

A Study on Paradigm Shift in Education Due to Pandemic with Special Reference to Idukki District

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Education and Learning is a strong instrument that can change the future of our world. Upgraded technology and total information system are playing a crucial role in developing new inventions in our education sector. The year 2020 has undoubtedly been one of the eventful years till now. Outbreak of the Corona Virus has changed the total predictions of the world. Impact of the Covid-19 is evident in all industries and sectors. Education Industry also faced huge challenges during this period. The conventional way of learning process has replaced and shifted to a new path. As this pandemic was an unprecedented scenario, many educators and students were unprepared to cope up with the new method of learning: the virtual classroom. This research is an attempt to analyse the changes due to Covid-19 and different aspects related to it. This is a study conducted with special reference Idukki District. Usually the people moving from Idukki to other places for the higher studies for overcoming the limitations but this pandemic force everyone to stay in their own places. E- learning is not very much possible in Idukki due to lack of reliability towards internet, technological issues, geographical and climatic conditions etc., Emerging importance of e-learning platforms and the major issues faced by places like Idukki is considered in this paper.

Keywords: Challenges, Covid-19 pandemic, Education, E-learning Platforms, Idukki District.

1. Introduction

Learning and education are the two key factors that can mould our career. Learning is a process of gaining knowledge through experience, practice and in education we are acquiring knowledge through teaching and interactions. Both processes can be developed through outside source and inner self. The medium can vary according to individuals, location etc. Education and learning began in prehistory, as adults trained the young in the knowledge and skills deemed necessary in their society. In pre-literate societies, this was gained orally and through imitation. The basic fundamentals of a structured society is forming on the basis of skills, culture, values, beliefs and knowledge which is

provided through education and learning. Education is passed through different stages like Gurukula, Informal Teaching, Formal Classes and virtual classrooms as of now.

The 21st century is a remarkable period for the education sector. As a result of the unexpected outbreak of Corona virus (covid-19) the entire world witnessed the changes in the total learning system and how the e-learning platform becomes the powerful medium of education. All the universities, schools and even kindergarten also forced to learn through the e-learning platforms. It was a drastic change that has happened in the entire world despite of geographic conditions, economic standards, social structure etc. But the main thing is the influence the practical implications of the e-learning is different from one another.

E-learning is a highly beneficial platform which is considered as a result of integration of technology and education. The unquestionable significance of e-learning in education has led to a massive growth in the number of e-learning courses and systems offering different types of services. Major prestigious universities like Oxford, Harvard, Yale and all other universities are trying to finish the semester exams. But the major question is 'Can online classes compensate the Campus or School experience?'. Digital literacy of teachers, faculties, students and parents, the mental state of participants in this platform, availability of reliable internet services in the particular place are some major considerations which is coming under this topic.

The first higher education institute to offer an online curriculum was CAL Campus, created in 1994. Shortly after, the University of Virginia Beach issued its first PhD through courses delivered entirely via email. Webcam, another technical innovation of the decade, profoundly replaced the nature of the relationship between teachers and students. Open source learning solutions become more democratic in 2000 and collaborative learning become a commonplace in educational institutions and universities. More than 40% of the 500 largest companies now use e-learning for employee training. Different types of e-learning are;

- Computer Managed Learning (CML)
- Computer Assisted Instruction (CAI)
- Synchronous Online Learning
- Asynchronous Online Learning
- Fixed E-Learning
- Adaptive E-Learning
- Linear E-Learning
- Interactive Online Learning
- Individual Online Learning
- Collaborative Online Learning.

All these online learning is happening in 21st centuries through the platforms like Coursera, Alison, Skillshare, Future Learn, Udemy etc. E-Learning platforms are mainly targeted on students and they are trying to provide content based education. Government initiatives towards digitalization are a major trend in the market. As we all know the current situation changed the traditional approaches towards education and it paved a credible growth in the market of e-learning industry.

2. Literature Review

Vishal Dineshkumar Soni in his paper titled as "Global Impact of E-learning during COVID 19" is discussing transformations in the education system due to this pandemic. This is focus attention on

the topics like Role of e-learning in covid-19, Global transition to online education, Changes in e learning and beneficiaries of e-learning, learning platforms etc. Significant growth is witnessed by the world in online education system by the potential users, providers and through several platforms. Recorded report states that Microsoft team users were 750 as of 10th March but by 24th March it has risen up to 138698 which is indeed a significant growth. The pandemic replace the conventional approaches of education existed in academia by introducing some beneficiaries and advantages for the students, teachers, research scholars etc. The e-learning resulted disruptive shift and it generated some challenges in the education but due to the regular use, necessity and implementation of new programmes are helping a lot to cover the barriers. Drastic changes in the total system need implementation of strategies to grow. Otherwise unequal gap and many other problems many emerge in our educational industry.

Fouzia Shersad in his research paper titled as “Managing Risk of E-learning During Covid-19” aims at structuring multiple facets of e-learning risks in a way that will be practicable for educators and education administrators to assess and plan appropriate measures. Major concerns of this paper are risk management, cyber security in education, security system and higher studies. As a result of the analysis they found out some general risk related to e-learning such as internet traffic, lack of readiness, poor practical skills, lack of student engagement and increasing cyber security. Systematic planning is a key tool that helps to deal with unprecedented events in future also.

Paul Agu Igwe in his paper “Higher education and Students Experience Under Covid-19” giving more emphasize on the Higher Education and experience of students. “Education stakeholders and policy-makers need to re-examine the relevance of education in the current global economic, social, health and technological changes. Adequate funding is required to train teachers, provide an enabling learning environment and professional development of teachers. Governments in developing countries need to go into a collaborative funding arrangement with digital and mobile technological operators to provide students and staff with free access to internet and e-learning platforms in the form of vouchers and codes. Special funding must be provided to higher education institutions to provide online teaching and learning platforms that improve student engagement, create opportunities for one-on-one interactions and offer accessibility anytime and anywhere, thereby enhancing students’ experience. Technologies like Blackboard Collaborate, Moodle, and Google meet, Zoom and MS Team and other virtual classrooms offer virtual solutions that deliver a level of engagement that makes learners forget they’re not in a physical classroom”.

Ravi Rai Dangi & Mathew George made a study titled as “Psychological Perception of students during Covid-19” is dealing with outbreak in India on the mental well-being of the students during the time of pandemic. Most students were anxious during this time and stressed. Increased anxiety can affect negatively to psychological, emotional and behavioural state of the students. If psychological state is not in equilibrium, then students could not be able to concentrate on their studies. Investigators recommends that government authorities and educational institutes can take collaborative steps to solve these various problems in upcoming near future.

Syama U S in his paper titled as “The Evaluation of Efficiency of Online Classes during the Period of Covid-19” is more focused on efficiency and effectiveness of online classes and its outcome. The responses help to understand the value of education through virtual classroom. It is different from one person to another and it’s depends on the student’s engagement.

3. Research Methodology

This research is based on 159 responses and aims to systematically and accurately describe population, situation or phenomenon with the help of descriptive sampling. The total population is divided into smaller groups or strata and completed the sampling process with the help of stratified sampling.

Research design specifies the methods and procedures for conducting a particular study.

Types of Research Design

Research design has been classified in different ways, such as

- * Exploratory Research Design
- * Descriptive Research Design
- * Casual research Design

Descriptive Research Design:

I have chosen a descriptive research design that is well structured. The objectives of such are to answer the “who, what, when, and how” of the subject under investigation.

- * Field Studies
- * Survey

I have taken survey research because a major strength of survey research is its wide scope. Detailed information can be obtained from a sample of a large population. Besides, a sample survey needs less time than a census inquiry.

4. Source of Data

The study was conducted based on the collection of primary and secondary data;

Primary data

Primary data is the data collected for the first time by the researcher. Primary data has not been published yet and is more reliable, authentic and objective. Primary data has not been changed or altered by the researcher. Therefore, its validity is greater than secondary data. The sources for primary data are limited and at times it becomes difficult to obtain data from primary sources because of either scarcity of population or lack of cooperation.

The sources are;

- *Questionnaire
- * Survey
- * Telephonic Interview
- * Observation
- * Experiments

Secondary data

Secondary data is the data which are collected already by some other person. It is the second hand information. Data collected from a source that has already been published in any form is called secondary data.

The sources are;

- * Textbooks
- * Journals
- * Newspapers and Magazines
- * Published sources
- * Internet

5. Sample Design

To carry out the study

Area of Research –Idukki

Sample Size – 159 Respondents are chosen so that it could give a fair response to achieve our objectives and also could be finished within the stipulated time limit.

Type of Sample Design

The type of sampling that was carried out was probability (convenience) sampling due to limited resources available.

In non-probability sampling, I have chosen simple random sampling because this was the best sampling method to do a market survey. On another aspect, to cover all consumers in Kottayam.

6. Method of Data Collecton

Primary source of data:

Questionnaire:

Keeping in view of the objectives of study, a questionnaire (as given Annexure) was prepared. All questions are small in size and arranged logically. The language is simple to understand.

Interview:

Information was also obtained by conversation with some customers. Some of the customers were interviewed personally.

Secondary source of data:

The second information is taken from company document available on websites. The information from other related journals and industry association's sites have also been viewed.

7. Drafting Questionnaire

I have collected details from the students and teachers in India through a questionnaire by using google sheet. The questionnaire consists of open-ended questions and 5-point scale questions and applied Likert scale also.

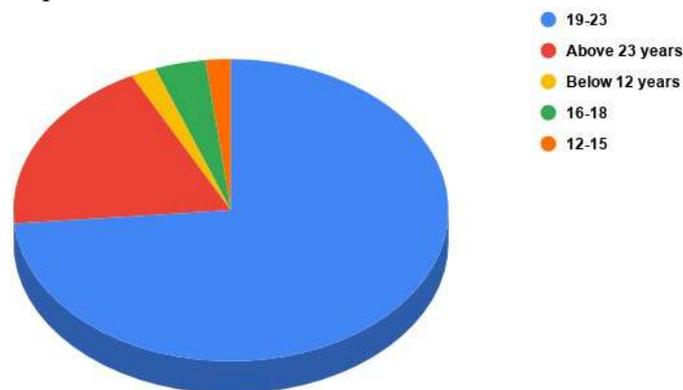
8. Objectives

- To analyse the impact of Covid-19 in education sector.
- To acknowledge trends in virtual learning platforms.
- To understand the influence of e-learning platforms in student’s career.
- To examine the importance of new phase of education system.

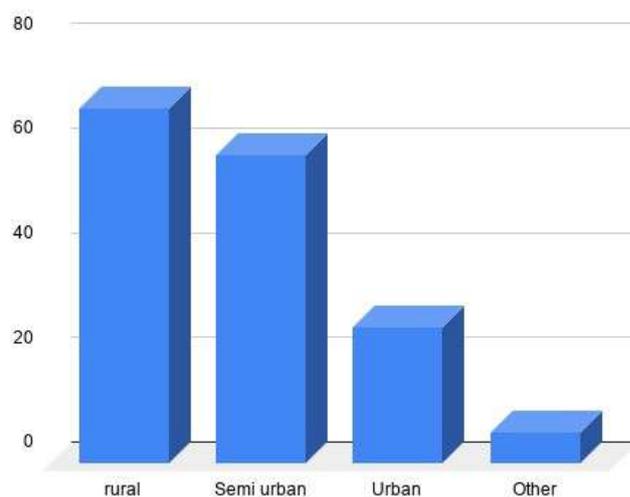
9. Data Analysis and Interpretation

The Collected data from a survey are represented with the help of charts. All the questions are regarding to the changes in the time of pandemic and others attitude towards the changes. This survey has focused both students and faculties belongs to different age category.

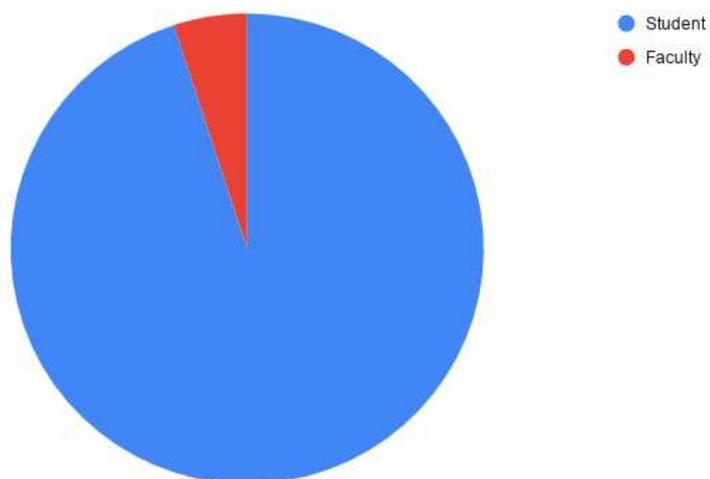
9.1 Age of the participants



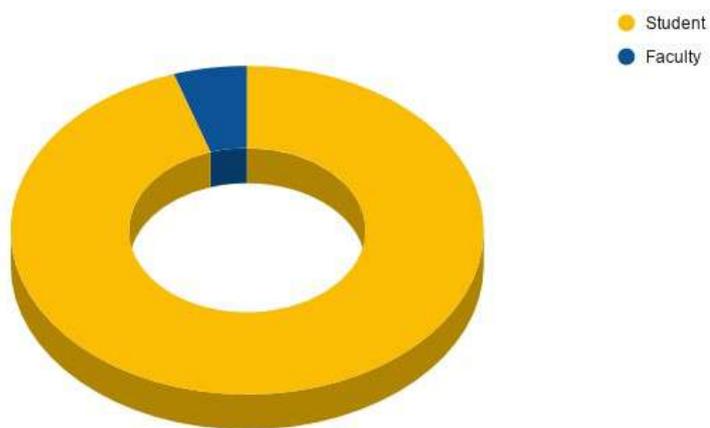
9.2 Area of living



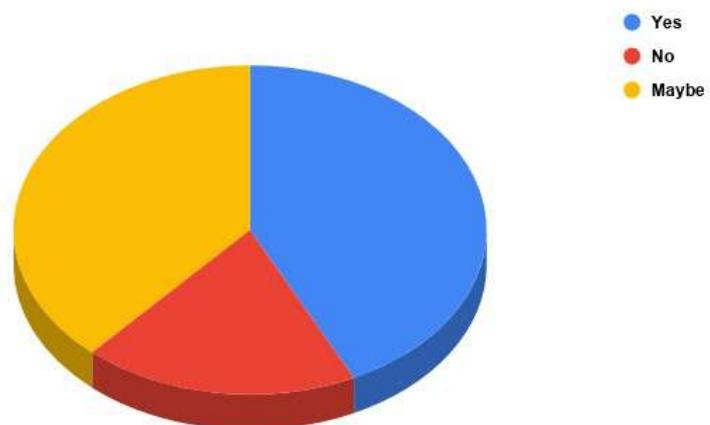
9.3 Educational Status



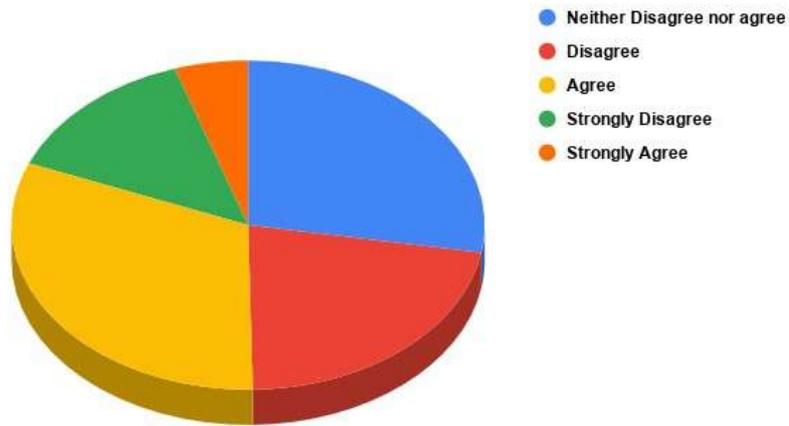
9.4 Gender



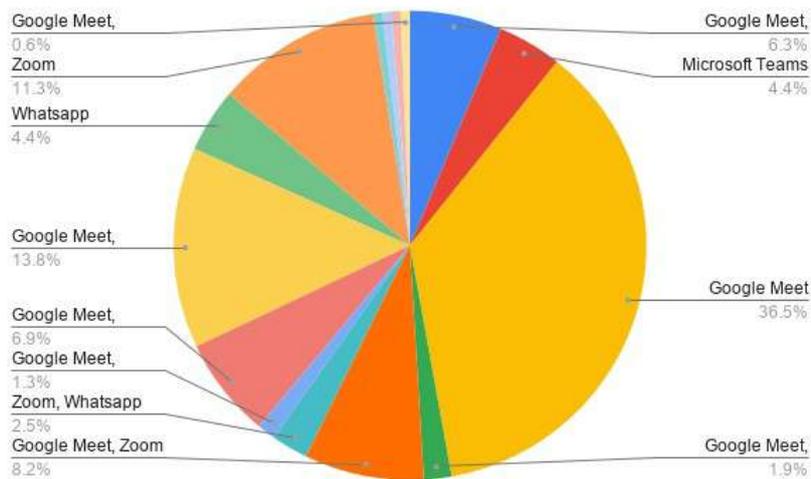
9.5 Do you think that there is a relationship between e-learning and student motive?



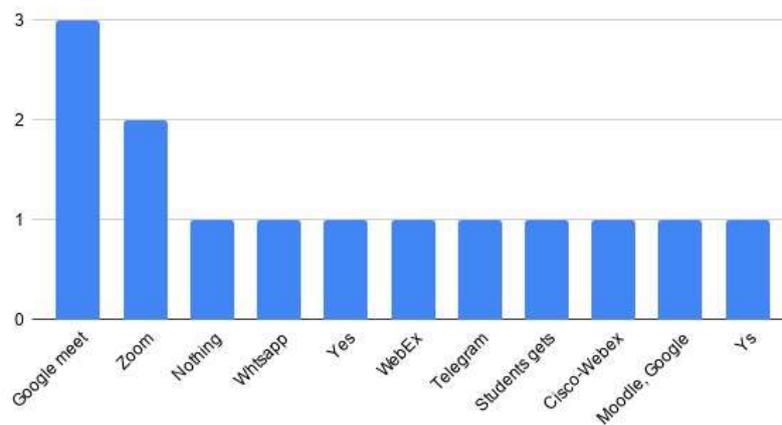
9.6 How much you are agreeing with the virtual classroom?



9.7 Most common e-learning platforms using for online classes

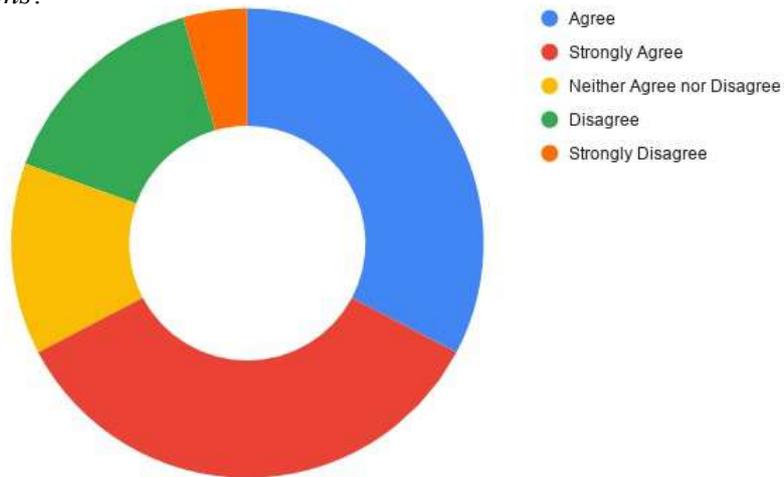


9.8 Other e-learning platforms

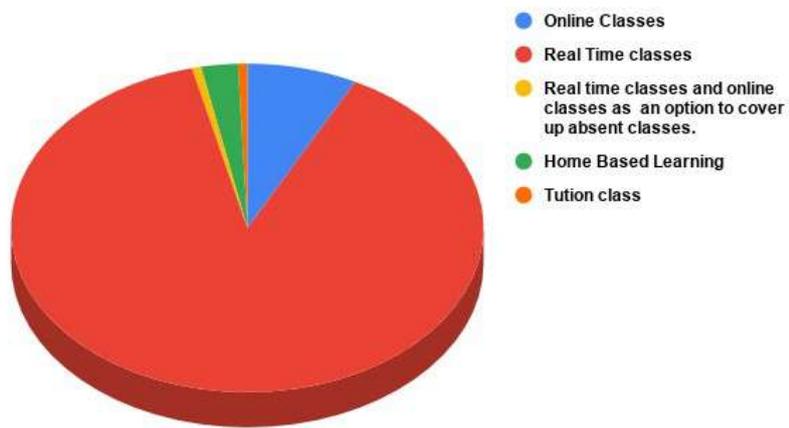


Count of Specify the e-learning platforms if you have put tick on 'Others'.

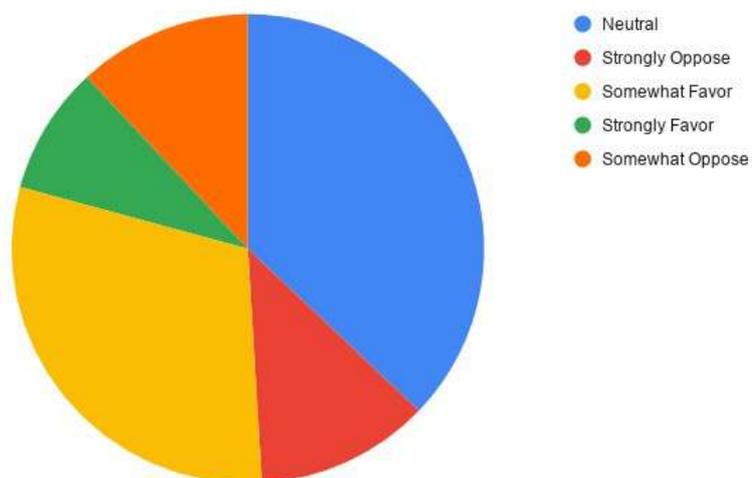
9.9 Do you agree with the relationship between character development and classroom sections?



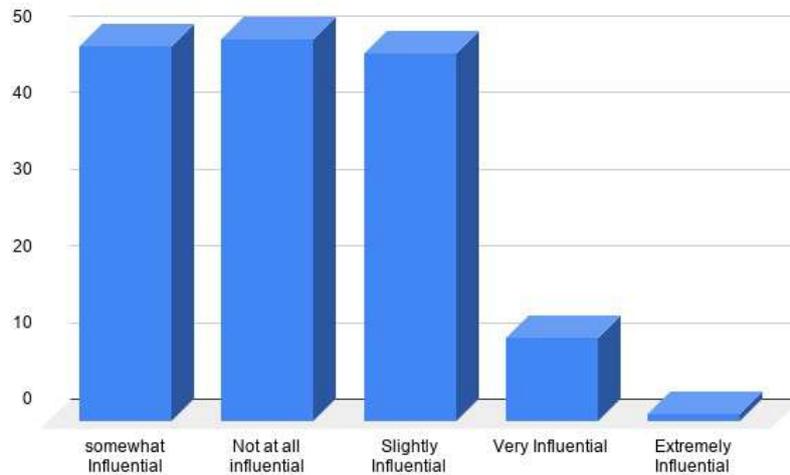
9.10 Which one is your favourite mode of class?



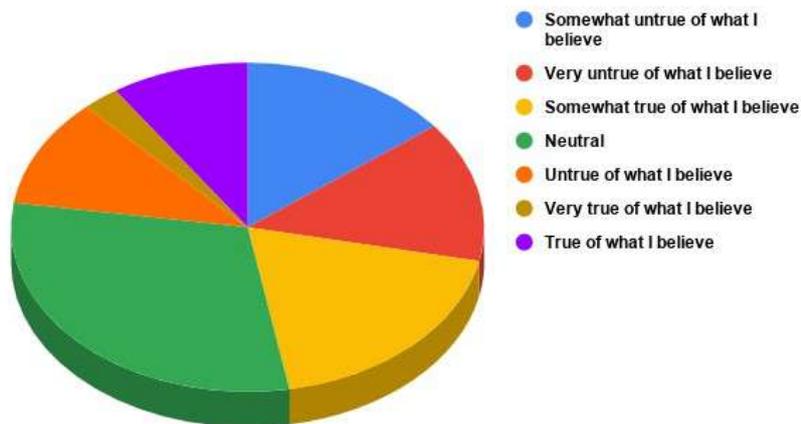
9.11 Are you supporting collaborative study (offline & online) in future?



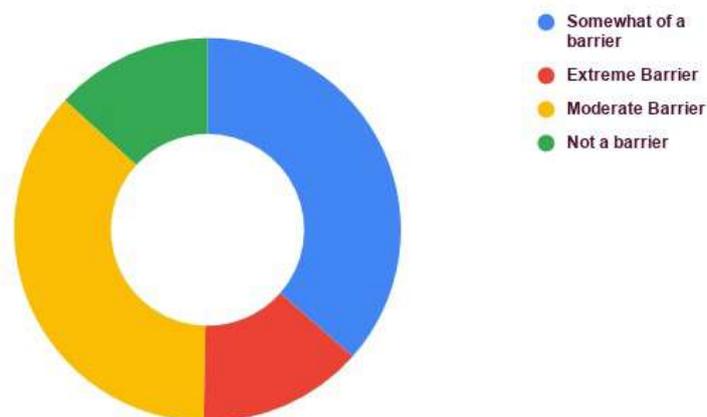
9.12 How much you are influenced by advertisements related with the educational fields in the time of covid-19 spread?



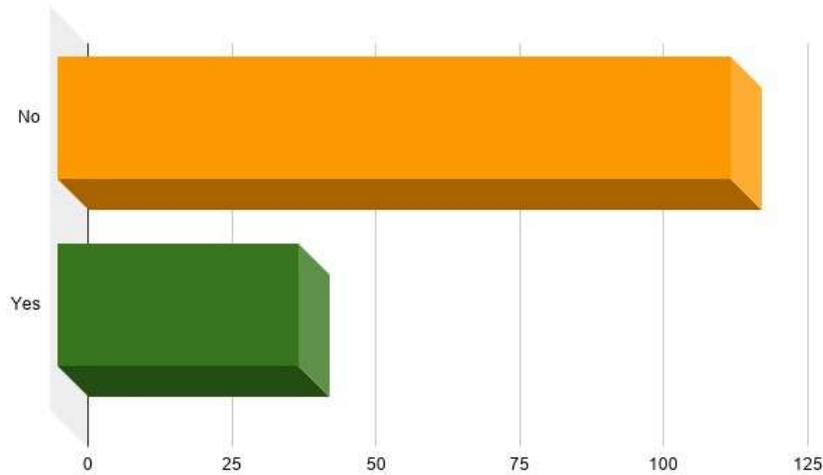
9.13 Do you believe that outbreak of covid-19 helps to develop a trust in the mind of students and teachers towards the virtual learning platform?



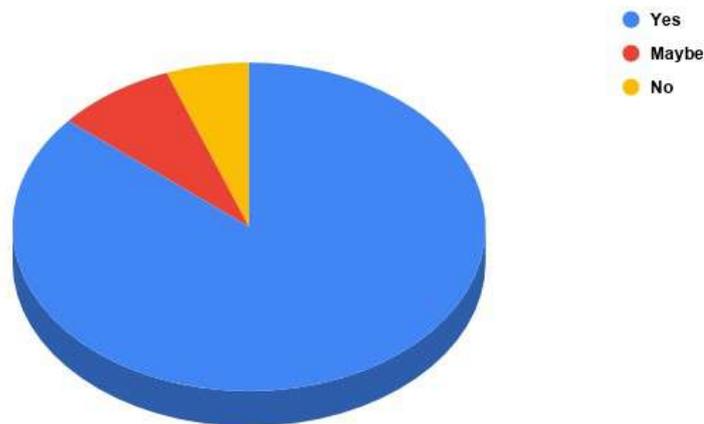
9.14 New phase of education is standing as barrier against total development of student?



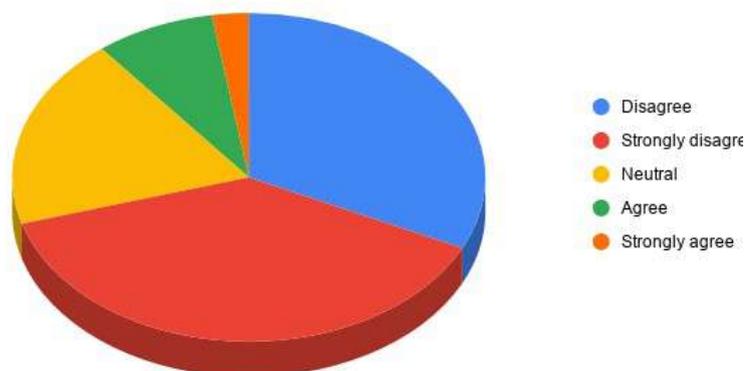
9.15 Have you ever accessed a paid online service for the betterment of your education?



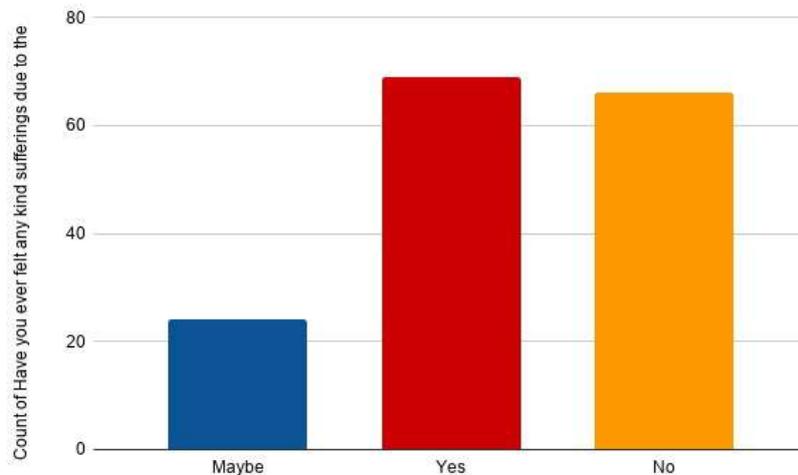
9.16 Did you ever felt any kind of disturbances while you are attending online classes due to network issues?



9.17 Virtual classes are comfortable when compare to the real time classes.



9.18 Have you ever felt any kind of sufferings due to the lack of electronic gadgets?



8. Results

- Out of 159 responses, 64.8% of the respondents were female and 35.2% were male.
- Age group of the respondents are;
 - *73.6% - 19-23 years
 - *18.9% - Above 23
 - *5.7% - Between below 12-18 years
 - *1.9% - Below 12 years
- Out of the 159 responses 42.8% lives in rural areas, 37.1% in semi-urban areas and 16.4% lives in urban areas.
- 95% of the respondents were students and 5% of the respondents were faculties.
- 43% believes that there is a relationship e-learning and student Motive.
- 31.6% people agree with the virtual classroom, 21.5% people are disagreeing Virtual class room and 27.8% neither agree nor disagree with this.
- There is a hike in the use of e-learning platforms.
 - *77.2% - Google Meet
 - *44.9% - Zoom
 - *13.3% - Microsoft Teams
 - *30.4% - WhatsApp
 - *Other mode of study includes Telegram, Cisco WebEx, Moodle, Google Classroom etc.
- 61.9% believes that there exists relationship between classroom section and character development.
- 88.6% support real Time Classes and 7.6% supporting online classes.
- 29.7% favour collaborative (offline & online) in future.
- 38% slightly and strongly influenced by the advertisements in the field of education in the time of Covid -19
- 44.2% believes that outbreak of Covid- 19 helps to develop a trust in the mind teachers and students towards virtual learning platform.
- 86.7% believes that new phase of education is standing as a barrier against total development of a student.

- 74.1% didn't access any paid online service for the betterment of education and 25.9 % accessed the paid service.
- 86.1% felt disturbances while attending online classes due to network issues.
- 70.2% think that real time classes are comfortable than virtual classes.
- 43.7% have felt sufferings in study due to the lack of electronic gadgets.

9. Suggestions

- Covid -19 made a strong impact in education sector in all aspects and its effects are different from one person to another and it depends on different parameters.
- Use of virtual learning platforms helps to increase the trust towards them
- The pandemic period results a competition among the e- learning platforms.
- Most of the people are still comfortable with the Real time classes and its benefits,
- Access to network and lack of gadgets and materials are some major existing problems in the new phase of education.
- Most of the people are believes that new phase of education has resulted a change in the student motive and character development due to the unexpected shift from the convenient way

10. Conclusion

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected educational systems worldwide, leading to the near-total closures of schools, universities and colleges. Most governments around the world have temporarily closed educational institutions in an attempt to contain the spread of COVID-19. Technology may play an important role in the lockdown period like study from home and work from home. In India, some private schools could adopt online teaching methods. Low-income private and government school may not be able to adopt online teaching methods. And as a result, there will be completely shut down due to no access to e-learning solutions. This study helps to find out the impact of Covid -19 on education.

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