

A Conceptual Analysis on How COVID-19 Has an Adverse Effect on Online Education towards College Students in the Indian Scenario

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ABSTRACT

As we continue living in the 21st century there are extreme changes which are taking place in our country which has been evolved and molded in such a manner there has been quick changes which are experienced in our learning system where education institutes were closed to aide covid-19 virus disease where the government has been encouraging online education to achieve academic and to set the theoretical continuity. Most high ended public and private institutions have replaced classroom-based education smoothly by using online platforms such as zoom, google meet, Microsoft team, google classroom etc. This study is based on the problems faced by students and educators as a result of online education. It studies whether online education is a boon or a bane. It highlights the good, bad, ugly faces of online education and its impact and consequences on the students. It also shows whether online education will exist in the long run-in future or whether the traditional method of learning in classroom will continue or not. This is a qualitative study focused on the students in the age group of 16 to 35 years and the data will be collected through primary and secondary sources.

KEYWORDS: Online education, college students, India, Covid-19, Online learning, Pros and Cons

INTRODUCTION:

Every day and every second of our life seem to be a mystery these days. The world is in utter confusion of the outbreak of covid 19. As the pandemic which has been spreading has been emerging over the whole world and has compelled the human society to maintain a social distance. It has created a great havoc and chaos in the educational sector, which has been vital and has an adverse effect on the country's economy. After observing the pandemic scenario, the government started taking action such as separating the contaminated areas and people. Due to this educational institutes were closed down, examinations and the entrance exam for various competitive exams were cancelled and this had a negative impact on the student's academic performance. So due to this rigorous classroom was transformed to the new era of digital teaching model. Online education allows students to learn something beyond the norms. A learner has unlimited access to resources as well as global experts will help the students to learn the academic subjects. Online learning programs have a wide range of groups of learners and the learners can learn at their own pace and without inhibition and without compromising with their other responsibilities. So online education is in utmost need in this pandemic-crises and the students are forced to adapt to these changes In-spite of such benefits of online learning yet there are several challenges involved such as

power cut, lack of proper internet facilities, teachers are newly exposed to these digital technologies and hence to give an effective learning and convey that process to students successfully is a very difficult task. Along with these issues there are a lot of interruptions and hindrances where student learning is not feasible as there is no choice as we need to bear with this setup. The study focuses and demonstrates that digital learning is just a temporary phase and setup majorly for this crisis in India. The chances of online learning to sustain in the long run even after the end of the pandemic is very less and as a result there are greater chances of shifting back to the traditional classroom learning model.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To study the positive and negative impact of online education on students.
2. To study the challenges and barriers faced by both teachers and students due to online education.
3. To study the physical, psychological and mental effects suffered by students as a result of online education.
4. To study the future preference of both students and teachers with regard to whether online education needs to be implemented or not.

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REVIEW OF LITERATURE

(Prashant Kumar, 2020) suggested that initially learning methodology was traditional classroom learning with face-to-face interactions where the lectures were conducted. But due to the pandemic crisis they had to shift to digital learning. Initially the teachers were reluctant but with no choice they got adjusted and adapted to online learning.

(Prashanth & Sarita, 2020) suggested the good, bad and ugly faces of online education in India. In-spite of online education providing access to several topics and programs in various subjects to almost all the students yet creating online content and conveying it effectively online to students is a challenging thing. Also, poor internet connectivity, lack of affordability to buy devices and interrupted power supply are major reasons for which online teaching cannot be applied effectively.

(Yeshi & Dorjee, 2020) suggested that educational institutions play a wide role in boosting the country’s economy. As a result of the pandemic the educational institution has to shift to online mode of teaching. Online mode of teaching involved several challenges like limited student feedback, social isolation, increased malpractice in exams and tests and so on.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The data for the study was being collected from both primary and secondary sources. Primary data has been collected through survey methods by issuing questionnaires and conducting interviews from students and the educators of various age groups and their responses were being recorded. Secondary sources included reports, journals, articles etc. The method of research employed in this study is qualitative and descriptive in nature. A total of 60 respondents were being considered for this study.

FINDINGS

Table 1.1 Table showing the demographic profile of the respondents:

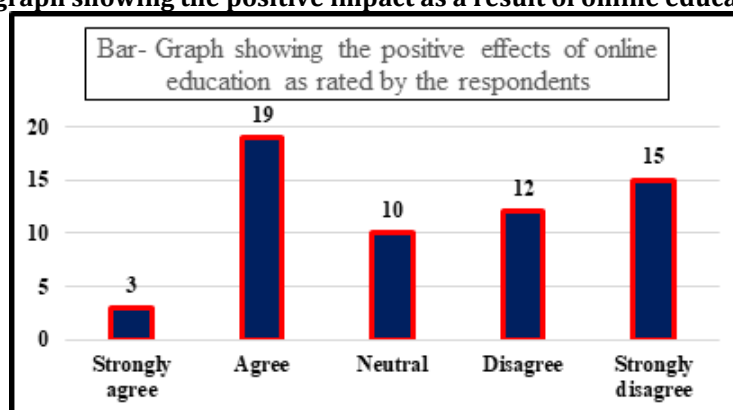
Age (in years)	Male	Female
16-20	10	10
20-25	05	15
25-35	12	08
Total	27	33

The questionnaire through which survey was being conducted is shown below:

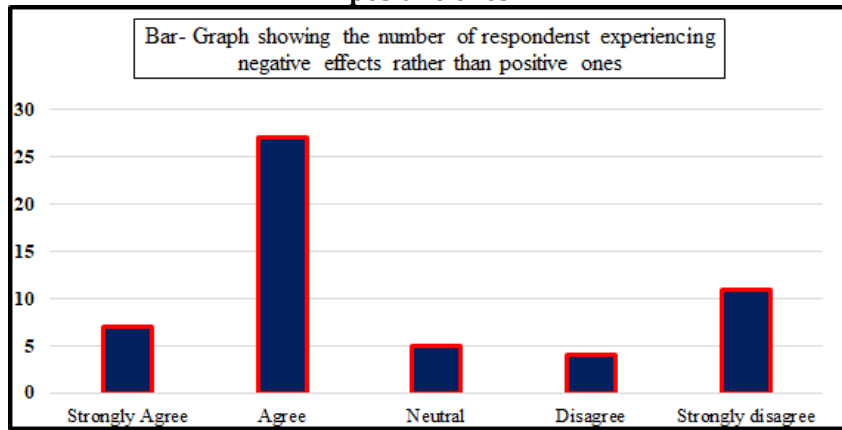
1) Online Education had a positive impact on the students: ➤ Strongly agree ➤ Agree ➤ Neutral ➤ Disagree ➤ Strongly disagree
2) Online education had more positive effects than the negative one ➤ Strongly Agree ➤ Agree ➤ Neutral ➤ Disagree ➤ Strongly Disagree
3) What are the challenges and barriers you faced as a result of online education (Tick all those applicable) ➤ a) Technical Issues b) Lack of Motivation c) Too Much distraction d) Lack of Communication e) Lack of Time Management f) Lack of face-to-face interaction g) Lack of feedback h) Lack of effective teaching
4) Are you experiencing physical and mental health effects as a result on online education? ➤ Yes ➤ No
5) Select your future preference with regard to education from the list below: ➤ Classroom based Learning ➤ Online Learning ➤ Blended Learning

The results obtained through the questionnaire are being presented in charts and graphs as shown below:

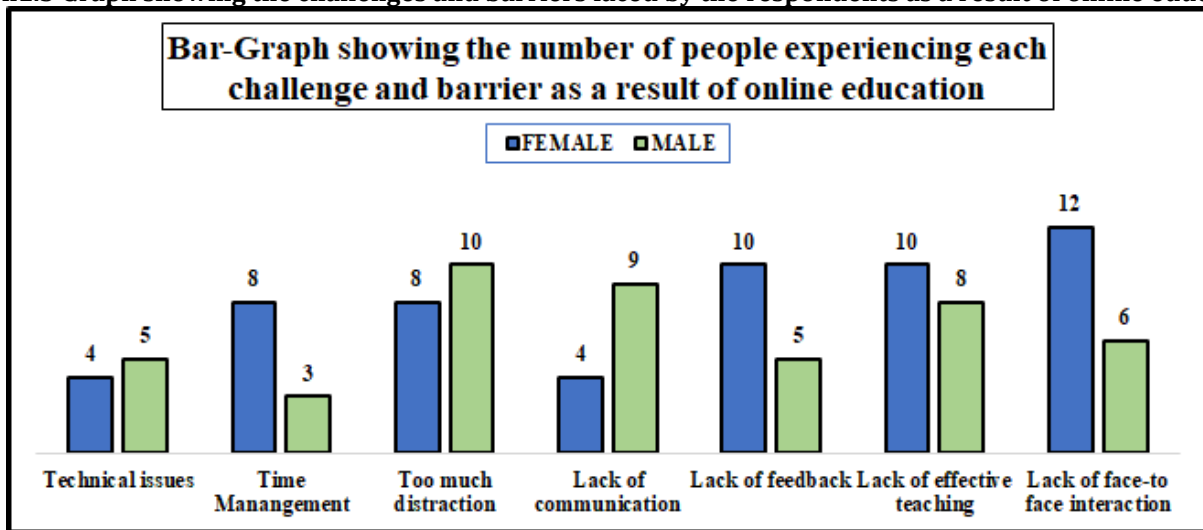
Graph 1.1 Bar graph showing the positive impact as a result of online education on students



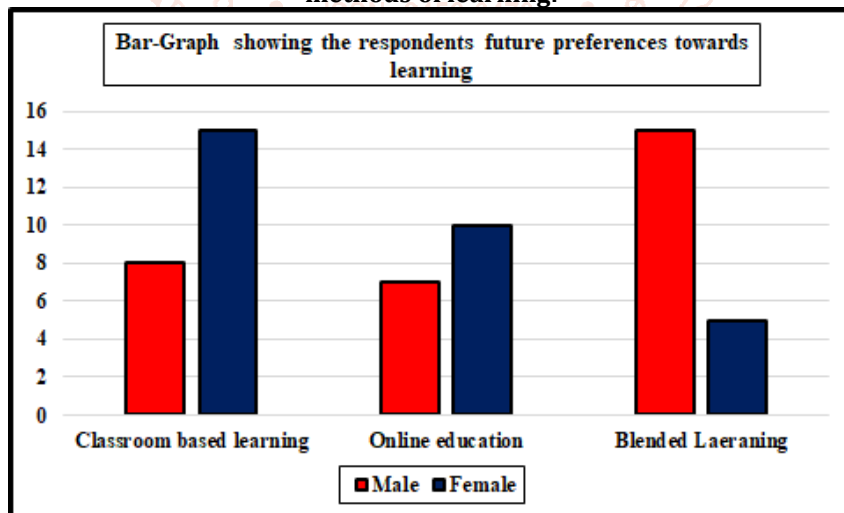
Graph 1.2 Bar graph showing the number of respondents experiencing negative effects of online education over positive ones



Graph 1.3 Graph showing the challenges and barriers faced by the respondents as a result of online education



Graph 1.4 Bar-Graph showing the future preferences of the respondents towards online learning vs other methods of learning:



The following review questions were being asked and the responses were being recorded as shown below:

1. What were the positive and negative aspects benefitted as a result of online learning?

A. The opinions received are stated in the table below:

Positive Aspects	Negative Aspects
Easy and Convenient	Inability to focus on screen for longer durations
Flexibility and Efficiency	Too much distraction
Affordable	Technical issues
Easy access to time and place	Lack of face- to- face interaction and communication challenges
Improved student attendance	Social Isolation
Easy access to tutor to clarify doubts	Diminished focus and productivity

2. What are the threats and hurdles faced by you as a result of online education?
- A. The threats and hurdles faced by the respondents were as follows:
 1. Inability to focus on screen.
 2. Too many distractions.
 3. Technical issues and communication challenges.
 4. Lack of face-to face interaction.
 5. Social Isolation.
 6. Lack of adequate skills and knowledge with regard to teachers.
3. What are the physical and mental health effects suffered by you as a result of online education?

The various physical and mental health effects suffered by respondents were as follows:

- Unable to complete task on deadline cause anxiety
- Fatigue and Headache
- Lack of energy and procrastination
- Lack of time management
- Boredom and lack of energy
- Low morale and self- confidence
- Strenuous of screen sitting for long time which may cause eye strain
- Lack of enthusiasm
- Poor perception
- Lack of concentration and understanding
- Low cognition and reasoning ability

4. What would be the preference of learning and is this online learning effective and does it survive on the long run?
- A. The responses were that initially teachers and students were reluctant to use this they feel only due to this crisis they are adapting but usually they would prefer blended learning in an offline classroom setup.

SUGGESTIONS:

1. A teacher should be a mentor and guide and help students give a short-term goal related to their online curriculum and be praised and rewarded.
2. A peer buddy should be given and that buddy should be knowledgeable so that the peer buddy can guide the assigned students
3. The teachers must make sure the students are familiarized with each other, keep students limited and for more student batches can be made of smaller size students as it's easier.
4. The teachers should inculcate discussions quizzes etc. to make the students motivated to learning
5. As in online platforms the teachers must have the hosting rights while teaching no distractions as they can mute everybody and remove the mute option at the end for queries so the focus and understanding of the student increases.
6. The teachers should pick a few students to give role play and demonstrations to make the concept easier.
7. There should be practical application and hands-on project should be given to the students such as making a case study journal reading etc.
8. Group discussions and a debate of five minutes of understanding the concept small summary by student will not lead to social isolation the teacher must be trained or kept one more person as a counsellor for students to solve issues of mental stress related issue due to pandemic

CONCLUSION

From this study we can conclude that by saying that a majority of people in India feel that they are not happy with this online set up but there is no choice. But this set up gives

independence and freedom and there is no schedule and it's up to students choice of attending the class or not as the teacher has no control and there is too much gap between the student and the teacher that the perception and the nonverbal cues and their attitudes is less noticed and seen and the exams conducted can be manipulated and cheating and temperament and examining is difficult and the quality of online sessions is very poor so youth and educators feel online learning is inadequate method and they don't want to continue in the future long run. Yes, technologies is upgrading and resources got online is so much but that should be utilized as a reference model and for additional usage but in the future should it should persist and come back to traditional classroom were blended learning can be used and make it as interesting and fun and we feel that what offline classroom gives the students a different environment that online set- up cannot be matched .So for a full time university using online setup won't stay in long run as it is not feasible from teachers and from student point of view.

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