

# Review of: "Challenges of Educational Support for Students with Disabilities during Covid-19 Pandemic"

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**Potential competing interests:** No potential competing interests to declare.

Dear Mahmoud,

Thank you for posting this interesting article in which you looked at challenges to education of persons with disabilities during the Covid-19 pandemic. This is an important topic, as you point out that people with disabilities face certain challenges during normal times; and these challenges have likely been more pronounced during the pandemic. It is indeed important to analyze what happened in order to be more prepared next time around.

I have read your work carefully and offer some suggestions below. I hope these will be helpful.

## General points

For an academic audience, your writing style is sometimes a little casual which might lead to a lack of precision. I would suggest two things: First, you could use a more academic style when writing. This means, try to use the correct terminology and use it consistently. For example, at times you refer to Covid-19 as epidemic. Covid-19 is a pandemic and I suggest you stick to it. Second, to improve the overall readability of your work, you could get someone to proofread your work. Some sentences seem incomplete or grammatically incorrect which makes them harder to understand. If you find it hard to get someone to proofread, you could ask ChatGPT to help you. To be clear, I am not suggesting to use ChatGPT to generate any text for you; I am suggesting to put your work into ChatGPT and ask it to proofread. You would still need to look through the resultant text to check whether things are accurate.

## Introduction

I suggest you focus a little more on the context of your work. You initially describe how Covid-19 might have impacted education in general and then you look at persons with disabilities. To me, what is unclear is, how was the situation in the context of your setting; in India. Relatedly, I suggest you zoom in on the students you are looking at specifically. Are we talking about primary school or tertiary education students?

Related to the point above, a more thorough literature review could be conducted. Currently, your arguments are a little loose at times which might indicate that literature gaps exist.

I suggest to be careful with great generalizations. For example, you say that no institution was ready to adopt online learning during Covid-19. That is a very superficial statement as it is not clear what you mean by the lack of readiness?

Also, readiness was surely variable. Some institutions might have been more ready than others. We looked at university educators in Singapore and found that some teachers were more ready than other, but also that the change triggered reflection about current practices. For some, Covid-19 and the move to eLearning was seen as an opportunity to also improve accessibility/inclusiveness (e.g., producing videos that could be watched anytime and anywhere). Feel free to have a look [here](#).

Please include clear objectives of your work. After reading your introduction, I was not sure what your exact goals were with the study. It is very hard to judge your methods and results if people do not understand what you tried to achieve.

## Methods

Conducting an interview study is a good idea to really delve into the different perspectives and experiences of people involved. But, I must admit, that your methods are not very solid; and I do not see much scientific rigor.

Your methods (at least what I understand from your paper) need some serious thought. There are some key aspects that need attention:

1. Ethics approval and consent procedures?
2. How did you recruit participants? And what were the eligibility criteria.
3. How was data collection carried out on the ground?
4. How did you analyse the transcripts?

Have a look at these [standards for reporting of qualitative work](#).

From your methods, it seems that you interviewed a set of people from various countries. But, the context in each country will be vastly different. As such, I am not sure what kind of conclusions we can draw from your work. Initially, I thought you wanted to focus on India, but that seems not the case. This makes me question the value of your work.

## Results and Discussion

As the methods seem to be inappropriate, it is very difficult for me to say much about the results. For example, you initially highlight some lack in training and government support. But, in which context is that so? In India, Nigeria..Germany?

I suggest you highlight the different themes that you uncovered and then present quotes that are related to these themes.