

Online classes amid the Covid-19 Pandemic: Parents Perspective

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Abstract:

Online learning and online classes have been widely elevated to replace customary face to face methods of learning during this Covid-19 pandemic to keep up small kids learning and play at home. This research works overviewed 183 Indian parents' attitude and perception for young children's online learning during the lockdown of the Covid-19 pandemic. 10 different schools were selected for the study. Survey method was used to collect primary data. SPSS (version 24) was used to convert this primary data into information so as to draw a conclusion. With an objective to understand the parent's perception and opinion about online classes, it was concluded that parents are very well adjusted and satisfy about this methodology of learning. They opined that online learning has a positive influence on learning on the children and it is the need of the hour during this pandemic.

Keywords: Online learning and education

JEL classification: A20, I21 and O14

Introduction:

The worldwide effect of Covid-19 is multifaced and in unmistakable showed in practically all areas. Coronavirus has not stopped at national boundaries and negatively affected the entire world in many fields (Pragholeapati A, 2020). It has severely damaged the economy in many aspects which the world has not even though off. It has changed the traditional methodology of doing business and forced almost all the business procedure to a new methodology. All businesses are now more technology oriented. Business these days are moving towards digital transformation. It has been a need of the hour. Covid-19 pandemic has introduced an extensive, unexpected and dramatic digital transformation in the society at large. Covid-19 has not only affected the manufacturing industries but has had also severely affected the service industry. Few administrative measures have been taken to neutralize the danger and disease spreading. These measures incorporate restrictions in travelling, obligatory quarantine for those who are traveled, prohibitions on get together, social distancing, curfew, ban on school and colleges, business restrictions, requesting individuals to work from home, self-isolations and lockdown (Goston and Wiley, 2020). Corona virus has shown people different phases of Lockdown like, complete lockdown, partial lockdown, night curfew, few hours of lockdown in daytime, etc. It has completely changed the living style of general public. General public has not even heard about the word lockdown before the arrival of this unwanted corona virus. As discussed, it has affected

every sphere of manufacturing to service industry. Education sector has no exception. It has also forced schools and colleges to operate from home. According to Michael and Murphy, 2020, in light of Medical examination, there is by all a worldwide agreement among irresistible disease specialist and officials of general health to limit classroom teaching as a means of restricting students from the spread of the pandemic. School children's attend their online classes from home. Government did not allow school children to attend regular classes in school, but asked to undertake online classes.

Coronavirus has caused gigantic interruption with intense difficulties for the whole education system across the world Nicola et. al., (2020). Education has been severely hit because of the outbreak of corona pandemic with large number of students abandoned at home gazing at the laptop/computer/tablet or Mobile screen and accepting guidance passively (Dai and Lin, 2020). The requirement of learning has been expanded with the fast development of present-day innovation and information; however, the speed and volume of learning is fluctuating (Rosenberg, 2001). Viner et. al., (2020) with most of the schools shut down during pandemic, education has moved to online mode, thereby putting additional weight on parents all over the world. Online classes are a sort of distance learning that by and large refers to any course of study that is refined solely through the Internet (Curran 2008). Covid-19 pandemic has made the biggest interruption of education systems in the history, influencing almost 1.6 billion students in excess 190 nations. Termination of school and colleges have affected 94% of the world's student population. Schools and colleges these days are seen to be busy in online classes. Teachers are taking online classes and being attended by the students. (Baddi, 2013) concluded about Parents perception that the critical implication of e-learning in improving the nature of students "learning is making them synchronized or lined up with present day students. In detail terms, students can take part and cooperate teachers found anyplace across the world. They are not limited or confined in any way for connecting with specific teacher, or partaking specifically schooling courses. (Fox and Patterson, 2013) According to the perception of the parents Quality of students learning through e-learning in improved in few habits, for example, encouraging progressed learning opening, carrier success adaptable and versatile nature, etc. these highlights have staggered the development of e-adapting massively and replaced traditional teaching methods over the previous decades. (Borup. Et. Al., 2013) conducted a survey on 79 parents about online classes regarding the amount of time spend by them interacting with the students and instructor regarding the online classes. Parents announced spending a normal of 86 minutes interacting with their children's every week about the course, and 9 minutes connecting with the online teacher every week. According to Soykan (2015), parents emphasize on expected danger to academic performance by access use of technology. Inability to perceive parental concern had thwarted the advancement the use of ICT on a worldwide scale in schools. Their mentalities and points of view are important to be perceived for a comprehensive information on internet educating. The pandemic has forced an extra job on the guardians: that of being a supervising to their children while they go to the classes, especially at basic and primary level. Hale, Troxel and Buysse (2020) concluded that parents feel disappointing at helping their kids focusing and joining the classes virtually. Hence this study is undertaken to understand parents' perception about the online classes. What does parents think about online classes? How affective the online

classes are? What they think about teachers on online classes? And moving ahead on this, following hypothesis was drafted.

H1: Parents have a negative opinion about the online classes

Methodology

Survey was undertaken to know the perception of parents about online classes. A questionnaire was sent to parents of 10 school going children. Response from 183 parents was collected. Hence the target population were parents. All questions were related about their opinion on Online classes during Covid-19 pandemic. These questions were on 5-point Likert scale and also open ended. Data was collected using online mode only. Data was then converted into information to come to a conclusion. This data was analyzed using SPSS (version 24). Data was collected during the September and October month of 2020. Data was collected from Nagpur schools. For this study parents of children studying from V to IX were considered. Parents of class X were excluded because they belong to different category as they have to appear for the board exams.

Results and Discussions

Table No. 1: Parents perception about online classes

Parents perception about Online classes	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Online learning is very effective	33	68	51	22	9
Traditional method of studying was more effective	91	59	19	9	5
Student still feel connected with the teacher	29	61	58	28	7
Students were able to solve their doubts	26	57	62	31	7
Students face difficulty in understanding and solving numerical	37	63	53	24	6
Students miss their classroom classes	28	39	48	47	21
Practical subjects like science and mathematics needs face to face method of teaching	97	45	25	13	3
My child enjoys online classes	51	48	41	29	14
Creativity is lost in Online classes	69	43	39	19	13
Online classes are value for money	14	21	36	51	61

Source: Survey calculation

Table above is about the perception and opinion about the online classes. It is clearly evident that parents are supportive to the online classes. Most of them agreed that online learning is good for their children. Parents have given their opinion that online classes are able to deal with the pandemic situation and is the online option to continue the education. However, they support that face-to-face teaching and learning is still better than online teaching. They strongly believe that practical subjects like mathematics and science need classroom teaching. However, from the

table it cannot be denied that the parents like online teaching. They are very much loyal to online teaching.

Table No. 2: Overall parents' perception about online classes

Descriptive

Overall perception of Parents for Online classes:								
	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error	95% Confidence Interval for Mean		Minimum	Maximum
					Lower Bound	Upper Bound		
Strongly Agree	37	2.5800	.56589	.39000	-3.2825	6.8825	1.40	2.20
Agree	67	3.7103	.85304	.26559	2.5195	3.6804	2.20	4.20
Neutral	41	3.2503	.70613	.11253	3.2798	3.7409	2.80	4.60
Disagree	21	2.1809	.57371	.12185	3.4071	3.9612	2.40	5.00
Strongly Disagree	17	1.1965	.43918	.19696	3.7358	4.8241	4.00	5.00
	183	3.5238	.72521	.09012	3.3438	3.7139	1.40	5.00

Source: Researchers calculation using SPSS

H1: Parents have a negative opinion about the online classes.

Looking at the table above it can be interpreted that there is a liking for online classes among the parents. There is an inclination towards their like on online classes. Table above gives us sufficient evidence to reject the null hypothesis and accept the alternate hypothesis. Thus, it can be stated that parents have a positive perception and opinion about the online classes.

Table No. 3: Parents opinion about teachers for online classes

Parents perception about teachers taking online classes	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Teachers make extra efforts in online classes	58	51	39	23	12
For teachers, online teaching is a simple job	49	67	36	18	13
It is challenging job for the teachers, as it is tedious	19	31	39	57	37
Online teaching is extra work for the teacher	17	39	71	37	19
Teachers are more trained for classroom teaching	85	47	28	14	9

Source: Survey calculation

Table no 3 depicts about the opinion about teachers. In this Covid-19 pandemic situation parents feel that for a teacher it is a very easy job to take online classes. In online classes their work has

considerably reduce and it is a child play for a teacher to take online classes. However, mostly parents think that Indian teachers are more trained for face-to-face classes and not online classes.

Conclusion

Clearly, Covid-19 Pandemic has been a genuine test educational institute around the globe regarding their degree of technological adaptability, availability and flexibility in reacting to comparative worldwide crises. Because of this emergency, nations have applied various techniques and standards for managing changes in the learning system. Inside a couple of months, National education system went to arrangements like online and offline strategies and techniques. Alongside these changes, adjustments have been essential for instructional techniques, technological status to actualize online learning and offering help and inspiration to every concerning gathering. This study is taken to understand the perception of parents about online teaching during pandemic. It is clearly evident that majority of the parents are satisfy by this method of teaching and their perception is positive about online teaching. However they strongly opined that these teachers are more comfortable and trained for classroom teaching and no or less trained using online mode.

Finally, education should be seen as collaborative community exertion among teachers, parents, guardian and government to expand the viability of education and learning techniques that have been antagonistically influenced and guarantee that students should not fall behind.

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