

A Study to Assess the Perception Regarding Online Education among Nursing Students at Selected Nursing College, Thrissur

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ABSTRACT

“Online learning is not the next big thing, it is the now big thing”

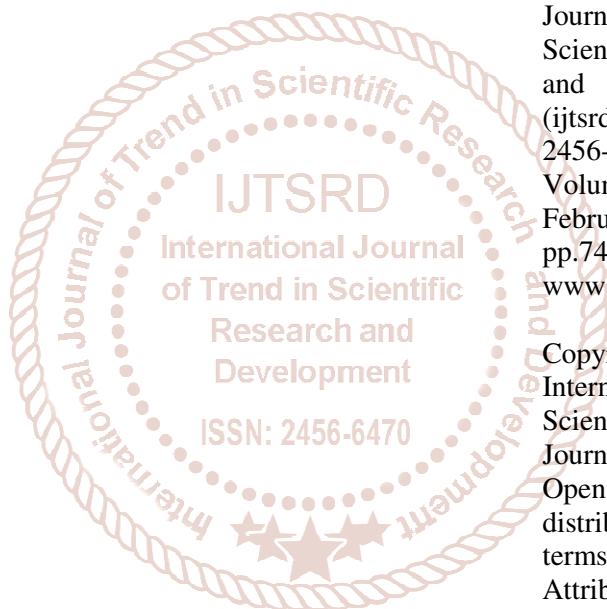
Online learning and multimedia is the use of software programs to instruct students in content and skills and to facilitate learning in and out of the traditional classroom setting. A study to assess the perception regarding online education among nursing students at selected nursing college, Thrissur.

KEYWORDS: Perception, Online education, nursing students

How to cite this paper: Mrs. Siji C S | Ms. Abhisha C V | Ms. Anjali T A | Ms. Anupama R S | Ms. Asha Varkey | Ms. Feby Wilson | Ms. Jomol Varghese | Ms. Nivedhya T P | Ms. Sona Tomy "A Study to Assess the Perception Regarding Online Education among Nursing Students at Selected Nursing College, Thrissur" Published in

International Journal of Trend in Scientific Research and Development (ijtsrd), ISSN: 2456-6470, Volume-7 | Issue-1, February 2023, pp.743-748,

URL: www.ijtsrd.com/papers/ijtsrd52743.pdf



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INTRODUCTION

“Online learning is not the next big thing, it is the now big thing”

Online learning and multimedia is the use of software programs to instruct students in content and skills and to facilitate learning in and out of the traditional classroom setting.

NEED OF THE STUDY

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted all sectors, including nursing education. With the onset of the pandemic, globally, face-to-face classes, clinical skills laboratories and the clinical placement of students were either suspended or restricted and more especially in countries that were critically affected by the outbreak in order to maintain and safeguard the health of students and faculty as a whole. To be able

to continue teaching and learning during the COVID-19 pandemic, while complying with the COVID-19 prevention protocols, many institutions of higher learning switched from the traditional face-to-face teaching and learning to the virtual mode. This solution, limited the skills development and clinical practice placement of students, which is the normal approach in the traditional nursing curriculum.

The study of effectiveness of online learning has become essential component in the education system. Very little information exists about the experiences of students regarding online classes. Therefore, there is a need to assess the perception of nursing students towards online education which was implemented during Covid-19 pandemic.

PROBLEM STATEMENT

A study to assess the perception regarding online education among nursing students at selected nursing college, Thrissur.

OBJECTIVES

- To assess the perception regarding online education among Nursing students.
- To associate the perception regarding online education among Nursing students with their demographic variables.

OPERATIONAL DEFINITION

- **PERCEPTION:** Perception in this study refers as, the sensory experiences like physical, mental, and socio-economic aspects of nursing students regarding online education during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **ONLINE EDUCATION:** Online education is electronically supported learning that relies on the internet for teacher or student interaction and the distribution of class materials.
- **NURSING STUDENTS:** Male and female individuals studying Bachelor of Science Nursing course with the age limit of 17-25 years in Aswini college of Nursing, Thrissur.

HYPOTHESIS

There is a significant association between the perception and demographic variables among nursing students.

ASSUMPTIONS

- Perception regarding online education may vary among individuals.
- Perception regarding online education among the nursing students may be influenced by their selected demographic variables.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This chapter deals with the methodology adopted to access the perception regarding online education among nursing students at selected college, Thrissur.

The research methodology includes research approach, research design, setting of the study, population, sample size, sampling technique, criteria for selection of sample, development of tool for data collection, description of tools, validity of tools, ethical consideration and procedure for data collection and plan for data analysis.

RESEARCH APPROACH

The research approach involves the description of plan to investigate the phenomenon under study in structured (quantitative), unstructured (qualitative) or a combination of two methods (quantitative and qualitative approach).

Since the researcher aimed to assess the perception regarding online education among nursing students, the research approach adapted study was quantitative approach.

RESEARCH DESIGN

The research design is the master plan specifying the methods and procedures for collecting and analysing the need information in a research study.³⁹

Descriptive research design was adopted in this study to assess the perception regarding online education among nursing students.

SETTING OF THE STUDY

Setting of the study is the physical location and condition in which data collection takes place in a study. The researchers choose the setting on the basis of convenience and feasibility in the team of availability of the subjects. The study was conducted at Aswini College of Nursing, Thrissur which is affiliated by INC, KUHS, KNMC. The courses offered in the college is only BSc. Nursing (Bachelor of Science in Nursing).

THE SAMPLE

Sample is defined as representative unit of a target population which is to worked up on by researcher during their study. The sample selected in this study was BSc. Nursing students studying in Aswini college of nursing, Thrissur.

SAMPLE SIZE

The sample selected in this study was 236 BSc. Nursing students studying in Aswini college of nursing, Thrissur.

SAMPLING TECHNIQUE

Sampling refers to the process of selecting portion of population to represent the entire population. In this study the purposive sampling techniques was used to select the samples based on inclusion and exclusion criteria.

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION OF SAMPLE:

Inclusion criteria:

- BSc. Nursing students from Ist to IVth year.
- Students who are willing to participate in this study.

Exclusion criteria

- Who are not willing to participate in this study
- Those who are not having reachable internet connection.

DESCRIPTION OF THE TOOL

The tool to collect data from the selected samples consist of two sections

Section A: Demographic profile of nursing students

It consist of age, year of study, members having online classes in the family, undergraduate students in the family, hours of online class per day, device used for online classes, BMI of the students, annual income, number of members in the family, network feasibility and mode of internet access.

Section B: Structured questionnaire regarding perception of online education

It include 26 questions. Each questions have 4 alternatives such as Never (0), Rarely (1), Very often (2), Always (3).

METHOD OF DATA COLLECTION

A formal permission was obtained from the Principal, Aswini College of Nursing. The researchers established a good rapport with the students and explained the purpose of study and requested their full co-operation. All the eligible 236 samples were sent an email inviting them to participate in the study. The email outlined the purpose, the voluntary nature of participation and emphasized the anonymity of the samples. It is also contained a web link to the online survey forum created using Google forms. The response data was collected online and was only available to the researcher in a non-identifiable form.

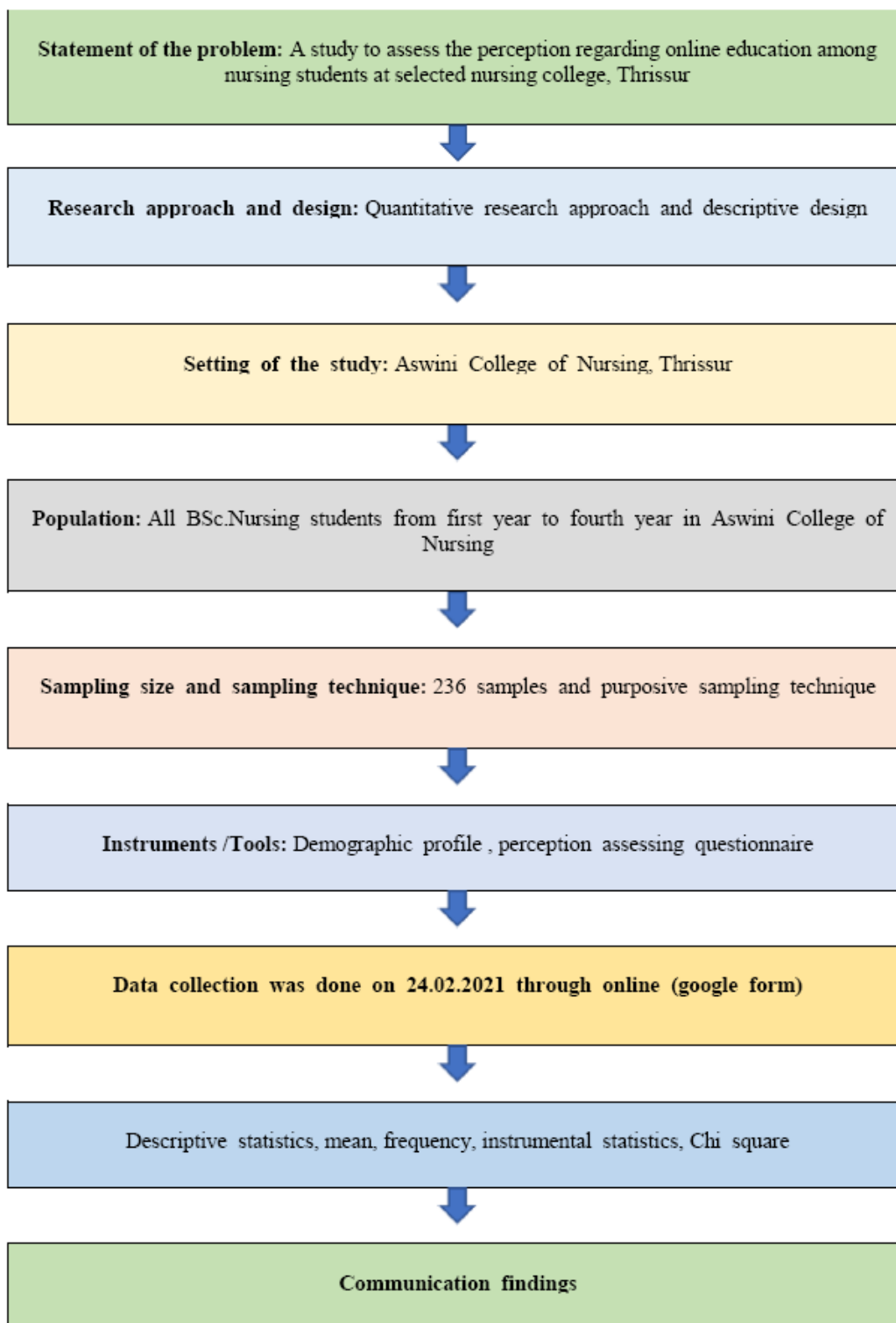


Fig 1: Schematic representation of the study

RESULTS

The findings are explained on the basis of the following headings:

Table 1: Score interpretation

Score	Category
≤ 39	Negative perception
> 39	Positive perception

The table (2) shown below illustrate the association between perception regarding online education among the nursing students with their selected demographic variables such as devices used for online classes, network feasibility in the area, and mode of internet access.

Table 2: Association between perception regarding online education of nursing students with their selected demographic variables such as devices used for online classes, network feasibility in the area, and the mode of internet access.

Sl. No	Demographic Variables	Positive Perception	Negative Perception	Statistical Value
1	Device used			
	a)Smartphone	121	107	$\chi^2 = 0.752$ TV=3.8415
	b)Laptop/computer	3	5	
	c)Smart TV	0	0	
2	Network feasibility in the area			
	a)Poor	46	35	$\chi^2 = 2.406$ TV=3.8415
	b)Good	72	76	
	c)Excellent	6	1	
3	Mode of internet access			
	a)Mobile data	114	101	$\chi^2 = 0.223$ TV=3.8415
	b)Broadband	6	9	
	c)Hotspot	2	4	

***Significant at 0.05 level**

- With regard to devices used for online classes the calculated value of Chi square was 0.752, and the table value was 3.8415, which is not significant.
- With reference of network feasibility in the area, calculated value of Chi square was 2.406 and the table value was 3.8415, which is not significant at 0.05 level.
- With reference to mode of internet access, calculated value of Chi-square was 0.223 and the table value was 3.8415 which is not significant at 0.05 level.
- With regard to network feasibility in area 34.32% (81) belongs to poor, 62.71% (148) belongs to good, 2.97% (7) belongs to excellent.
- In accordance with mode of internet access 90.67% (214) have mobile data, 6.35% (15) have broadband, and 2.98% (7) have hotspot.
- According to devices used for online classes, majority of the sample 96.6% (228) were using smartphone, 3.40% (8) using laptop and no one was using smart TV.

SUMMARY

This chapter represents a discussion of the study findings with reference to the objectives and hypothesis stated. The findings of the study are

discussed based on the relation to observation made by other studies which the investigator had reviewed.

Online learning is a method of education whereby students learn in a fully virtual environment. The declaration of COVID-19 pandemic forced many countries to choose online mode of nursing education.

This virtual learning system has become a solution for the continuity of teaching and learning process. As with most teaching methods, online learning also has its own set of positives and negatives. Decoding and understanding these positive and negatives will help institutes in creating strategies for more efficiently delivering the lessons, ensuring an uninterrupted learning journey for nursing students. And the perception of students regarding online education is very important.

The present study aimed to assess the perception regarding online education among nursing students at selected college, Thrissur.

The main objectives of the study were;

1. To assess the perception regarding online education among nursing students.
2. To associate the perception regarding online education among nursing students with their demographic variables.

Hypothesis framed for the study were;

There is a significant association between the perception and demographic variables among nursing students.

The study was conducted among 236 nursing students at Aswini College of Nursing, Nadathara, Thrissur. The data was collected by means of structured questionnaire. Purposive sampling technique was used for the selection of the sample for the study.

Part 1: Data was collected with the help of structured multiple questionnaire which contains 11 items related to socio demographic variables such as age, year of study, members having online classes in the family, undergraduate students in the family, hours of online class per day, device used for online classes, BMI of the students, annual income, number of members in the family, network feasibility and mode of internet access of nursing students of selected Nursing college, Thrissur.

Part 2: Structured questionnaire regarding perception of online education include 26 questions. Each questions have 4 alternatives such as Never (0), Rarely (1), Very often (2), Always (3).

The declaration of COVID-19 pandemic forced many countries to choose online mode of nursing education. This virtual learning system has become a solution for the continuity of teaching and learning process. As with most teaching methods, online learning also has its own set of positives and negatives. Decoding and understanding these positive and negatives will help institutes in creating strategies for more efficiently delivering the lessons, ensuring an uninterrupted learning journey for nursing students. And the perception of students regarding online education is very important. The present study reveals that majority 53% (125) samples have positive perception, 47% (111) samples have negative perception.

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