

Advantages and Disadvantages of Online Education among Youth

Dr Xavier Vinayaraj N V¹, Ms. Sona Mariya Mathew²

^{1,2}*School of Social Work, De Paul Institute of science & Technology Angamaly*

Abstract— The Covid 19 has affected all areas of human life. It affected humanity physically, mentally, socially, economically and spiritually. It has also its effect in education and academic field. It changed all traditional normality and become a new beginning and this new beginning is now coined as “new normality”. The new normal now is a transformed concept of education with online learning at the core of this transformation (Priyanka Gautam, 2020). Many changes occurred in online education. In order to keep social distance and safe guard student’s life the government and universities relied on online education and it helped in large extent to protect the students from corona virus. But when we think about physical, mental and social aspect of student’s life, we need more studies to identify the issues to carry forward an healthy online education or mixed education system. There are many studies conducted during Covid 19 period to understand the advantages and disadvantages of online education. This study also aims to understand the advantages and disadvantages of online education among youth. The purpose is to critically analyses and describe the respondents view point about merits and demerits of online education they experiencing. The descriptive research has conducted among youth those who are attending online class during Covid 19. The self-prepared questionnaire was used and for convenience Google form is used to collect data from the respondents. The study result identified that 41.5% of the respondents had agreed and 35.5% strongly agree that there comes communication gap between teachers and students due to online education. Among the respondents 41.7% agreed and 18.6% strongly disagree the statement that interactions become more comfortable with the help of online education. Even though there are many merits of online sessions, students also expressed their experience that network issue hinders the effectiveness of online classes and webinars, and it causes discontinuity in grasping of facts.

Index Terms: Online class, new normality, communication issues, technical issues, health issues.

INTRODUCTION

Covid 19 effected all areas of human life. It changed all traditional way of life. It has changed social life, education field and all human normal way of life into different changed way of adapting to new normality. Among them one area is education. In order to protect the students from affecting covid 19 all government system decided to do social distancing and as a part of it they decided to organize online mode of education in all areas. This has both positive result and negative result. The purpose of this paper is to discuss the Advantages and dis-advantages of online education among students. The online education has many disadvantages and these disadvantages affected many areas including academic performance and physical, mental, social, spiritual and emotional areas of student’s life. The online education has difficulties with technical aspects and which include connectivity issues and network issues including economic aspects of charging internet. There are many studies conducted and still ongoing to identify the challenges and issues of online education.

METHODOLOGY

The researchers has used the descriptive research design to describe the research and has conducted the study among youth those who are attending online class during Covid 19. The self-prepared questionnaire was used and for convenience Google form is used to collect data from the respondents.

ONLINE CLASS

The social distancing and lockdown changed the mode of class room from institutions to home through online class. Online classes are conducted with the support of available online platforms. Which

are mostly used by Google meet, WebEx and Zoom meet. Google class room, WhatSapp groups, ppt voice recording and Moodle platforms are some of the many commonly used online plat form for online education. These online platforms also offered free access to students and institution to support them during covid 19. The current study shows that among the respondents little less than one third of the respondents (30.3) felt that online education helped for learning during Covid 19 situation. Uroкова, S. B. (2020) in there study says that internet education is soon to become the dominant form of education in the world. A lot of effort is being devoted aimed at bettering the quality of this kind of studying. The development of virtual education in the future will depend on the advance of contemporary technologies and the Internet. The author emphasizes the fact that faculties with “classrooms without walls” will not fully replace traditional faculties. The researcher suggest that the education system is gaining a completely new content therefore it is necessary to re-analyze the content of each subject, to radically reform it on the basis of ensuring its continuity and continuity through the stages of education, and to approach it from the point of view of life. The author also explains that E--learning allows students to study anywhere, anytime. Allows you to study from anywhere, from a computer or mobile device and connected to the Internet, whether at home, on vacation or between work breaks. Amber D Dumford, & Angie L Miller (2018) explores the ways in which taking courses through an online medium impacts student engagement. The article speaks about it that those students taking greater numbers of online courses were more likely to engage in quantitative reasoning. However, they were less likely to engage in collaborative learning, student-faculty interactions, and discussions with diverse others, compared to their more traditional classroom counterparts. The students with greater numbers of online courses also reported less exposure to effective teaching practices and lower quality of interactions. The relationship between these engagement indicators and the percentage of classes taken online suggests that an online environment might benefit certain types of engagement, but may also be somewhat of a deterrent to others. Institutions should consider these findings when designing online course content, and encourage faculty to contemplate ways of encouraging student

engagement across a variety of delivery types. Sean Healy, et. al (2014) in their study states that online education is being increasingly used to provide training to teachers. For the field of adapted physical education, such a method of training may be an effective means of providing professional development. This study seeks to gain the perspective of adapted physical educators of using online education. This will allow future online courses to be designed and implemented with the perspectives of the potential users taken into account.

NEW NORMALITY

The world right now thinking about before Covid 19 era and during Covid 19 era. Because there was a normal life before Covid 19 and after the Covid 19 that normal life changed to new normality. People are forced to adapt many thing to survive and be part of that new normality. Life was become challenging to become the part of this new normality. Many lost their job, many lost their life, many lost their dear one's life and many more happened. Gradually we all are adaptable to new normality. Which is reflected in every areas of life. In the home, in religious life, in work place, in society and social life etc. John O'Donoghue, et. al(2004) in their article explain that there are a number of changes which have taken place within Higher Education (HE) and Further Education (FE) over the past decade, political, social and economic. Increasing numbers of people are being encouraged to apply to study at universities and colleges via a variety of formats. Research also suggests that more students are choosing to study online. There are many views that suggest and flexibility it provides in terms of study time and location. online learning is only an option to those in society fortunate to be able to afford it financially, and that even those who are able to partake in IT based education are faced with the threat of isolation caused by reduced levels of interaction in the online environment. The challenges includes lack of face to face interaction, and threats of isolation. The challenge for institutions are considering how educational institutions may be able to reduce or even prevent these issues and aid the development of online education. Mohammed Alshamrani (2019) conducted a study and this study had the primary objective of identifying the advantages and

disadvantages of online learning for a group of students studying in New Zealand. The study was conducted using a survey and interviews to delve into an understanding of the advantages and disadvantages of online education from the student's perspective. The intended audience for the research are academics, instructors, and the designers of online course modules, as well as those involved in the design of institutional educational learning systems. The study identified that the role of technical infrastructure and internet connectivity is paramount in ensuring the success of the online learning. Also, content and technology providers need to provide portable, high-quality, inter-operable solutions so that the same content can be delivered across the different institutions and different departments within the same institution. Further, the advantages can be leveraged to increase the popularization of online education and inform best practice in using online learning platforms.

Online education helps you to spend more time with your family	
	Percentage
Agree	32.9
Disagree	18.6
Neutral	28.7
Strongly agree	5.2
Strongly disagree	14.6
Total	100.0

Table- 1

The current study shows that among the respondents little less than one third of the respondents (32.9) felt that online education helps to spend more time with family.

Socialization get hinders by online education	
	Percentage
Agree	35.1
Disagree	7.0
Neutral	37.8
Strongly agree	18.6
Strongly disagree	1.5
Total	100.0

Table 2

The above table shows that more than one third of the respondents (35.1%) agree and 18.6% strongly agree that Socialization get hinders by online education. More than one third of the respondents (39.6%) think

interactions become more comfortable with the help of online education. One third of the respondents (33.5%) disagree and little less than one fourth (22.9%) strongly disagree about satisfaction in online learning.

COMMUNICATION ISSUES

Communication is the key for human interaction. In academic field effective communication plays vital role. The communication has major part to play in teacher student relation in teaching. Melody W Alexander, (2012) study shows that online courses and programs are continuing to grow in post-secondary education, and many information systems professors are becoming involved in planning and implementing online offerings. While designing online courses, student input is of great value. The communication in offline and online class has difference. Especially if the students are having new experience in online program and classes in online. The skill of the teachers in taking online session and adaptability of communication strategy via online has great influence in online class teaching sessions.

How many hours do you have online class per day	
hours	Percent
1	7.9
2	8.8
3	17.1
4	28.4
5	37.8
Total	100.0

Table 3

The above table shows the daily online class hours of the respondents more than one third of the respondents (37.8%) are attending 5 hours per day in online class. This indicate how they are effected physically, socially , mentally and economically by using online gadget for long hours and the expense for internet for these long hours.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

The online class involves many use of technology. It involves a technology of gadget, internet technology, and software or online platform for conducting online sessions. Internet connectivity, expense for purchasing gadget suitable for attending online class

and expense for purchasing internet usage are one of the major challenges. The power issues and internet issues are other major technical issues. In order to solve internet connectivity issues students gradually turn off the video to listen mode. It gradually paves a way for students to engage in another activity listening lecturing by audio only and or just turn on class session and engage in another activity either in phone or another means too. Valentina Arkorful, Nelly Abaidoo(2015) investigates the effectiveness of using e-learning in teaching in tertiary institutions. In institutions of higher education, the issue of utilizing modern information and communication technologies for teaching and learning is very important. This study reviews literature and gives a scholarly background to the study by reviewing some contributions made by various researchers and institutions on the concept of e-learning, particularly its usage in teaching and learning in higher educational institutions. It unveils some views that people and institutions have shared globally on the adoption and integration of e-learning technologies in education through surveys and other observations.

If 'turn on your video' made compulsory in online education, may be you will attend online class actively?		
	Frequency	Percent
Agree	98	29.9
Disagree	65	19.8
Neutral	110	33.6
Strongly agree	26	7.9
Strongly disagree	29	8.8
Total	328	100.0

Table 4

The above table shows the issues of online video on and off during online class. Little less than one third of the respondent(29.9%) agree that if turn on video made compulsory in online education, students will attend online class actively while attending class.

Power issues are very big problem during Online Education		
	Frequency	Percent
Agree	132	40.3
Disagree	17	5.2
Neutral	52	15.9
Strongly agree	121	36.9
Strongly disagree	6	1.8

Total	328	100.0
-------	-----	-------

Table 5

The above table shows the one of the main issues of online class. Power issues are very big problem during Online Education and more than one third of the respondents (40.3 %) agree that Power issues are very big problem during Online Education and little more than one third(36.9%) explained that Power issues are very big problem during Online Education

Network Issues and Battery Problems also affects the online education		
	Frequency	Percent
Agree	118	36.0
Disagree	18	5.5
Neutral	25	7.6
Strongly agree	161	49.1
Strongly disagree	6	1.8
Total	328	100.0

Table 6

The above table shows that among the respondents nearly almost half of the respondents strongly agree (49.1%) and more than one third (36%) agree that Network Issues and Battery Problems also affects the online education. Therefore we can say that it is one of the major challenge as well as tackling issues in online education. The study result also shows that half of the respondents (50.3%) agree and 10.1 % strongly agree that online education opens the deep opportunity of digital world in learning. The respondents has experienced that (44.2% agree) & (33.8% strongly agree) there comes communication gap between teachers and students due to online education. In the light of all these findings it's clear that there are many positive aspects and negative aspects for online education. But if the teachers, parents students and education department work together for understanding the issues and solve it online education can make better and effective. It is also needed that as long as we depend online mode of education to fight against Covid 19 all are related to academic field need to change individually or as collective or adaptable to the needed change and achieve needed learning to deliver online teaching using possible technologies and competent to meet the service delivery in a qualitative manner.

HEALTH ISSUES

Covid 19 as a threat for human life it effects health of the humanity in many way. It include physical health social health, mental health and religious health. The health of the people and especially students are effected in many way it include health issues because of over usage of communication devices and all sort of online using. The purpose of staying home is to protect students from Covid 19 and to ensure social distancing. In order to continue education all institution has to depend on online education. But it effects physical, social and emotional health of the students.

Staying in home & online education helps in Keeping Social Distance in Covid -19		
	Frequency	Percent
Agree	188	57.3
Disagree	21	6.4
Neutral	29	8.8
Strongly agree	81	24.8
Strongly disagree	9	2.7
Total	328	100.0

Table 7

The above table shows the social distancing practice because of online education of the students. The study shows that among the respondents more than half of the respondents (57.3%) and one fourth of the respondent (24.8%) strongly agree that online education helps in staying home and do social distancing.

Does online education made you unhealthy?		
	Frequency	Percent
Agree	127	38.7
Disagree	40	12.2
Neutral	77	23.5
Strongly agree	79	24.1
Strongly disagree	5	1.5
Total	328	100.0

Table 8

The above table shows that among the respondents more than one third (38.7 %) agree and one fourth of the respondents (24.1%) strongly agree that online education made them unhealthy.

Infected with Covid 19 during first wave		
	Frequency	Percent
Don't Know	15	4.6
No	269	82
Yes	44	13.4
Total	328	100.0

Table 9

The above table shows that among the respondents only 13.4 % affected with Covid positive. The study result also shows that little less than half of the respondents (46%) of the respondents where using Google meet & 11.9 where using Google class room as online platforms used for studying. More than one third of the respondents (37.8%) are attending five hours per days in online for class. More than one third of the respondent (35.6%) have opinion that when online education came into practice, we get plenty of time for other activities. More than one third of the respondent agree (35.1%) and strongly agree (36.9 %) that Face-to-face interaction with teachers and friends are not possible in online education period. More than one third of the respondent agree (37.8 %) and strongly agree (38.7 %) that feel laziness in attending the online classes. one third of the respondent Disagree (33.2%) that More concentration in academic activities made possible by Online Education.

SUGGESTIONS

- Reduce the class hours and channelize the time for some recreational activities for students.
- Make class time more interactive and group centered.
- Give everyone the chances to speak voluntarily on interested topics and share their opinions on particular topic.
- Use different tools and techniques for each sessions and thus can reduce the boredom.
- Make students and teachers visible to each other. ie; make video on...
- Encourage students to take classes and seminars.
- Gather opinions from students too regarding the classes hours, timing, break, activities needed, pattern of class etc.

CONCLUSION

Covid 19 adversely affected all areas of human life. As we discussed in this paper one among the crucial difficulties from lockdown are closure of colleges and other educational institutions. Since it helped a lot in promotion of social distance, prevention of spreading of corona virus, ensuring safety environment for students etc. Introduction of online education implicates a dramatic change in the field of

education especially in India, because online education is a new term for us. When we think about the positive sides, from this research itself, we can state that improvement in academic performance, acquisition of new knowledge and skills, opening of wide area of online courses, etc are made possible. Also there comes certain negative effects which includes lack of interaction and communication, discrimination among children on the basis of have or have not, network issues hinders smooth sessions etc. Students can't experience the real life of college and its benefits from online educational platforms. Let us all imagine the world of new normality in which colleges are again fill with young minds and their potentials. All things needs to be get normalized and back to real life.

Online Teacher Development(2014).
researchgate.net

- [7] Mirjana Radović-Marković, Advantages and disadvantages of e-learning in comparison to traditional forms of learning. *Annals of the University of Petrošani, Economics* 10 (2), 289-298, 2010, researchgate.net
- [8] UroKOva, S. B. (2020). Advantages and disadvantages of online education. *ISJ Theoretical & Applied Science*, 09 (89), 34-37.

REFERENCES

- [1] Amber D Dumford, Angie L Miller(2018).Online learning in higher education: exploring advantages and disadvantages for engagement. *Journal of Computing in Higher Education* 30 (3), 452-465. link.springer.com
- [2] John O'Donoghue, Gurmak Singh, Charmaine Green, A comparison of the advantages and disadvantages of IT based education and the implication upon students. *Digital Education Review*, 63-76, 2004. dialnet.unirioja.es
- [3] Valentina Arkorful, Nelly Abaidoo, The role of e-learning, advantages and disadvantages of its adoption in higher education. *International Journal of Instructional Technology and Distance Learning* 12 (1), 29-42, 2015. itdl.org
- [4] Mohammed Alshamrani, An Investigation of the Advantages and Disadvantages of Online Education. Auckland University of Technology, 2019. orapp.aut.ac.nz
- [5] Melody W Alexander, Allen D Truell, Jensen J Zhao, Expected advantages and disadvantages of online learning: Perceptions from college students who have not taken online courses. *Issues in Information Systems* 13 (2), 193-200, 2012. citeseerx.ist.psu.edu
- [6] Sean Healy, Martin Block, Joann Judge, Palaestra, Certified Adapted Physical Educator's Perceptions of Advantages and Disadvantages of