

Education System: a badly affected sector because of COVID19. An indepth analysis from student's perspective.

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Abstract

Background: On the verge of COVID 19 educational activities are suspended. Examinations are cancelled in Gujarat state of India. Students are in sticky situation. The aim of current study is to evaluate effect of COVID19 on education.

Method: Questionnaire was prepared in Google form, distributed through online mode and responses were collected from diploma, undergraduate and postgraduate students of various branches like Management, engineering and science of South Gujarat region of Gujarat state, India by random sampling.

Result: 407 responses were recorded. 58.2% students find online education useful in this situation. 47.1% students enough resources to attend online classes everyday in online education. Though online education find its important, 38.2% attend online lectures with full interest in On line education. About 49.7% students think that COVID19 pandemic pushed them towards self study. 50.5% students think that examinations should have been conducted for fair assessment. Job opportunity in future will be hampered, is said by 76.5% of final year students.

Conclusion: Online education is proving its importance. But overall system is needs to be oriented towards online education. COVID19 may produce less job opportunities.

KEYWORDS: COVID19, Students, Examinations, Online education, Google form, Lockdown.

INTRODUCTION:

Corona virus is family of virus ranging from common cold to Severe Acute respiratory Syndrome (SARS). The most recent corona virus is COVID19 originated in China.⁽¹⁾ From China, now almost every country is affected. 1st case in India was reported on 30th January 2020.⁽²⁾ From last week of March lockdown is imposed in India to counteract corona virus diseases. Due to lockdown all activities including educational activities are suspended from then to stop community spread. Since lockdown various educational institutes, schools and colleges are closed. Initially students were contented because of holidays but as lockdown increased, it caused much stir in their mind. Students are in big dilemma regarding their examinations, how examinations will be conducted? Weather examinations will be conducted or not? How remaining syllabus will be completed? And many more. On the backdrop of COVID19 and lockdown various institutions are pursuing education via various online methods like enterprise resource planning (ERP) software, google classrooms, YouTube lectures, by using zoom application and many other methods. As lockdown is undergraduate and postgraduate level examinations

in of India has been cancelled in Gujarat State. Currently only examinations of students who are in final year are planned by universities as their further carrier will be based on final semester marks. On this whole scenario, in the current study, a survey is carried out using Google form to study what students think about online education, cancellation of examinations, and effect on their carrier. Google form is used for survey because it an easy, handy online tool and data can be collected by simple and contactless method. Google form has several advantage like fast data collection, high coverage, automatic analysis of collected data and 100% free

METHOD: We designed a survey that contained questions concerning effect of COVID19 on education by using google form. Link of google form was distributed through online mode, majorly by using whatsapp mobile application among students of South Gujarat region of Gujarat state. Data was collected in between 23- July-2020 to 25-July- 2020 by using random sampling. In Introduction section information like Email address, Name of the Student, Name of the Institute, Level of the Study, Course/Faculty, Year of the study were included. In another section 20 questions related to research were included as follows:

1. Did you face difficulties in your study because of COVID19 pandemic?
2. Are lectures interrupted because of COVID 19 lockdown?
3. How much syllabus was completed before lockdown?
4. Is continuous assessment being implemented?
5. Has internal exam been conducted before the lockdown?
6. Is remaining syllabus being studied through online mode?
7. Which online platforms are being used for completion of remaining syllabus?
8. Have you ever watched TV advertisements about online education like Byju's?
9. Do you think that online education (online learning apps) is useful?
10. Are you agree that offline education is superior to online education?
11. Do all your queries get easily solved through online education mode?
12. Can you attend online lectures with full interest?
13. Do you agree that mind distractions are more in online education system?
14. Do you think that COVID 19 led you towards self-study?
15. Do you have enough resources to attend online classes every day?
16. Do you think that online education is more costly than traditional education system?
17. Are you ready to prefer online education system in the future?
18. Do you think that cancellation of examination will impact your future?
19. Are you satisfied with "merit based progression" given by the University/Board?
20. Any opinion about online education system.

Appropriate options were given along with questions.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION:

After distribution of google form, around 407 responses were recorded. These responses were classified according to education level, according to year in which they are studying. Among 407 responses 377 students were from undergraduate level while 30 students were from postgraduate level.

Students profile	Number (n)	Percentage (%)
Study Level		
Undergraduate	377	92.6%
Postgraduate	30	7.4 %
Study Year		
1 st	7	1.7%
2 nd	216	53.1%
3 rd	158	38.8%
4 th	17	4.2%
5 th	9	2.2%

About 239(58.72%) participants responded that up to 50 % syllabus was completed before lockdown. About 49 (12.04%) participants responded that in between 50% to 70% syllabus was completed before lockdown. About 31 (7.62%) participants responded that in between 70% to 90% syllabus was completed before lockdown. While only 88 participants (21.62%) responded that 100% syllabus is complete.

This should be taking into consideration while taking examination. Regarding internal examination completion, around 242 (59.46%) students responded with yes while 165(40.54%) students said not conducted.

As lockdown was imposed various institutions moved towards the online methods of education for syllabus completion. From students response it was found that only 268 (65.85%) students responded yes that remaining syllabus is completed through online mode while 139 (34.15%) students said no. For online education institutions followed various methods, among them WebEx is most followed. About 150 (36.86%) students find WebEx application useful for online education. About 119 (36.86%) students find Zoom application useful for online education. About 80 (19.66%) students find Google meet useful for online education. About 58 (14.24%) students find Google classroom and other useful for online education.

One of the main concerns for online education is various types of hurdles which make online education difficult. Among these hurdles one of the major hurdles faced by students is lack of internet connectivity, especially in rural areas. In developing country like India it is hard to find high speed internet connectivity throughout. Students are mostly connected on digital platform through smart mobile phones. But in rural areas, mobile network connectivity is limited upto 2G or 3G which causes difficulty in online streaming making learning process slow and tedious. Another major concern regarding online education is question-able online assessment of student's performance. It is found that students can easily take advantage of online process while answering the questions making it difficult for evaluation. Some students responded that online education caused stress on eyes and headache as it requires to seat for hours in front of screen. Also half of students responded that they find it difficult to get their query solved through online mode.

Due to these various reasons around 336 (82.56%) students find chalk and board conventional method of education superior over online method while 71 (17.44%) students are in dilemma over which method is good. Contrary to belief majority of students, 209 (51.35), believe that that online education is more costly than traditional education system. Students who are in final semester were asked to respond questions like, will COVID19 hamper their future and job opportunities? To this 75% of final year students think that this situation will adversely affect job opportunities. Post COVID19 world will be different. Many studies are indicating that recession will be on high side.⁽⁵⁾ Definitely this will hamper on employability of upcoming graduates also.

As lockdown increased, along with online education, online examinations are also considered by universities, to this, 234 (57.49%) students responded that they are not ready for online examination while 173 (42.01%) students responded that they are ready for online examination. This shows that student's mindset in current situation is not towards online examination. Students will not accept suddenly change in education and examination pattern. Acceptance towards online education will increase gradually. Definitely there is need to shift Conventional education system towards online digital mode in current situation as well as in future also but it should be based upon considerations of students, parents as well as faculty. Also digital infrastructure present at various institutional levels should be checked before proceeding. Lastly students were asked their opinion on current education situation; some of them are mentioned below.

“Traditional education is better than online education”

“Not fully satisfied with online lectures but due to covid pandemic online study is one of the better options”

“In online education system, the saddest part is we have to stick on the screen of mobile, computer etc. electronic devices which increase student anxiety and we having trouble to listen continuously on headphones that affect our ears as well. So, according to me Offline Education is more Better than Online Education.”

“Online education is not better than offline/live education so all students can not study properly because they were face many problems like internet connection problem, system problem , voice problem etc so online education is not good “

“Online education is good but due to more use of mobile and laptop it caused stress on eyes and cause headache.”

“Online education is good. But i can't concentrate more as compare to offline education. “

CONCLUSION:

Form the survey several points can be concluded. As far as education field is con-sidered COVID19 pandemic has huge impact. Syllabus is not completed, exami-nations are cancelled, and students are in confusion with respect to their future. Currently online teaching and examination methods are followed by educational institutions. Majority of students are not able to understand through online mode. In future defiantly we have to look forward towards online education. For this purpose improvement in basic infrastructure is necessary. Student's mentality will slowly move towards online education. Apart from these students graduating may face problem in their carrier. Job opportunities may be decreased in future.

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