INTRODUCTION
It has been almost two years since varying degrees of lockdowns were implemented across the world to curb the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. While several sectors of the economy have resumed business as usual, the impact on education has been highly detrimental due to the indefinite nature of school closures. Digital platforms and online classes have helped to fill in the void left by the absence of classroom teaching, yet the limited access of internet in many parts of the world including rural India has proved to be a challenge to consistent education delivery. As schools reopen after the third wave of COVID-19 in February 2022, it is high time to take stock of the detrimental impact of the pandemic on India’s Education Ecosystem.

The All India Disaster Mitigation Institute (AIDMI) is organizing a virtual roundtable titled ‘Impact of COVID-19 on Education’ on May 11, 2022 at 03:00 pm (IST) to highlight the adverse impacts of the pandemic on the education sector in India and beyond. It is estimated that, the COVID-19 pandemic has battered education systems around the world, affecting close to 90 per cent of the world’s student population. Similarly, over 1.5 million schools closed down due to the pandemic in India, affecting 286 million children from pre-primary to secondary levels. This adds to the 6 million girls and boys who were already out of school prior to COVID-19. This disruption in education has severe economic implications too. A World Bank report, ‘Beaten or Broken: Informality and COVID-19 in South Asia’, has quantified the impact of school closures in monetary terms-India is estimated to lose $440 billion (Rs 32.3 lakh crore) in possible future earnings.

This roundtable will discuss the implications of the disruptions caused by the school closures along with several opportunities offered by this situation.

OBJECTIVE
The objectives of the roundtable are:

- To highlight the various disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and its concomitant lockdowns on the delivery of education in India and beyond.
- To discuss the various opportunities for innovation such as online education, remote education, specializations, etc. offered by the pandemic.
- To discuss a way ahead to protect the education sector and students from the detrimental impacts of the pandemic.

Agenda
03:00-03:05  Welcoming Participants and Experts; Sharing Objectives of the Roundtable by Mr. Kshitij Gupta, AIDMI, India
03:05-03:20  Keynote Address on Higher Education and COVID-19 by Dr. Shweta Sinha, Thammasat University, Thailand
03:20-03:35  Impact and Opportunities for Higher Education due to COVID-19 by Mr. Trinh Trong Nghia, Plan International, Thailand
03:35-03:50  Question and Answer by All
03:50-04:00  Conclusion and Way Ahead by Mr. Mihir R. Bhatt, AIDMI, India

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