

Opinion of College Students on online Education

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ABSTRACT

Online education act as factor which makes the education available and accessible for students living in distance with the education institution building. Study has been planned with the objectives to study the opinion of college students for online education, to study the problem faced by college students and to obtain suggestion from college student for improvement in online education. 70 college students were randomly selected. Semi structured, self-administered, questionnaire was developed by the investigator, and the questionnaires were distributed among the respondents through google form. Finding shows that majority of students partially agree that online classes were effective. Majority of students also disagree that online classes were motivating. Maximum number of students agrees that online education was the best alternative to bridge the distance between teacher and student for which they have given their suggestion to resolve problems.

Keywords: online education, perception of students.

INTRODUCTION

The traditions of learning and education in India were as old as the history of civilization. These traditions have been rich, diverse and sustained over centuries. Education has been defined as “a process of development which consists the passage of human being from infancy, to Maturity, the process by which he adopts himself gradually in various ways to his physical and spiritual environment.”

Types of Education:

Formal Education: takes place in the premises of the school or colleges with certain set of rules and regulations formal education begins in elementary school and ends with college, grant an academic degree taught by qualified teachers and observes strict discipline & curriculum.

Informal Education: education by reading many books from a library or educational websites and conscious efforts are not involved and have no rules or regulations and learned at some marketplace or home. I

Non-formal Education: includes adult basic education, adult literacy education or school equivalency preparation and someone (who is not in school) can learn literacy, other basic skills or

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job skills. It is consciously, deliberately and systematically implemented. Programmed to serve the needs of the identified group.

Modes of Education:

Classroom education: it involves physical interactions with a teacher, be it for a school or university courses, a student has to visit the physical location to speak with tutors face to face, during assigned hours.

Online education: transfers learning component to a virtual environment. With online courses, students can always access learning materials such as module contents, assignments, lecture materials, podcasts and recorded sessions anytime during the course of their studies. For postgraduate courses module tutors are always there to assist with any questions through emails, messages and Skype calls.

Di Xu., et al. (2013) to estimate the impact of online versus face-to-face course delivery on student course performance which shows negative estimates for online learning in terms of both course persistence and course grade, contradicting the notion that there is no significant difference between online and face-to-face student outcomes—at least within the community college setting. Michał Bączek., et al. (2020) did study to identify the students' perception of online learning during the COVID-19 pandemic, a survey was conducted by distributing an online questionnaire to polish medical students out of which 804 students answered the questionnaire which was analysed with routine statistical software. The result conclude that E-learning is a powerful tool for teaching medical students. Abbasi Sahar., et al. (2020) did study to determine the perceptions of students towards e-learning during the lock down, in which overall, 77% students have negative perceptions towards e-learning. 76% of the students use mobile device for their e-learning. Ansar, F., et al. (2020) did study aimed to determine the perception of undergraduate students of various disciplines about online learning which has been implemented across all the universities of Pakistan in the wake of COVID-19 lockdown, which results have depicted that students are not satisfied with e-learning and they pointed out some critical defects in the system. Sakkir, G., et al. (2021) did study to investigate the students' perceptions on the use of E-learning while COVID-19 pandemic era, findings from this research indicate that the most of students showed a negative perception toward to use E-learning. Xhelili, P., et al. (2021) did study to evaluate the perceptions and challenges of Albanian students during online learning carried out due to COVID-19 pandemic and results showed that students had a more positive attitude towards the classroom learning environment.

JUSTIFICATION:

Online education mode has given a ray of hope for students to continue their educational activities even living far away from educational institution. To know the impact of the online education and to gain suggestion for improving the quality of online education, I did study on this specific area.

OBJECTIVES:

- To obtain opinion of college students for online education.

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- To study the problem faced by college students.
- To obtain suggestion from college student for improvement in online education.

METHODOLOGY:

Locale and sample section: For this study locale was Meerut of Uttar Pradesh based on convenience of researcher. Random sampling method was used for selection of sample in which sample is chosen randomly and meant to be an unbiased representation of the total population. To cover wide geographic area of Meerut, only 70 higher education students were randomly selected.

Tool development: Data was collected through using semi structured questionnaire developed by the researcher. The questionnaires were distributed among the selected respondents through google form. The questions in the tool were mainly closed ended (Multiple choice questions and Likert scale), to assist the respondents in answering and the researcher in easier analysis. Some of open ended also questions were included for qualitative and seeking detailed information.

Description of tool: The questionnaire comprised of 3 parts covering all 3 objectives as:

- Part-1: Detail of opinions of college students for online classes
- Part-2: Detail of problems faced by college students during online classes
- Part-3: Detail suggestions from college student for improvement in online classes.

After the final formation of tool in 'MS-Word' format, the tool was created into 'Google forms' and was send in form of link to the student through 'Mail and WhatsApp' to collect the data.

Statistical procedure use to analysis the data: The collected data were checked for completeness and accuracy. After which those satisfied to be complete and accurately filled were numbered to avoid double entry. The coded data were entered into Google spreadsheet and analysed in terms of frequency and percentage. The findings were tabulated and represented with the help of suitable diagrammatic and graphical presentation. Qualitative explanations have been provided with context based illustrations and generalizations.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The result has been presented in the light of specific objectives of the study, divided into following sub heads:

- **Detail of opinion of college students for online classes:**

13 statements were created to obtain opinion of college students for online education and 5- Likert scale was used which include partially agree, agree, neutral, disagree and partially disagree.

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Table no. 1 Detail of opinion of college students for online classes. N=70

Statements	Partially agree		Agree		Neutral		Disagree		Partially Disagree	
	F	P	F	P	F	P	F	P	F	P
Effective	26	37.14%	17	24.28%	14	20%	10	14.28%	3	4%
Interesting	10	14.28%	29	41.42%	15	21.42%	15	21.42%	1	1.4%
Motivating	17	24.28%	13	18.57%	14	20%	21	30%	4	5%
Personal Satisfaction Of Receiving Knowledge	15	21.42%	5	7.1%	11	15.71%	20	28.57%	19	27.14%
Not Quite Boredom	14	20%	5	7.1%	14	20%	15	21.42%	21	30%
Deliver The Actual Education	6	8.5%	17	24.28%	12	17.14%	18	25.71%	17	24.28%
Bridge The Distance Between Students And Teachers	15	21.42%	19	27.14%	14	20%	19	27.14%	3	4%
Opportunity To Do Two-Way Communication	18	25.71%	26	37.14%	12	12.14%	11	15.71%	2	2.8%
Group Discussion	11	15.71%	22	31.42%	13	18.57%	17	24.28%	6	8.5%
Practical Application	10	14.28%	24	34.2%	12	12.14%	20	22.85%	4	5%
Practical Subject Has Become Interesting In	5	7.1%	19	27.14%	12	12.14%	20	28.57%	12	12.14%
Time To Discuss In Between	12	12.14%	39	55.71%	13	18.57%	1	1.4%	4	5%
Satisfied With Own Performance In Online Classes	12	12.14%	27	38.7%	11	15.71%	15	21.42%	3	4%

(F = FREQUENCY, P = PERCENTAGE)

Some above one-third (61.4%) students agreed that online classes were effective whereas only (18%) student had disagreed to the statement and (20%) had neutral opinion. Online classes were interesting some above one-third (55.7%) student's agreed to it on the other hand only (22%) student partially disagreed and (21.4%) had neutral opinion. Some above (48%) agreed and exactly (31.4%) disagreed that online classes is best way to bridge the distance between students and teachers and (20%) had neutral opinion. In total of 70 students (34.2%) students agreed and (20%) students disagreed that practical application to the subject is applicable in online education whereas (18%) had neutral opinion for the statement.

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➤ **Details of problems faced by college students during online classes**

12 statements were created with the option of yes/no for each to study the problem faced by college students. 'Other' option was given as an open choice for student to give answer if the given option didn't match their own opinion.

Table no.2 Detail of problems faced by college students during online classes (N=70)

STATEMENTS NO.	YES	
	F	P (%)
Long Working Hours	37	52.8%
Teachers Do Not Do Discussion Regularly With Students	46	65.7%
Teachers Were Rigid With Deadlines	24	34.2%
Scheduled Is Compact	37	52.8%
Break Time Between Two Online Classes Is Not Enough	41	58.5%
Duration Is Not Appropriate	50	71.4%
Ice Breaking Activities Were Not Executed Before Online Classes	47	67.1%
Problem Discussion Opportunity Is Not Given	37	52.8%
Face Internet Problem	27	38.5%
Problem In Using Technology	42	60%
Feeling Of Isolation	45	64.2%
Group assignments	59	84.2%

(F = FREQUENCY, P = PERCENTAGE)

Approximately half of students about (52.8%) felt uncomfortable due to long working hours of online classes, Students about (65.7%) faced a major problem that teachers didn't have regular discussion with students, Scheduled of online classes was compact approximately half (52.8%) students said yes, Students some above half (61.4%) said yes that there was no free time to relax between the online classes even break time between two online classes was not enough to relax muscles some above half (58.5%) students said yes along with that (71.4%) students also find the duration of online classes was not appropriate. Approximately half (52.8%) student said that problem discussion opportunity was not given during online classes, some above half (64.2%) students have also felt isolated during online classes. Technological problems were faced by (60%) students during online

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classes and (38.5%) students said that they faced internet problem during online classes out of total responses of 70 students.

Any other problem open ended question was also given in which 44 students' out of total 70 responses of students mentioned some problems in online classes that could be summarized as follow:

24 students out 44 students' responses said that they have no any other problem related to online classes but some felt demotivate and ended up being introvert with less confidence and loss interest and curiosity and felt lazy. They find online classes as a time taking process, lack of quick responses neither from teachers nor from students' side, lack in personal visualization, and according to them human mind grasp what he/she sees first not what he/she hears first. Long hours of sitting in front of laptop screen caused eye problem which affected their concentration. Household work which they can't ignore therefore, results in disturbance in concentration. The whole day become hectic and is very difficult to focus on virtual screen for a longer duration.

➤ **Detail of Suggestions to improve online classes by students:**

In this, open ended question was given to obtain suggestion from college student for improvement in online classes from 70 students in which 14 (34.28%) students' responses was that they have no suggestion and they said it's all good, the way it was.

There should be source of motivation was suggested by (32.99%) students as: Increased seriousness and strictness towards the syllabus and studies. It should be more interactive by two way communication. Innovative ideas should be employed to motivate the students. Teachers should discuss with students regarding their feedback for online education. This might help the student to generate interest. Current issues can also be discussed. Identify the struggling areas of the students by increasing student engagement. Show videography presentation.

There should be break in monotonous atmosphere during online classes it was suggested by (18.57%) students as: Universities can include student engagement sessions time to improve their bonds and create a sense of community. There was a need to make them lively by including some stress-free conversations or activities sometimes. Try to motivate student and take short breaks in between the classes. There should be some fun activities and time to relax between classes. Reduce duration of online classes will be helpful for time utilization which was optimized during online classes. A class should not be of more than 45 minutes. After every 45 minutes of a class there should be a 15 minutes break for good concentration and memory of the student.

Suggestions for teachers were suggested by (15.71%) students as teacher should avoid reading pdfs and ppt. instead use stylus or draw to tool which will give the feel of offline. Background noises from teacher's side it's like different teachers were teaching in a single room. Teacher should interact more with students rather than just completing the syllabus. Teaching should be more effective and have proper material to make students understand the topic. Build personal connection with students. (7.2%) student think online class was not comfortable for fresher.

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DISCUSSION

Majority of students' opinion agreed that online classes were interesting, it bridge the distance between students & teachers, have opportunity of two-way communication, group discussion occurs, practical application is possible, time to discuss in between and satisfied with own performance in online classes but there was disagreement related to motivation, personal satisfaction of receiving knowledge, delivery of actual education, practical subject has become interesting in online education. Students finding online education boring. Problems faced by majority of students were difficulty in group assignments, noisy environment, long working hours, teachers don't have regular discussion with students, no clear instructions were given, scheduled is compact, no free time to relax, break time between two online classes is not enough, duration of break time is not appropriate, ice breaking activities were not executed before online classes even not at end of online classes, problem discussion opportunity is not given, problem in using technology, feeling of isolation and lack of motivation.

Results of the study indicate that there should be source of motivation as many students gave suggestions for teachers and another suggestion was that online classes was not comfortable for fresher. However, this study has its limitations. The small sample may not be completely the representative of the majority of students took online classes.

CONCLUSION

It can be concluded from the study that online education was the best alternative to bridge the distance between teacher and student, eventually numerous problems occur and faced by college students such as noisy environment, long working hours and difficulty in online group assignments. For which they have given their suggestion to resolve problem. Therefore, all these factors should be considered while developing an online course to make it more effective and productive for the learner. This study will help to acknowledge the pros and cons of online education from student's point of view.

***Research Scholar**

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