


## A STUDY ON THE EFFECTIVENESS OF ONLINE CLASSES AMONG COLLEGE STUDENTS DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC PERIOD IN VADAKKENCHERRY PANCHAYAT

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### Abstract

Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is an infectious disease caused by a virus named "coronavirus". This disease is highly infectious in nature. It can be easily transmitted from person to another via their respiratory droplets and different contact routes like hands, nose and mouth. The person having some respiratory symptoms like sneezing and coughing can easily pass the infection to a non-infected person with whom he is in close contact. The infection can also be transmitted through objects like utensils and clothes used by the infected person. Digital learning has led to a reduction in cost and has taken the impact and reach of resources for students as well as teachers to another level. However, it has been observed that the things taught through online mode have lot many challenges for the educator as well as the learner. So, the current study examines the effectiveness of online classes during COVID-19 pandemic among college students. The purpose of this study was to collect information on how the transition to distance learning impacted undergraduate and postgraduate students. The study analyzes the satisfaction levels of students with regard to online classes.

**Key words:-** Coronavirus, effectiveness, online classes, distance learning, face-to-face interactions.

 COVID-19 has become a catalyst for educational institutions worldwide to search for innovative solutions in a relatively short period of time. The purpose of education is to mold a person to be perfect. Education provides the pathway to reach their destiny. Education helps in inculcating social responsibilities as well. The main core of education is to

learn. Learning is a process of acquiring knowledge or skills through study, experience, or being taught.

Any freak accident that happens in the world will always leave its impact on education. And so, the epidemic of COVID-19 has its footprints on education. The outbreak of this dangerous virus across the globe has forced educational institutions to shut down to

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control the spread of this virus. Thus, it affected about 1.7 billion of student population worldwide. However, these measures lead to higher economical and social implications on both undergraduate and postgraduate students. Thus, it paves the way towards web- based learning or online learning. In which teaching professionals and students are virtually connected. E- Learning is quite simple to understand and implement. The use of a desktop, laptop or smartphones and the internet forms a major component of this learning methodology. Teachers and students are now largely joining different platforms through which E- learning can be easily done. E- Learning provides rapid growth and proved to be the best in all sectors, especially in education during this lockdown.

### Significance of the study

Digital learning has led to a reduction in cost and has taken the impact and reach of resources for students as well as teachers to another level. However, it has been observed that the things taught through online mode have lot many challenges for the educator as well as the learner. So, the current study examines the effectiveness of online classes during COVID-19 pandemic among college students. The purpose of this study was to collect information on how the transition to distance learning impacted undergraduate and postgraduate students. The goal was to identify student academic challenges and unforeseen benefits of distance learning, and to use that information to inform practices that can be implemented during future crisis that impact University education. And also, it

analyzes the satisfaction levels of students with regard to online classes. As the online teaching – learning process has become more prevalent in India due to COVID-19 pandemic, it becomes particularly important to know its growth and to know whether it actually helping the students achieve what they expect out of college. Therefore, the present study was designed to understand the student’s perspective, attitudes and readiness about online classes that is being conducted. The period of study was 2020-2021.

### Literature review

An attempt has been made to renew some of the earlier studies on various aspects of online classes during this pandemic.

**Goldschmidt, 2020:** During the pandemic, now online learning system has been carried out almost all over the world. So, in this online learning, all elements of education are required to be able to facilitate learning. So that it remains active even without face- to- face contact. Teachers are the main element in formal education are engaged to adapt to the implementation of learning that originally used conventional face - to- face methods and switched to online learning.

**Setyani et al (2020), Murtono et al (2019), Ismaya et al (2019), Utaminingsih et al (2020):** Research on other learning models was also carried out by them. This research will discuss the influence of the COVID-19 pandemic on the learning process in schools, the influence on students, the influence on parents and the influence on the learning process.

**Arwen et al (2020), Sunitha (2020) and Duocet (2020):** The impact of learning at home is also felt by parents who also have more burdens because they have to be teachers at home, teach assignments, and always monitor. Apart from the swelling Internet credit, one of the complaints of parents is that the increase in spending on consumption is greater than the daily child allowance.

**Kusuma (2020):** A previous study revealed that student learning styles in online learning tended to be more visual and strong reading and writing. The number of platforms that support for free, such as Google Classroom, What Sapp, Quipper and so on, that can send test messages, images, videos and other files. The use of this platform is not yet effective, due to limited infrastructure for some students. The implementation of online learning seems uneven and tends to be teacher centered.

**Anhusadar, 2020:** This research is supported in its findings that 1 in 58 students understand, and the rest they answer sometimes they understand. The interaction process between control and the classroom environment, but it will be different if you carry out learning at home. So that it does not cause high motivation. Infrastructure is the main facility in the smooth implementation of this online learning. Sometimes, network suddenly becomes sluggish. Internet quota is the main scourge that plays an important role in the implementation of learning, runs out in the middle of the road.

**Putri et al (2020) and Purwanto et al (2020):** Revealed some of the challenges and obstacles experienced by

the students, teachers and parents in online learning. Challenges related to students are limited communication and outreach among students, higher challenges for students with special educational needs, and longer screening times. Teachers identify more challenges and obstacles, including some restrictions in the choice of teaching methods that usually apply in regular face – to – face classes, less curriculum material coverage, lack of technological skills that hinder the potential for online learning.

### **Objectives of the study**

- To evaluate the effectiveness of online classes among college students during COVID-19 pandemic.
- To analyse the satisfaction level of students with regard to online classes.

### **Hypothesis**

Ho: There is no significant relationship between place of residence and accessibility of online class.

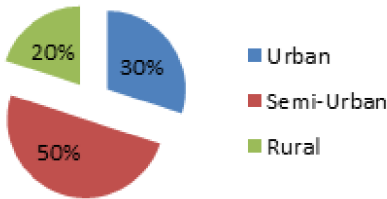
### **Research Methodology**

This research was basically descriptive and analytical in nature. The study covers a period of 21 days. Primary data were collected by using structured questionnaire. Secondary data were collected from published articles, journals, and government website. The present study covered the college students in vadakkencherry in Palakkad district. 50 samples were taken for this study. Convenient sampling method was used for the study. Simple percentage method, Likert scale, graphs and chart, chi square test, weighted rank and weighted mean were used for the study.

Data Analysis and Interpretation

Chart 1

Place of residence



The chart 1 illustrates the place of residence. 50 per cent of respondents belong to semi-urban, 30 per cent belongs to urban, and remaining 20 per cent belongs to rural.

Table 1

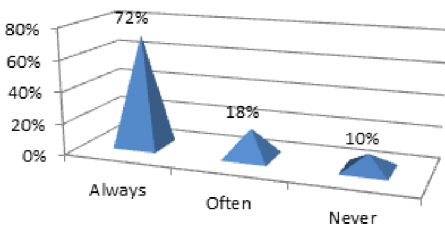
Accessibility of online class

Accessibility	No: of respondents	Percentage
Always	36	72
Often	9	18
Never	5	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Primary data

Chart 2

Accessibility of online class



The chart 2 illustrates the percentage of people who have accessibility of online class. In this, 72 per cent have access to online class, 18 per cent often had access to online class and 10 per cent never had access to online class.

Table 2

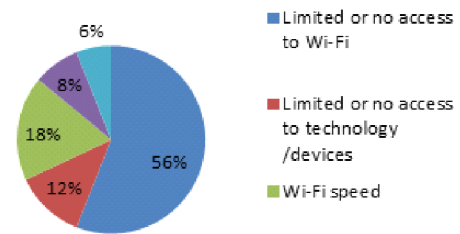
Barriers to online class

Barriers	No: of respondents	Percentage
Limited or no access to Wi-Fi	28	56
Limited or no access to technology /devices	6	12
Wi-Fi speed	9	18
Battery capacity	4	8
Others	3	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Primary data

Chart 3

Barriers to online class



The pie chart 3 shows that, majority of respondents (56 per cent) have problem with limited or no access to Wi-Fi. Nearly 18 per cent have problem with Wi-Fi speed. 12 per cent have problem with limited or no access to technology/ devices. 8 per cent have problem with battery capacity. Only a small minority (6 per cent) have problem other than these main four.

Chi square analysis for testing the relationship between place of residence and accessibility of online class

Testing of hypothesis

Ho: There is no significant relationship between place of residence and accessibility of online class.

H1: There is significant relationship between place of residence and accessibility of online class.

**Table 3**

**Place of residence and accessibility of online class**

Particulars	Always	Often	Never	Total
Urban	13	2	0	15
Semi-urban	18	6	1	25
Rural	5	1	4	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>50</b>

*Source: Primary data*

**Calculation of expected value**

**Result**

Calculated value = 1.303

Degree of freedom = (r-1) (c-1)

à (3-1) (3-1) = 2\*2 = 4

Level of significance = 0.05

Table value = 9.488

**Interpretation:**

Since the table value at 4 degree of freedom is 9.488 at 5 per cent level of significance. The calculated value is 1.303. So Ho is accepted, so there is no significant relationship between place of residence and accessibility of online class.

**Suggestions and Recommendations**

The important suggestions based on the study are:

- Online platforms with enhanced safety and safeguarding measures, especially for virtual learning tools should be ensured.
- High speed internet connectivity should be ensured in order to improve smooth access for all including learners of disadvantaged groups and low-income families.

- Government should take necessary steps to train all stakeholders of education on online learning platform to tackle such crisis of lockdown during any pandemics.
- Online learning is not affordable for all including the poor and disadvantaged groups of the society. So necessary steps should be taken by Government/educational institutions to minimize this gap between privileged and unprivileged learners.
- Learners and educators must be familiar with Web-based interactions such as email, discussion boards and chat rooms before joining online classes.
- Lecturers should be provided with capacity building training opportunities that allow them to develop knowledge, skills, and innovative teaching and assessment methods that can increase student engagement and attention to online classes.

**Conclusions**

The present study analyses the perception of college students towards e-learning during the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. During the lockdown period for Covid-19, online learning is the best platform to keep learners/educators engaged and safe by maintaining social distancing. Online learning method utilizes various applications of the internet to distribute classroom materials and help learners and educators interact with one another. Using the various technologies

available for online learning, educators can provide a more interactive distance learning experience by delivering real-time, synchronous video conferencing. Depending on their availability and comfort, many people choose to learn at a convenient time. This enables the learner to access updated content whenever they want. Yet, they perceived many challenges

during online learning like lack of face-to-face interactions, technology related issues etc. So, necessary steps must be taken to train all stakeholders of education on online learning platform and measures should be adopted for improving the quality of e-learning to help with better learning of students during the phase of Covid-19 pandemic.

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