

STUDENTS' PERCEPTION TOWARDS ONLINE STUDY DURING PANDEMIC
COVID-19

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ABSTRACT

As we all know that the whole world is currently affected by a terrible virus called corona. The World Health Organization (WHO) has also named this virus Covid-19 disease while killing it deadly. This disease is so disastrous for mankind that after its coming into effect, millions of people have lost their lives all over the world. Many countries have opted for public curfew or lockdown to avoid this disease which has directly affected the humankind. All peoples are imprisoned in their homes due to lockdown and all important institutions and services have also been closed in full or in part. Because this disease was spreading rapidly in crowded areas, therefore, from the security point of view, the Indian government also closed all educational institutions for indefinitely time. This time was very important from the point of view of students' studies, so the closure of universities and colleges had a direct impact on them. To deal with this problem, government chose the option of home sitting education i.e. online education so that the students do not suffer the loss of education and control of this sick can also be done.

Through this paper, I have tried to know the perception of the students towards online study and also check gender and location wise effect on perception of students. In order to fulfill this objective, information was collected through online questionnaires from students falling in various universities of Uttarakhand state. Different statistical methods like percentage, mean scores and chi-square test have been used to know and analyze all of these.

Key Words: Covid-19, Corona virus, Pandemic, Humankind, WHO.

INTRODUCTION

Corona virus is such a terrible virus that currently stands as a major challenge for the whole world. This virus has directly caused the most harm to the humankind on earth. Because of which the World Health Organization has given this virus a name for Pandemic Covid-19. It stands in front of the world as a mysterious disease whose solution does not exist with any country. All countries are researching and experimenting on the vaccine to eradicate this disease, but no breakthrough has been achieved. At the end of last year, one of the first news is heard through various news channels that a big city namely Wuhan of China has got symptoms of a mysterious virus corona and this virus is gradually spreading to human beings.

On seeing this, the disease affecting the whole city of Wuhan spreads to other cities of China and the news of the death of people rapidly starts coming from everywhere. While crossing the borders of China, this disease spreads in many big countries of the world like America, Japan, China, Brazil, Spain, France, Israel, Saudi Arabia, India, Pakistan, have been badly affected by this disease. This disease has not only harmed the humankind but has also almost destroyed the entire economy.

After that all the countries started working on the principle of "**Jaan Hai To Jahan Hai**" (if you have life you have the world) to fight this disease and announced the Public curfew (lockdown) to fully follow the social distancing to avoid the humankind. In the event of lockdown, all types of small and big businesses and services were banned completely except for essential goods and services. Due to which all educational institutions were also closed. Due to the closure of educational institutions, teaching work was stopped all over the world and students started to suffer immensely. Slowly the disease had reached its peak and there was no possibility that the teaching work could be started by reopening the educational institutions. For this, the governments of all the countries have insisted on receiving the education by staying at home to prevent further loss of students. Today, in order to make the education of students in Corona affected country run smoothly, teachers are spreading education at home through online method. Now it has to be seen whether this online education option proves to be so successful and effective in student interest.

Indian Context

The first corona patient was addressed in India from Kerala state on 30 January 2020. In the month of February it started spreading slowly but during the month of March many big cities of India were hit by Corona virus. Because till now many global evidences of Pandemic Corona-19 virus were revealed, keeping in mind the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi urged the people to follow the social distancing and they lobbied for lockdown in the country. Lockdown had an impact on other things but due to the closure of all educational institutions, it made a huge difference to the students and their future also began to black cloud of the doubts. Keeping in mind the future of students, government choose a big option of online study like other countries. But the biggest problem in the country is that online studies are not very popular in any universities/colleges. A completely new system for teachers & students and Poor Net connectivity are working as a barrier in online study. In this system educational institutions and teachers are provided online education to students through whatsapp, zoom app, audio/video lecture, google meet and other medium. Through this paper we have tried to know the perception of those students' who studied in different universities/colleges in Uttarakhand towards online study.

Objectives of the Study

The study has the following two objectives:

- 1) To investigate the respondents' perception towards the online classes.
- 2) To analyze the effect of demographic variables on the perception of the respondents towards online classes.

Hypotheses

- **There is no significant relationship between the gender of respondents and their level of perception about online classes.**
- **There is no significant relationship between location of respondents and their level of perception about online classes.**

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research Design

This study is based on perception of students towards online classes provided by university/colleges during lockdown period due to pandemic covid-19 and addresses which factors are influence their perception regarding online classes and also find out answer of many questions raised in objectives of the study. Taking the research objectives into account, this research is empirical in nature. To formulate the research hypotheses and subsequently tools like structured online questionnaires and online interviews were used to describe the various aspects of perception of students towards online classes.

Data Collection

To collect the information primary and secondary sources of data were used. Primary data was collected from the students through well-structured questionnaire and interviews. Secondary data were collected through published literature, research journals, periodicals, websites, Govt. institutions reports and other institutions reports etc., which furnish lots of relevant information.

Sample of the Study

The present study confined to different universities and colleges of Uttarakhand. Total 280 students (Male 160, Female 120) sample was taken on the basis of purposive random sampling and their demographics for study. Some unavoidable reasons only 240 (Male 142, Female 98) questionnaire was correctly filled up by respondents and rest 40 questionnaires were not correctly filled up. Therefore all the results and findings is based on only 240 responses.

Tools and Techniques of Data Analysis

In this study to check and compare the result, a five-point Likert-type scale was used to test significant differences. Data were analyzed on SPSS 25 version by using various statistical methods like descriptive statistics, percentages, mean score, cross tabulation and chi-square test.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

TABLE 1: DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF RESPONDENTS

PARTICULARS		RESPONDANTS (Nos.)	PERCENTAGE (%)
GENDER	Male	142	59.2
	Female	98	40.8
Total		240	100.0
AGE	18-21	124	51.7
	21-24	60	25.0
	24-27	40	16.7
	Above 27	16	6.7
Total		240	100.0
EDUCATION	Graduation	120	50.0
	Post-Graduation	88	36.7
	Professional Courses	32	13.3
Total		240	100.0
HOME PLACE	Urban	112	46.7
	Rural	128	53.3
	Total	240	100.0
STREAM	Arts	104	43.3
	Science	80	33.3
	Commerce	38	15.8
	Others	18	7.5
Total		240	100.0

Sources: Primary data

Table 1: It is evident from table that the majority of the respondents 59.2% were male, whereas only 40.8% respondents were female. On the basis of age group 51.7% respondents are aged between 18-21 years and 25% are aged 21-24 years, whereas 16.7% age 24 to 26 years and rest above 27 years. In terms of educational qualification 50% respondents were pursuing Graduation while 36.7% respondents are either pursuing Post-Graduation or rest 13.3% respondents were enrolled in professional courses. Regarding the Home place, 46.7% respondents are live in urban areas, while 53.3% are lived in rural areas. This table also

represents the stream of the respondents 43.3% have belong to Arts stream while 33.3% respondents have belong to science stream and rest 7.5% respondents have belong to others stream.

STUDENTS AWARENESS ABOUT UNIVERSITY/COLLEGE CONDUCT ONLINE CLASSES

TABLE 2: AWARENESS TOWARDS ONLINE CLASSES

Particulars	Respondents (Nos.)	Percentage (%)
Yes	201	83.75
No	39	16.25
Total	240	100.0

Source: Primary Data

Table 2 represents the awareness of students about online classes conducted by university/colleges during lockdown period. Out of the total students 83.75% students are aware and rest 16.25% are unaware from online classes conducting by the university/colleges.

TABLE 3: PARTICIPATION IN ONLINE CLASSES DURING LOCKDOWN

Particulars	Respondents (Nos.)	Percentage (%)
Yes	184	76.7
No	56	23.3
Total	240	100.0

Source: Primary Data

Table 3 exhibits students' participation in online classes during lockdown. Out of the total majority of the students 76.7% are participating, whereas only 23.3% students are not participating in online classes conducted by the university/colleges.

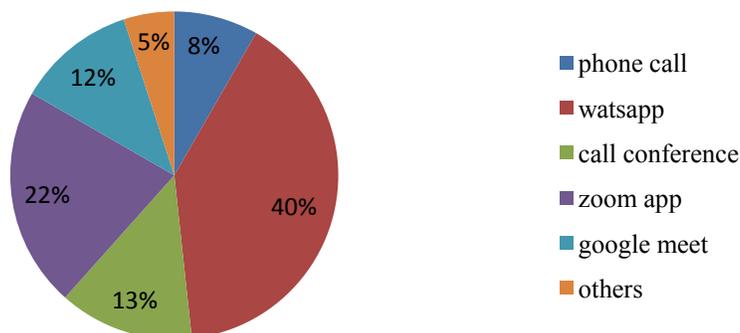
Chart 1: Mode of communication

Chart 1: The above chart shows the mode of communication which is used by university/colleges to communicate with their students. Out of the total 40% students were connected through whatsapp, 22% were zoom app and 13% were connected by call conferences. Some students are connected with some other mode of communication like google meet, phone calls etc.

TABLE 4: PERCEPTION LEVEL OF STUDENTS ABOUT ONLINE CLASSES

Statements	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	Mean
A good options to avail online classes during lockdown	16	12	4	168	40	3.85
Diversifying knowledge	30	59	35	104	12	3.03
Increase in Technical knowledge	40	77	16	93	14	2.85
Online classes is helpful for completing syllabus	38	62	20	105	15	2.98
Online classes is helpful for clearing the doubts	13	112	35	76	4	2.77
Feel comfortable through online classes	19	91	26	91	13	2.95
Reduce communication gap with teacher	15	69	42	94	20	3.14
Average Mean						3.08

Source: Primary Data

Table 4 represents the mean value of all statements regarding that the perception level of students towards online classes providing by the university/colleges during lockdown period due to pandemic covid-19. On the basis of responses and mean values online classes is a good option during lockdown period has the highest mean value i.e. 3.85 followed by reduce communication gap with teacher (3.14), diversifying knowledge (3.03), online classes is helpful for completing syllabus (2.98), feel comfortable through online classes (2.95), increases in technical knowledge (2.85) and online classes is helpful for completing syllabus (2.77). The table also shows that the average perception level of students towards online classes is 3.08 out of 5; this mean is higher than the mid-point 3. Therefore, we can say that the those statements which mean score is more than mid-point (i.e. 3) are relatively positive perception and those statements which mean score is less than mid-point are relatively negative perception of students towards the above mentioned statements considering the perception level of students towards online classes.

HYPOTHESES TESTING

H₀. There is no significant relationship between gender of respondents and their level of perception about online classes.

Table 5: Gender * Response rates to online classes Cross tabulation

		Response rates to online classes					Total	Mean	
		Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor			
Gender	Male	17	28	34	53	10	142	3.07	
	Female	7	14	38	33	6	98	3.17	
Total		24	42	72	86	16	240		
Chi-square Test									
Value		6.871							
Df		4							
Sign. Value		.143							

Source: Primary Data

Table 5 represents the calculated value of P and the P value alpha. The calculated value of P is greater than P value alpha i.e. $0.143 > 0.05$. Therefore, the null hypothesis is rejected. Whereas the gender wise means value of male and female is 3.07 and 3.17 respectively. On the basis of

mean values we can say that the perception level of female students about online classes is high from male.

H0₂. There is no significant relationship between location of respondents and their level of perception about online classes.

Table 6: Location * Response rates to online classes Cross tabulation

		Response rates to online classes					Total	Mean	
		Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor			
Location	Urban	12	24	24	44	8	112	3.10	
	Rural	12	18	48	42	8	128	3.12	
Total		24	42	72	86	16	240		
Chi-square Test									
Value		7.872 ^a							
Df		4							
Sign. Value		.096							

Source: Primary Data

Table 6 represents the calculated value of P and the P value alpha. The calculated value of P is greater than P value alpha i.e. $0.096 > 0.05$. Therefore, the null hypothesis is rejected. Whereas location wise mean value of urban and rural students is 3.10 and 3.12 respectively. On the basis of mean values we can say that the rural students are more satisfied with online classes.

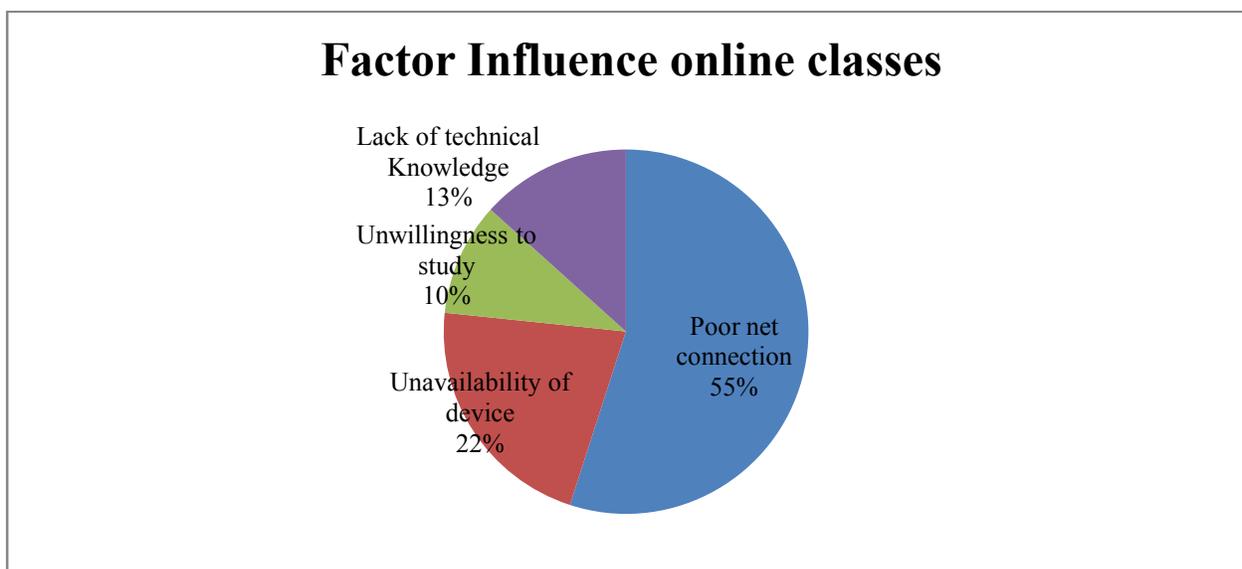


Chart 2: The above chart shows that which factor is highly influence to students during online classes. As per result out of the total 55% students are highly influence by the Poor net connectivity, 22% by unavailability of device, 13% by Lack of technical Knowledge and rest 10% students by unwillingness to study.

Conclusion

Due to spread of pandemic Covid-19 when there was a lockdown declared by the central government in all over India and all teaching institutions were closed then online education was chosen as an important option by the government to further the education of students. This mode of education i.e. online classes was a completely new experience for all students and teachers. Through this paper an attempt has been made to know the thinking of students regarding online education. On the basis of results it was seen that the students described the option of online education as a good option during lockdown period and also liked it a lot and also consider the online classes as a great option to reduce the distance between students and teachers and diversify knowledge. But they also believe that this system is not good for completing syllabus and clearing the doubt of related subjects.

A few years ago, a campaign “Beti Bachao Beti Padhao” was run by the Government of India, the result of which is that girls can register their presence in every area and going ahead of boys. A glimpse of this is also seen here because the participation of female students with online classes is more than that of male students and they are also more satisfied. Mainly Uttarakhand is a hilly state, in rural areas many problems have faced by the students like transportation and low income etc. Educational institutions are very far away where staying and visiting daily is not possible for rural students. Therefore it is very difficult for the students to attend their classes’ every day. Due to the option of online study for rural students, now they are getting education sitting at home and they do not have to face other problems as well, so rural students are more satisfied than online study. Apart from all this, Poor network connectivity is also a major drawback for online study. Hence, if government and Educational Institutions have to run online study program successfully, then some online platforms have to adapt like Google Meet & Zoom application etc to enable students to record their presence along with live telecasts. Uttarakhand government should provide free traffic services to the students of rural areas and mobile networking should also be rectified.

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