"Online Education is the Best Solution for Transforming Education in this Pandemic"

Asma Imdad Siddiqui[1]

1. *Federal Urdu University Karachi*

ABSTRACT

Educational institutions (schools, colleges, and universities) in Pakistan are currently focused solely on conventional learning methods, that is, following the traditional system of face-to-face lectures in a classroom. While several educational institutions begun blended learning, other educational institutions are stuck with old procedures. The unexpected outbreak of Covid-19, a deadly disease caused by a Corona Virus (SARS-CoV-2), shook the whole world. That was declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization. This situation threatened the education systems worldwide, and compelled educators to switch to an online teaching mode almost overnight. Many previously educational institutions unwilling to shift their conventional pedagogical strategy; they had no choice but to switch to online teaching and learning. The aim of this study is to explain the importance of online education and describe it as best solution among student in this global pandemic

Introduction

The deadly and contagious Corona Virus disease also known as Covid-19 had a profound impact on the global economy and educational sectors. The outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic caused several schools, colleges and universities to remain temporarily closed. Several schools, colleges, and universities stopped teaching in-person. Based on the researchers' evaluation, going back to normal teaching was difficult and scary but with time schools colleges and unis have started switching to f2f education system. This will have detrimental effects on learning opportunities, as social distancing is permanent at this point. Educational institutions struggle to find ways to overcome this difficult situation. Our students, professors, teaching personnel, families, societies, and the nation as a whole need to be supported and appreciated.

Several arguments are associated with e-learning, like Accessibility, affordability, flexibility, learning pedagogy, life-long learning, and policy are some of the arguments related to online pedagogy. Students can learn at anytime and anywhere, thereby gaining new skills that contribute to lifelong learning in the process. In this dynamic environment, the Government also recognizes the rising importance of online learning.

Background

Rapid technological advances have made distance education simpler (2) (McBrien et al., 2009). "Some terminology (online learning, open learning, web-based learning, computer-mediated learning, mixed learning, m-learning, for example) have in common the ability to use a networked computer which offers the possibility of learning from anywhere, at any time, at any pace, through any means (3) (Cojocariu et al., 2014).

Online teaching is no more an option, it is a necessity owing to the extreme outbreak of this global Covid-19 pandemic, the main part of the world is in quarantine and thus many cities have transformed into ghost cities and their impact can be seen in schools, colleges, and universities. We can sermonize a great number of students at any time and in any part of the world with the help of online teaching modes. All institutions must scramble multiple choices for online pedagogical methods and strive to use technology more appropriately. Hence, at this point, the quality improvement of online teaching – learning is crucial. After the Covid-19 outbreak, online education in Chinese universities exponentially expanded. The standard classrooms switched e-classrooms, in other words, educators have changed their whole pedagogical approach to addressing/adjusting to changing circumstances. During this difficult time, the question is not whether online teaching and learning approaches will provide quality education, but how academic institutions should follow such a huge approach to online learning (4) (Carey, 2020).

Changing resistance won't support any educational unit around the world. In such a short time, they will be judged on their speed to adjust to the changes and their ability to sustain the quality. The credibility of the units of education is on the stake and under investigation. Innovative systemic strategies will only help us combat this pandemic (5) (Liguori & Winkler, 2020). A swift change to online learning mode is

Corresponding Author's Email: asmaimdad941@gmail.com

required; therefore, Google's products can be very useful in such problematic situations.

Research Methodology

The research is descriptive and online survey method was used for data collection. The research is conducted with the aims to explain the value of online learning during a crisis time and pandemics like the Covid-19. The sample was composed of 30 Students male and female (50% male and 50% female) aged between 13 and 30 years (mean 20-25 years),From different levels of education. The research participants were randomly selected. The study was conducted in the city of Karachi. The research data were collected in September 2020. Subjects were asked to complete a structured questionnaire, which is a google survey form composed of 10 questions based on their online learning experience. More specifically, it was design to gather information about their online learning experiences. Subjects were asked to provide the following information: personal information (gender, name, age, education, email) number of their courses, their satisfaction regarding to online education, and available resources.
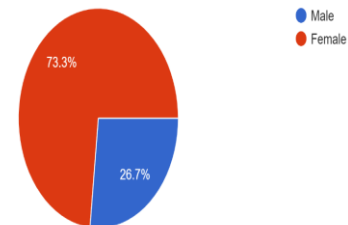
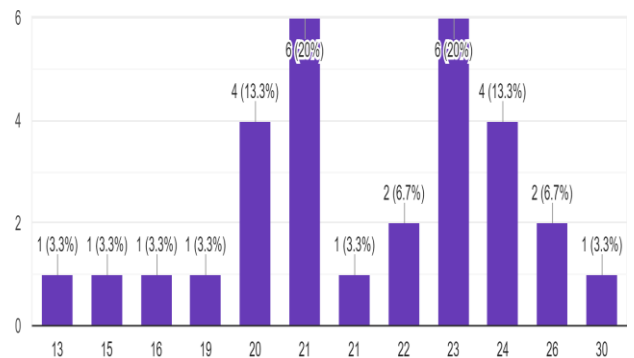## Data analysis

Sample size (number of participants = N), N= 30.
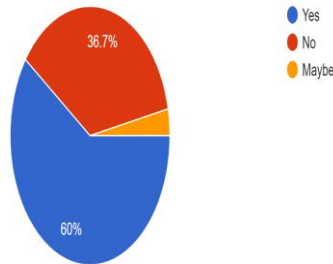
Education level
28 responses
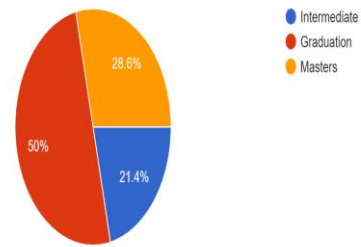
Gender
30 responses

Age
30 responses

Corresponding Author's Email: asmaimdad941@gmail.com

1, Do you have enough resources to take the course online?
30 responses

- Yes
- No
- Maybe

36.7%

60%

- In this question 60% of participants were agree, 36.7 were replied in "No" & remaining were replied in "Maybe"

2, Do you find your teacher's methodologies timely flexible in online classes?
30 responses

- Yes
- No
- Maybe

36.7%

Maybe
7 (23.3%)

40%

- In this question 40% of participants were agree, 36.7 were replied in "No" & remaining were replied in "Maybe"

3, Do you know how to access laptops and other related applications for your online learning?
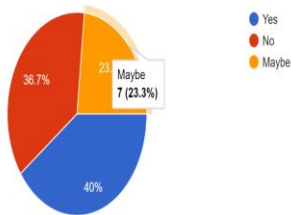30 responses

- yes
- No
- Maybe

93.3%

- In this question of 93.3% participants were agreed

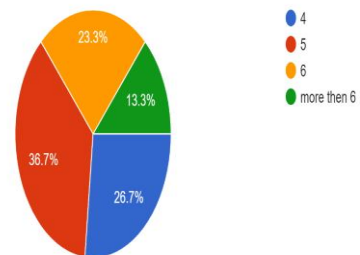4, Do you think this method of online learning productive and affordable?
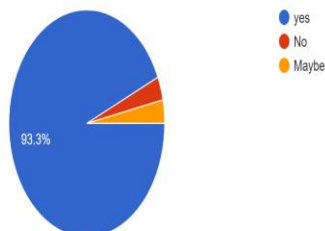30 responses

- Yes
- No
- Maybe

26.7% 23.3%

50%

- In this question 50% of participants were agree, 26.7 were replied in "No" & remaining were replied in "Maybe"
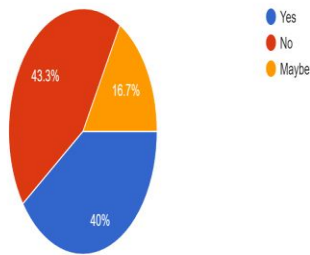
5, How many Online Courses are you taking?
30 responses

- 4
- 5
- 6
- more then 6

23.3%

13.3%

36.7%

26.7%

In this question different participants took online courses.

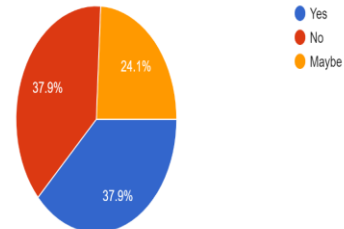Corresponding Author's Email: asmaimdad941@gmail.com

6, Do you think you can interact two way clearly through online classes?
30 responses

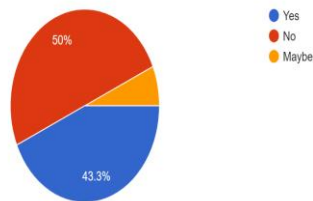- In this question 40% of participants were agree, 43.3 were replied in "No" & remaining were replied in "Maybe"

7, Are you happy with the process of online study?
30 responses

- In this question 43.3% of participants were agreed, 50% were replied in "No" & remaining were replied in "Maybe"

9, Do you find this online education adaptable?
30 responses

- In this question 43.3% of participants were agreed, 36.7%

were replied in "No" & remaining were replied in "Maybe"

10, Do you think there are better options than online education in this pandemic?
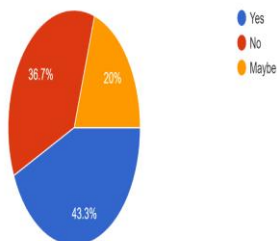29 responses

- In this question 37.9% of participants were agreed, 37.9% were replied in "No" & remaining were replied in "Maybe"

Result

From the above statistics its evident that in Pakistan 93.3% students have access to technology and other resources while 70% think that online education is the best solution in the current crises of pandemic, 37.9% think that there are no better option then online education, 40% think that they can communicate through online classes while 50% students are not happy with the process of online study, 40% think that online education is timely flexible while 50% think that online education is productive and affordable

Discussion

From the above results its pretty clear and evident that most students in Karachi have access to technology and the online education may be the best possible solution in this pandemic but we also have to think about those people who don't have access to devices. While some

Corresponding Author's Email: asmaimdad941@gmail.com

students are unhappy and don't think that its timely flexible or adaptable because besides its benefits but it has its own challenges. Online education has a number of innovations available, but they also cause a lot of difficulties. These challenges and problems associated with modern technology vary from downloading errors, installation problems, login issues, audio, and video issues, and so forth. Often online teaching is considered by students to be dull and Un engaged. Online learning is so time consuming that students never have time to do so. Parental treatment is also an enormous problem affecting online learning. There are several problems attached to online education, but in times of crisis we cannot disregard the benefits of it. We can still come up with solutions to solve these problems. Technical difficulties can be solved by pre-recording video lectures, testing the content, and having a Plan B so that the process of teaching and learning is not hindered.

Conclusion and Suggestion

The Covid-19 pandemic has also changed the way in which several people receive and impart education, as per the World Economic Forum. We might bring in some much-needed innovations and change to find new solutions for our problems. (6) Ayebi-Arthur (2017) conducted a case study of a New Zealand college that has been seriously affected by seismic activity (The types, frequency and size of earthquakes that happen over a period of time in a certain area),In her research she found that after the COVID-19 pandemic hit the college and it became more resilient to online learning. In those tough days, technology helped them conquer the obstacles.

This awful time of destiny that we have spent while being home arrested has taught us that all is uncertain and that we need to be prepared to face challenges. Although this outbreak did not give us much time for planning, we should learn from this that being prepared is the key. For others, the main lesson could be embracing e-learning technologies before a tragedy occurs (7) Andersen (Todorova & Bjorn, 2011). We are forced to pursue online learning these past months due to COVID.

Contingency plans should be made by organizations and entities to resolve threats such as pandemics and natural disasters (8) (Seville et al., 2012). Reliability and adequate availability of infrastructure for Information Communication Technology, learning tools, digital learning opportunities in the form of Vast Open Online Courses, e-books, e-notes, etc. (9) (Huang et al., 2020). Natural disasters can stimulate our motivation for the adoption of highly innovative communication technology and e-learning tools (10) (Tull et al., 2017). To make e-learning effective in such difficult times, we need to focus on the use of technology more efficiently.

Sometime it gets challenging to develop content which not only covers the curriculum but also engage the students in this pandemic but in such situation like pandemic online education is the best possible solution.

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Corresponding Author's Email: asmaimdad941@gmail.com

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Corresponding Author's Email: asmaimdad941@gmail.com