



ORIGINAL RESEARCH PAPER

Management

A STUDY ON THE IMPACT OF ONLINE EDUCATION DURING COVID-19

KEY WORDS: online learning, internet access and financial considerations

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study is to investigate the learners' perception on online learning in the midst of a COVID-19 pandemic. I have applied qualitative method to do this research. The study showed that the learners' perception on online learning is resourceful and a saving grace in the midst of COVID-19 pandemic. This study not only reports on the benefits of online learning but it also sheds a light on a few issues such as the availability of internet access, financial considerations and online learning implementation.

INTRODUCTION:

The world's main resource is its people. Man is bestowed with bountiful resources for his survival on Planet Earth. His sense of curiosity and inquisitiveness has led to inventions, discovery and creativity. With the advancement of technology, one can evidently state that there is a drastic change in the present when compared to the past. Everyday some new invention updates the previous, thus bringing forth change and this change has led to the implementation of online education.

Covid-19 has forced universities across India and the world indeed, to suspend physical classrooms and shift to online classes. In India, while this transition has been smooth for most private universities, the public ones are still adapting. There have also been debates on the nature of classes and the future of examination and evaluation— whether they could be conducted online or not.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM:

While faculty grapple with new ways of managing this sudden transition to online education, students are left clinging on to their mobile phones and computer screens. If the lockdowns were to continue for some time, how would higher education be affected? What are some of the deeper issues that require introspection? And what does this mean for the students going forward?

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

India being a developing nation concentrates on improving the infrastructure for millions. Due to an increased rate in technological advancements, the central and state governments have adopted the online education system and this study helps to identify the major challenges faced by the faculty and students, thus suggesting ways to improve the quality of online education. The state government provides free laptops to the students who complete their education in government schools. This study helps to analyse and identify the major factors that affect faculty and students satisfaction towards online education.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

- To evaluate the students' opinion towards online education.
- To analyse the problems faced by the faculty conducting and students attending online classes.
- To measure the effectiveness of online study.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research methodology is a systematic plan for doing research. It gives an idea about the various steps adopted by the researcher in a systematic manner.

RESEARCH DESIGN

A research design is purely a framework for a project that

guides the collection and analysis of data. It is a blue print for the dissertation.

Descriptive research was used to describe the characteristics of a population or phenomenon being studied and hereby aims in understanding the attitude of faculty and students' perspective towards online education and its impact.

SAMPLING

• **Sampling Size**

Sample size is a count of individual samples or observations in any statistical setting, such as a scientific experiment or a public opinion survey. The sampling size is 260 respondents which consist of both faculty and students of various colleges in Tamilnadu.

• **Sampling Procedure**

The researcher must decide the type of sample he will use i.e. researcher must decide about the technique to be used in selecting the items for the samples. For my research I have chosen simple random sampling method.

• **Period of the study**

The time of carrying out this study on the topic "A STUDY ON THE IMPACT OF ONLINE EDUCATION DURING COVID-19" took a period of two weeks.

• **Area of the study**

The area of my study was confined to faculty and students studying in various Universities/ colleges of different localities within the state of Tamilnadu.

DATA COLLECTION

The data required for this project was collected from primary and secondary sources.

• **Primary Data:**

A primary data source is an original data source, that is, one in which the data are collected firsthand by the researcher for a specific research purpose or project. The primary data was collected by way of distribution of questionnaires through an online mode using Google forms. In order to process the data we have used Statistical Package of Social Science (SPSS). The MS-Excel was also used to make manual calculations and MS-word used for documentation.

• **Secondary Data:**

Secondary data means data that is already available. Secondary data may either be published data or unpublished data. The secondary data was taken referring journals, magazines, books, newspapers and the internet.

STATISTICAL TOOLS USED:

- Chi-Square analysis
- Ranking

LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY:

1. The online education system is a new venture adopted in India and thus lack of knowledge about it is a major drawback.
2. A detailed study was not possible due to shortage of time and thus my study was limited to only a few major aspects.
3. Since sample size used for my study is 300, it need not necessarily represent the population at large.

There square measure newer establishments that have tackled on-line education in their own ways that. Takshashila establishment, a think-tank and college of public policy, has offered on-line education since 2011. With over three,500 alumni, its courses run on-line on associate integrated learning management system, with live webinars, recorded videos, and phone workshops.

FINDINGS

- It found that, 96.5% of the respondents are conducting/attending online classes and 3.5% are not. So it shows positive future of e-learning mode among students as well faculty.
- The calculated value (0.020) is greater than the allowed level of significance i.e., 0.05; hence alternative hypotheses is rejected and null hypothesis is accepted. So there is no significant relationship between partial introduction of e-learning in higher education and attending/conducting online classes. In this COVID-19 pandemic E-learning naturally influencing the higher education system without any partial introduction of it.
- From the collected samples, 34.5% prefer to use Laptop, 62.1% prefer to use mobile phone and 3.1% prefer to use tablets. So it strongly insist students and faculty mostly prefer mobile phones to e-learning.
- This study shows, 84.2% prefer to use Google Meet, 0.8.% prefer to use Microsoft teams, 1.2% prefer to use WebEx Cisco, 6.2.% prefer to use Whatsapp, 0.4% prefer to use YouTube and 7.3% prefer to use Zoom App. This shows students and faculty feels Google Meet would be a most appropriate platform to their e-learning.
- This study indicates that, 71 of them got 100% satisfaction, 145 of them got 70% satisfaction, 32 of them got 40% satisfaction, 12 of them got 20% satisfaction in attending/conducting online classes. This shows students and faculty mostly satisfied with online classes and showing upward trends in e-learning.
- In collected data, 33.8% of them felt online class stress them than traditional methods of learning and 32.7% of them accepted the change factors in learning environment. Though 4.2% respondents felt that this online learning modes create new exposures than stress factors in it. This shows gradual level of acceptance of e-learning and also stimulates to make online learning mode as much as simple and understandable, which may leads to low stress.
- This study shows that, 80.4% of them accessing 1-3 hours, 10% of them accessing less than 1 hour, 6.5% of them accessing 3-5 hours and 3.1% of them accessing more than 5 hours e-learning platforms. So it shows people preferring 2-3 hours to access e-learning modes which is also comparatively less to the traditional learning system.
- It explains, 17.7% of them facing challenges in grasping the subject knowledge, 63.15% of the struggling with internet connectivity, 6.2% of them feels boredom and less creative, 5.4% of them feels Security Issues With Application /Website and 7.7% of them feels Time Constraint issues. Hereby it shows the major issue associate with e-learning modes can be connectivity issues which cannot be controlled.
- It found that, the preposition of impacts on online mode of learning. This ranks, study from any location is what i am enjoying, because this gives students and faculty to explore their learning interests wherever they like to be. This is entirely differs from the traditional mode of

learning i.e, place restrictions, timings and stipulated educational system. So this online mode of learning attracts the learners.

SUGGESTIONS

- Faculty and students need to use their mobile phones, laptops, etc. for online classes and thus internet connectivity at lower cost must be provided.
- To enhance and inculcate the reading habit, a good collection of books, magazines, etc. can be provided online.
- Internet facilities can be improved by providing better and faster accessibility and strengthen the signals.
- Free Wi-Fi connectivity can be provided to faculty and students.
- Channels related to the student's subjects can be telecasted on the TV.
- Appropriate training for faculty and students is mandatory.
- Training methods must be updated frequently as there is continuous updating in advancement of technology.
- Students below poverty line must be recognized and an alternative must be provided.
- Education system must not get diluted because of online study.
- Students tend to get distracted easily and thus online content must be streamlined.
- Graphic (unwanted) content must be eradicated completely from the websites in India to resolve to a better India.

CONCLUSION

The online education system is a boon for the faculty and students as it is the best mode of education during the current period of the Covid-19 pandemic. Online education has come to the rescue of faculty, children and young scholars. Education of scholars and college students can be continued instead of being brought to an abrupt stop. Online Education is good for those who have difficulty travelling and to those residing in remote locations/ containment zones. For those who do not have the support from their immediate family for their education can opt for online methods. (Eg - women or young girls who are denied education) It is a good avenue for those who have full time jobs. They can earn degrees or certifications by studying at their own pace. Thus Online Education has come as a blessing in disguise during this pandemic crisis which is indeed a win-win situation for all.

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