Online classes of children: Parents perspective

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Abstract

Mode of education has changed from face to face teaching to online learning. Students do not have need to go schools, they are learning at their home with their own speed. As they are getting education at home so parents are very much involved in their teaching learning process. Research studies indicate that parents' influences and involvement affect the quality of child learning, so when they are taking their classes at home it is necessary to know the parents point of view on the online classes. Their view can increase the effectiveness of online classes. Present study indicates the parents' perspective on the online classes of their child at home by their school teachers.

Keywords: online class, virtual, effectiveness, formal education

Introduction

Whenever we hear the word 'learning', the picture of school came into our mind. It simply means when one want to learn or to get education, one should go to the school. But is the school the only place to get education? The answer is 'No'. One can get education anywhere and anytime. We can get informal education everywhere mostly outside the school. If we want to take formal education then we need schools, where education of all subjects is given formally. We need to be physically present in the school. But in this era of technology it is possible to create school like environment at our home. We do not need to be present physically in the premises of school to get formal education. Today we have gadgets like smart phones, laptop, and tablets along with broadband to create virtual school at our home. This virtual learning is called Distance learning where teachers and students are at distance. As this distance learning is done with e-resources so we can also say it e-learning.

The concept of distance learning or e-learning is not new in India as well as outside India. It was very much popular in Higher Education since pre-independence with the name correspondence education. But day to day schooling to give formal education to school going children from primary to higher secondary classes is a new and challenging concept.

Related studies

There are various studies which support the fact that parents have strong influence on the children development process and especially in education. TNS Social Research (2004) stated that parents have generally very positive attitude towards the education of their children. Majority of the parents believe that their child will get success with the help of good education.

Diamonds and Sons (2013) stated that involvement of parents in child development is very important and this fact is supported by many psychologist, social workers, teachers, Principals and parents also.

Stewart (2008) also stated about parents involvement on children education. Involvement of parents affects the students' achievement test results stated by (Jeynes, 2003). Hill et al. (2004) in his study explain that parents can monitor various school and classroom activities and help the teachers to attain the desirable classroom behavior by their involvement.

Gonzales, Holbein, and Quilter (2002) reveal that student performance in the school is linked with their capabilities, competencies, aspiration and expectation of educational achievement. Parents' involvements in the form of behavior towards child and their own belief have strong influence on the aspiration and expectation of child.

For online education

Deepak R Gupta (2018) in his study "a comparative study of online and face to face education for learners and teachers in management" with the sample of 365 students on which majority is of females students gave their opinion about various aspects of face to face and online learning. He found that students are not clear in their opinion as majority of students are doing face to face learning and are not too much aware about benefit of online learning. But on the other hand the teachers believe that online and face to face education both have equal challenges for all and require different preparedness from both learners and as well as from teachers also.

Tracy O. Franklin, Paula Burdette, Bill East, and Daryl F. Mellard (2015) in his study 'Parents' Roles in their Child's Online Learning Experience' found that parents have the strong opinion about on line education of their ward. Some found that their child is not ready for online schools and also there is a need to steps taken for creating online schools for all.

Staples, S. D. (2010) stated that teachers and students can interact with number of tools and these tools are called social network tools. These tools help to increase the interaction between teacher and students and improve the teaching learning process.

Significance of the study

After studying the related literature on online education and effect of parental involvement on the education of child it is clear that it is very much important to know the parents view on each and every program related to child and especially education. When child is studying at home by online mode and with virtual classes, it becomes necessary to know the parents perspective on these online classes to make these classes more successful. This study focus on the parents' perspective on online classes of their children taken by their school teachers.

Objectives of the study

With the main objective is to understand the parents perception on the online classes taken by the school teachers of their children, the study has some specific objectives also. According to parents' point of view:

- To analysis the successfulness of online classes taken by school teachers at home.
- To identify that which subject can teach effectively by on line classes .
- To examine the different ways by which effectiveness of on line classes at home can be increased.

Methodology of the study

This is a descriptive study where main objective is to understand the parents' perception on their children online classes at home. A questionnaire is prepared keeping in mind the specific objectives of study with the help of 'Google form'. The link of Google form is sent to various parents groups whose children are studied in various schools of Rohini, New Delhi with the help of investigator neighborhood parents. Children are in upper primary or in secondary classes. All the children are taking their classes by video conferencing done by school teachers. They also get their study materials and assignments prepared by their school teachers online using what's up and through school website. In order to check the successfulness of online classes multiple choices of questions are there in which parents have to choose only one option. In order to analysis the type of subject and different ways to improve the effectiveness of online teaching questions are in the form of check box and parents can choose more than one option. Parents are assured that their responses are used for research purpose only and their views are kept confidential. Total 50 parents give their responses in the Google form. After collecting all the responses, responses are tabulated and simple percentage method is used to analysis the data.

Data analysis and interpetation

- To analysis the successfulness of online classes taken by school teachers at home.
Table1.1

Frequency Table

Sr. no.	Items	Response categories				
		Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
1	Students will not lag behind in their study with these virtual classes.	12	14	11	10	4
		24%	28%	22%	20%	8%
2	Creating virtual class room environment at home is a challenge for every family member.	19	15	02	14	-
		38%	30%	04%	28%	-
3	These are just engaging the students in free time; no serious is showing by teachers and students.	12	3	3	18	14
		24%	6%	6%	9%	7%
4	Parents have to sit beside their children to clear their concept after virtual class.	9	22	2	15	2
		18%	44%	04%	30%	04%
5	Students will engage in chatting or play games because proper supervision by teacher is not possible.	18	19	05	08	-
		36%	38%	10%	16%	-
6	Spending too much time on screen is very dangerous for health of students. These classes should be stopped.	25	15	03	07	-
		50%	30%	06%	14%	-
7	These online classes give a chance to learn new things for teachers, students as well as for parents also.	5	30	5	10	-
		10%	60%	10%	20%	-

8	Due to unavailability of gadgets and internet connections purpose of online classes will not be achieved fully.	18	21	14	-	05
		36%	42%	28%	-	10%
9	Completely satisfied with the effectiveness of learning outcome	4	16	14	14	02
		8%	32%	28%	28%	04%

From the above table it is clear almost 50% population agrees or strongly agrees on the fact that due to online classes of their children, they will not lag behind in their study. 20% parents disagree on this point and 20% have neutral view. Creating virtual environment is big challenge for entire family is supported by 68% of population whereas 28% have neutral view. 24% population are strongly agree that no seriousness is shown by anyone, 36% are strongly disagree on this point and 36% disagree on this. 18% are strongly agreed and 44% agree that they have to sit beside their children during online class whereas 30% are disagreeing on this. Almost three forth of population believes that children will create indiscipline due to no proper supervision, 16% are disagreeing on this and 10% have neutral view. Almost 80% of population think that spending too much time onscreen create health hazards to children 14% disagree on this. Almost three fourth of population believe that these online classes give chance to everyone to learn new things, 20% disagree on this and 10% have neutral view. A little less than three fourth of population believe that effectiveness of online teaching will reduce due to network issue, 28% are neutral on this. 32% of population are satisfy with the effectiveness of learning outcome of virtual classes whereas 28% are neutral and 28% are disagree on this.

- To identify that which subject can teach effectively by on line classes.

Table 1.2

Subject wise frequency distribution for the choice of subject which can teach effectively with virtual classes

Sr. no.	Subjects	Number of parents choose the subjects	%
1	Hindi	45	90
2	English	42	84
3	Mathematics	10	20
4	Science	21	44
5	Social science	38	76

From the table 1.2 it is very much clear that 90% parents think that Hindi can be teach effectively with virtual classes. 84% parents think that English can teach effectively and only 20% parents give their vote to Mathematics. 44% parents think that Science can teach effectively by online classes and 76% parents give their vote to social science.

- To examine the different ways by which effectiveness of on line classes at home can be increased.

Table 1.3

Frequency distribution table showing different suggestions of parents

Sr. no.	Ways to improve effectiveness of online classes	frequency	%
1	There should be more interaction and discussions	38	76
2	Number of student per class should be less	46	92
3	Number of classes per day should be less not more than 3	33	66
4	Teacher, students and parents all should show positive attitude towards virtual classes	46	92
5	Successfulness of online classes depend majorly on good broadband connection	42	84

From the table 1.3 it is clear that three fourth of the population are in the favor of good interaction for the successfulness of online classes. 92% parents believe that less number of students will increase the effectiveness of online classes. 66% population is in favor of less number of classes in one day. 92% parents believe that if we want to improve the effectiveness of online classes we all should have a positive attitude towards the virtual world. 84% population gives their vote to a good broadband connection for the successfulness of online classes.

Discussion of the result

This study reveals the parents perspective on the successfulness of online classes of their children at home. Almost half of the population believes that online classes help their children in their learning; they will not lag behind in their study by these. It is because child will use their free time in the study and spend it qualitatively.

Three forth of population believes that creating virtual environment is difficult for entire family. It is because children are studying at their home so they need a classroom environment which practically could not be possible. Other family member can be disturb or create disturbance in study. Three forth of population thinks that online classes can be health hazard for children. It is because spending too much time onscreen is not at all good to not only to children but also to anyone.

Three forth of population believe that child create indiscipline, doing chatting and play games in the class because teacher is not physically present, she cannot supervise children effectively. Beside that almost 70% think, this virtual learning opens a door for new learning for everyone. Parents, teachers and children learn many new things.

When parents are asked about the subject, which can teach effectively by online mode, most of Parents think that Hindi, English and Social Science can effectively teach virtually. But it is difficult to teach Mathematics and Science effectively. It is because Mathematics needs lots of discussion, children have lots of queries that can be solved with discussion. Science also needs discussion, demonstration and practical experience which virtual mode is not able to give.

Parents also give suggestion to improve the effectiveness. A little less 100% believe that a positive attitude of teachers, students and parents can increase learning effectiveness with virtual mode. They also believe in less number of students in one class, this is because less students means teacher can give attention to children and discussion can be done in the class. Little less than three fourth believe that if connectivity improves, quality

improves. It is because sometimes due to network issue, disturbance in voice and video of teacher can create frustration on both sides.

Conclusion

With the above discussion of the findings of this study it is clear that online classes of children are beneficial for them, give them chance to learn new things at their home and to cope up their studies with their pace. But the maximum fruits we can take by keeping few points in mind like few children in one class and few classes in a day. Practical subjects cannot effectively teach with virtual classes and more discussion can increase effectiveness.

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Higher Education

If we look back in past decade on –line mode to give education becomes very much popular among learners to gain degree from any college situated anywhere. Many accredited college of India andout side India are offering their online degree course to global learners. Keeping in view the importance of on line education in 2018 Google invested $20 million on its You Tube platform to create educational content. There are several educational videos related to step by step explanation of science topics, foreign language tutorial, cooking, art and craft and many more.

Now various colleges make their You Tube channels and upload audio, video lessons of their faculty members for the benefit of their students.

Online classes to rescue of students (Article published on 4th April 2020 in The Indian News Express) clearly indicate the importance of on line education in present scenario. Many private schools are conducting on line classes for their school students to productively engage them for few hours of a day. They are uploading worksheets, audio-video lessons and assignments for their students. Many school students depend on learning programe like Byjus, Unacademy, Goodreads etc. But these classes are away to reach for below poverty line (BPL) children due to non availability of equipment at home .