLMs for future students too.

E-learning for every subject of Classes I-XII: Why?

1. Importance of E-learning by school students has become more visible during the days of Corona virus. As witnessed everywhere round the globe, lockdowns imposed by the Government as measures to fight the pandemic have tremendously affected our lives in almost all spheres. School Education sectors across the nation have received big blows. In these hard times, when students are kept at bay from regular classes, e- learning has become one of the most practical solutions. In fact, it has become mandatory for the state students if they are to maintain the progress of their studies.
4. Dubbing of other videos available on other platforms or developed by other states may seem advisable. However, they may not be as useful as expected because contextual differences (in habits/ lifestyles/ culture etc.) may pose as hindrances to the children rather than enhancing their learning. A video developed in a social/ cultural context quite different from one's own may not

E-learning for CWSN

Objectives:

- Allows persons with disabilities for personal accomplishment.

- Effective method for improving student retention be in line with educational philosophy tells the learner exactly what to expect.
- A formalize teaching with the help of electronic resources enabling transfer of skills and knowledge.
- Delivery of education made to a large number of recipients at the same or different times.
- Irrespective of the geographical location, accessibly to best content and enables learner to become self-learners.
- Empowers learner to absorb personal accomplishment and ample to suit all learning methods to learn and implement among the learners as per the specific requirement of disability.
- E learning is effective and powerful it makes information easy to grasp and absorb.
- Audio visual method of teaching creates a disciplined learning environment fostering effective student engagement in the class.
- Learning can be acquired at the desired location
- Versatile and adaptable as per the needs of the specific disability.

Overall, e –learning gives the desired motivation to the learner with all its audio visual assistance and as such specific requirement as per the need of disability can be catered through it enabling both the knowledge imparter and the receiver with their own required space and time.

Lairik.net: Official Website for School Education.

Adaptation of e-platforms in the school education sector by the state Department of Education (S) has rather been late. The possibilities and opportunities that can be explored in using e-platforms for school education has been strongly felt these days. In this regard, a step forward has already been

taken up by the department. All trainings and workshops so far conducted in the last 2-3 years have been documented in either booklet or digital form for future reference and training purposes. Creation of an official website for the state education department becomes mandatory at this juncture. It is for this purpose that creation of an official website by the name www.lairik.net and development of mobile app has become necessary.

All over the world changes have taken place in the field of school education. Digital contents and digital learning have also become part and parcel of the system. They do facilitate teaching learning and reaches out to the unreached. Children never stop from learning – be in schools, in homes, in groups, through classrooms, teachers, friends, elders and now through electronic gadgets. This platform is created by the Department of Education (Schools) Government of Manipur with an objective to reach out to the unreached, improve the quality of classroom transactions, enhance learning levels of children, etc.

The contents are purely based on the syllabus of Board of Secondary Education, Manipur (BOSEM) and Council of Higher Secondary Education, Manipur (COHSEM). The contents are prepared by the Department with the help and co-operation of our dedicated and hardworking teachers, Officials and other private partners. These contents would be useful for self-learning of the entire course even without a guide to assist. Since children are aware of operating a mobile phone, surfing this website and watching the videos will not be a difficult task.

Self learning through these e-contents would keep children engaged and occupied in their academics and hence the concerns of many of the parent would be solved.

5.2 Radio class

All India Radio Educational Program:

Rationale:

Even though internet users in India are growing at a very rapid rate, radio is an effective means for delivery of education to large number of students. In many developing countries the use of radio for educating the masses has been in practice for a long time. It has become more significant because of the current situation of Covid 19 pandemic due to which the students are not able to attend their regular classes and is greatly dependent upon distance learning means.

Proposal: Musical based All India Radio Educational program for all subjects of class VI to XII.

Objective:

- Provide distance learning to the students of class VI to XII through radio broadcasting.
- the learner at the receiving end gets high quality education and low cost teaching.
- attempt to open up a medium in reaching out quality education to the needy students who do not have access to internet.

Implementing agency: Samagra Shiksha, Manipur in collaboration with All India Radio

Target Group: School students of class VI to XII.

Strategy:

The Radio broadcast will be curriculum oriented and will be based on syllabus recommended by the board of Education, Manipur and Council of higher secondary Manipur is taken into consideration while preparing the program for class VI to XII students. The scripting and proof reading of the materials is already underway. The medium of instruction will be done in Manipuri. The production of the program will be assigned to a recording studio. Each chapter of a subject will be covered by one episode of 15 mins

radio program. Question of the day which can be answered through messaging along with prizes will be arranged so that there is interaction with the students. In a day there will be two broadcast, one in the morning and another in the evening i.e. 30mins/day. These broadcasts will also be translated to two other main languages of Manipur, Tangkhul and Thadou-kuki and broadcasted in another time slot. For those students, who missed out the radio program, the same would be uploaded on YouTube where they can have access to it anytime where internet is available.

Expected outcome:

These syllabus based radio program will be of great help to the students of Manipur who are currently struggling to keep up with distance learning because of the Covid 19 crisis we all are facing today. Since 100% of the students does not have access to the internet these lessons broadcasted through radio will be able to reach the doors of each and every students.

5.3 e-textbooks

(a) E-Text Books:

Education scenario all across the globe has seen huge developments especially after the introduction of computers and internet. Many states across the country as well as NCERT have made great strides along this line. In our state Manipur, the textbooks for Classes I to XII are never made available in electronic platform in the past years. This has hindered in the following manner:

- a) Development of e-contents as study material by various stakeholders.
- b) Availability of textbooks at times of crisis like present pandemic COVID-19, noncompetition of printing of textbooks by the printing firms that happened in the past, etc.
- c) Provision for improvement of text-books – seeking comments from public.

d) Source of early printing of textbooks in the time to come and many more Looking into the above gap BSEM has decided to introduce the online availability of textbooks. The textbooks will be made available from the website www.bosembook.in as well through a mobile application “Bosem eBook” which can be downloaded from the Google Play store.

The web content will have new features and add-ons in the future:

- i. Year wise Instruction to examiners
- ii. Blue print
- iii. Teachers guide book
- iv. Scan copies of Answer scripts of HSLC Examination toppers and subject toppers.

5.4 Comic textbooks

Introduction:

Comic strips of Supandi, Shikari Shambu, Kalia in Tinkle Comic series, Tintin, Phantom, Amar Chitra Katha series are still fresh in our minds. Those stories with moral lessons have created an indelible mark and those characters and stories remain in our memories. Many of these series carry strips of storylines that had little linkages with the normal school curriculum.

The present day school curriculum calls for pedagogical tool that engages students, motivates them to read, helps them remember content, and makes the whole process a fun. It is in this perspective that Comic textbooks with interplay of words and images have the potential to go beyond the conventional textbook and meet the essences of such a tool.

Why introduce during Lockdown

- a. Comics are easy to read and understand. Moreover it is part of a joyful learning.
- b. Students can read them during the leisure at their home. This will help fill the gap of interrupted schooling.

c. Children can study them without the aid of teachers or even their parents.

Medium of Teaching-Learning:

Teaching-Learning takes place in a number of ways and textbooks are just one of the main medium. It is well known that peer learning, learning through play-way methods, learning through e-contents (video/audio, etc.), are normally used as alternative method of Teaching-Learning in schools.

The need for finding an effective alternative or supplementary medium of Teaching-Learning is highly required in the State in order to bridge the shortcomings in curriculum, quality of textbooks, shortages of teachers, etc. This was further necessitated after going through the competency scores of our students in Elementary Schools as depicted by the National Achievement Survey (NAS), 2017. Samagra Shiksha, Manipur erstwhile SSA has taken up an initiative of re-inventing the teaching-learning materials of students through introduction of a supplementary reading material(i.e. comic textbooks) which are based on the prescribed syllabi / text books of the state and also keeping in mind the Themes under NCF, 2005 and Learning Outcomes, 2017.



Why the project:

The reality of wide gaps between establishing a number of Primary Schools all across the state on the one hand and on the other hand availability of effective and quality classroom transactions along with availability of Teachers conversant in dialects of the Child

are undeniable. This will surely take time to merge the gap. It is under this perspective that the Comic textbooks for Primary Classes are thought of as a supplementary medium of Learning.

These Comic textbooks are intended to **Cultivate Love of Reading** and establish **Peer Learning** amongst Children and in the process the pictographic and illustrated concepts/ contents of the syllabi/curriculum are easily understood. In a way the self and peer Learning would take place making it more exploratory and joyful. The Comic Textbooks would also provide teaching-learning process taking with **lesser contents** and thereby reducing burden of weight.

The attempt is also targeted to reach out to the Churches and Mosque wherein there are regular congregations on Sundays or on Fridays respectively. These books can help in finding additional classroom transactions beyond the normal confines of the School. This would facilitate in solving the shortcoming of Primary Teachers conversant in various local dialects and would not inhibit for effective transmission of knowledge/learnings to the young and dynamic minds.

5.5 Notes and solutions

The Education Department (Schools) has also taken up the responsibility of preparing textual notes and solutions for Pre-primary to XII Primarily because of the fact that the reach of the educational videos is limited particularly to student groups residing in the remotest parts of the State mainly due to their being from the most financially deprived families and access to technology for them is still a distant dream. There is also the issue of poor net connectivity in most of the rural and hilly areas.

The prepared notes are being uploaded in the website of BSEM and www.lairik.net after proper review by an expert team. The task of preparation of Notes/ Summaries/ Solutions to the Questions commenced from 27th May, 2020. The department is hopeful that this

venture will help reduce a little bit of burden on our young students in this area. Apart from uploading in the dedicated websites, these notes and solutions so prepared will be distributed to all the schools students of all districts of Manipur through the ZEOs.

During the process nearly 150 numbers of teachers of various categories have been involved. For clarity and to facilitate early completion of the task assigned 7(seven) teams were formed each headed by a team leader. The notes and solutions so prepared were further reviewed by a separate group of teachers for bringing about a balanced work output.

5.6 School Syllabi

REDUCED SYLLABUS OF SCHOOL EDUCATION

Rationale:

Prevailing COVID-19 lockdown and closure of all institutions, most of the States/ UTs syllabus of schools and colleges are being reduced and our syllabus also needed to be reduced. SCERT has been advised to reduce syllabus for classes I to IX for the academic session 2020-21 by the State Government.

- Accordingly, SCERT has developed 2 (two) Sets of reduced syllabus, one for 60 Days and another is 90 Days, considering the expected availability of instructional days after re-opening of schools in the State.
- One set of the reduced syllabus may be adopted subject to feasibility and availability of instructional days in the post lockdown.

Process for reduced syllabus (course of study) for classes I to V and VI to IX to be studied after re-opening of schools in the Post COVID -19 Lockdown.

Basis of reduction and squeezing of Syllabus:

1. Learning Outcomes
2. Selection of important basic topics/ teaching points and Minimum Level of Learning

3. Selection of teaching points linkage with the successive classes.
4. Estimated/expected availability of instructional days in schools (60 days and 90 days)
 - As per the existing Curriculum and syllabus the instructional days are: 200 for (classes I to v) and 220 days for (classes VI to VIII) further, the instructional days are reduced.

The assessment and evaluation procedures will be:

- 60 Instructional Days: Total marks 50, (Formative test 20 marks, Summative test 30 marks).
- 90 Instructional Days: Total mark 100, (Formative test 40 marks, Summative test 60 marks)

Classes I to Classes V

No. of days available out of 200 instructional days	% of days available (approx.)	% of selected contents	% of reduced contents	Evaluation scheme
60 days	30%	44 %	56%	50 marks
90 days	45%	60%	40%	100 marks

Classes VI to IX

No. of days available out of 220 instructional days	% of days available (approx.)	% of selected contents	% of reduced contents	Evaluation scheme
60 days	30%	45%	55%	50 marks
90 days	40%	60%	40%	100 marks

5.7 Assessments and Examination

The academic session in Manipur is from mid-January to Mid-December. Hence by the time of outbreak of COVID-19 in India as well as the lockdown, new academic session has already started.

As for Examination, only for class XI and XII has been left. In this regards, Government has decided to promote all students appearing in class XI based on the internal assessment at the respective schools during the year.

In respect of class XII, the practical examination as well as the theory papers were affected by the lockdown. Accordingly the

schedules were deferred to 6-7 July, 2020 and examination for the theory papers have been completed accordingly. While the practical exams, it was based on internal assessment.

There are few schools under CBSE board including JNV and KVs. The academic session is govern as per the CBSE norms.

5.8 MDM activities during Covid-19 Pandemic

Due to Covid-19 Pandemic and the lockdown imposed by the Government and subsequent closure of schools from 12th March 2020 our children were the biggest sufferers. During the first and 2nd phase Lockdown

imposed till 2nd May 2020, to ensure that Mid Day Meal benefits reaches to the children, foodgrain/rice @ 3.5 Kg for Primary and 5 Kg for Upper Primary per children were distributed either directly to the Children or to Parents at the school premises by observing SOPs.

When the Lockdown further extended till 30th June 2020 by another 28 working days from 4th May to 30th June 2020 which were in fact treated as Summer Vacation, as instructed by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Govt. of India to provide MDM benefits for a total of 48 days. Subsequently,

foodgrain/rice @ 5 Kg for Primary and 7.5 Kg for Upper Primary per child were distributed to the children.

Since the start of the Lockdown due to Pandemic Covid-19 from the 13th March 2020 till 30th June 2020, rice @ 8.5 Kg for Primary and 12.5 Kg for Upper Primary were distributed to provide MDM benefits to the children. However, the entitled cooking cost for both Primary and Upper Primary children shall be released to the children through the ZEO concerned as and when the fund is released by the State Government.



Observations and Recommendations

6.1 Focus on preparedness prior to re-opening

Immediately the virus may not go away from the world and the likelihood for a vaccine/ medicine cannot be expected soon.

Re-opening of schools/colleges should be preceded by preparedness of the key stakeholders (students & teachers). For accomplishing it, a lot of sensitization programme is required. Some of the steps will be

1. Online teachers training (all institution including Private) through DIKSHA portal. Teachers can undertake the online training on the prerequisite exercises for safety measures specially in schools. E-certificate may be awarded to these teachers on successful completion of the online course. Schools may not be allowed to open if the teachers could not complete the said online exam.
2. Prior attendance of Teachers in the schools will be required which will help detect any lacuna in the safety measures prior to reopening. Moreover, it can boost the confidence of the students and teachers.
3. Teachers will undertake initiative for sensitizing students & Parents on Covid-19 & SOP compliance.

These initiative and action should lead to behavioral change to both teachers and the students.

6.2 Re-opening of Educational Institutions

After consideration of all the inputs, it is felt appropriate that the Department should take earnest steps to enable reopening of schools at the earliest time possible. However, as health and life are more important than classroom education, specific dates of reopening of schools of all classes cannot be recommended at this point of time.

After due consideration, the following recommendations are hereby made:-

- (i) Schools should be re-opened in a phased manner starting with Classes 10 & 12 after 15th August, 2020 so that students have atleast 100 working days. Re-opening of schools should be after ensuring all protocols are kept ready and people are properly sensitized.
- (ii) Next phase of re-opening can be for Classes 9 & 11 atleast after a week of re-opening for Classes 10 & 12.
- (iii) Classes 6-8 may follow in September, 2020.
- (iv) Classes 1-5 may be last to open subject to satisfactory results in the preceding phases.
- (v) At this stage, opening of boarding/ hostels is not recommended.
- (vi) For the academic session 2020-2021, School attendance should be made optional and students should be allowed to continue with online education. Students not attending classes and are learning

online exclusively should be treated at par with students attending classes in schools for all purposes including for appearing in examinations and getting promoted to the next higher classes.

(vii) Under the following circumstances, educational Institutes may be closed down after reopening-

- Where a school is located inside any containment zone notified by respective Deputy Commissioners.
- If any Covid-19 positive case is detected in the institute

(viii) The above recommendations can be put into effect only if the Quarantine Centers run in Schools/ Colleges were closed. Government may take up with appropriate authority to close the Quarantine Centers phase-wise in the same manner as

recommended for opening of schools. All such schools shall be completely sanitized and safety certified before handing over to Education Department or respective Heads of Schools for their re-opening.

6.3 Academic Calendar & Syllabi

The loss of classroom transactions is well known and the long closure of schools has affected the normal academic calendar. In any normal academic calendar a disruption by around 10-15% is manageable without affecting the course contents. Under certain extreme cases in the past in the State of Manipur, the academic calendar has been affected by 25-30% in few years but they have been more in a staggered manner due to social issues and public protests like ILP, etc. In the present lockdown, the closure is in a stretch and so far over 45% of the academic session has been already affected.

Sl.No.	Classes	Session	Working days (Approx)	Days lost/ (Affected %)
1	I-V	Mid Jan to Mid Dec	200-220	40%
2	VI-IX	-do-	200-220	40%
3	X	Mid Jan to Mid Dec (Exam- Feb/Mar)	200-220	40%
4	XI	July to January	150-165	24% (till 15 Aug)
5	XII	Last week of May to January	190-200	36% (till 15 Aug)

A large number of representations opined that there is a need to rationalize/ shorten the syllabus as well as to revise the academic calendar. This is necessitated as the possibility of completion of the course during the academic session is quite dim without a revision.

CBSE has reduced the syllabus by 30% for Classes 9-12 while ICSE has reduced the course contents for Classes 9-12 by 30%

The reduction in the course content has to be higher for schools affiliated to Manipur Boards, as session will have to end by December, 2020. While CBSE affiliated schools

may comply with instructions issued by CBSE.

Recommendation of SCERT should be placed for consideration of the Government at the earliest.

In case there is likelihood of delay in rationalization of syllabus for Classes 10-12 by SCERT, then BOSEM and COHSEM may immediately constitute an expert committee and finalise the revised contents.

Considering the above facts, the following are recommended:-

- Notification of revised academic calendar within July, 2020.

- b. Notification of revised & rationalize subject-wise syllabus for all classes.
- c. No minor subjects/extra subjects like Computer, GK, Moral Science books, etc. shall be prescribed during the academic session.
- d. Wherever possible, all holidays, except Sundays, may be notified as working day by the respective schools. For the Government Schools, separate order may be issued by Directorate of Education (S), after obtaining approval of the Government.
- e. None of the teaching staff should be utilized for any non-teaching activity.
- f. All leave of any kind except on Medical grounds (to be approved by a Competent Board) may be granted to Teaching staff for the academic session.
- g. Mandatory usage of online platform for facilitating Teaching-Learning. Government School teachers should ensure compulsory usage of “Lairik” app.

6.4 Examination

Assessment is a tool used to measure the quality and effectiveness of the teaching learning process in the educational system. Terminal Written Examinations, Internal Assessments, Home assignments, Practical, etc. are various methods of Assessments. Conventional pen-paper method is the most common form of examination/assessment method.

Under the prevailing protocols and SOPs due to COVID-19, a large number of the examinations are getting postponed fearing transmission of the virus. In case, the scenario remains for some time, then the methodology of conducting examination may have to change. The following are recommended for the academic session 2020-21:-

- a) Only mandatory examinations like those of Class 10 & 12 may be conducted Board & Council may need to upgrade question

nature based on updated curriculum and progress of teachers of teaching learning in the year.

- b) For other classes, assessments may be done and grades awarded on home assignments. Internal assessments may continue.
- c) Decision for promoting students without examination can be taken towards the end of the academic session based on learning progress at that point of time.
- d) Changing the question pattern for assessment to home assignments, MCQ or Open book exams under extreme circumstances.

6.5 Admission to Educational Institutions

1. When the lockdown started in Mid of March, 2020 the academic session for the Schools in Manipur were already on except for CBSE Schools and admission to Class XI.
2. Over a period of few months during the lockdown, a large number of student studying outside the state have returned and they might want to continue their study/schooling in the state. Though all returnees may not seek for admission within the State, some of them will definitely do so. Therefore the student returnees should be given an option and opportunity to continue their studies/schooling in the state.
3. In order to make these possible, schools shouldn't close their admission process for some more time and sufficient provision for admission of CBSE school students and students studying in other boards should be kept in Government and Private Schools as results are yet to be declared for these boards. Overall intake capacity of schools may need to be increased.
4. Further, Admission should be done online as far as possible.
5. Where physical presence of students &

parents is needed, proper protocols should be maintained.

6. Fee/minimal admission fees by way of dropping charges for Library, Sports etc. and considering Social/Economic Categories like BPL/ OBC/SC/ST etc.

6.6 Holidays & Vacations

Government has already approved cancellation of Summer Vacations for 2020-2021 Academic Session. Winter Vacation and some other holidays may also be cancelled except Sundays and holidays of significance.

Number of school working days from the month of August 2020 onwards

Sl. No	Month	Total days	Vacation Days	Holiday Sunday	Other Holidays	Working Days	Remarks
1	Aug	31	0	5	7	19 (+3)	1- Idul Jhuha, 3-Jhulon Loiba 12- Janma Asthami, 13-Patriots Day, 15- Independence Day, 26-Radha Asthami, 29- Heigru Hidongba.
2	Sept	30	0	4	3	23 (+2)	3-Tarpon Houba, 17- Tarpon Loiba, 30- Irawat Day
3	Oct	31	0	4	6	21 (+4)	2-Gandhi Jayanti, 17-Mera Chaoren Houba, 24-Durga Asthami, 26- Kwak Jatra, 30- Milad-U-Nabi, 31-Mera Houchongba
4	Nov	30	6	4	2	18 (+7)	16-Govardhan Puja, 17-Ningol Chakouba, 23-28- Harvesting Holiday
5	Dec	31	15	2	1	13 (+11)	12- Nupi Lal, 17-31- Winter Vacation 25- Christmas
6	Jan' 21	31	13	2	3	13 (+11)	1-13- Winter Vacation, 21-Statehood Day, 26- Emoinu Numit, 27- Gan Ngai
7	Feb' 21	28	0	4	2	22	15-Luigaini, 17- Death Anniversary of Rani Gaidinliu
TOTAL		212	34	25	24	129	

From the above table it is known that even if the Holidays are reduced, during these period and effective working days of ... to ... days can be available after the re-opening of schools during the academic session 2020-21.

August, 2020 to December, 2020
- 94 days (+ 27 days)

16th August to December, 2020
- 89 days (+ 26 days)

September to December, 2020
- 75 days (+ 24 days)

Additional days can be explored in January for class X (for 20 days)

Additional days can be explored in January & February for Class XI-XII (45 days)

6.7 Human Resources (esp. Teachers)

Shortage of teachers is mostly found in Government Schools. The shortage of teachers is specific to certain areas of the state (Hill Districts and Outlying areas like Jiribam, Kumbi and Wangoo areas). Rationalization of distribution of teachers based on student enrolment is required.

To make up for this shortage in the short term, local volunteers DIET/B.Ed. trainees may be invited to teach in Government Schools as unpaid internship or on payment of nominal remuneration. Internship Certificates may be awarded at the end of the term and this certificate may be made to have some weightage at the time of applying for teaching job with the Government.

“Teach for Manipur”- on the lines of “Teach for India Fellowship” may be instituted to tap young talents of the State who are willing to serve the State on payment of reasonable stipend.

6.8 Non-engagement of teachers in non-teaching activities

Government School Teachers have been utilized for several non-teaching activities such as census enumeration from time to

time, which coincidentally falls in 2021, and for electoral roll related activities every year.

Considering the huge number of lost academic days and the reduced number of school days in which to make up for the loss, Government may take up with appropriate authority so that teachers are not utilized for such activities at least for Academic Session 2020-2021.

6.9 Modality of classroom transaction on reopening

Returning to normal classes in the way it was before the lockdown cannot be thought of at this point of time. While assessing the classroom transactions, it is clear that a large number of students are usually concentrated in most classrooms.

- (i) Continuation of fully online classes
- (ii) Blended teaching combining online teaching and physical interaction once in a week.
- (iii) Conventional Classroom teaching (integrating classrooms with e-learning modes to build a unified learning system).

In order to avoid crowding of students in the school as well as in the classrooms on re-opening of schools, the following measures are suggested:

- a. Number of students per class is required to be reduced by bifurcating a class into sections.
- b. Schools having high enrolment may split the sections or into shifts
- c. Conduct classes in open space using PA system or loudspeaker wherever possible.
- d. Shift-wise (morning and afternoon shifts) with appropriate break in between to reduce intermingling of students and teachers of the two shifts
- e. All SOPs/Protocols to be observed.
- f. No school assemblies, No canteen, No Games and Sports.

- g. Libraries shall be only for issuance & return of books
- h. No Practical classes in the initial month/ 1 month of re-opening.
- i. School van services should not be made operational until Govt. issues order in this regard.

6.10 Preparatory grounds ahead of re-opening and on opening of schools

The following preparatory exercise need to be taken up before re-opening of schools:-

- (i) Schools should conduct awareness and training about behavioral changes.
- (ii) A week / a few days before reopening of schools, teachers may be allowed to attend schools to prepare the schools logistically and to prepare themselves for the new ways of teaching post Covid in consultation with each other.
- (iii) Quarantine Centers should be sanitized and Safety Certified.
- (iv) Come up with proper SOP to be followed in the schools after reopening.
- (v) Training of teachers through online DIKSHA portal on SOP and measures to be followed. Psychological preparation of parents and students. Teachers may send out letters/ SMS / Whatsapp message or interact online with them on the days leading up to reopening of schools. Parents/Teachers/ Community should interact frequently to assess the situation and to work on improving the system followed in the school.

- (vi) Flexible attendance of students should be allowed.
- (vii) Students shall be encouraged to clean the school premises themselves every week.
- (viii) Hand washing or use of Hand Sanitizers should be compulsory
- (ix) Games and Sports and large functions involving large gathering of students should not be allowed.
- (x) Wearing of masks should be made compulsory

6.11 Infrastructure

Most of the Government Schools have many infrastructural shortcomings that need to be filled up in the long run. However, given the prevailing circumstances of the pandemic, certain urgent infrastructural requirements need to be arranged before reopening of schools. They are:-

- (i) Adequate number of toilets
- (ii) Water for hand-washing and toilets
- (iii) Soap and Towel
- (iv) Extra masks to be kept in stock in the schools
- (v) Additional furniture requirement for maintaining physical distance amongst students
- (vi) Smart Board/ television sets for providing digital learning
- (vii) Waste disposal facilities
- (viii) Thermometer/ Thermal Scanners
- (ix) Internet connectivity in schools
- (x) Improving IT infrastructure.

DO's		DON'Ts	
	Practice frequent hand washing. Wash hands with soap and water or use alcohol based hand rub. Wash hands even if they are visibly clean.		Have a close contact with anyone. If you're experiencing cough and fever.
	Cover your nose and mouth with handkerchief/tissue while sneezing and coughing.		Touch your eyes, nose and mouth.
	Throw used tissues into closed bins immediately after use.		Spit in public
	See a doctor if you feel unwell (fever, difficult breathing and cough). While visiting doctor wear a mask/cloth to cover your mouth and nose.		Participate in large gatherings
	If you have signs/symptoms please call state helpline number or Ministry of Health & Family Welfare's 24X7 helpline at 011-23978046		



**Directorate of Education (Schools), Manipur
& Samagra Shiksha, Manipur**