STUDENTS' ATTITUDE TOWARDS ONLINE TEACHING LEARNING DURING COVID-19 SITUATION IN WEST BENGAL

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Abstract: This study aimed to inquire about the students' attitude towards online teaching learning as well as problem faced by them during covid-19 situation in west Bengal. The study exerted descriptive survey method of research. The study was conducted among under graduate college student in west Bengal. Results of the study shows that the highest percentages of students have a positive attitude towards online learning. However Online Learning is the best method of learning at time of lockdown due to the outbreak of Covid-19 and further in-depth statistical study may be undertaken on the impact of online learning during lockdown period.

Index Terms – **COVID-19, Online learning, e-learning, and higher education**

1. INTRODUCTION

The world today is facing pandemic as the Coronavirus is sweeping it's around the globe and its impact is going on. COVID-19 is an extremely contagious disease or illness caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome. Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2), which grows in the Chinese city of Wuhan, has already reached pandemic proportions, affecting all continents, spreading mainly among people through close contact, which now leads to millions of deceased. COVID-19 has been called a pandemic due to its severity and brutality and because it is the largest global health crisis of the last few centuries in human civilization. The Covid-19 pandemic has led to a total lockdown world over and India is no exception. The Period of the lockdown the educational institutions have moved online and social distancing.

The lockdown imposed affected the entire education sector, from primary schools to universities and research institutes. Regular classes stopped in between the session of January - May. It was estimated by UNESCO that the lockdown affected almost 1.38 billion learners in about 138 countries of the world representing more than 3 out of 4 children and youth worldwide during the month of March 2020, which rose to around 1.5 billion by April 2020. (UNESCO 2020). In India, it was estimated that around 321 million learners were away from school due to the pandemic (Sukumar, 2020). Since, as months progressed, there was no solution to stop the outbreak, it led to rethinking, re-planning and altering the offline method of learning to an online method. The Ministry of Human Resource and Development (MHRD) instructed all schools and colleges to initiate this endeavor and also provided many online aids to help the process.

The crisis is usually coupled with opportunities and it's time to understand the complete potential of technology for learning within the wake of this medical emergency and keeping the students' safety in mind alongside their academic concern, different stakeholders within the education space are endorsing online learning in order that the training only grow and do not recede. Online teaching as a response to pandemics and COVID-19, in particular, actually started in China through their "school's out, class's in" response as an initiative to mitigate the academic loss due to the disease (Zhou, Wu, Zhou, & Li, 2020). For schools in India, April is actually the beginning of new session and as a result, schools feared loss of teaching hours. Therefore, schools in India followed by the guidelines of state and union government and initiated virtual classes to bridge the gap. Majority of personal schools and other educational institutions initiated mandatory virtual classes, and thus, teachers are unfailingly sharing their lessons over Skype call, Zoom call, Google hangouts, Microsoft teams or the other virtual class options to stay the training on.

However, many pieces of research have been conducted over online teaching and learning and its effectiveness, no such studies conducted during COVID-19 lockdown period in west bengal. Hence, this study is an effort to understand the student's attitude towards adoption of online teaching and common problem faced by students during online learning at the time of COVID-19 pandemic.

2. SIGNIFICANT OF THE STUDY

In light of the conditions that pass through India and with the World Health Organization declaring the COVID-19 pandemic and the lifting of preventive measures in many countries, which included the closure of schools and universities entirely in some countries, and called on the Ministry of Higher Education in India to using online learning as a means to ensure the continuity of the educational process and not to lose an academic year for students. Educational institutions are presented with surmounting challenges in its education system and this pandemic will have an impact on the educational and there will be a drop especially in national examinations. Therefore Universities, sought to introduce and apply an online learning system to complete the teaching of courses for all students. The present study aimed to investigate the student's attitudes towards online learning while applying it during the COVID-19 pandemic.

3. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

3.1 To find out the attitude of college students towards online learning in covid situation.

3.2 To find out common learning platform widely used by college students in covid situation.

3.3 To identify the various on-line technologies used by college student which are relevant to their teaching and learning.

3.4 To find out the common problem faced by college students during online learning in covid situation.

4. METHODOLOGY

4.1 METHOD

Descriptive survey method of research was used in the execution of the present study.

4.2 POPULATION

The population of the present study consists of the students who are studying in under graduate colleges in Hooghly district of West Bengal.

4.3 SAMPLE

In the present study, sample was 69 college students selected by the method of purposive sampling from the target population.

Table 1

Total Sample_Gender variation

Gender	N	Percentage
Female	35	50.72
Male	34	49.28
Total	69	100

4.4 TOOL USED FOR THE STUDY

In order to carry out the present study a self-made tool was used.

5. DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

Data analysis and interpretation were made from the collected raw data, which were responded by the participants in the respective questionnaire and then analyzed.

Data interpretation in accordance with

Objective 1: To find out the attitude of college students towards online learning.

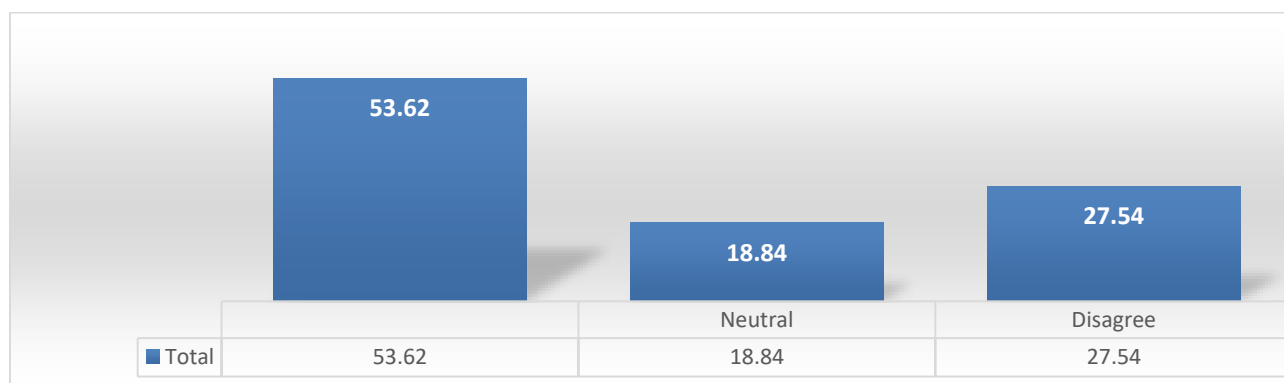|		Neutral	Disagree
Total	53.62	18.84	27.54

Figure 1. Prefer to learn online

The participant were asked if they are preferring online learning, among 69 respondent around 66.67% of students have reported that they prefer online learning, while 18.84% were not in support of this. And 14.49% of them were neutral about online learning.
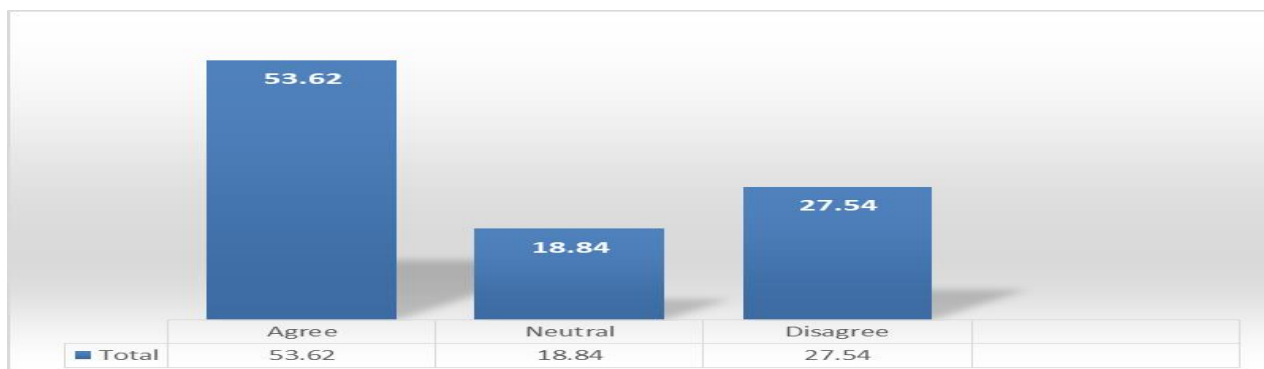

Figure 2. Online learning saves time and can continue participating in discussion without coming to university/College.

As seen on the figure no 2, among 69 participant around 53.62% of student agree on fact that online learning can saves their time and help them to continue participating in discussion without coming to university or college, while 27.54% are not support on this view. And 18.84% of them were neutral on this view.
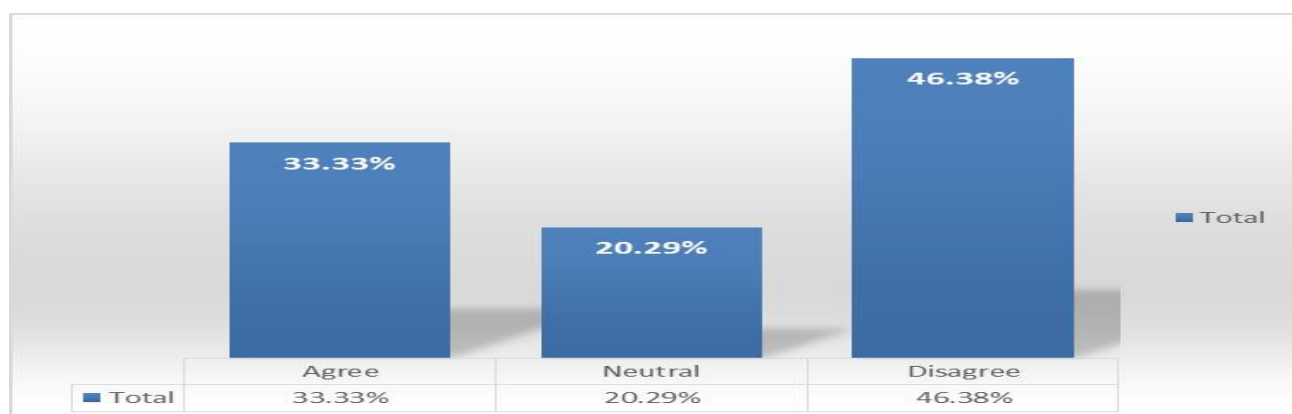
Table 3. Online learning is easy and simple.

From Figure 3, it can be observed that the majority of the respondents 46.38% think that e-learning is not easy and simple, while 33.33% were in support of this view and the remaining 20.29% are neutral.
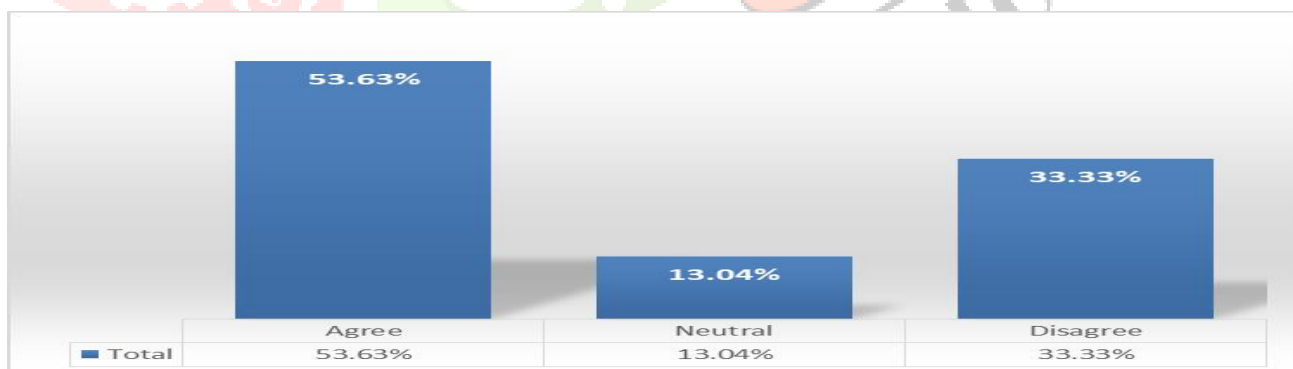

Figure 4. Student feel more comfortable in classroom learning than online learning.

It is obtained from the figure 4 that among 69 participant, 53.63% of students feel more comfortable in traditional classroom learning than online learning. Where 33.33% of student think differently and they feel comfortable in online learning and the remaining 13.04% are neither agree nor disagree on this opinion.
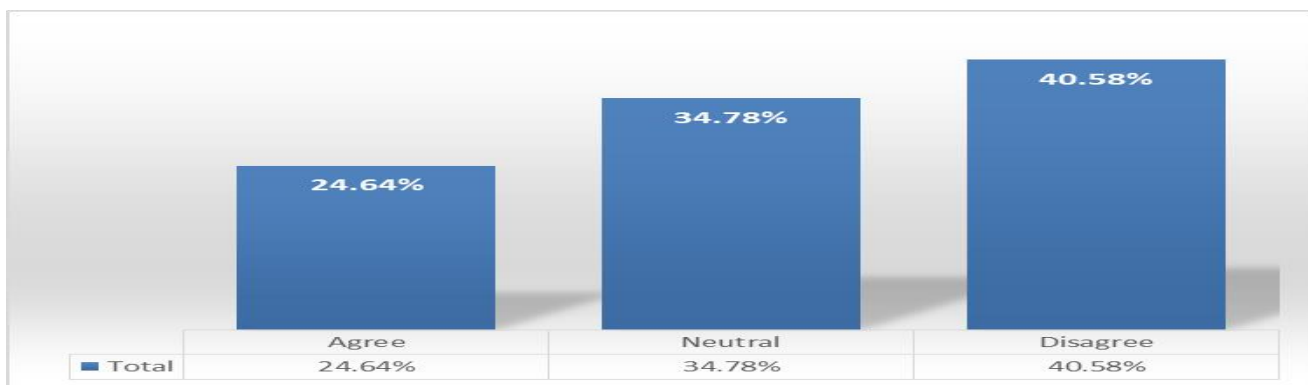
Figure 5. Online teaching is very good platform for teachers and students.

Figure 5 shows that among 69 participant, 40.58% of student disagree that online teaching is very good platform for teachers and students while 24.64% of students were in support of this view. And 34.78% of students are neutral.
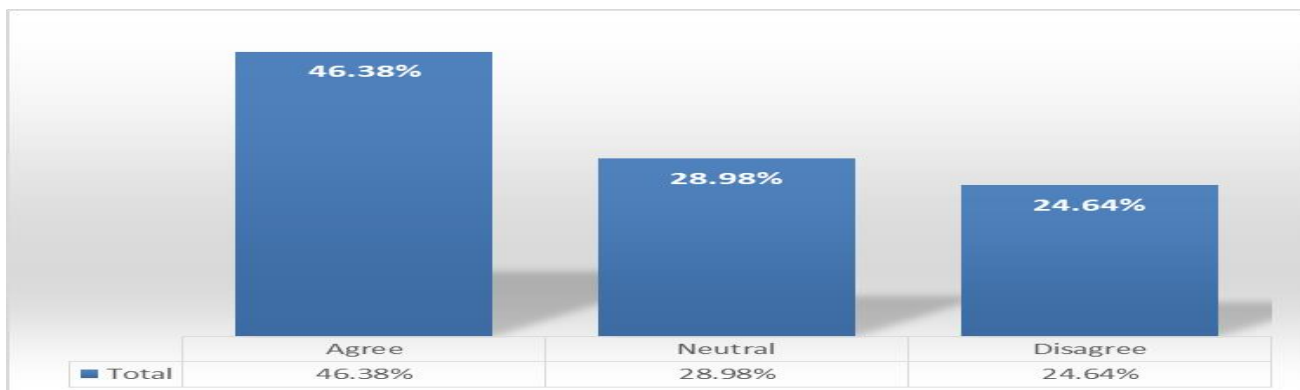

Figure 6. Students can learn at their own pace via online learning

It is inferred from the above figure that 46.38% of students feel that online learning is helping them to learn at their own pace and 24.64% of students did not agree. 28.89% of student are natural on this opinion.
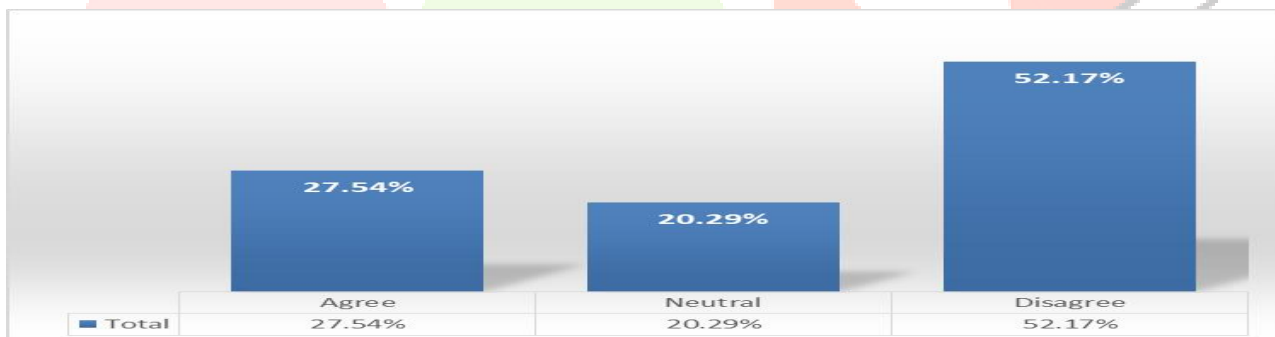

Figure 7. Interaction with teacher and fellow students is easier with online learning.

It was noted in Figure 7 that the majority of the students 52.17%, think that interaction with teacher and fellow student is not easier with online learning while other 27.54% of student feel that online learning allows for better interaction between students and teachers. And the remaining 20.29% of students are neither agree nor disagree on this opinion.
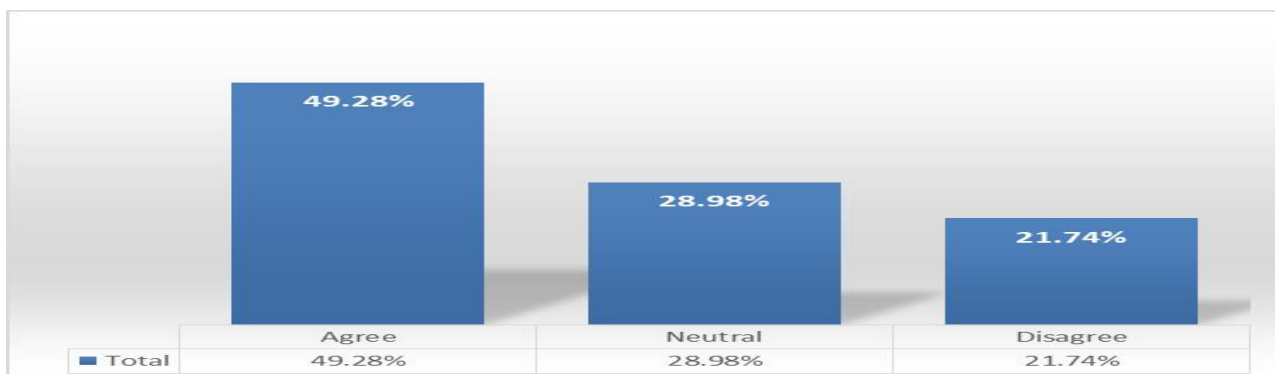

Figure 8. Online teaching can never replace conventional mode of teaching.

Figure no 8 shows that among 69 students around 49.28% of student's agree on the view that online teaching can never replace conventional mode of teaching while the other 21.74% were against the notion and remaining 28.98% of students are neutral.
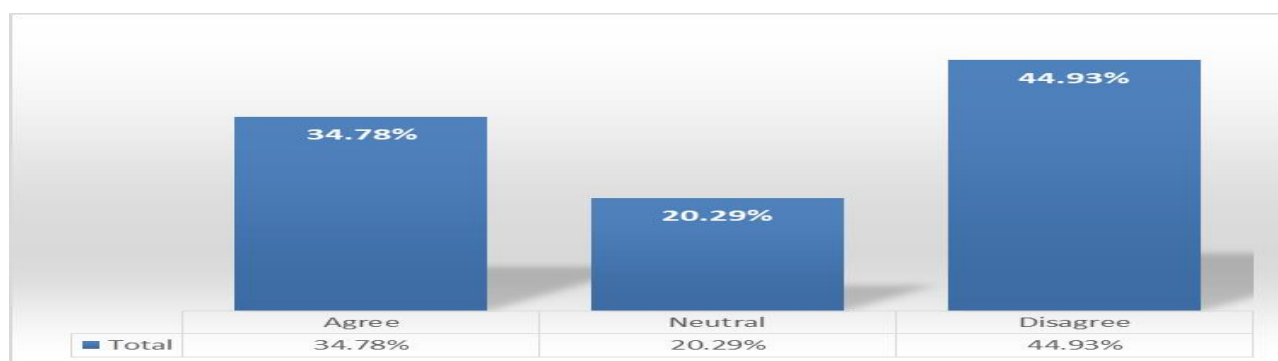

Figure 9. Online learning can be implemented in the next semester.

Figure 9 shows the distribution of students' opinions on implementing online learning in the next semester. A large percentage of student 44.93% are not agree to implement online learning in their next semester while 34.78% are in support of implanting online learning and 20.29% are having a neutral opinion.
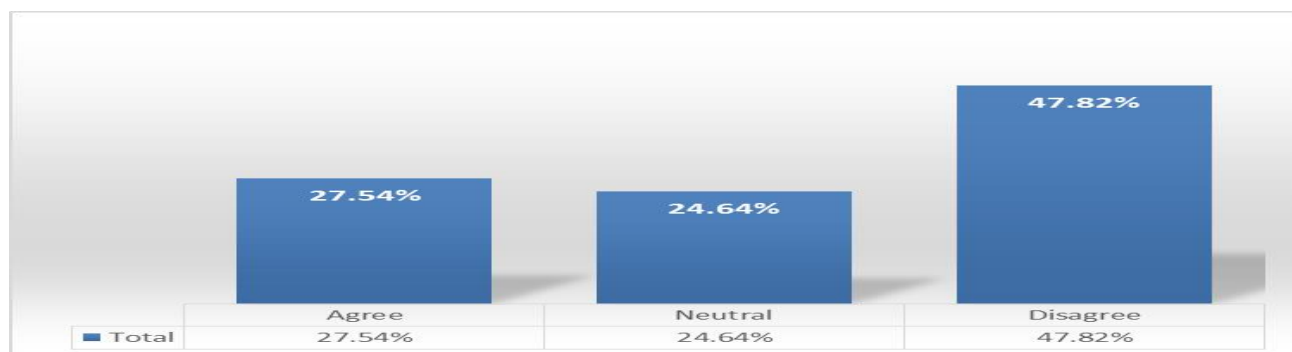

Figure 10. Student progress can be tracked more efficiently during online teaching.

It is inferred from the above figure that among 69 respondent, around 47.82% of students have disagree on this opinion and 27.54% of student think that their progress can be tracked more efficiently during online teaching and 24.64% students have neutral opinion they neither agree or disagree.
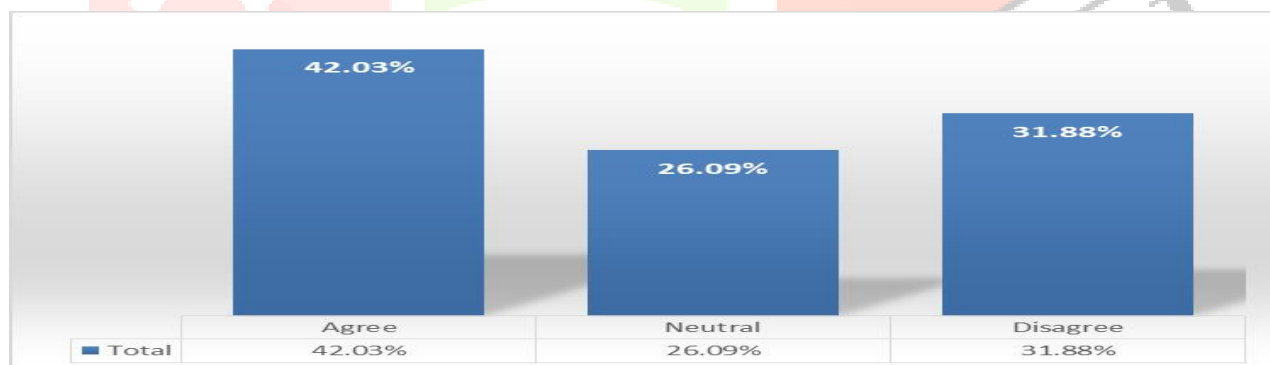

Figure 11. Difficult to learn through online mode

Figure 11 shows the opinion of all respondents on learning through online mode is more difficult than normal classroom learning. 42.03% of the participants accepted that learning through online mode is difficult than conventional method while 31.88% rejected this view and 26.09% participants have neutral opinion.
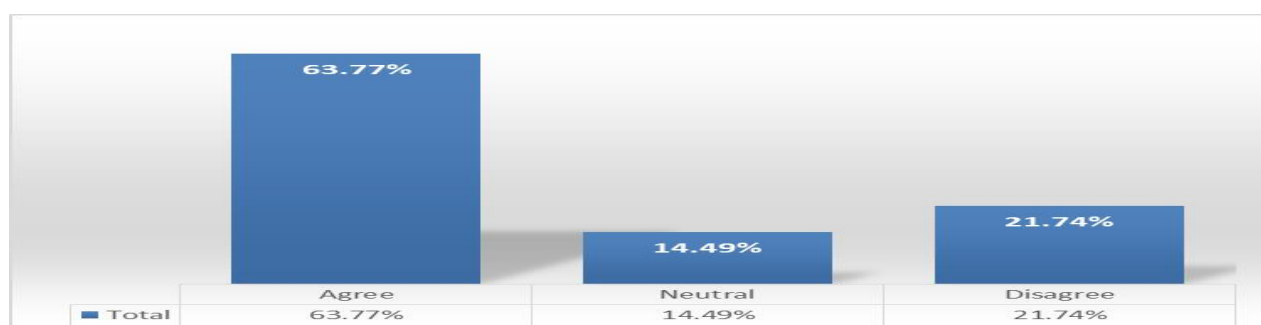

Figure 12. Experienced problems during online learning.

Figure 12 shows the respondents' experiences while using online learning. Reflecting on their personal experience, 63.77% of participants are in support of the notion that they faced problem during online learning, while 21.74 percent objected to this notion and other 14.49% of participants neither agree nor disagree with this notion.
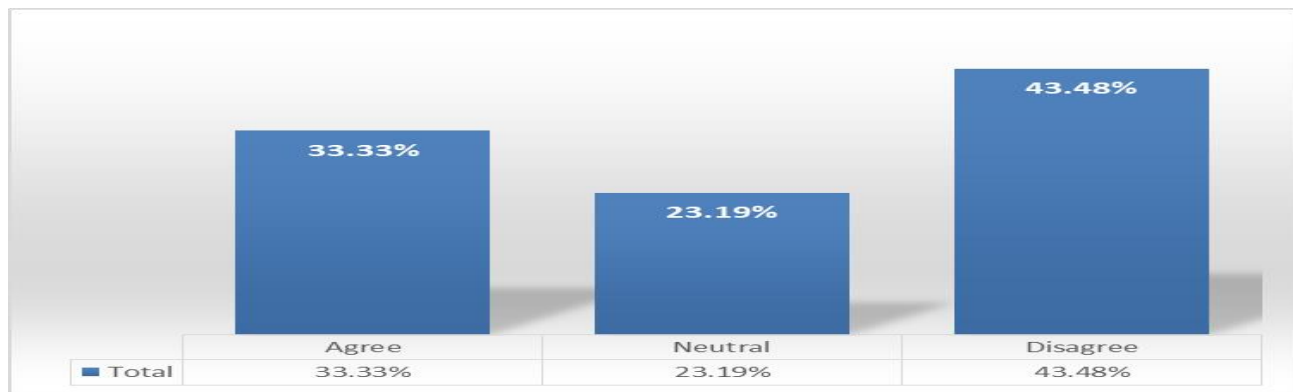

Figure 13. Participants' opinion about paying for online courses.

Figure 13 gives a distribution of students' opinions on whether they will pay for e-learning courses. The majority of students (43.48%) are not willing to pay for online learning courses, while 33.33% students are willing to pay for online learning courses and remaining 23.19% students are neutral.
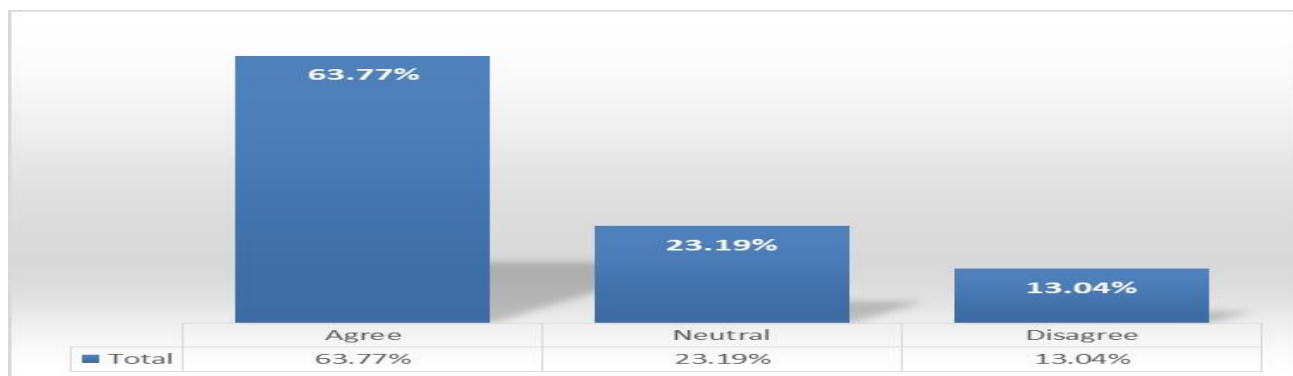

Figure 14. Used to online learning.

From Figure 14, it can be observed that the majority of the respondent almost 63.77% students are now accustomed in online learning while 13.04% students are still not use to it and the remaining 23.19% of students are neutral in this notion.
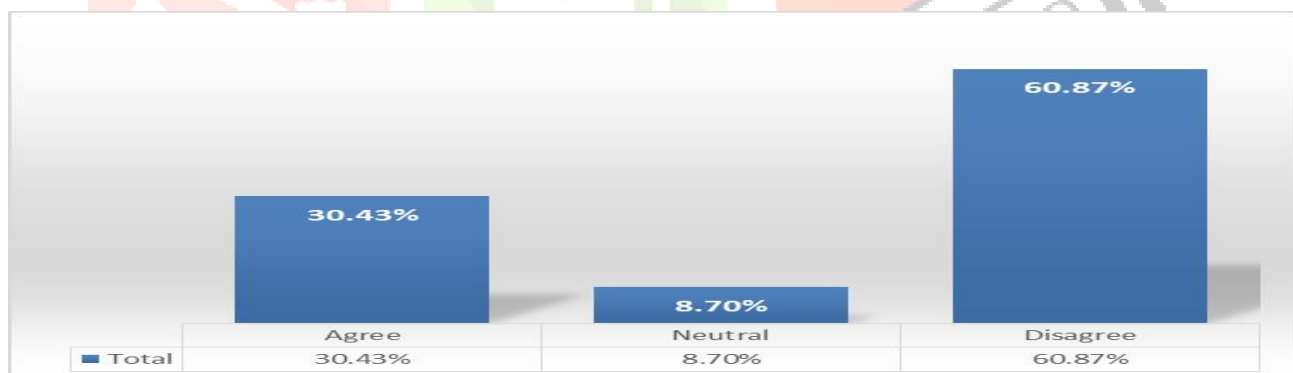

Figure 15. Online learning is suitable for all type of courses.

Figure 15 shows a cross-section of respondents' opinion on online learning being suitable for all types of courses i.e. theory and practical.30.43% percent of respondents accepted that online learning is suitable for all course types, while 60.87 percent of the respondents disagree against its suitability for all courses and 8.70% students have neutral opinion they neither agree nor disagree.
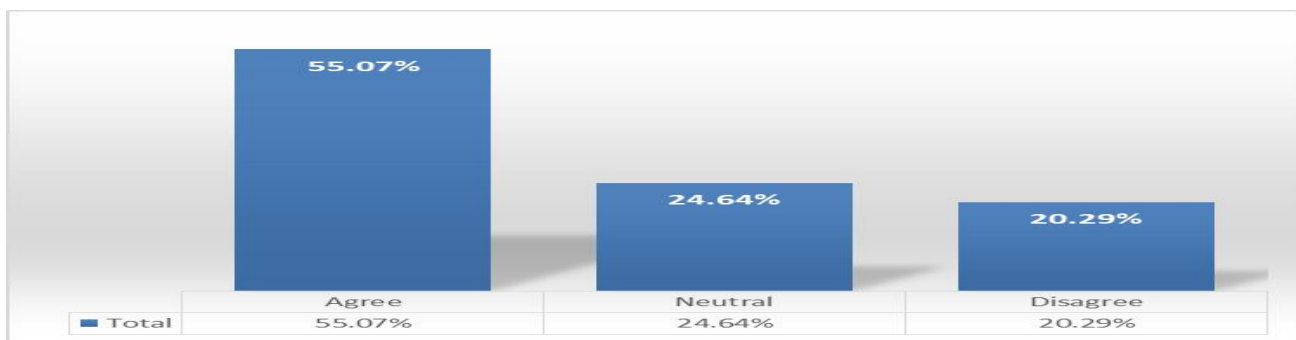
Figure 16. Online education is affecting student mental health

From Figure 16, it can be observed that 55.07% of student feel that online education is affecting their mental health while 20.29% of students were not in support of this view and 24.64% of students are neutral about this opinion.
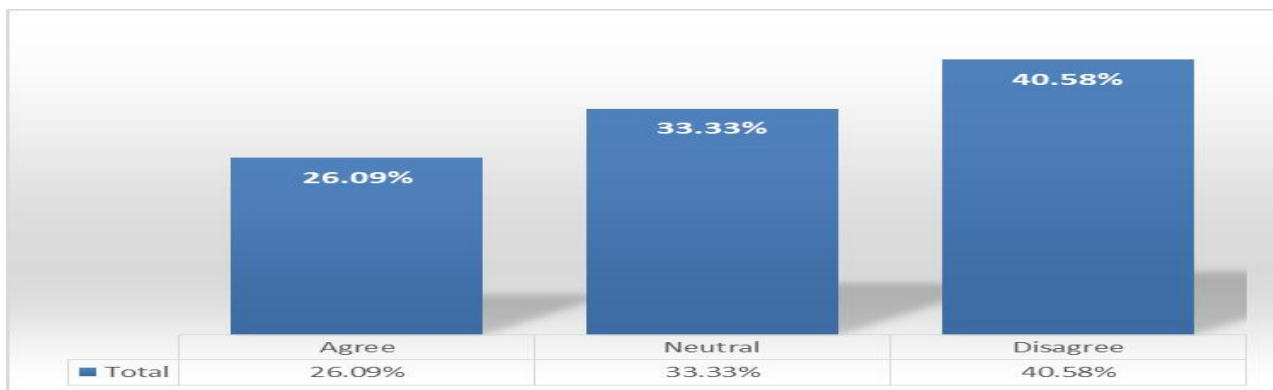

Figure 17. Satisfied with the online learning

Figure 17 gives a distribution of students' opinions on whether they are satisfied with online learning. Among 69 students, 40.58% of students are not satisfied with online learning while 26.09% students are satisfied with online learning and around 33.33% students are neither satisfied nor unsatisfied with online learning.

Data Interpretation in accordance with

Objective 2: To find out common learning platform widely used by college students during covid situation.
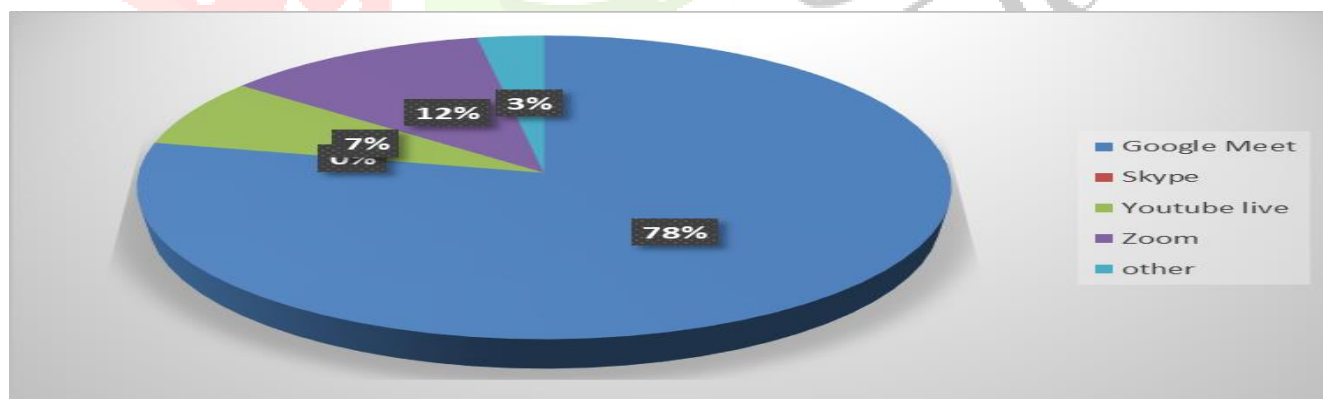

Figure. 18. Widely Used Learning platform.

From the above figure we have observed that majority of the college student almost 78% of participant used Google meet for their learning purposes. 12% participant used Zoom app, 7% used YouTube live and 3% used other app as online learning platform.

Data Interpretation in accordance with

Objective 3: To identify the various online technologies used by college student which are relevant to their teaching and learning.
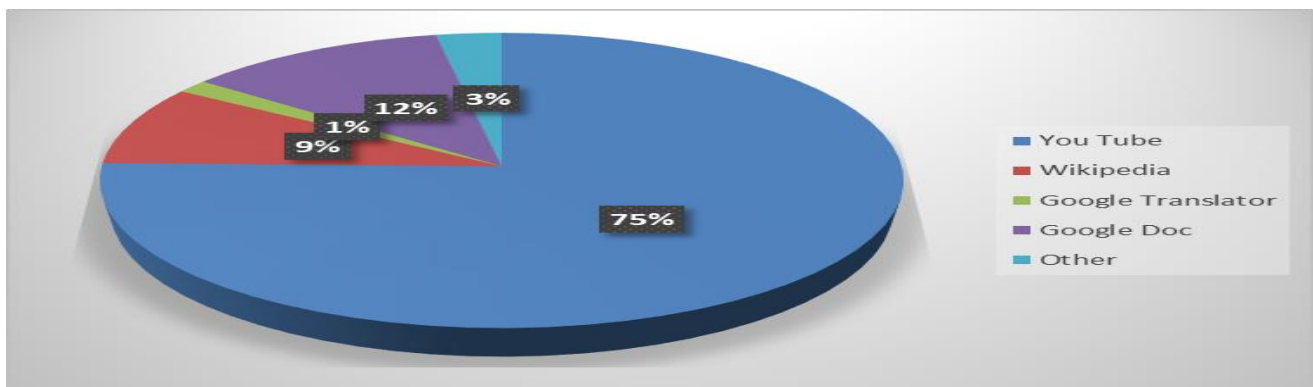

Figure 19. Most Relevant Tool for teaching learning process.

Regarding the most relevant tool for teaching learning process of the college student, the list of some specific online tool related to the teaching and learning were made after analysis the data of the study. It is found that the majority of college students considered YouTube (75%) as the most relevant tool in their teaching learning process. and it is followed by Google doc, which is used by 12% of the student. Other tools are also considered appropriate for teaching-learning process, including Wikipedia (9%), Google translator (1.45%).

Data Interpretation in accordance with

Objective 4. To find out the common problem faced by college students during online learning in covid.
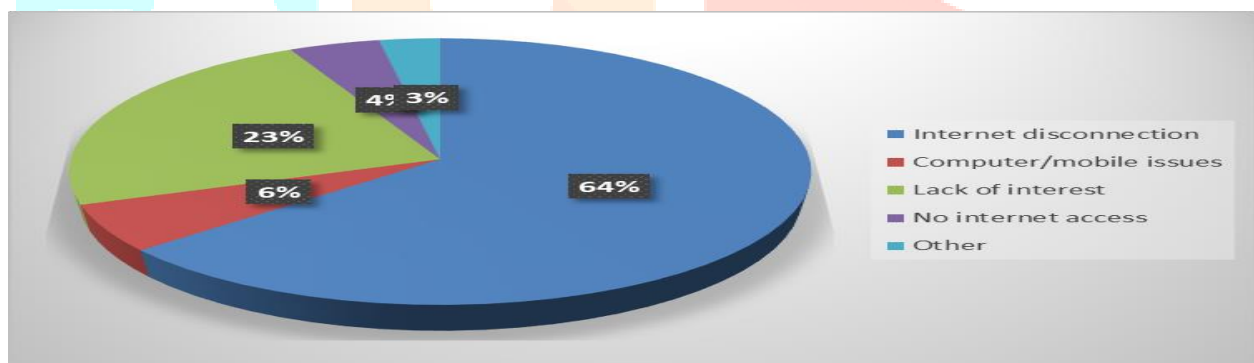

Figure 20. Problem faced while attending online classes

While attending online classes most of the student have faced several problem. Based upon our study we found that 63.77% respondent faced internet disconnection while attending online classes. Another problem is that student feel monotones in online classes and they lose their interest in classes. In our study we have found 23.19% student have lack of interest in online classes. Beside this 5.80% student are having device issue and 4.34% student don't have internet access.

Discussion

Undoubtedly, the implementation of online learning systems in higher education has enabled a fundamental change in teaching and learning practice. The success or failure of online learning across an organization depends on several factors. This field of science facilitates the provision of the facilities for designing new scientific environments, which was not possible in the past. Therefore, the evaluation of e-learning systems is vital to ensure successful implementation, effective use, and positive impacts on learners.

Therefore, the aim of the present study was to investigate the student's attitudes towards e-learning during the COVID-19 pandemic. For answering the first question was: what are the students' attitudes towards e-learning? The most important results of the current study were that the highest percentages of students have a positive attitude towards online learning and here we are going to discuss about other important findings of this study.

Majority of the student (66.67%) prefer online learning during the covid pandemic and 53.62% of student agree on fact that online learning can saves their time and help them to continue participating in discussion without coming to university or college.

Participants objected to the notion that online learning is more interesting than normal classroom lectures. This implies that participants value physical interaction and count physical interaction as part of the learning experience.

Learning at one's own pace is a benefit of online learning, as observed by 46.38% of the participants. This eliminates distractions and also reduces pressure to learn a quantity of material by a certain date/time. The learner can choose the speed of learning and the duration as opposed to classroom-based learning.

52.17% of participants believe online learning does not increase interaction between learners and instructors. This perception may be coming from online courses that do not make use of online forums or chat boxes, which encourages interaction between learners-learners and learners-instructors.

The participants (33.33%) agreed to pay for online courses. This implies that the knowledge gained is useful and worthy of remuneration. The online course was seen as easy and simple by 33.33% of the participants. 30.43% of the participants accepted that teaching both theoretical and practical courses is suitable for online teaching, while 60.87% objected to this view. Teaching theoretical and practical courses online would depend on the content creation method available. The success of online learning would also depend on the available technology, time to interact with the learning content, and commitment to continue with the process in the absence of external or physical supervision.

Conclusions

Online Learning is the most common method of distance learning today. During the lockdown period for Covid-19, online learning is the best platform to keep learners/educators engaged and safe by maintaining social distancing. Govt. of India has initiated different online learning platforms to continue educational activities during lockdown period which are also been recognized by UNESCO and World Bank. 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. Online learning is considered as future learning process and this platform has a potential of overall change in pedagogy of teaching learning in the modern world. However, necessary steps must be taken to train all stakeholders of education on online learning platform. Government/educational institutions should adopt the policy to provide free internet and free digital gadgets to all learners in order to encourage online learning as a result of which people would get engaged during lockdown and remain safe from pandemics. Online Learning is the best method of learning at this time of lockdown due to the outbreak of Covid-19 and further in-depth statistical study may be undertaken on impact of online learning during lockdown period.

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