

Online Teaching in the Time of Covid 19-Effectiveness and Challenges

Rucha R. Lohi¹, Nikita Dhahikar², Ranjit Ambad³, Dhruba Hari Chandi⁴

¹Assistant Professor, ²Student, Datta Meghe Institute of Management Studies Nagpur, ³Associate Professor, Dept. of Biochemistry Datta Meghe Medical College, Shalinitai Meghe Hospital and Research Centre, Hingana, Nagpur,

⁴Assistant Professor, Dept. of Microbiology, Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College, Datta Meghe Institute of Medical Sciences, Sawangi (Meghe) Wardha

Abstract

India is facing COVID 19 Education Crisis many students have been affected by the closure of schools and colleges. This has caused a dramatic change in the education with a distinctive shift to e-learning where the teaching is done on digital platforms. Most of the schools and colleges are conducting online classes to cope up with the situation and to save the students from the loss. However it has its own drawbacks like issues of internet connectivity, availability of required resources, understanding the software application and lack of personal attention, less student attentiveness, etc. This paper studies the effectiveness of online students classes conducted to evaluate the effectiveness of online teaching. It also includes the software applications that can be used to conduct online classes. Online teaching is the future of students.

Keywords: Online Teaching. Software application, digital platforms, Education Crisis.

Introduction

The corona pandemic has led to the education crisis; all the schools and college have been closed till further notice of the government. To ensure that the students do not lag behind due to this temporary closure many of the schools and colleges have started online classes^{1,2,3}. So that students can continue their education from the comfort zones of their home. The Schools and colleges are using software applications like Zoom, Google Classroom, Webex Meet to conduct online lectures. These applications are having many features to make online teaching more engaging and effective. However it has many drawbacks like availability of resources, internet connectivity & speed, usage of software

application. In online lectures it is very difficult for the faculty to monitor all the students and also to ensure students attentiveness^{4,5}. If the students are having proper access to right technology learning online can be effective in many ways. Thus the Institutes are making continuous efforts to make online teaching effective. Most commonly used Software Applications used for conduction lectures by schools and colleges is google class room and Zoom. While the shift is difficult for the students to adapt even the faculties are facing difficulties understanding the features of the applications and conducting classes^{6,7,8}.

Objectives of the Study:

- To evaluate the effectiveness of online classes conducted
- To analyse the problems faced in conducting online classes
- To study and analyse the areas of concern in online teaching

Significance of the Study: Due to the present scenario of COVID 19 there has been an education crisis

Corresponding Author:

Dr. Ranjit Ambad

Associate Professor Dept. of Biochemistry, Datta Meghe Medical College, Shalinitai Meghe Hospital and Research Centre, Hingana, Nagpur
e-mail: ambad.sawan@gmail.com

and a major shift from traditional classroom teaching to online teaching. The instant shift has been a challenge for the education sector and the situation is such that the schools & colleges have no other choice left than to conduct online classes. As the infrastructure is a problem it is not possible to conduct classes maintaining the social distancing norms. Also it is not right to make the children open to the risk of getting infected. The study helps to identify the effectiveness of online teaching it also address the major challenges involved in it.

Research Methodology

For the purpose of research, data was collected from 500 students who attended online class conducted. An

online Class was conducted for Undergraduate final year students on digital platform. Primary data was collected from the participants via questionnaire. The data was collected via questionnaire from the participants of the online class after the session.

Hypothesis: There is a lack of effectiveness in online teaching

Data Collection & Analysis:

The data collected using a questionnaire and analysed as below:

Table 1: One-Sample Statistics

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Digital platform used	500	1.6905	.46099	.02062
Login issues	500	1.6710	.43547	.01948
Session audible	500	1.7455	.46426	.02076
Power point presentation visibility	500	2.2170	.35272	.01577
Disturbances	500	1.7365	.46972	.02101
Interaction Internet connectivity	500	1.7015	.44432	.01987
Number of participants	500	1.7755	.47241	.02113
Overall Satisfaction	500	2.0360	.43166	.01930
Recommended in future	500	1.6790	.45428	.02032

Table 2: One-Sample Test

	Test Value = 1.5					
	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
					Lower	Upper
Digital platform used	9.240	499	.000	.19050	.1500	.2310
Login issues	8.780	499	.000	.17100	.1327	.2093
Session audible	11.824	499	.000	.24550	.2047	.2863
Power point presentation visibility	45.454	499	.000	.71700	.6860	.7480
Disturbances	11.258	499	.000	.23650	.1952	.2778
Interaction Internet connectivity	10.141	499	.000	.20150	.1625	.2405
Number of participants	13.040	499	.000	.27550	.2340	.3170
Overall Satisfaction	27.766	499	.000	.53600	.4981	.5739
Recommended in future	8.811	499	.000	.17900	.1391	.2189

The mean value obtained in all the above cases is more than 1.5 and the significance (2-tailed) value obtained is also less than 0.05 ($p < 0.05$) hence it can be concluded that there is lack of satisfaction in online teaching among the students. Thus from the above, it is concluded that the hypothesis “There is a lack of effectiveness in online teaching” is accepted.

Conclusion

The digital platforms are not user friendly to start with for the students. The students need assistance in understanding the software application initially. Most of the audience faced the issue understanding the application it delays the session and cascading effects are on the further schedule of the day^{9,10}. The students also need assistance to login into the software application. Though this is only a one time problem faced as once the login id is created further the same is used. Audibility is a big concern as students unmute the audio and the background noises makes it difficult to hear. Also many students don't understand the basic functions so cannot understand & follow the instructions given. The visibility is proper if the laptop is used by the presenter in case of smart phone the visibility is not up to the mark. Audio and video is disturbed in case the internet bandwidth is low. Thus many participants have issue in the audibility & visibility. Interaction during the session is disturbed due to the issue of low bandwidth internet or connectivity. Even the attentiveness of students is an issue in case of online teaching. It is difficult to monitor their presence and attentiveness¹¹.

Many students have internet connectivity issues due to which they often leave the class and login again. Thus the students miss the important content delivery in class and cannot understand the complete concept. If the number of participants is more then it impacts the effectiveness of the online teaching negatively. If the number of participants is less in class it is possible for the faculty to monitor the students and engage them well. In case of larger audience it becomes difficult and thus negatively impacts the effectiveness. Overall satisfaction is not there as the online classes had issues related to audibility, visibility and interaction. As the students have internet connectivity problem therefore they do not understand the concepts delivered in class. Due to the various issues faced by the participants there is no willingness to attend the classes online and it further makes it ineffective.

The transition from traditional offline teaching to online teaching is not easy and is impacting the effectiveness of teaching. The online classes are not that effective due to the above mentioned reasons but the pandemic has left no other option. As if the schools and colleges open the children will be open to the risk of getting infected. Till the scenario improves education of students is going to be a big question in front of the academicians and government.

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