



INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF CREATIVE RESEARCH THOUGHTS (IJCRT)

An International Open Access, Peer-reviewed, Refereed Journal

THE E-LEARNING ERA: BOON OR BANE

“Education is a fundamental and universal human right, it’s the foundation for growth”

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ABSTRACT

E-Learning is playing a very important role in the present educational scenario. It has potential to change the whole education system as we see in pandemic period.

This paper examines the awareness of e-Learning that involves students of different age groups from different schools and colleges as respondents. It will try to identify the student’s education preferences, perception regarding e-Learning mode effectiveness. It will also show the merits and demerits a student is having due to e-Learning. It will show the impact of using electronic Learning on student’s mind. We will find out the provision and available resources of e-learning that how many sites are there available for the students of school and colleges. Data collected was statistically analysed using statistical methods. Findings enabled us to analyse the effectiveness of e-Learning.

Keywords: e-Learning, tutorials, Online Education, conventional learning, pandemic, Covid-19.

Introduction

E-Learning is essentially the computer and network-enabled transfer of skills and knowledge. Its applications and processes include web-based learning, virtual education opportunities and digital collaboration.

Technology played a vital role in the education system. e-Learning is learning and utilizing electronic technologies to access educational curriculum outside of a traditional classroom or else we can say that a learning system based on formalized teaching but with the help of electronic resources is known as e-Learning.

In e-learning, teaching can be based in or out of the classrooms, the use of computers and the Internet, forms the major component of e-Learning. e-Learning can also be termed as a network enabled transfer of skills and knowledge, and the delivery of education is made to a large number of recipients at the same or different times.

Objectives

One should realize that to what extent E-Learning is beneficial for students and also to the people who wants to learn extra apart from their field of specialization. In our research we'll take the following objective.

- To find out the provision and available resources of E-Learning that how many, applications are there available for the students so that they can utilize the e-Learning.
- To find out the authorized organization (i.e. authentic) that promotes e-Learning.
- To find out the utilization of online services by the end user (based on vary age group).
- To find out the further prospects and planning and what are the majors and techniques that are getting planned for the advancement of e-Learning process.
- We will find out all the possible boons and limitations that e-Learning will provide us and is providing.
- To find out what percentage of people download PDF format of books and read them properly.

Hypothesis

This study is being undertaken with the following hypothesis:

1. E-Learning can effectively take place the phenomenon of studying books, which will further lead to the replacement of libraries to digital libraries.
2. The facility of internet to library users (including teachers) enhances the growth of e-Learning.
3. The satisfaction and desire level for education will be higher among the faculty member and research scholars.
4. E-content based learning system which is based on internet has a greater impact
5. the depth and extent of knowledge we get from reading books may not be the same in case of online learning.

METHODOLOGY

- **Area of Study:** A survey was conducted among different students at different places such as University of Allahabad, St. Karen's school, Patna women's college etc. Online questionnaires were also done.
- **Sample size and sampling method:** Data was collected through Questionnaires and personal/phone interview from nearly 200 people of different age groups. Respondents' reviews were also considered in this survey.(while taking sample, followed all Covid appropriate behaviors)
- **Tools and Techniques for data collection:-**Questionnaires, People reviews, collecting reports from Magazines, Journals, websites etc.
- **Methods of Data Analysis:** -Data was compiled using MS-Office, i.e. MS-Excel and MS-Word.

Types of e-LEARNING:

E-Learning is nothing but the use of technology to connect teachers and students who are physically miles apart. The training can be delivered by a number of means.

There are three types of e-Learning:

- Synchronous e-learning
- Asynchronous e-learning
- Blended e-learning

1. Synchronous e-Learning –

It means “at the same time,” . It refers to all types of learning in which learner(s) and instructor(s) are in the same place, at the same time, in order for learning to take place. For example – Virtual class rooms that are nothing else but real classrooms online.

Learning from the sources of:

- ❖ Virtual Classroom
- ❖ Audio and Video Conferencing
- ❖ Chat
- ❖ Webinars
- ❖ Application Sharing
- ❖ Messaging instantly.

Its benefits are:

- ❖ Ability to log or track learning activities.
- ❖ Continuous monitoring and correction is possible
- ❖ Possibilities of global connectivity and collaboration
- ❖ Ability to personalise the training for each learner

Some of the examples are:

Coursera: The site where student and teacher can interact live simultaneously but at distance.

Khan academy: One of the best learning sites and applications available for students, teachers and as well as parents.

2. Asynchronous-Learning

It allows the participants to complete the WBT (Web-based training) at their own pace. It's pause-and-resume kind of learning. In this type of e-Learning the learner and the teacher cannot be online at same time.

Learning from the sources of:

- Self-paced online courses
- Discussion forums & groups
- Messages boards

Its advantages are:

- Available 'not just in time' for learning and reference.
- Flexibility of access from anywhere at any time.
- Ability to simultaneously reach an unlimited number of employees.
- Uniformity of content and one time cost of production.

According to our survey some of the examples are :

- **W3School:** website that is dedicated to teaching students the various aspects of web designing.
- **Tutorials Point:** This is a web based learning in which learners will get to study through online text book like interface.

3. BLENDED e-Learning

A new form of learning known as blended learning is emerging. it an amalgamation of synchronous and asynchronous learning methods. It uses both online training through virtual classrooms and also giving CD's & study material for self study.

Best Practices of e-Learning

- (1) **Global Connectivity:** E-Learning provides fast and vast access to learning resources. We can connect ourselves around the globe via social networking websites for access libraries, resources etc..
- (2) **Fast Access:** Fast access to the knowledge resources is an important feature of e-Learning. just one mouse click to get endless resources.
- (3) **Flexibility:** E-Learning gives choices to the learners of time of learning and place of learning. It allows the learners to learn to their convenience.
- (4) **Reduced Cost:** e-Learning is cost effective as it relieved from paying other expenses

like travel and accommodation, also it helps in enhancing the profitability of an organization. In Covid period, many companies switched to work from home to save life and resources of an organization.

- (5) **Environment Friendly:** As e-Learning is a paperless way of learning, it protects the environment to a lot of extent. Thus, e-Learning is a highly eco-friendly way of learning.

Various beneficial e-Learning sites and applications

According to the survey taken we found some results on the beneficial websites and application of e-Learning for different age groups:

NPTEL: This website provides courses for the different branches of the engineering students for “free”.

COURSERA: It provides knowledge in many subjects and is completely “free”.

KHAN ACADEMY: One of the best leading sites and applications

W3 SCHOOLS: This is a free learning website for Web-Designing.

Some of the famous websites and applications used by student of different age-group during our survey were:

Byjus ,TutorialPoint,Udacity,Quora,Meritnation,Study IQ,Exam Fear,Youtube,Google Searches mostly Wikipedia,Coursera, W3 Schools, Alison.com,Swayam,, and many more.

Requirement of different age group of students :

After gathering the all information ,we would like to show what are the requirements of different age group that can be fulfilled with the help of e-learning.

AGE GROUP	REQUIREMENTS
10-15	e-learning videos related to their homework specially, videos related to their subjects/interest.
15-20	Videos related to their extra curriculum, videos related to their subject, videos related to their interest.
20 Above	An adult can use e-Learning in their own way like if they it depends upon their own self interests.

Making e-Learning available to all:

As we know that e-learning fully depends upon gadgets and a proper internet connection. in many places of rural & remote areas, it will not be possible for everyone to use e-Learning as a first option. However in order to implement e-Learning the resources like proper electricity and e-library zones should be organized by the government. To promote e-Learning, computer literacy should be promoted. The policies should be released by the government so that students can get attracted to e-Learning.

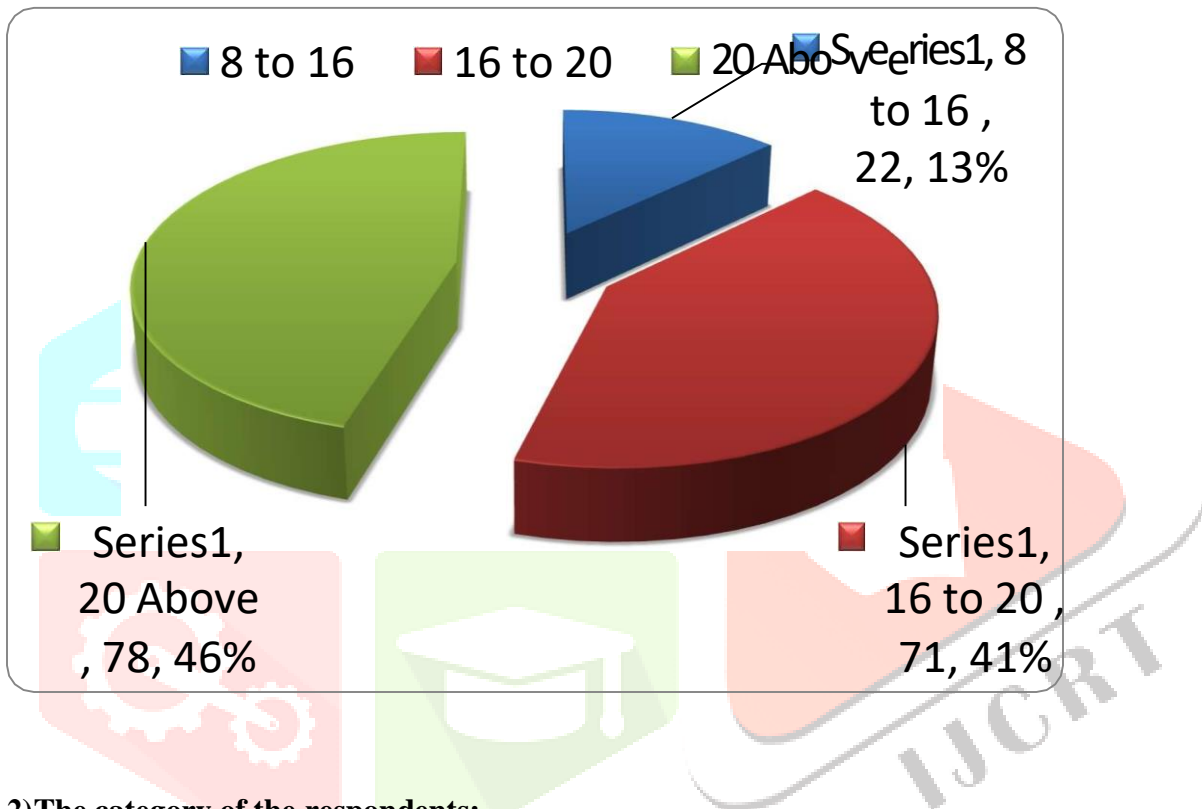
Survey on the awareness of e-Learning:

FINDING AND OBSERVATIONS:

The content analysis of the responses gathered from the sample enabled us to infer the general attitude of the respondents. Since our main aim was to know the popularity of e-Learning in different age groups. So by the help of nearly 200 respondents we found the following results:

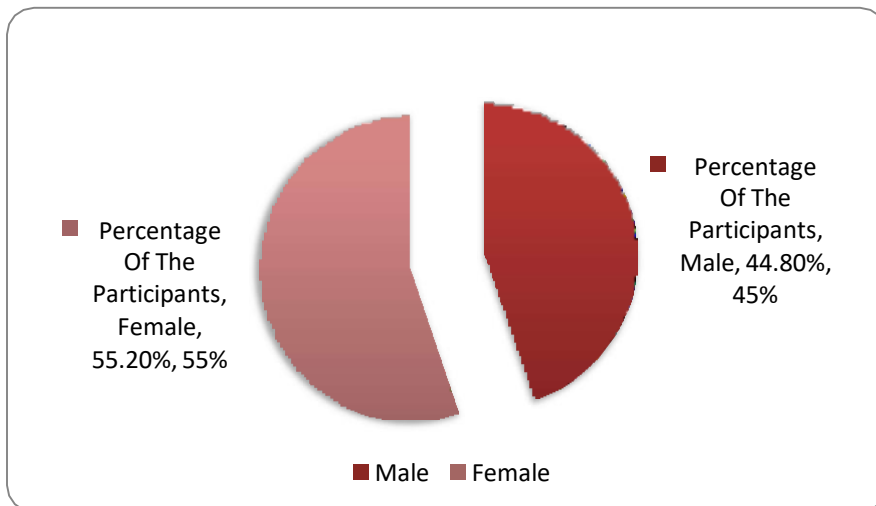
1) The Awareness of e-Learning in different age-groups:

We found that the e-Learning was most popular in the age group of 20 above and the percentage was 45 % and in the age of 16 to 20years it was 41.3% and the rest 12.8% included students between 8 to 16 years.



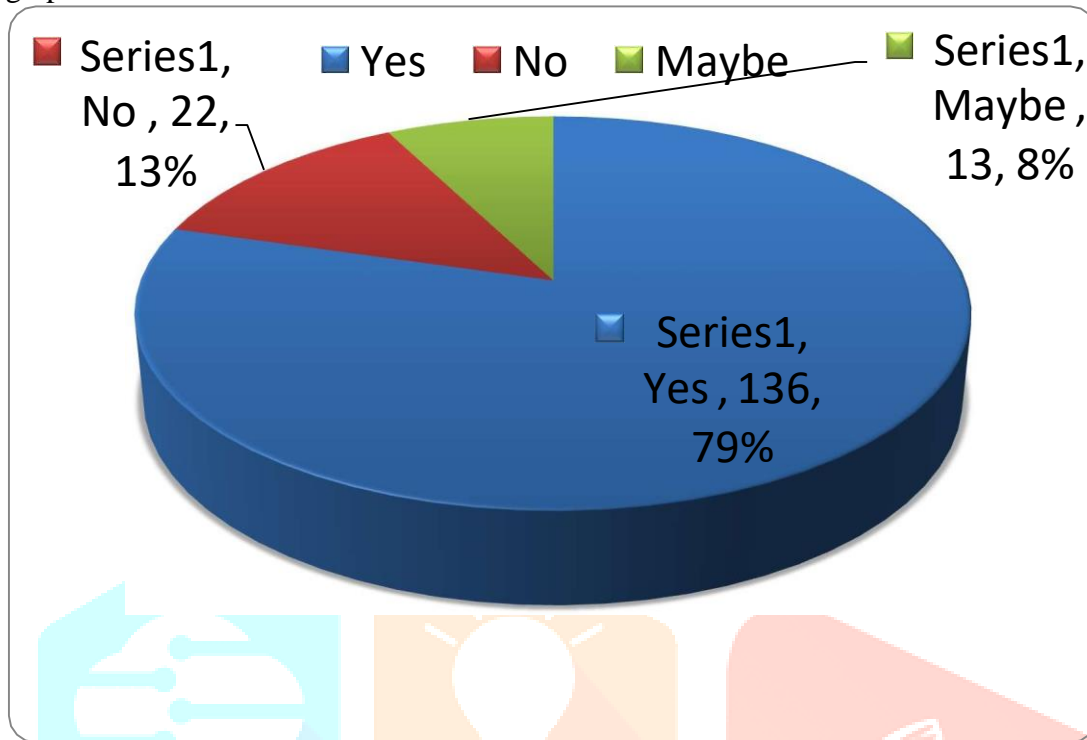
2)The category of the respondents:

In our survey, the percentage of males who participated was 44.8 % and that of women were 55.2%.



3)The usage of e-Learning:

In our survey we found that the 79.3% of students used e-Learning and 13 % never used and 7.7% where unsure of their usage for their daily learning. The details are shown in the following graph.



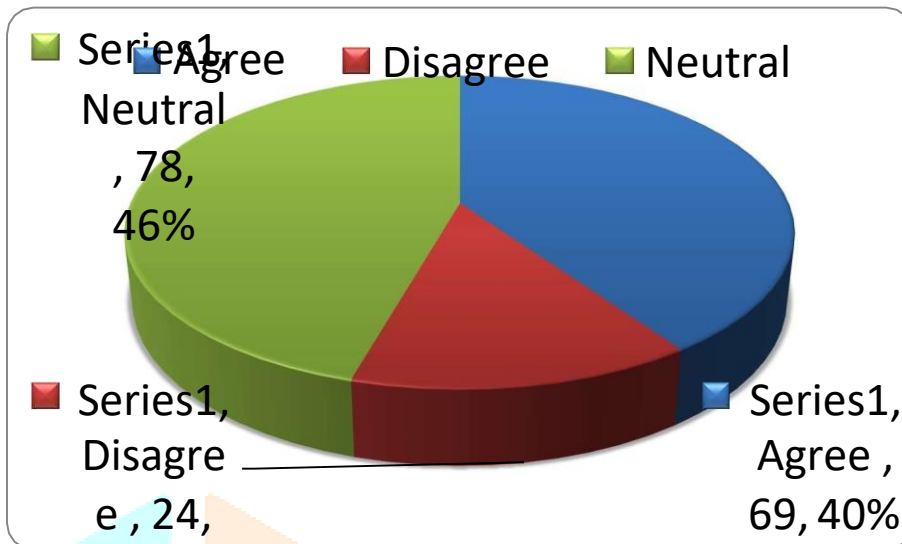
4)Websites and applications used by the respondents:

In our survey the following applications and websites were used by the respondents and the most famous website was Byjus.

Udacity	3
Maritnation	5
Tutorialspoint	8
Study IQ	2
Exam Fear	5
YouTube	10.1
The new Boston	3
Khan Academy	18
Unacademy	9.5
Wikipedia	4
Byju's	25.1
W3schools	5

5)Approval on the statement that e-Learning is better than conventional learning:

In our survey we found that the percentage of respondents who agreed to this statement were 40.4 % and who disagreed were 14% and the rest 45.6% were neutral with this statement.



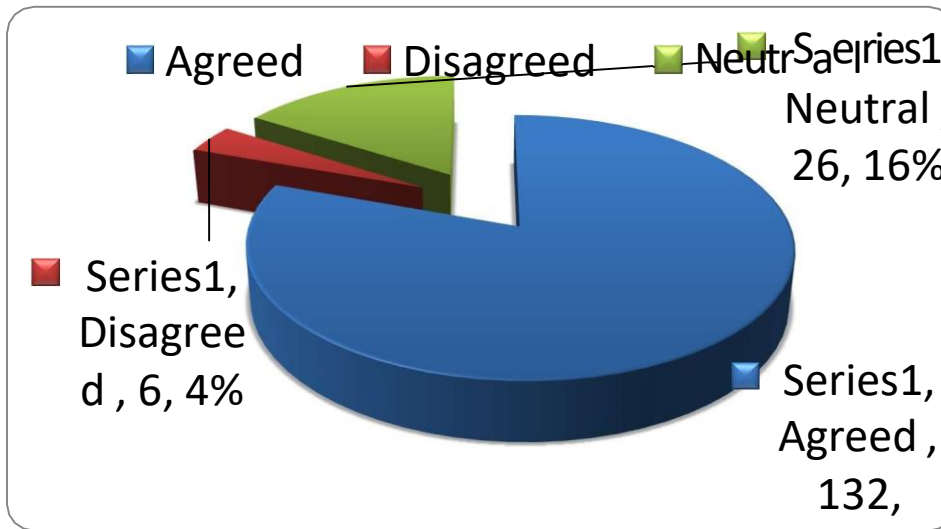
6)Time spent on e-Learning by the students:

The following data was collected on the time of utilization of the e-learning by the respondents:

1 to 2 hour	27.30%
2 to 4 hour	20.50%
4 to 6 hour	1.15%
less than one hour	4.25%
More than 5 to 6 hour	2.10%
time varies always	44.70%

7) Ideas on the addition of the Audio/Video in e-Learning:

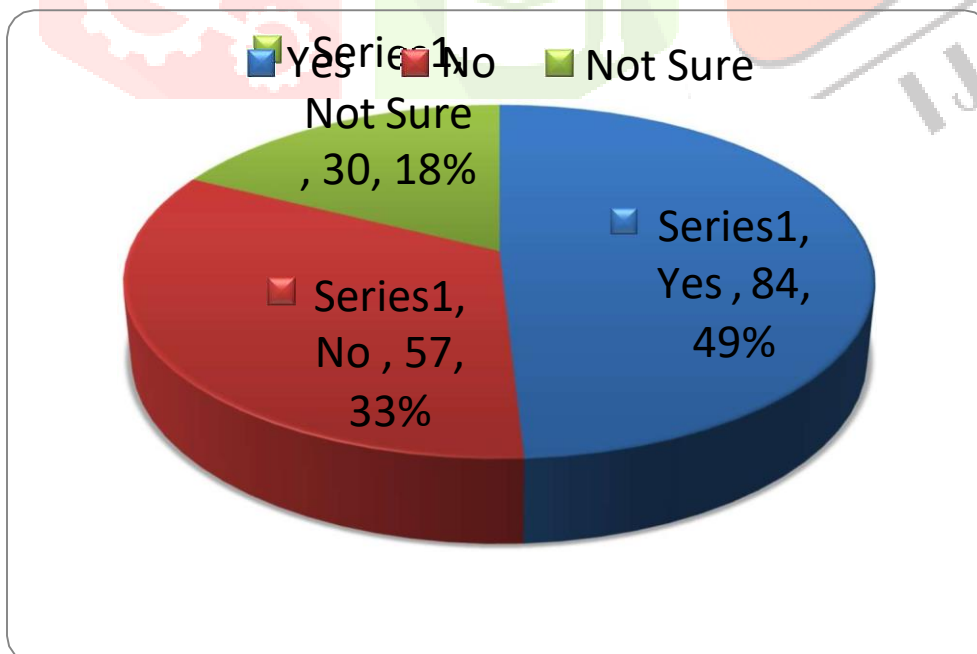
In our survey we found that 81.3% of the respondents agreed to the statement that involvement of audio/video increases their grasping power, 3.5% disagreed to this statement and the rest 15.2% were neutral.



OPTIONS	No Of People
Agreed	132
Disagreed	6
Neutral	26

8) Usage of e-Learning in their schools and colleges:

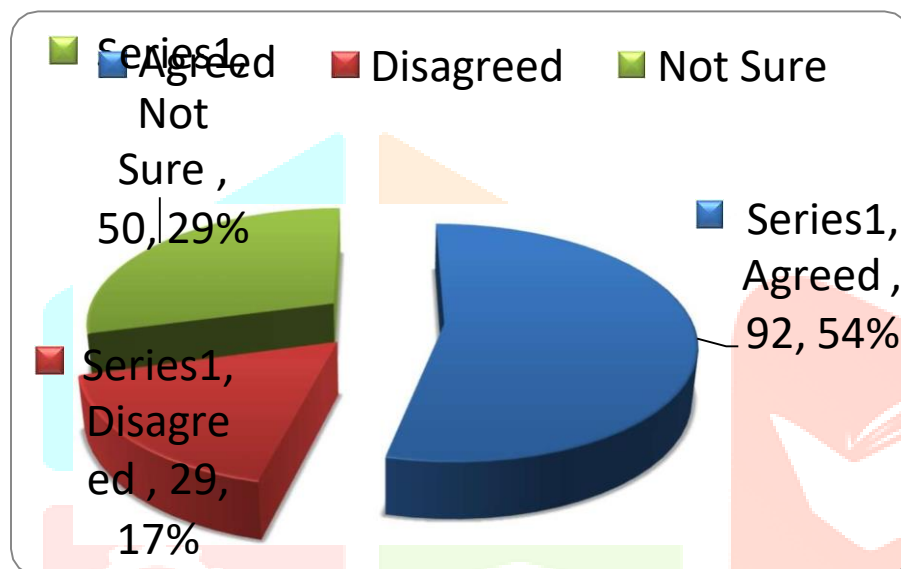
In our survey we found that 49.1 % of the respondent’s school and college use e-Learning, 33.3% of the student’s school and college don’t use e-Learning and the rest 17.5% were unsure about the usage. The following graph depicts the result:



OPTIONS	No. Of People
Yes	84
No	57
Not Sure	30

9) Agreeing to the statement that e-Learning is taking place of conventional Learning?

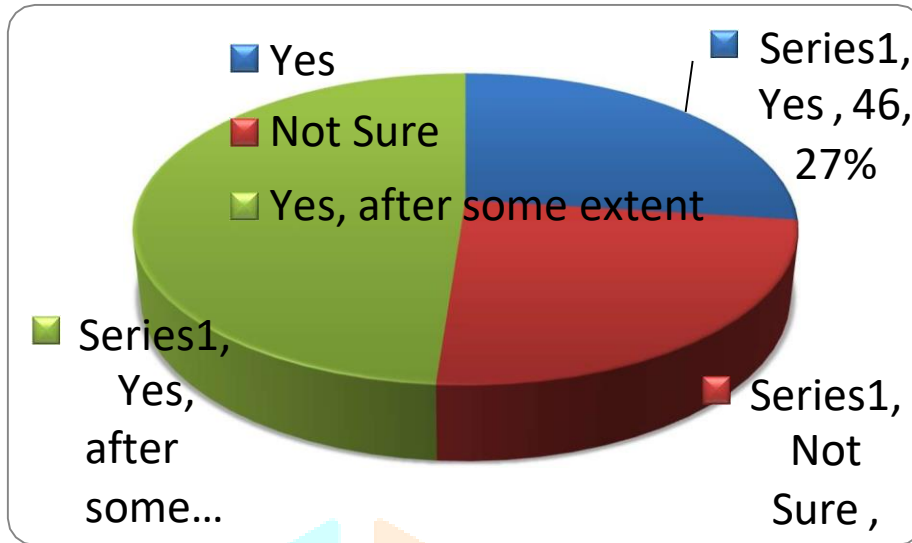
From the respondent's view we found that 53.3% of them agreed to this statement and 17.2 % were disagreed and the rest 29.6% were unsure on this statement.



OPTIONS	No. Of People
Agreed	92
Disagreed	29
Not Sure	50

10) Is their health being affected by overuse of gadgets:

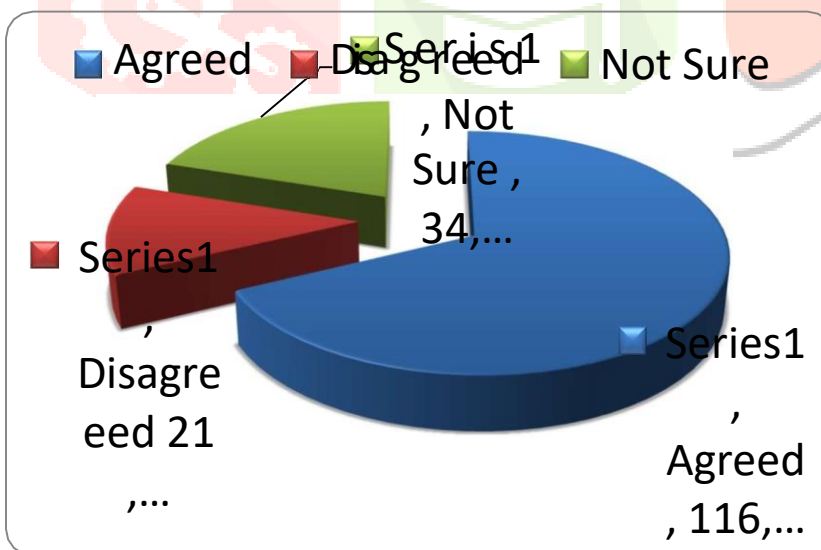
In our survey we found that there are also the disadvantages regarding the e-Learning as the health was also being affected by the overuse of gadgets and the percentage of the respondents who agreed were 75.5 % and the rest 24.5% disagreed to this statement .



OPTIONS	No. Of People
Yes	46
Not Sure	41
Yes, after some extent	83

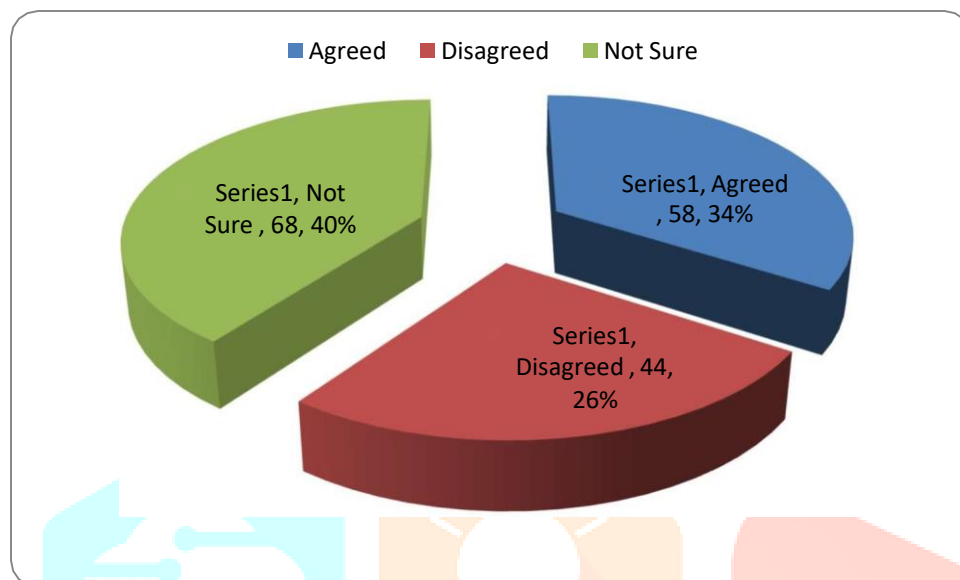
11)Benefits of e-Learning in other aspects rather than studies:

In our survey we conducted a question regarding the fulfilment of their interest rather than studies,67.7 % agreed to this statement , 12.4% disagreed and the rest 19.9% were unsure about the result.



12) Authenticity of the materials we get online:

In our survey we found that the respondents were not sure about the legitimacy of the contents that they were getting online and the percentage of people who agreed to this fact were 34.2% , 26.1% disagreed and the rest 39.8 were unsure.



Limitations of e-Learning

1) No self-discipline:

Proponents of e-Learning claim that the main advantage of this learning method is that it is self-paced i.e. learning at anytime & anywhere. There is no fixed schedule or routine, e-Learning can become difficult for people to meet specific deadlines or goals.

2) No face-to-face interaction:

While e-Learning can be quite interactive these days, through the use of video conferences, webinars, and face-to-face video chat, it still isn't the same as sitting across the room from a real person.

3) Authenticity and Security:

Instead of having an adequate amount of resources there is no proof that all the sites or apps that provide e-Learning also provides authenticity with it.

4) Technology issues:

Although most of us are comfortable navigating the Internet and the computer world but not everyone is much compatible with it. Other potential tech issues can include a slow Internet connection, specific browser requirements, and poor device compatibility.

SCOPE OF FUTURE

Online education democratizes the spread of knowledge. It breaks down the barriers to quality education and opens up the possibility to learn amazing things to anyone with a connection to the internet. And it's doing it in a better and better way every single day.

The rapid increase in Internet connectivity in the last few years has been an important catalyst for the growth of e-learning. According to some sources 'The future of learning is technology'. In 2019 UNESCO launched the future of education, which emphasizes collective responsibility for education of everyone and everywhere. Recently World education and Technology summit 2021 showcased the development in the education system. Thanks to Covid -19 which drastically changed the definition of education and channel as well.

In the near future, more students will be accessing their coursework from outside the traditional campus. E-learning brings unique advantages and create vibrant & inclusive educational system. E-Learning acts as boon especially for those students who cannot afford private face-to-face tutoring sessions & live in rural/remote areas, so anyone can get access to the best possible learning resources from across the world, at a very affordable price. E-Learning has power to transform the education system,

CONCLUSION

We found out almost all of the objectives during this research. In countries where technical education is expensive, opportunities are limited, and economic disparities exist, e-learning acts as catalyst to overall growth of education, sustainable development and vibrant society.

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed education forever with distinctive rise of e-learning, whereby teaching is undertaken remotely and in digital platform.

The E-Learning posses great flexibility than any other mode of learning. So E- Learning can't be used as only a backup for learning. The technology based system has it's own benefits and drawbacks for the entire education system. But rather providing more positive significant impact. Today's world we cannot deny the importance of E-Learning. We must not forget the golden words said by Nelson Mandela "Education is the most powerful weapon, we can use to change the world". So a combination of traditional learning and e-learning can be more effective together.

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