

EDUCATIONAL DELIVERY EFFECTIVENESS: PRE AND POST COVID PERIOD

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ABSTRACT

Adapting and adjusting to the new normal was not normal at all! Right from buying groceries to medical consultation, everything went online. Education is no exception. Complete lockdown & social distancing has given birth to digitization and erased traditional classroom learning. 2020 marked a unique experience for the educators and learners to remember for the rest of their lives. They had to undergo change and learn e - learning methods as universities closed their gates and countries shut their borders. The whole education pedagogy changed overnight. This paper throws light at the impact of inevitable transformation on learners and educators. Covid -19 has demanded the whole education system to re-establish itself digitally which has posed numerous disruptions and offered great opportunities too such as flexibility of time and place whereas Internet inaccessibility ,attendance policies , unsuccessful management of time schedules , lack of face to face interaction were the matter of serious concern . This paper investigates the perception of learners and educators regarding effectiveness of learning and content delivery pre and post covid period .It was quite manageable for the young educators to adopt online teaching methods but the old ones found it really hard to understand the modus operandi of various digital platforms. This paper explains various ways to streamline and smoothen online teaching such as interactive sessions, online quizzes, using PPTs, conducting digital competitions etc .

KEYWORDS: Digitization, Online learning, Perception, Pedagogy etc .

INTRODUCTION:

To cut the spread of virus and ensure safety, the Indian government announced a nationwide lockdown on March 24th 2020. It has had a tremendous impact on our education system. The Indian education system has always been dominated by the traditional way of classroom learning, which has resulted in the educators and learners being reluctant to move to the online mode of teaching.

All educational activities like admissions, entrance tests, examinations etc. went online. But the low revenue institutions were inefficient to adopt the same, thus resulting in their shutdown. This has further contributed to the illiteracy and unemployment in the economy.

Salary cuts, Layoffs, Restriction on businesses have collectively and adversely affected the people's income resulting in a lower standard of living.

Positive Impact of Online Education:

1. Flexibility of Time and Place: - Online education overcomes the time and place barrier as it can be delivered at any time and place. Learners can save travel time and learn from any corner of the country.
2. Interesting Way of Learning: - Online education incorporates audio, video, polls and presentation features which makes it interesting for the educator and the learner. As per the survey, 58% learners strongly agree that online mode of teaching makes the class interesting and interactive.
3. No Geographical Limitation: - Online education has increased the reach of both educators and learners to access knowledge from anywhere across the globe. It has brought Globalization in a real sense by integrating the Indian economy with the world economy.
4. Upgraded Technical Know-How :- Digital skill set of people has improved as a result of virtual education and a number of features like - screen sharing, online class creation, file sharing etc.
5. Reduced Cost: - It has reduced the cost of seeking and delivering knowledge as it eliminates transport, fuel, vehicle maintenance and other expenses. Also it has promoted sustainable development by creating a paperless economy.
6. No Age Bar: - Seeking knowledge online requires only technical skills and people can learn at ease from the comfort of their home whereas traditional learning was only suitable for young people.
7. Higher Growth Opportunities: - Learners now don't have to travel miles to attend seminars to upgrade their knowledge. Seminars are now replaced by Webinars making it easy for learners to upgrade themselves.

Negative impact of Online Education:

1. **Lack of Internet Facility:** - The biggest advantage and drawback of online learning is High Speed Internet. Small towns and cities face network issues due to lack of proper infrastructure.
2. **Lack of Face to Face Interaction:** - Online learning lacks the so-called Human Touch. Both the learners and educators are isolated at their ends speaking to laptop and computer screens. It has also resulted in indiscipline in learners with no option to rectify or teach them.
3. **Difficulty in teaching Practical Subjects:** - Some subjects like Accounting, Operations Research and Statistics require a proper traditional method of in-person teaching. It is difficult to solve practical problems on a screen. As per the survey, 59.3% educators strongly agree to it.
4. **Distractions:** - One notification from your favorite social media takes you immediately from e-classroom to the social media platform in just a click resulting in reduced attentiveness in the class.
5. **Adverse Effect on Health:** - Staring on the computer screen for long durations has adverse effects on the health of both, the educator and the learner. Bad posture, retina damage, carpal tunnel syndrome are a few common problems faced today. Plenty of breaks are suggested to relax the mind, body and eyes.
6. **Insufficient Educator's Training:** - Need of the hour is to transform educator's skills. Sufficient training should be given about how to deliver the content in e- classrooms. Lecture method will not be effective in online classes. Educators are required to make use of PPT'S, videos, charts etc in order to attract learners' attention.
7. **Economic Divide:** - This online teaching - learning method has created a big gap between haves and have nots, rich and poor, urban and rural students .

REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

Jena, Parvat (2020) in her paper mentioned that “In every sector around the globe, the influence of Covid 19 Pandemic is shown. It has a severe impact on education industries both in India and around the world. It has put the global Lock, which has a very negative impact on the lives of students. Approximately 32 crores students are affected by Covid 19 and all educational activities in India were Stopped.”

Doucet et al., (2020) concluded in his study that “The flipped classroom is a simple strategy for providing learning resources such as articles, pre-recorded videos and YouTube links before the class. The online classroom time is then used to deepen understanding through discussion with faculty and peers .This is a very effective way of encouraging skills such as problem-solving, critical thinking and self-directed learning.”

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

- To evaluate & compare pre and post covid teaching & learning mechanisms.
- To understand how to promote effective online learning & teaching.
- To highlight the adverse effects of online learning that people might have faced.
- To analyze the impact of online learning.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

- For the purpose of research in this paper, both primary & secondary data have been used by adopting Random Probability Sampling Technique. Primary data have been compiled from a sample size of 103 respondents using google forms.
- Secondary Data is used by the way of reference from various websites, articles & other online content available.

LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY:

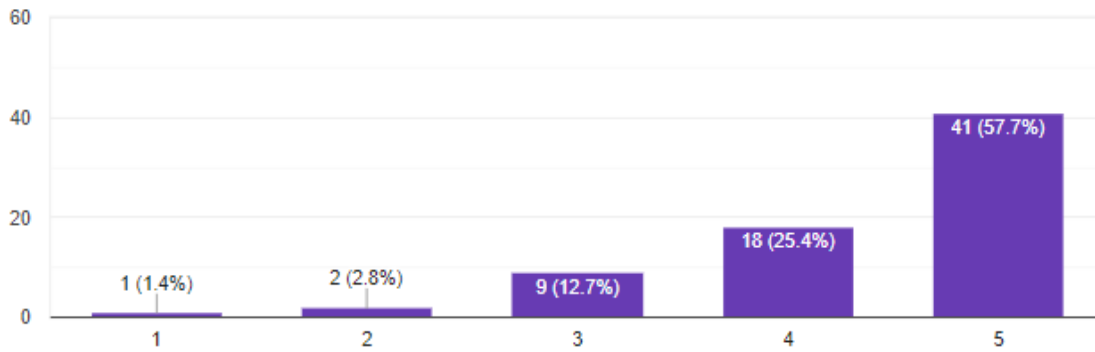
1. Size of the sample is limited to 103 respondents only.
2. Attitudinal barriers on part of the respondents.
3. This study is done in a limited time.

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION:

Data was collected from a sample of 103 respondents, which consisted of 32 educators and 71 students. On a Linear Scale of 1-5, 1 represents Strongly Disagree and 5 represents Strongly Agree. Following responses were received for various question asked:

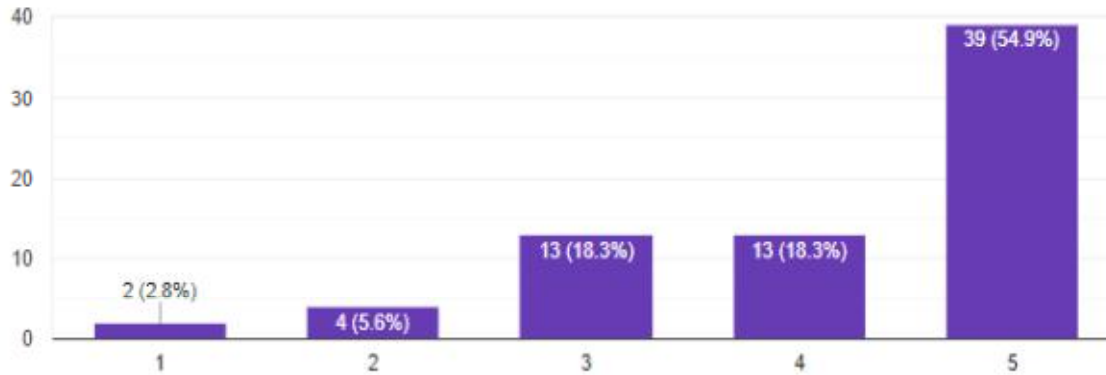
Learner's Response:

1. Using devices such as mobile phones, laptops etc. strain your eyes.



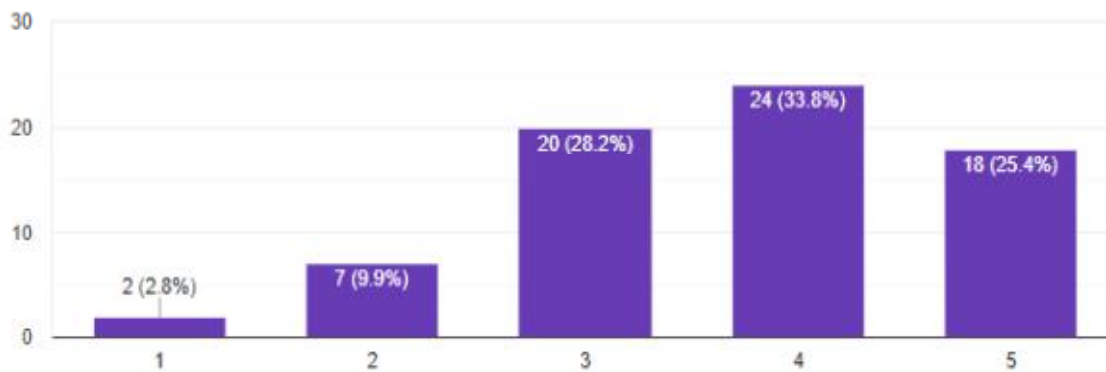
57.7% of students believe that electronic devices strain their eyes.

2. Social media, games, messengers etc are sufficient distractions in online learning.



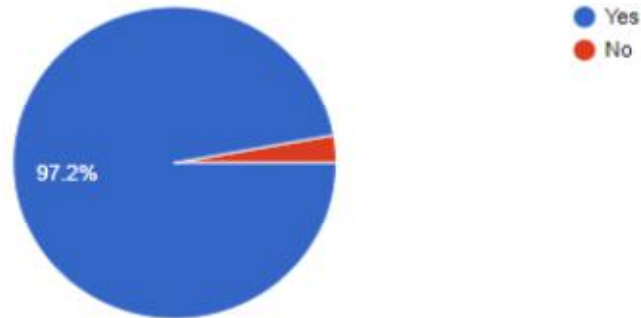
54.9% of students strongly agree that there are various distractions in online learning.

3. Online Learning upgrades your skills and makes you more tech savvy.



Online learning upgrades digital skills and most of the students agree to it.

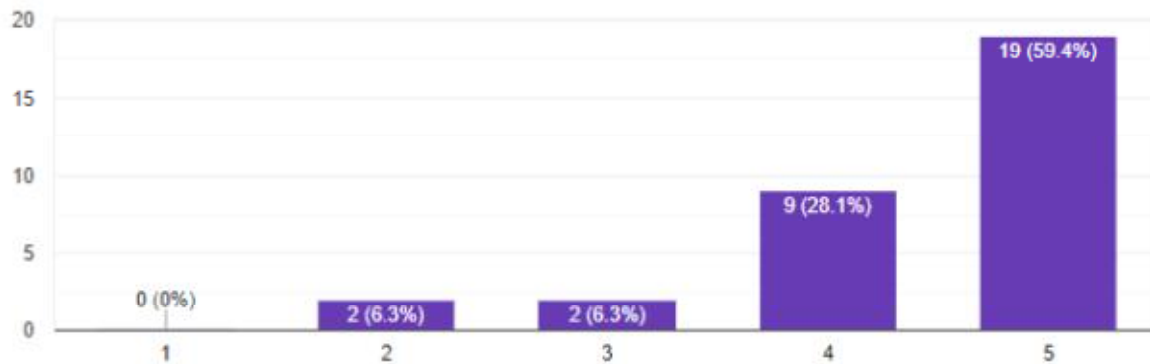
4. Do you have access to a device for learning online?



Majority of the students have access to e-learning devices.

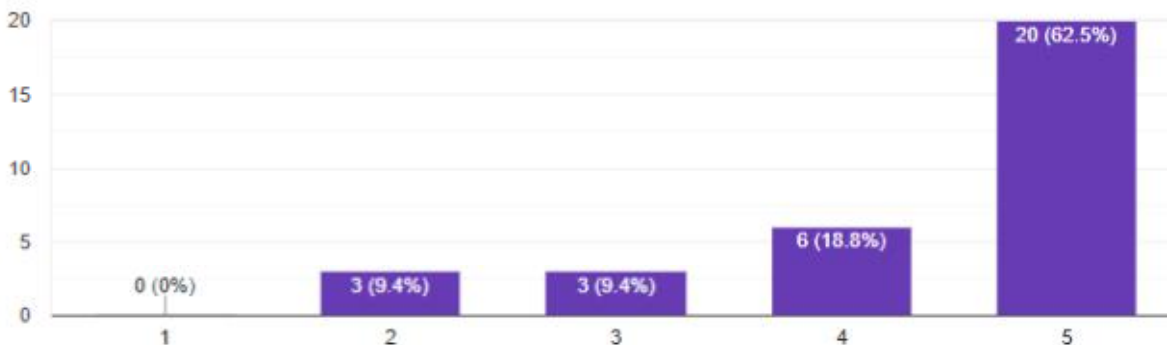
Educator's Response;

1. Online Teaching is flexible in terms of time & place.



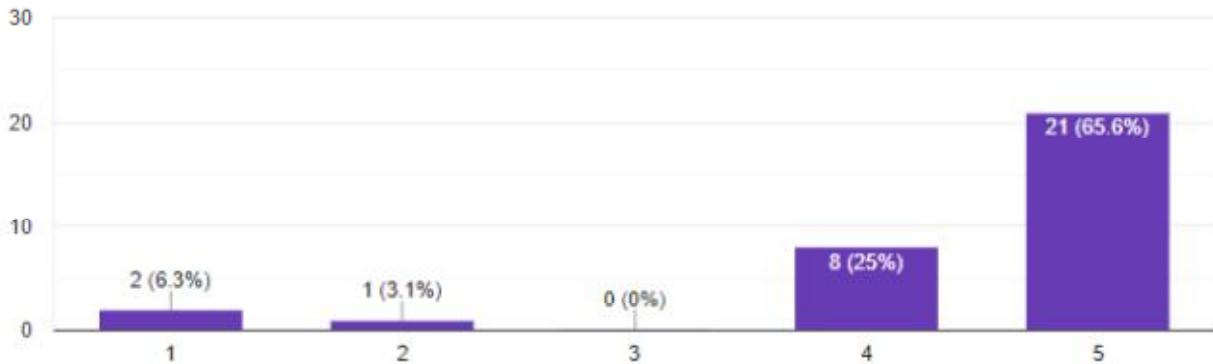
59.4% of teachers believe that online teaching has no time and geographical barriers.

2. Lack of face to face interaction is a challenge in Online Teaching.



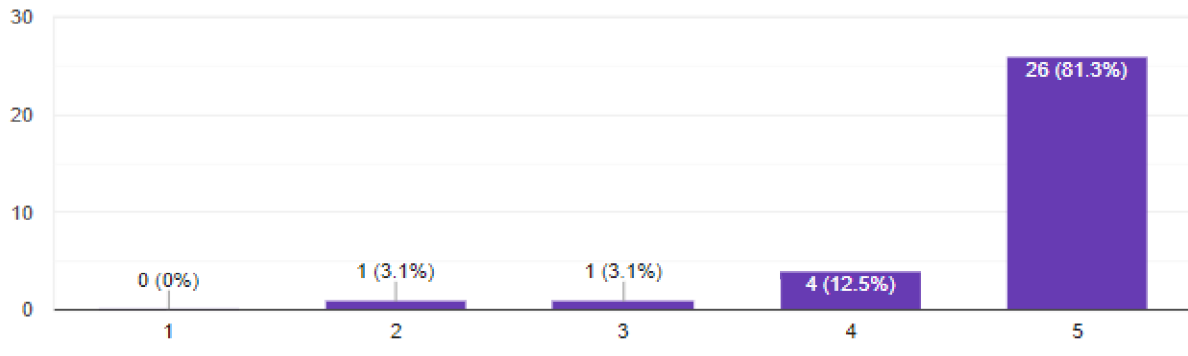
Definitely, that personal touch is missing in online teaching and 62.5% of educators agree to it.

3. It is difficult to teach Practical Subjects online.



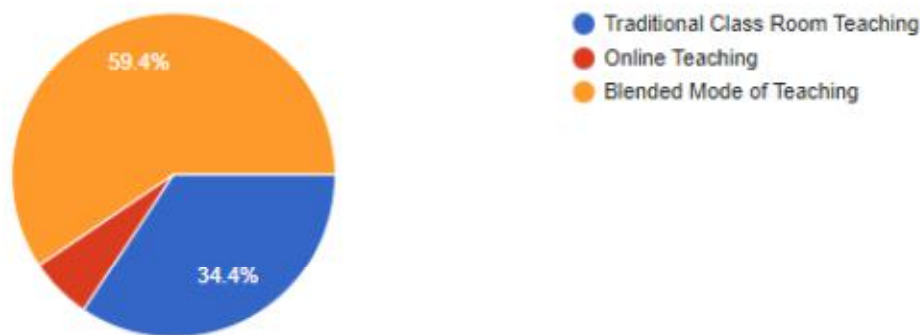
Lack of infrastructure makes it difficult to deliver practical content online and 65.6% of educators agree to it.

4. Too much screen time is affecting your health & causing serious health problems.



81.3% of educators believe that excessive screen time is ruining their health.

5. In future, which mode of teaching will you opt for?



Bare minimum educators want online teaching in future. Most of them either want to shift to conventional methods of teaching or blended mode of teaching.

SUGGESTIONS:

1. Conventional methods of teaching will no longer be suitable in this digitized world and hence a blended form of teaching should be brought into practice. For this, educators should be acquainted with digital platforms and its functioning. Also, teachers should be provided with proper e-infrastructure for the efficient delivery of the content.
2. Self learning should be enhanced among students by sharing interesting videos, photos etc related to the topic before initiating with the lecture so as to grab their attention in the class. A Student Centric approach should be adopted as they are the main stakeholders.

3. In order to regain balance and stability in the Education Sector, the government should increase funding and support towards it.
4. Sound Laws and Quality benchmarks for e- education should be developed.
5. Educational Institutions should focus on bringing smart classes into function rather than just relying on traditional chalk and board systems.
6. More than teachers, educators should now play a role of Mentor to keep their students motivated, career oriented and on track.

CONCLUSION:

The pandemic has definitely marked a major setback for education but it has upgraded the learning and teaching mechanism really well. Change was difficult but it was necessary. Educators who were always into the conventional mode of teaching aided themselves like a pro with digital skills to impart quality education to their students. But learning the mechanism was not enough. Proper scheduling of classes, internet connectivity, social media distractions, pay cuts, lack of student attentiveness, online exams etc were the matter of major concern. We were not ready for this, but to save ourselves from this life- threatening virus, this was the only solution. Definitely we cannot go back to the outdated conventional mode of teaching again, so we need to understand the adequate mix of online and offline learning. Institutions should opt for Blended mode of teaching for better student's understanding and effective and creative content delivery. Indeed, teachers are covid warriors who worked selflessly and continued teaching even in such hard times for their students to build a literate and self dependent nation!!

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