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Scope of online classes

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ABSTRACT

This study is undertaken to evaluate the awareness & willingness of Indian Students on Scope of Online classes. It was conducted amongst 57 students studying in various schools belonging to the Bangalore & Hyderabad region. The results show us that the awareness is high & many students access their classes through Online. Most importantly a large majority of students expressed that it would be beneficial if the online mode of teaching is more Interactive based learning with teachers.

Keywords— Awareness, Willingness, Online Teaching, Online Learning, Traditional Way of teaching

1. INTRODUCTION

The current demand in teaching is moving more towards Online based rather than traditional way of teaching in the classroom. Most of the Parents and Students are looking at this online education more useful and cost effective. Predominantly the online mode of teaching has helped most of the students during this lock down period to be safe and learn new things through Online teaching methodology. With the prevailing Pandemic situation across the globe, School Managements in India are exploring the Online mode of teaching to ensure safety and continuity in the children's academics. Though it is in an experimental phase in most of the cities and towns in India, the online way of teaching will gain prominence in India in near future. This survey will help in understanding the views of students to have effective collaboration between Teacher and Student during Online mode of teaching/learning.

2. PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

To engage in any Online teaching mode, Teachers should be aware of various aspects in making the online class more effective and joyful for the students. Acquisition of skills and knowledge to access Online teaching tools is vital. With the technological advancement and the advent of the internet, free access to study materials, educational videos have become possible & convenient. Google search offers options like Wikipedia, google scholar and most importantly open access journals which is a boon to the research community - both Teachers and Students. We attempt to examine the awareness levels amongst the student community & their aspirations in making learning interactive, effective and joyful.

3. RESEARCH PROBLEM STATEMENT

Students and Teachers who will undergo or undergo Online mode of teaching want to know 'How to make the Online teaching classes interactive, effective and more joyful'.

4. METHODOLOGY

This is a simple quantitative study where both descriptive and percentage analysis were used to identify students' awareness levels of online classes & their perceived need to get support from teachers to be more attentive so that the learning will be more effective and joyful. A short survey questionnaire was sent to students studying in Primary, secondary and higher-grade students studying in various educational institutions belonging to Bangalore and Hyderabad.

5. RESEARCH DESIGN

The questionnaire consists of the following Three closed ended questions and three open ended questions. The responses are kept anonymous to ensure confidentiality of the participants.

(a) Which grade student is studying?

This is a closed ended question with one option to select and this gathers demographic details like which grade the student has enrolled into and what is their view on online classes based on their age criteria.

(b) What according to you the duration of one online class should be

This is a closed ended question with one option to select and this gathers information on what the maximum limit a student wants to be part of one online class.

(c) Which online class methodology do you like most?

This is a closed ended question with one option to select and this shows information from students on which learning methodology will be an effective way of learning for them.

(d) What do you like most about online classes?

This is an open-ended question, and this gathers information about the student’s awareness in participating online classes and various views which they are observing through online learning when compared to traditional ways of learning by going to school.

(e) What according to you are the challenges while attending online classes

This is an open-ended question, and this will help us understand various challenges which students are facing from online classes which is interrupting the effectiveness of student’s learning.

(f) What according to you makes online classes more fun and effective.

This an open-ended question, and this will help teachers in understanding the views of students on how an online class can be more effective and fun.

6. POPULATION

The population consists of students from lower grade to higher grades from various education institutions from Bangalore and Hyderabad undergoing online classes, Majority of respondents are from 7th grade followed by 1st and 4th grade students followed by 5th and 6th grade and a small percentage of students from 2nd, 3rd, 8th, 9th, 10th and 12th grade.

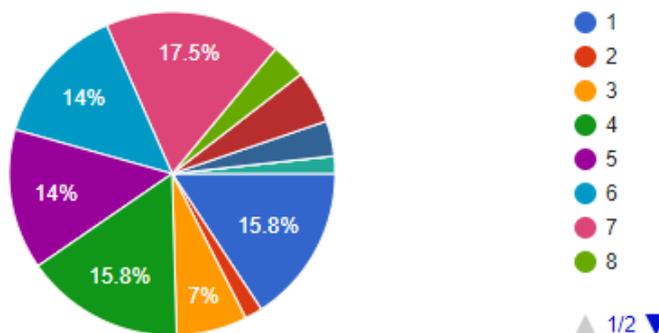
7. DATA COLLECTION PROCEDURE

Data is collected with the help of google forms. Three closed ended questions and Three open ended questions were asked to identify responses pertaining to awareness, willingness and need for understanding the aspirations of students regarding scope of online teaching classes. All the six questions are mandatory. Respondents are sent the URL through WhatsApp and Email and the data was collected.

8. RESULTS

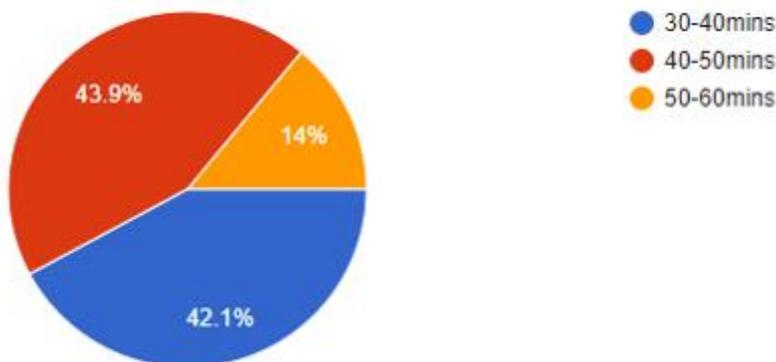
Demographics: Total no of respondents belonging to various grades, 1st grade – 9 (15.8%), 2nd grade – 1 (1.8%), 3rd grade – 4 (7%), 4th grade – 9 (15.8%), 5th grade -8 (14%), 6th grade – 8 (14%), 7th grade – 10 (17.5%), 8th grade -2 (3.5%), 9th grade – 3 (5.3%), 10th grade – 2 (3.5), 12th Grade – 1 (1.8%)

57 responses



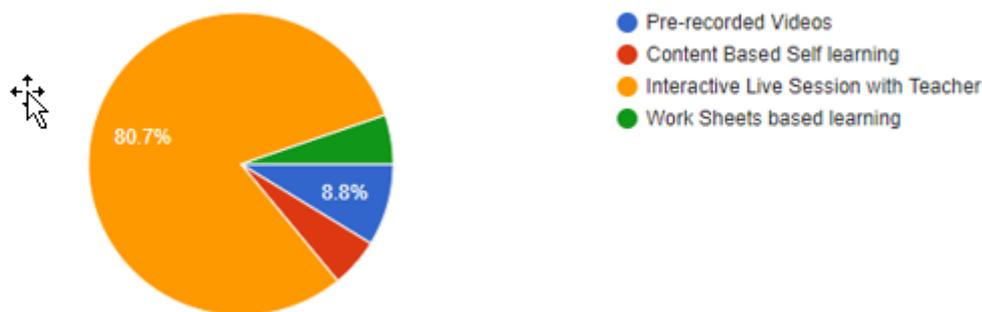
43.9% of students have chosen one class duration to be 40 to 50 minutes and 42.1 % has chosen the class duration to be 30 to 40 minutes. Only 14% of students have chosen the duration of the session to be 50 to 60 minutes.

57 responses



80.7% of the students responded by opting Interactive live session with teacher as their preferred online class teaching methodology when compared to other learning methodologies like pre-recorded videos, content based self-learning and worksheet-based learning.

57 responses



9. DISCUSSION

The findings from this survey show us that a very large percentage of students from Primary and Higher grade have expressed the desire to interact with teachers in live sessions.

1. Highlights on the reasons that what students like most about the online classes are:
 - 1(a). Flexibility in time
 - 1(b). Convenience to study being at home
 - 1(c). Interesting
 - 1(d). Reduction in travel time to school
 - 1(e). Teachers paying attention more
 - 1(f). Attractive videos
 - 1(g). Teacher is reachable to all whether it is first bench or last bench
 - 1(h). Session can be replayed if recorded
 - 1(i). Learn to focus as we will not be able to talk with our friends as usual during the class
 - 1(j). Seeing videos on related topics which will enhance the learning abilities and make class interesting.
2. Highlights on Challenges faced by Students while attending online classes
 - 2(a). Connectivity issues like internet speed, Power failure, Background noise, Echo while talking especially while talking directly without a proper headset
 - 2(b). Missing in person interaction with teachers and friends.
 - 2(C). Sitting In front of the laptop continuously, high screen time.
 - 2(d). Unable to understand some of the instructions due to connectivity issues
 - 2(f). Difficult for a teacher to get aligned with all students as students will be having different pace of learning (Differential learning)
 - 2(g). Parents intervention is required for primary grade making difficult for working parents.
 - 2(h). Investment on gadgets and tools supporting the online classes
 - 2(i). Missing individual attention from teacher to student
 - 2(j). Teacher cannot recognize the voice of the student and hence the student must introduce himself / herself each time when they try to interact.
 - 2(k). Missing lab related experiments pertaining to science subjects.
 - 2(l). Basic knowledge of operating the Laptop and relevant software used for online class
3. Highlights on the points mentioned by students for making online classes more effective and fun.
 - 3(a). Teachers come up with more creative ways of teaching rather than traditional ways of teaching and the interaction with students to be more inquire based.
 - 3(b). Teachers to encourage asking more questions and call each student by name
 - 3(c). Teacher to give time for group discussion in smaller groups
 - 3(d). The interaction between teacher and student to be more of one at a time. Moreover, each student should be getting a chance to talk.
 - 3(e). The pace of discussion over online should be slow and clear so that rest of the students can also follow
 - 3(f). Only the students who have questions must raise a question through online mode and then to unmute their microphone for asking a question with the teacher. Alternatively, teachers also can call by name and ask questions on an Adhoc basis.
 - 3(g). Students are encouraged to have a webcam on while attending the classes.
 - 3(h). Teacher to share some audio-visual aids or play a fun video for 3 to 5 minutes or have a student centric fun activity involving all the students during online class which will make the session more fun and interactive.

10. CONCLUSION

- The study findings show us that most of the students are aware of Online classes & they do connect to sessions online to attend their day to day classes. The expectation of the students is that for an online learning the class should be Interactive live session with Teacher and the duration of one call should be maximum of 40 to 50 minutes.

- Even though there are several study materials and information available over the internet which can help the students in gaining the knowledge, students are expecting additional support from teachers with respect to online direct interaction and also involve the rest of the students in the class for a group discussion with other students in small groups.
- It is important that both Parents and Teachers should ensure that there are effective tools in place related knowledge about the tools that are involved in Online classes. It is also evident that the key factor of socializing activity with teachers and peer students in person will be missed by students, However, a great majority of the students revealed that it would be of help if their teachers explore and adopt more creative teaching methods in an effective mode which can minimize the socializing factor to some extent and will also gain confidence among the students which in turn will help students in adapting to the online learning quickly. This will also help students in understanding the concepts better and make the entire class attentive, lively and joyful.
- There are a few limitations of this study, firstly the small sample size.
- Although respondents were from two different states a larger sample would improve the effectiveness of the study. Secondly, the validity and reliability of the scale and of the research design needs to be done. Therefore, the study can be improved by using a large sample & conducting the validity and reliability of the scale.