

A Study to Assess the Impact of Online Learning Among School Children in Kerala

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Abstract

Background:

Due to the ongoing pandemic of Covid-19 almost all the sectors in the world left the traditional ways behind and the educational sector was no exception. Nowadays the school children are able to pursue their education remotely inside their most familiar physical setup, their home, with the help of information technology. This study aimed to find out the impact of this 'online learning' among school children. **Methods:** A quantitative approach which adopted a descriptive survey design was used for this study among 30 school going children from selected schools in Kerala. These 06-18 years aged children were selected using convenient sampling technique and data collection was done through a structure checklist. The collected data was analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics using Minitab Version 16. **Results:** The impact of online learning was graded in to positive and negative for analysis and interpretation of the data. The findings showed that majority of the school children (63.33%) were positive impacted from online learning and there was no association found between online learning and demographic variables at 5% confidence level ($p < 0.05$). **Discussion:** Even though the online learning had a positive impact on school children, to get most out of the online learning, the teachers must have to adjust the materials and methods used for remote teaching to make them more interesting for the learners.

Introduction

The recent developments in the information technology have skyrocketed after the advent of the Internet, it has affected almost all the industries on the globe and educational system is no exception [1]. The development of teaching with the help of the internet has changed the traditional way of teaching dramatically so that nowadays it can be observed that the teaching learning process is more efficient and also enjoyable in many aspects [2]. Online learning can be defined as is the use of various types of media which includes, but not limited to video, power point, pictures, audio, and information communication technologies (ICT) - to for the purpose of education.

Need for Study

The unexpected Covid-19 pandemic has fundamentally changed the need of a physical classroom and face to face interaction with student and teacher, rather nowadays it is possible to learn and attend classes over the internet in the comfort of student's own home [4]. With this novel paradigm shift, people over the globe are wondering whether this new trend in education will pertain after the pandemic or not and also how far it will be effective over the traditional method of teaching. While it is quite enjoyable and helpful for some, those who do not have the opportunity to possess modern gadgets may run in to problems with online teaching, as per recent scientific evidence. As evidence claim, almost 6-time materials are needed to make and get the best out of online teaching when com-

pared to the traditional method of teaching learning process [5, 6]. The best side of this new trend is that the students are now able to study on their own speed and it take much less time to understand the overall concept than old ways of learning methods. This might be due to the fact that they can re-read, take pauses in between and skim through the overall contents etc.

Many educational institutions were forced to cancel courses, tests, and other events owing to the lockdown, opting instead for online delivery [7]. Initially, instructors and students were perplexed and unsure of how to address the issue of this unexpected catastrophe that forced the closure of instructional activities. However, later on, everyone understood that the lockdown had taught them a lot about how to deal with pandemics [8, 9]. The lockout has offered instructors and students a light of optimism that they can continue their instructional activities online [10]. Teachers sent work to students via with the help of internet and delivered lectures via live video conferencing utilizing apps like Zoom, Google Meet, and You Tube [8].

Statement of the Problem

A study to assess the impact of online learning among school children in Kerala

Objectives

1. To assess the impact of online learning among school children
2. To find the association between impacts of online learning among school children with selected socio demographic variables.

Hypothesis

H_0 : There will not be any statistically significant association between the impact of online learning with socio-demographic variables of the school children.

Materials and methods

Research Approach

Quantitative research approach was adopted for the study as the aim of this study is to find out the impact of online learning among school children.

Research Design

Nonexperimental descriptive research design was adopted for the study as the objective was to find out the research variable without any manipulation.

Variables

Research variable

Impact of online learning.

Settings of the study

The study was conducted in selected schools in Kannur districts of Kerala.

Sample and sampling Technique

The sample in this study consist of the school children in Kerala who met the sample selection criteria.

Sampling Technique

Convenient sampling technique.

Sample size

30 school children.

Inclusion criteria

School Children who are;

- ✓ Aged between 6 to 18 years
- ✓ Willing to participate in the study

Exclusion Criteria

School Children who are;

- ☒ Not able to follow the instructions
- ☒ Children who are physically or mentally handicapped

Description of the tool

Researcher developed check list to assess the impact of online learning among school children.

Selection and development of tool

The data collection tool for this study consists of two parts:

- Part 1: Demographic data
- Part 11: Self-structured questionnaire (check list)

Results and Discussions

Findings of the present study was organized in accordance with the objectives of the study.

a) First objective of the study was to describe demographic characteristics of school children

It was found that 33.3% sample belongs to age group between 12-15 years. About 26.6% sample belongs to age group 6-9 years and equal proportion of 20% belongs to age group 9-12 years, and 15 years above. Regarding gender 53.3% study samples are males and 46.6% are females. Highest percentage of school children (40%) in high school, 30% in upper primary school, 23.3% in Lower primary school and 6.6% in higher secondary school. Related to type of family 90% belongs to nuclear family and 10% belongs to joint family. Just above half of the total sample's (53.3%) families have 2 children, 30% have 1 child and 16.6% have 3 children. In this study majority of Children's parents (53.3%) have higher secondary education and 23.3% have secondary education, 20% have degree and above and 3.3% have primary school education. When it comes to the family income 43.3% had an income of 5000 – 10000 rupees per month, 30% 10000-15000 rupees per month, 16.6% above 15000 rupees per month and 10% 1000-5000 rupees per month.

b) The second objective of the study was to assess the impact of the online learning.

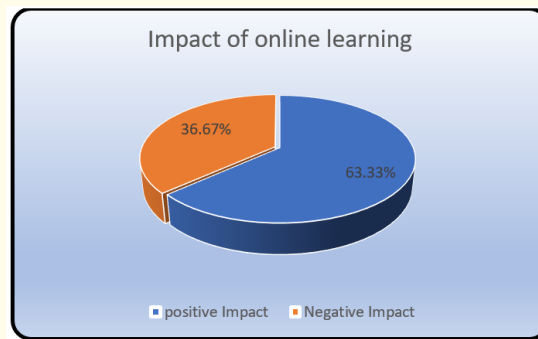


Figure 1: Percentage distribution of samples according to Impact of online learning.

The above pie chart records the impact of online learning among school children. From the chart it can be observed that almost two third (63.33%) of the samples were positively impacted from the online learning and 33.67% were negatively impacted.

c) *The final objective was to find out the association between demographic variables and impact of online learning among school children.*

SNO	SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC VARIABLE		Negative	Positive	Chi Square value
01.	AGE	06-08	03	05	Df 3 $\chi^2=0.991$ NS
		09-11	02	04	
		12-14	04	06	
		15 and above	02	04	
02.	Gender	Male	06	10	Df 1 $\chi^2=0.919$ NS
		female	05	09	
03.	Education	Lower Primary	02	05	Df 3 $\chi^2=0.523$ NS
		Upper Primary	03	06	
		High School	05	07	
		Higher Secondary	01	01	
04.	Type of family	Nuclear	10	17	Df=1 $\chi^2=0.900$ NS
		Joint	01	02	
		Extended	00	00	

05.	No. of children in family	1	02	07	Df 2 $X^2=0.555$ NS
		2	07	09	
		3	02	03	
		4 and above	00	00	
06.	Parental Education (mother)	No formal education	00	00	Df 3 $X^2=1.151$ NS
		Primary school	00	01	
		Secondary	02	05	
		Higher secondary	07	09	
		Degree and above	02	04	
07.	Income of family	1000-5000	01	02	Df 3 $X^2=0.992$ NS
		5001-10000	05	08	
		10001-15000	03	06	
		Above 15000	02	03	

Table 1: Chi-square distribution showing association between demographic variables and impact of online learning.

From the table 1, it can be seen that the calculated chi square value for all the demographic variables are not significant at the level of 005, which indicated that there is no association between demographic variables and impact of online learning.

The null hypothesis which stated that there is no association between impact of online learning and demographic variables was **accepted**

An opinion study on the online education during Covid-19 pandemic produced similar results of the current study. Majority of the students who participated in the research opined that the online education was dramatically improved over time and was very helpful for academic excellence. The attitude toward the software and online teaching materials were also appreciated by the students [11].

The findings of the current study, however, was in conflict with a study which aimed to find out the influence of remote teaching-learning on academics as well as health of scholars (Avadhesh Kumar, 2021). From the results of the cited study, about one-third of students negatively impacted with the delivery of teaching contents through digital media and some of them had vision problems and started manifesting addiction behavior with increased use of gadgets [12].

Conclusion and implication

The study was undertaken to assess the impact of online learning among school children in Kerala. In this study. The researcher developed impact checklist for assessing the impact of online learning in school children. The study concluded that majority of the samples had positive impact of online learning. Educators and school authorities should tweak online teaching in such a way that the students get the maximum benefit without losing their interest in the novel remote learning.

In the current situation, it is not so hyperbole to state that this way of remote teaching through digital media might continue for longer duration and therefore teachers should come up with new ideas to make teaching learning process less tiresome as well as more fruitful without negatively impacting students' life. In the current scenario, skeptics have the opinion that online learning may digital divide students as some do not have access to latest gadgets capable of attending classes. This, sadly, is a true fact and it must be addressed by school authorities by helping them get the devices for smooth progression of education as education is the right of students irrespective of their socio-economic status.

As this study consisted of limited samples, further study with larger samples using different evaluative research design can be planned. Area wise impact of the online teaching on students in different sectors of education is planned by the researchers for future study.

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Conflict of interest

No conflict interest among authors of this project.

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