

Introduction of online classes to commerce and management studies in first grade colleges in Karnataka

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ABSTRACT

The paper is a detailed study of the effect in connection to the online classes held for first grade colleges in Karnataka State, India at the time of COVID 19 pandemic. The main objectives of the study were to know the perception of students towards the online education system and the problems faced by them during online classes. The data is collected from various journals, websites and also the opinion of students are considered. For the purpose both direct interview and questionnaire were circulated. The topic seems to be interesting to us as it is the trending situation all over the world. The study shows the importance of online class and also what are the problems faced by the students in online classes. The problem statement of the research is, the students are not happy about online class and do not want the online platform to take over classroom teaching. The research question is, is it possible to improve the network issues faced by the students during online class? The hypothesis of the study is the students are unhappy about online class. The hypothesis was tested and proved true.

Keywords: pandemic, online platform, classroom teaching, electronic gadgets, network issues.

1. INTRODUCTION

Even though online class is not a new concept, it still seems to be a new development in our society. Online class was first introduced in 1960 by the University of Illinois, US. It was a linked computer terminal where students access the class, notes materials and also listen to the recorded lectures. Later many other universities implemented this system in their course. This system was very helpful for the students in the correspondence courses. The paper concentrates on the positive as well as negative impact of online class. The topic seems interesting to us as it is new to our society and trending all throughout the globe. The main objectives of the study were to know the perception of students towards the online education system and the problems faced by them during online classes. The problem statement of the research is, the students are not happy about online class and do not want the online platform to take over classroom teaching. The research question is, is it possible to improve the network issues faced by the students during online class? The hypothesis of the study is the students are unhappy about online class. Online class is the best option during pandemic and also a substitute for travelling. Students can sit and attend class from any part of the world. It is very comfortable and

the location doesn't matter. Apart from these advantages, there are also certain limitations which were found out through this research. Many scholars also showed the negative impact of online class. Online class is not only a problem for students in India but also to all the students all over the world. Students are not able to concentrate on their studies and are not able to complete their course at the right time. (Source: McCready, T. 2017 & Tom, 2017)

The study proved that most of the students are not happy with the online class even though they are using online platforms for various other purposes. Students have shown negative feedback on online classes. In addition, few students complain about health issues. From the survey it is also clear that most of the students faced connectivity trouble, especially those from rural areas complaining about poor network availability. They could not attend the class regularly. It was also confirmed through secondary data. Many students were also not able to afford electronic gadgets required for online classes. Students also complained that they were not able to follow practical subjects taught in online class. They were further not able to clear their doubts then and there due to lack of time and concentration when with family. They have also missed a few topics in between due to poor network connections. Most of the students prefer classroom teaching over online teaching. They also conveyed the fear of take away of classroom teaching by online teaching if this situation continues. Thus, the hypothesis was confirmed and proved true.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

The Constitution (Eighty sixth Amendment) Act, 2002 inserted 'Article 21 A' in the Constitution of India to provide free and compulsory education for all children in the age group 6 to 14 years as a Fundamental Right. Education is considered to be one of the important fundamental rights of every single child born in the country. The State had a literacy rate of 75.36% as of the 2011 Census. Over the period of 10 years span, the literacy in the State has increased by 8.72%. Mysore university is the first and oldest university in the State. Education is given the same importance as basic needs in India. Indian education system is the world's third largest education system next to China and the United States. The GoI (Government of India) has made free and compulsory education to all the children up to the age of fourteen. (Source: Census. 2011 – Karnataka Population 2011- 2020 Census; Government of India 2019; Kaur, J. & Amandeep 2017)

Today there is continuous debate regarding online class due to the pandemic situation of COVID-19. There are many who are against online classes and few those who support online classes. People feel online class helps the students in continuing their studies even at the time of difficulties. Many students in the past have actually gained through online class. Students could work and study simultaneously with the recorded class. They had flexibility with their job and learning. But still, most of them feel online class is not that effective compared to regular or classroom teaching. The concern is also raised among the education experts, UNESCO and UNICEF. The survey shows only 24% of

Indian households have internet connections at home and only 8% of households aged between 5 and 24 have both computer and internet connection. It further shows many people face cables cut, poor internet connection and signal issues. There are many people who are not able to afford online class due to lack of electronic gadgets and money to pay for the internet. The experts also argue online classes are more suitable and flexible to professionals looking for skill development and not the regular students. Further the student on an online platform is not able to clear the doubt immediately which would be otherwise possible in regular class. It is also most challenging for the students to shift from classroom teaching to online platforms. In addition to that there are no proper infrastructures for online classes in most of the cases. The data from the Ministry of rural development shows most of the houses in villages do not get sufficient electricity. This is most challenging to the students living in rural areas. According to a survey only 24% of Indians own a smartphone and just 11% of households possess a computer which includes desktop, laptop, notebooks, netbooks, palmtops and tablets. Apart from all these issues, the study shows the internet has exposed children for online sexual exploitation and grooming. (Source: McCready, T. 2017; Tom, 2017; Kundu, P. 2020; Mukundarajan, V. N. 2020 & Sharma, K. 2020)

3. DATA AND DESCRIPTIVE ANALYSIS

The analysis is based on the data collected from various journals and websites. The data on the education system is obtained from University websites, journals, various research papers and Government reports. Opinion and experience on online classes are also collected from the students. The participants were students from various colleges of Karnataka State. All the colleges are either constituent, affiliated or autonomous. A structured questionnaire was prepared which consisted of questions related to the online class. The questionnaire was then virtually circulated among the selected students through google forms. Face to face interviews were made for some accessible students to get additional information for the purpose of the survey. 35 samples were drawn randomly for the purpose of research out of which 10 were direct interviews.

4. METHODS AND EMPIRICAL SPECIFICATIONS

The first step in the research was to select a suitable research topic. Selection of topics includes finding sufficient information related to the research topic, drafting of problem statements and research questions, stating the aim and objective of the research and at last building a hypothesis which is very important in research. Once the appropriate topic is chosen the next step will be collecting the data from the respondents. This can be through face-to-face interviews or by circulating questionnaires. The interviewee should be aware about the interview, research topic and also the research purpose. He or she must also be able to critically examine the topic and provide accurate responses. For the purpose of this research, direct interviews with some accessible students as well as virtual circulation of

questionnaires was done to pool the responses. At last, the response was analysed. Finally, the hypothesis is tested and the results are discussed.

5. RESULTS

The study concentrated more on students from rural areas and also collected the opinions of students from Urban areas. It was found that almost all the students from urban as well as rural areas had a very bad experience of online classes. It was found that network issues were the main problem faced by the students. Network issues were not only restricted to students of rural areas, even the students from urban areas did face it but the effect was comparatively more for rural area students, where they had to either switch their locations for online classes or go for some advanced network strategies like WIFI, but most of them complained about the lack of electronic gadgets. In addition, the students were not able to grab the concepts easily because of un-interactive classes which resulted in uncleared doubts among them. There was also a low level of understanding and lack of concentration since there was no study atmosphere. When asked about the health issues faced from online classes, the majority of them suffered from eye strain problems and headache. Majority of the Students faced difficulty while preparing for their exams since there were no proper study materials. Some students found it difficult to adjust from virtual class to physical classes when classes resumed after a long time. But they got adjusted to it quickly since most students prefer physical classroom teaching over online mode. Thus, the hypothesis was confirmed and proved true. The students were not happy with the online class and they also feared if online class takes over classroom teaching.

6. CONCLUSION

Education is treated as a basic need in the country. And this education system had to step towards an advanced mode of education due to an unpredicted calamity called Covid 19 pandemic. The study was undertaken to analyse the opinion of students towards the online education system. Even though the online education system was only mode to be adapted during unforeseen circumstances, it had adverse effects on the students. Though the students were not ready to adapt to online class, it was the only option left with the first-grade colleges. The hypothesis of the study, “the students are unhappy about online class” is proved true. This is mainly because of network issues faced by the students. The network issues in the country, especially in rural areas should be fixed. The research question, “is it possible to improve the network issues faced by the students during online class?” has still remained as a question because through research we found there are a lot of loopholes in rural areas connected with rural areas. It is advisable for the authorities to take necessary steps in improving the network issue in these areas.

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