A STUDY ON INDIAN STUDENTS' PERCEPTION OF OFFLINE CLASSES RESUMPTION

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ABSTRACT

The face-to-face learning is the traditional method which is followed in educational institutions. Students across globe were used to only this method however, Covid-19 pandemic made an interruption in all the learning students' academic progress. This research focuses on students' perception after 100% resumption to offline classes. The participants of this research are final year undergraduate engineering students. The total no. of respondents were 274 under graduate students (50 students were initially selected from EEE, MECH, CIVIL, ECE, CSE & IT Departments). Specifically final year students' were chosen for this research study because they have experienced both offline and online teaching and learning. For this study descriptive research design was used and the data was collected using convenience sampling method. 300 questionnaires were initially given to students from the undergraduate engineering departments (EEE, MECH, CIVIL, ECE, CSE & IT) but only 274 questionnaires were returned. A structured questionnaire using the likerts' scale was administered. The study revealed that students feel that only face-to-face learning can help in career development. Hence, we can consider this to be the students' positive perception on offline classes after resumption.
Keywords: Covid-19, pandemic, resumption, perception, offline classes

INTRODUCTION

The covid-19 pandemic has changed the normal life of mankind. The education system is no exception since it also faced major interruption. The spread of Covid-19 started in March 2020. Everyone was perplexed and hopeless about their future. At the initial stages, there were 100% closure of schools and colleges. But, slowly within some months, the education system started introduced a new approach in learning. The offline classes were converted into online classes. Online class is not a new term for us. Even before the pandemic, there were distant education system and some interactive online courses were existent. Online classes were

conducted through digital platforms such as Google meet and Zoom. The use of Microsoft Teams was also seen. To access these online classes, we need a good network connection. Online classes actually didn't gain much attraction. Some students lost their interest in studies. For some the access to technology was difficult, especially in rural areas.

This research study focuses on students' perception after 100% resumption to offline classes. The participants of this research were final year undergraduate engineering students. The total numbers of respondents were 274 under graduate engineering students (50 students were initially selected from EEE, MECH, CIVIL, ECE, CSE & IT Departments). Specifically final year students' were chosen for this research study because they have experienced both offline and online teaching and learning. Descriptive research design was used for this study. The data was collected using convenience sampling method. 300 questionnaires were initially given to students from the undergraduate engineering departments (EEE, MECH, CIVIL, ECE, CSE & IT) but only 274 questionnaires were returned. A structured questionnaire using the likerts' scale was administered. The responses were in favor of the resumption of offline classes as well as a positive perception about offline classes in students' perception. Hence, we can consider this to be the students' positive perception on offline classes after resumption.

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The perception of the students on offline classes after resumption can help us to determine the interest of the students in face-to-face teaching and learning. The advantages of the online classes can be added with offline classes to bring a revolution in the traditional teaching and learning method. This study can help to understand the students' perception on 100% resumption of offline classes.

NEED FOR THE STUDY

The positive perception about the face-to-face teaching and learning is found to be increased. Though online class has some benefits, it cannot replace the traditional classroom. Either, hybrid methods could be followed or the benefits of online classes could be added to the face-to-face teaching and learning method. Thus the findings from this study can help to promote the career growth of the students through offline classes in a better way than before.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The following are the main objectives of this research study.

- To understand the students' perception on 100% resumption of offline classes
- To know the students' perception on offline classes after resumption
- To gain new knowledge about offline classes with respect to pandemic
- To know whether offline classes has more advantages over online classes

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

T. Muthuprasad et al., 2021[1] stated that most of the students reported a positive attitude towards online classes during the start of pandemic. The online learning was favoured as it provided flexibility and convenience for the learners. Students preferred well-structured content with recorded videos uploaded in university websites. They also preferred the need for interactive sessions to enhance the learning experience. However, most students also reported that online classes could be more challenging than traditional classroom. Therefore, all these factors should be considered while developing an online course to make it more effective and productive for the learner.

In the year 2004 Yi Yang, Linda F. Cornelius[2] stated that during online classes students had both positive and negative experiences. The quality of online education was viewed as moderate by participants. This finding is indicative that they were not very satisfied with the online education received, nor did they perceive the online education received as of high quality. The learners just completed assignment and 'turned them in' without getting the transfer of knowledge from textbook to their minds.

Jeba Chitra, et al., 2021[3] found student's perception on college re-opening and resumption of 100% offline classes post the COVID-19 pandemic. From transition of chalk and talk teaching to online teaching, non possibility of conference presentations, direct internships there were many serious threat to medical and health care allied courses students which must be resolved. Challenges faced by students were time management skills, reliable internet connectivity and technological preparedness. The study revealed favorable perception to resumption of offline classes. Students favored the resumption of offline classes over virtual learning methods.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The study belongs to descriptive research design. This research study has been conducted with a questionnaire survey as the primary data. The sampling is convenience sampling. The total no. of respondents was 274. A structured questionnaire using the likert scale was administered. The questionnaire consists of 9 questions.

50 students were initially selected from EEE, MECH, CIVIL, ECE, CSE & IT departments.300 questionnaires were initially given to students from the undergraduate engineering departments (EEE, MECH, CIVIL, ECE, CSE & IT) but only 274 questionnaires were returned. Statistical tool such as percentage analysis has been used for the analysis of primary data.

FINDINGS

The following are the findings from this research study on the students' perception on offline classes after resumption. 34% of the respondents felt difficult during the transition from offline to online mode. Also, for 10% of the respondents it was very difficult. 36% didn't feel any difference during the transition from offline to online mode.

The comparative opinion of the respondents on online vs. offline shows that, 90% of the respondents feel that offline classes are easy to understand. 80% of them had lot of technical barriers in online learning. 98% of the respondents say that, more interaction with teachers is possible only in offline classes. 90% of the respondents feel that, the quality of Extra-curricular and Co-curricular is good in offline mode. 76% of them say that, results were very good in online mode, while 24% feels offline.

i) Students are very happy about 100% resumption of offline classes

42% of the respondents agree that they are very happy about the 100% resumption of offline classes. 22% strongly agree this statement. Thus, 64% of the respondents accept the statement.

ii) Students are very much interested in attending offline classes

40% of the respondents agree that they are very much interested in attending offline classes after resumption, while 22% strongly agrees the same. So, in total 62% of the respondents are interested in attending offline classes after resumption.

iii) Resumption of offline classes increased learning interest

40% of the respondents agree that the resumption of offline class has increased their learning interest. 26% strongly agrees the same statement. Thus, 66% of the respondents accept that resumption of offline classes after pandemic has increased their learning interest.

iv) Knowledge sharing among students is more in offline classes

46% of the respondents strongly agree that knowledge sharing among students is more in offline class. 40% of them agree this statement. So, in total 86% of the respondents says that knowledge sharing is more in offline learning.

v) Offline classes can improve creativity

40% of the respondents strongly agree that offline classes can improve creativity. 32% agree this same statement. In total, 72% of them accept that offline classes can improve creativity.

vi) Practical knowledge can be gained only through offline classes

40% of the respondents strongly agree that practical knowledge can be gained only through offline classes and 40% agree this statement. In total 80% of the respondents accept the statement.

vii) Analytical subjects can be understood well in offline classes

42% of the respondents strongly agree that analytical subjects can be understood well in offline classes and 38% of the respondents agree this statement. So, when we sum the both, 80% of the respondents accept this statement.

viii) Placement opportunities are greater in physical mode

54% of the respondents strongly agree that placement opportunities are greater in physical mode. 24% of the respondents agree the same. Thus, 78% of the respondents accept the statement.

ix) Resumption of offline classes has given a new hope to the students about their future

28% of the respondents strongly agree that the resumption offline class has given a new hope about their future. 40% of the respondents agree this statement. Thus, 68% of the respondents accept that the resumption has given a new hope about their future.

x) Resumption of offline classes will help students to rebuild their career path

40% of the respondents strongly agree that, resumption of offline classes will help them to rebuild their career path. 40% agree the same. So, in total, 80% of the respondents accept that the resumption of offline classes can help in rebuilding their career path.

SUGGESTIONS

The following inputs from this study could be used to develop improvements in both online and offline classes.Most of the student's opinion on the statements was positive towards the resumption of the offline classes. But we cannot neglect certain qualities of the online learning that we discovered after the pandemic. These qualities include the presentation skill, effective online communication, ability to organize online meetings, efficient time

management and self-administration. These skills are very much needed in the modern world to become the best leader in our career. At present the digital media is the common platform through which we can reach more number of people. Students can also be able to build a good network of people through which they can understand their career objectives. And the exposure to career related skills can help the students to survive at the initial stages of their career.

CONCLUSION

The situations like pandemic are uncertain but it is better to find the alternate solutions when situation is normal. The findings of the percentage analysis show that students are interested in attending the offline classes after the pandemic. The traditional learning offers a great space for participation. The face-to-face communication is possible only in the offline classes. At present the online classes are less preferable since the awareness and perceptions about the e-learning are poor. The career development is possible only through the offline class. Students feel that the resumption of the offline classes after the pandemic has given a new hope about their future. They also feel very happy about rebuilding their career path after resumption. Thus, students are having a favorable perception towards the offline classes after the resumption. This could be considered as the students' positive attitude towards the offline classes after the pandemic.

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