RESEARCH ARTICLE

Prospect of Online Education in Coimbatore District

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ABSTRACT

Online learning is educations that take place over internet. It is often referred to as e-Learning among other terms. Online learning has gained popularities in recent times. However student satisfaction plays an important work with all the education related works. In this concern the study is confined to Coimbatore district, by taking various factors like app preferred by students for e-learning, fees paid for e-learning, problems experienced during e-learning, etc. The main objective of the study is to find out prospect of towards online learning, problems faced during e-learning in Coimbatore district. Online education is a form of education where students use their home computers or their personal computers through the internet. For many non-traditional students, among them all those who want to continue working full time or raising families, online graduations and courses have become popular in the past decade. Online education is also known as E-learning. E-learning typically refers to the online interaction between you as a student and the teacher; basically, you receive the training through an online medium, even though your teacher may be in the same building. E-learning can be used in a classroom or an online setting.

Keywords: e-Learning, Student Satisfaction, Online learning, Online education.

INTRODUCTION

In the last 20 years, the Internet has grown from being nearly non-existent into the largest, most accessible database of information ever created. It has changed the way people communicate, socialize, do business and think about knowledge and learning. Much more than just a new twist on distance learning, online schooling is changing the face of traditional classrooms and making education more accessible than ever before. Online education is a form of education where students use their home computers or electronic gadgets that supports through the internet to

continue their education. For many non-traditional students, among them all those who want to continue working full time or raising families, online graduations and courses have become popular in the past decade. Often online graduation and course programmes, some of which are conducted using digital technologies, are provided via the online learning portal of the host university. The Boston-based consulting firm Edu-ventures, Inc (2006) accepts more than 60 percent of employers generally with the high quality of online learning, but students' perceptions differ. Only about 33 percent of prospective online students said that they perceive the quality of online education to be "as good as or better than" face-to-face education. At the same time, 36 percent of prospective students surveyed cited concern about employers' acceptance of online education as a reason for their reluctance to enroll in online courses.

Operational Definition

Cent per cent Online Education: Fully-online degrees are earned from the comfort of your own home with no required visits to your college or university campus.

Hybrid Education: Hybrid education allows students to pursue a combination of online and on-campus courses.

Online Courses: While online courses may be part of a degree program, they can also be taken on their own in order to master a certain subject or learn a specific skill.

MOOCs: MOOCs, or massive open online courses, are usually delivered in lecture form to online "classrooms" with as many as 10,000 people.

Objectives of the study
- To portray the current trend of online education in Coimbatore District
- To identify the profile of stakeholders undergoing online education
- To make know the society on the strengths and weakness of online education
- To suggest optimum statements for uplifting the online education

METHODOLOGY STATEMENT

Until now online education was a choice, due to this unprecedented situation like Covid, it has become the new norm. In order to study the actual situation of the same, this study is carried out through convenience sampling method from the selected student population (60) located in the Coimbatore District. The Period of study is two months (April & May 2021). To conclude with the analysis part, Simple Percentage Analysis and Ranking Methodology were carried out. As a coin has both sides, there are equal numbers of Strengths and Weakness to this online education. It is been discussed as below

Statistical Analysis on Online Education

From the above table it is seen that 51.8% of the respondent (31) are PG Students, 26.6% of the respondents (16) belong to students of UG and 21.6% of the respondent (13) are School Students. Majority of the respondents are undergoing their Post Graduation. The table 4.2 shows that 45% of the respondents (27) are above 21 years, 31.6% of the respondents (19) are belonging to age group 18 to 20 and the remaining 23.4% of the respondent (14) are below 17 years of age. Most of the respondents (31.6%) are above 21 years. The table 4.3 exhibits that 11.6% of the respondents (7) are earning above Rs. 50001, 31.6%of the respondents (19) earn between Rs. 30001 and Rs. 50000, 41.6% of the respondent (25) earn above Rs.15001 and Rs. 30000 and the remaining 15.2% of the respondent (9) are earning below Rs. 15000 as their family income. Table 4.4 reveals that 81.6% of the respondent (49) says offline classes as the best method of teaching by giving YES opinion and 18.3% of the respondents (11) says its second to online teaching by opting the option NO. Table 4.5depicts that 85% of the respondent (51) has regularly faced the problem 15% of the respondents (9) have frequently faced the problem. From the above table, six strength parameters of online education is studied using ranking method. The results are as shown. The Review lectures instantly is Ranked as I, followed by Group communication as II, Cost as III, Work from anywhere, at any time as IV, Diversity as V and Flexible learning schedule as VI rank Respectively.

Suggestions through the analysis on online education

When it is seen, the strengths deemed to be there always and it sounds great. But when the weaknesses are addressed, it requires the following suggestions. If they have been fine-tuned, we can take online education to the next level in the higher education.

- The students in the online classes must be allowed to give feedback. Although it cannot be asked from everyone, at-least it must be heard optimum
- It is seen from majority of the students that E-Learning can cause social Isolation, it has to be prevented. Although the classes are conducted online, some practical works are to be given using the society and it has to be monitored.
- Every student must require strong self-motivation and time management skills. It has to be embedded by the course teacher through their strong endurance
- Online classes urge heavy lack in communicational skill development. It is true and it has to be taken care by giving seminar, just a minute talk and also through snap talk through the same online mode itself.
- Teachers must follow strategic move in-order to prevent cheating during online assessments. Although it is complicated to eradicate but if assessment is done through some specific moves, it can be curtailed.
- Online instructors can also tend to focus on practice so that the students may not feel boredom during their online classes
- The students and teachers must in majority times, should focus on video recorded classes. This will help the teachers to focus on the eye contact or the attention of the students in the classes
- The management and the parents are equally responsible to provide computer literacy to their students so that the overall population is moving towards uplifting the quality standards and this may not lead to lack of accreditation & quality assurance in online education

CONCLUSION

The facts seen in this study are the strengths and weakness of online education and it is similar to every type of learning environment. Students have to analyze both the pros and cons factors which contribute them greatly on the direction of his/her career path in the current situation. Students have to decide, how they are going to accomplish their goals: online, in the classroom or a combination of both. It is also true that learning is highly dependent on the individual's motivation to learn. So the bottom line is that the efforts that a student puts into the education will eventually determine the beneficial experience to shape the future career.

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Table 1: Education level

Description	Frequency	Percentage
Schooling	13	21.6%
UG	16	26.6%
PG	31	51.8%
Total	**60**	**100%**

Source: Primary data

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Table 2: Age composition

Description (in Years)	Frequency	Percentage
Above 21	27	45%
18-20	19	31.6%
Below17	14	23.4%
Total	**60**	**100**

Source: Primary data

Table 3: Family Income

Description (in Rupees)	Frequency	Percentage
ABOVE 50001	7	11.6%
30001-50000	19	31.6%
15001-30000	25	41.6%
BELOW 15000	9	15.2%
Total	**60**	**100%**

Source: Primary data

Table 4: Offline classes is best teaching

Description	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	49	81.6%
No	11	18.3%
Total	60	100%

Source: Primary data

Table 5: Frequency of problem faced in online

Description	Frequency	Percentage
Regularly	51	85%
Rarely	0	0%
Frequently	9	15%
Total	60	100%

Source: Primary data

Table 6: Ranking on the strengths of online classes

S.no	Strengths	6	5	4	3	2	1	Total	Arithmetic mean	Rank
1.	Work from anywhere, at any time	8	16	7	16	6	7	60		
		48	80	28	48	12	7	223	3.71	IV
2	Review lectures instantly	21	9	13	7	5	5	60		
		126	45	52	21	10	5	259	4.31	I
3	Group communication	11	19	9	7	7	7	60		
		66	95	36	21	14	7	239	3.98	II
4	Cost	8	7	22	8	8	7	60		
		48	35	88	24	16	7	218	3.63	III
5	Diversity	6	9	6	11	19	9	60		
		36	45	24	33	38	9	185	3.80	V
6.	Flexible learning schedule	2	4	5	9	19	21	60		
		12	20	20	27	38	21	138	2.30	VI

Source: Primary data