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Student's Preference and Perception Towards Online Education

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ABSTRACT:

The Paper emphasizes on the Student's preference and Perception towards online education. Education is regarded as the foundation of Human Ethics, Knowledge and behaviour. Pandemic has paved a path for a new mode of education. The traditional in-person classes and interactions have been replaced by a modern way of learning that includes Online meetings or classes and social interactions virtually. Online education is a crucial decision which had to be taken considering the rules and norms involving restrictions in social interactions during Pandemic. All of this has been possible because of the Internet and it's growth over the last 20 years. The survey carried out between 150 people shows that majority of the learners are satisfied with Online mode of learning due to various reasons such as - Ability to stay at home, sufficient study materials available online, learning at own pace etc, just to name a few.

Students believe that this new mode of education is a boon for them and their overall experience has been wonderful so far.

Keywords: Online education, preference and perception, online learning

INTRODUCTION:

Over the last 20 years, the Internet has grown from virtually non-existent to the largest and most accessible database of information ever created. It changes the way we communicate with people, shop, interact, do business and think about knowledge and learning. More than just a new twist on distance education, online schooling is changing the face of traditional classes and making education more accessible than ever before. Online education is a form of education where students use their computers at home over the Internet. For many non-traditional students, all of whom want to continue working full time or start a family, online graduate courses have been popular in recent decades. Online graduate programs

and courses, some of which are conducted using digital technologies, are often provided through the host university's online education portal.

Online learning is traditionally thought to lack interactivity compared to face-to-face learning. This is it primarily due to lack of social presence, lack of social interaction and lack of student satisfaction. However, online learning is promoted as more cost-effective and convenient than traditional learning environment and also provides opportunities for more students to study education.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The current situation of education has modified loads as compared to the previous situation of education. As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic most of the sectors have shifted to online mode of operating as well as the colleges, schools and Universities. It's important to know whether or not the preference and perception of a learner is expounded to the readiness or temperament of the learner to participate in E-learning and also the factors influencing the readiness for online learning. Today learning and teaching both can be conducted through online modes. The following sections summarize the review from the related topic. The papers published with a focus on student experience in online education, offline education or Hybrid was chosen for the study. Only the most relevant research papers have been chosen to ensure the quality of this paper.

The term "Students preference and perception towards online education" itself relates us to the various issues and matters related to the online education being faced by the students. Reddy Et al. (2001) conducted a survey to find out the experience and attitude of students towards online learning. The results of the survey were that the students did not find the online learning much interesting as they found it to be tiring and boring. (Bryman (2012); Creswell (2013); Machi & McEvoy (2016) served the purpose of identifying the questions like: Questions on e-learning, blended learning, student satisfaction and engagement towards various modes of education. Organized search on the Educational Resource Information Center (ERIC) and the ProQuest website created in January 2017, using search terms "e-learning", "online learning", "integrated reading", "mixed reading", "new method", "teacher education", "learning outcome", "Cooperation", "satisfaction". To ensure that the findings presented in the review are the latest, systematic searches are limited to articles published between 2014-2017.

Despite of all the challenges there are students who have a positive perception towards online learning and also prefer it for further education.

OBJECTIVES:

1. To understand most preferred way of education.
2. To understand whether online education are going to be treated as same as offline education or not.
3. To review the opinion of everyone regarding online education.
4. To understand the longer term scope of online education.
5. To understand why people don't prefer online education.

Research Methodology:

A research methodology is an overview of how a given piece of research is administered. It defines the techniques or procedures that are accustomed identify and analyze information regarding a particular research topic. The research methodology, therefore, has got to do with how a researcher designs their study in an exceedingly way that enables them to get valid and reliable results and meet their research objectives.

Qualitative methods

Qualitative research is a way that collects information using conversational techniques, generally open-ended questions. The responses gathered are basically non-numerical. This technique helps a researcher apprehend what contributors think and why they think in a specific manner. Kinds of qualitative methods include: One-to-one Interview, focus groups, Case study, Survey research, Descriptive studies and so on.

Quantitative methods

Quantitative studies is that the method of gathering and studying numerical data. It could be accustomed locate styles and averages, make predictions, check causal relationships, and generalize outcomes to wider populations. Quantitative studies is that the other of qualitative studies, which entails gathering and reading non-numerical data (e.g. text, video, or audio).

For the present study the research methodology is as follows

Universe of the study: Students pursuing undergraduate and post graduate course

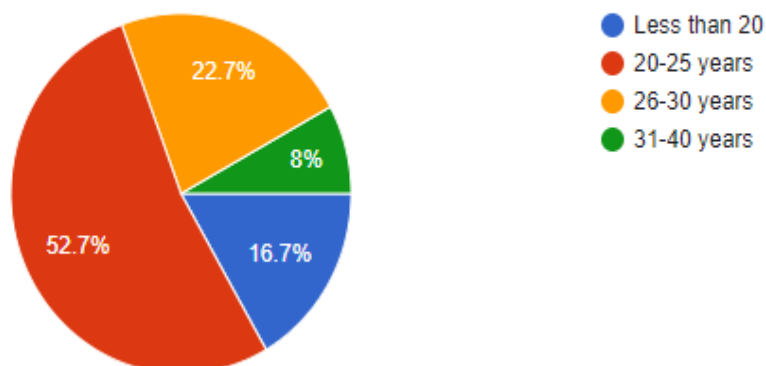
Sample size: 150

Sampling Method: Convenience sampling

Data Analysis and Interpretation:

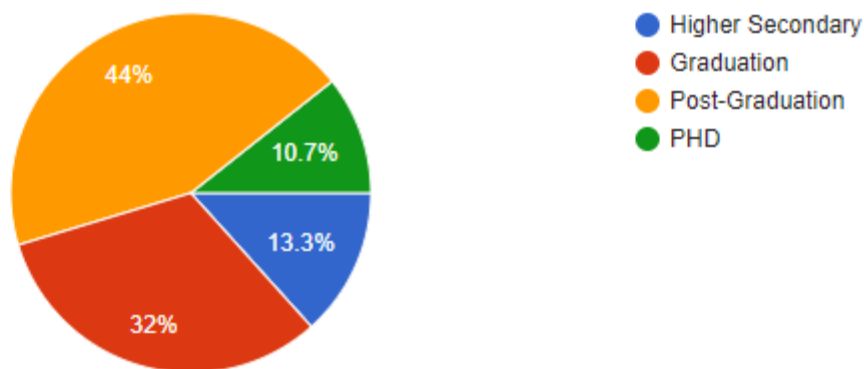
Age

150 responses



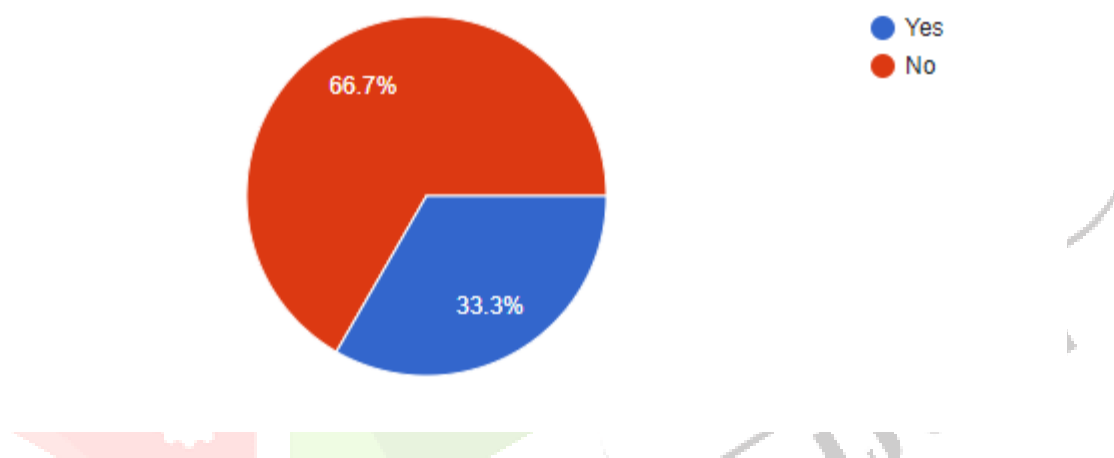
Education

150 responses



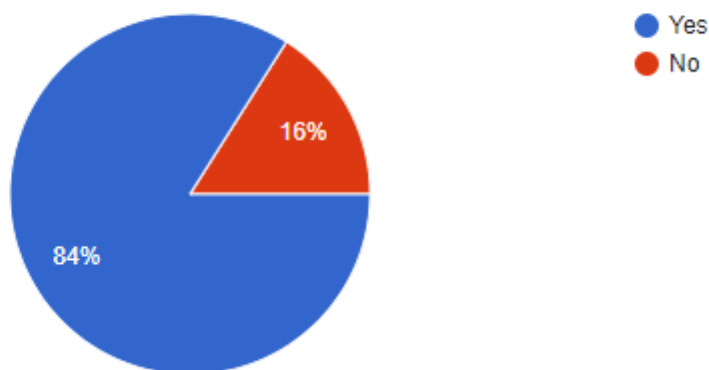
Have you ever participated in any type of e-learning before the pandemic?

150 responses



Do you have access to a device for learning online?

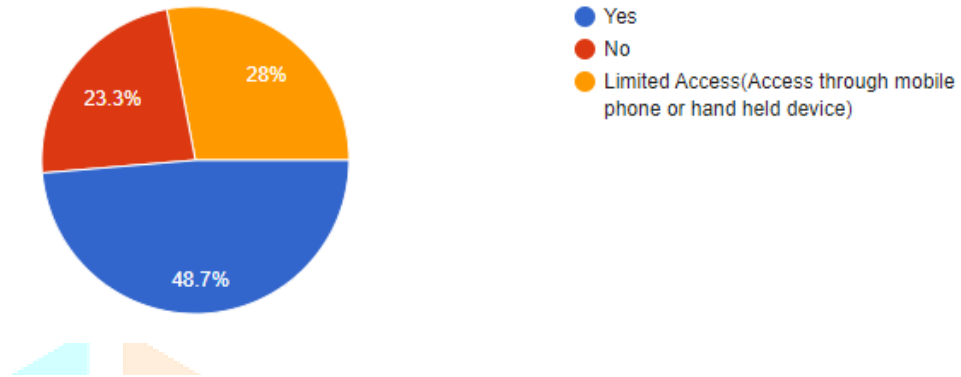
150 responses



Do you have proper Internet access at home? *Here proper internet access refers to access through digital subscriber line (DSL, ADSL, SDSL, and VDSL),cable internet access or fiber to the home.



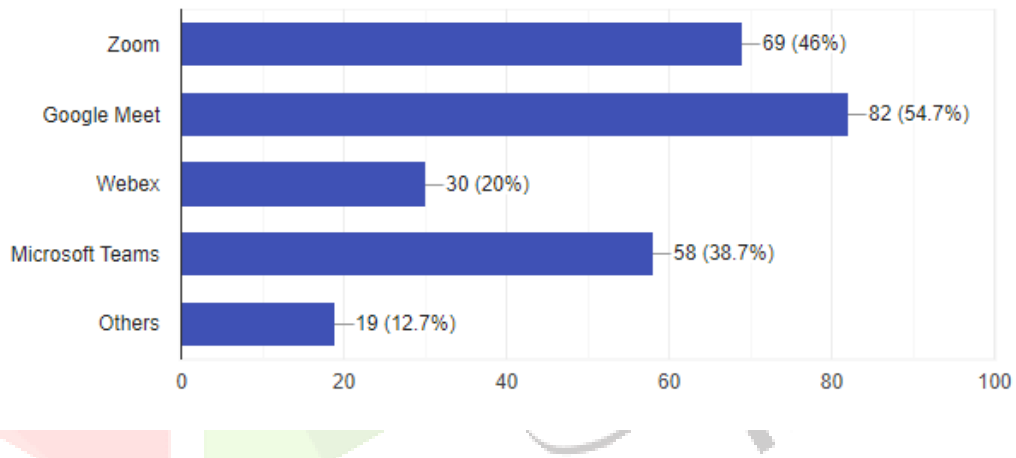
150 responses



Which apps do you find are best for meetings and online classes?

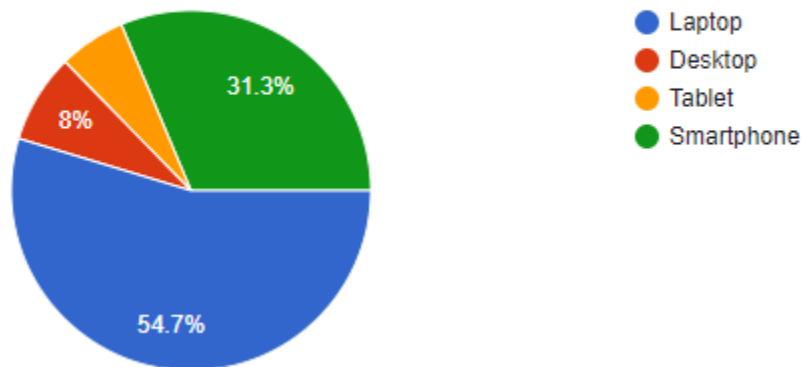


150 responses



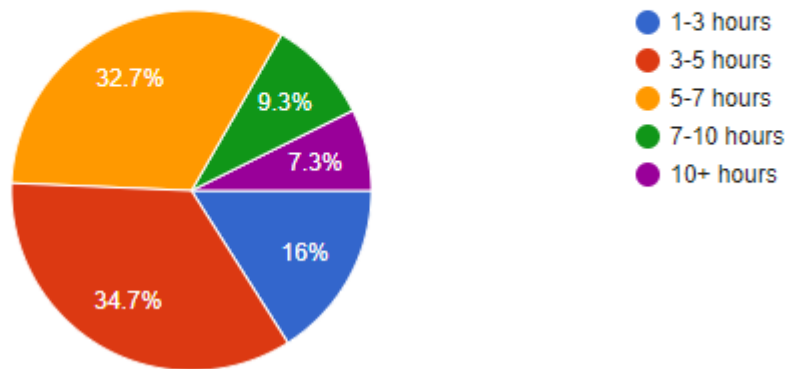
What device do you use for Online learning?

150 responses



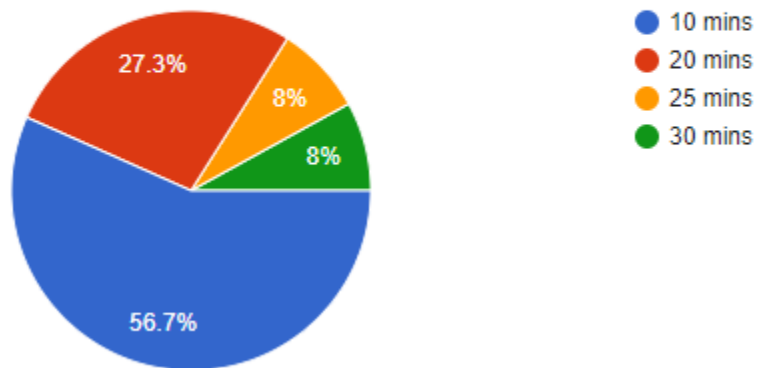
How much time do you spend each day on an average on Online education?

150 responses



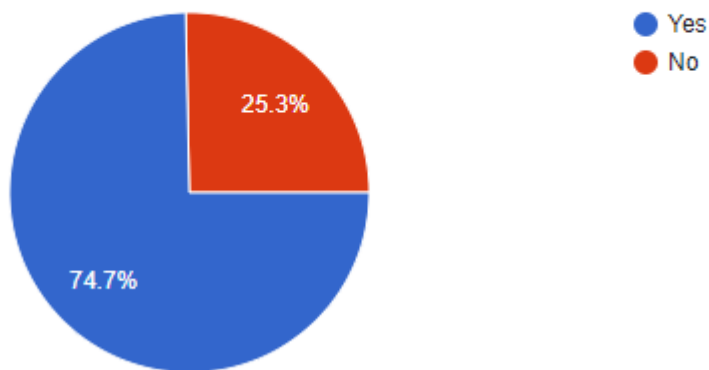
How much time you need as break between two online classes

150 responses



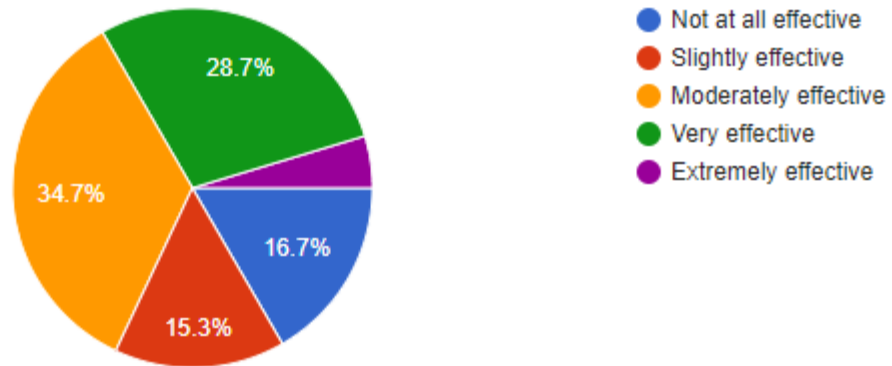
Are you satisfied with the technology and software you are using for online learning?

150 responses



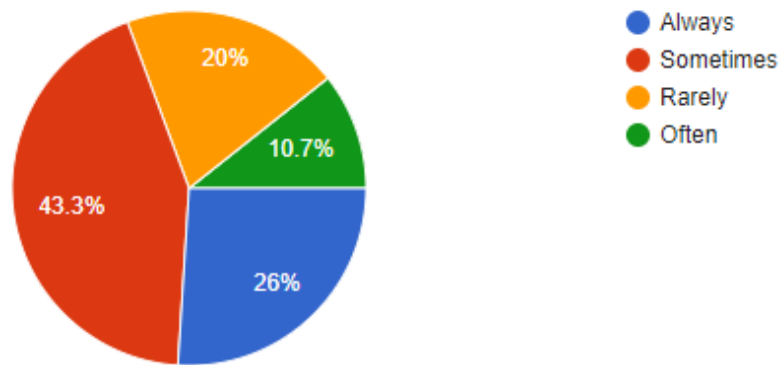
How effective has online learning been for you?

150 responses



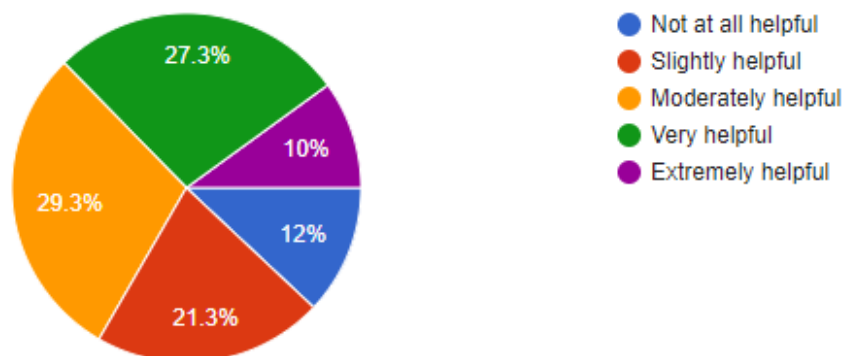
How often do you get so focused on activities in your classes that you lose track of time?

150 responses



How helpful your [School or University] has been in offering you the resources to learn from home?

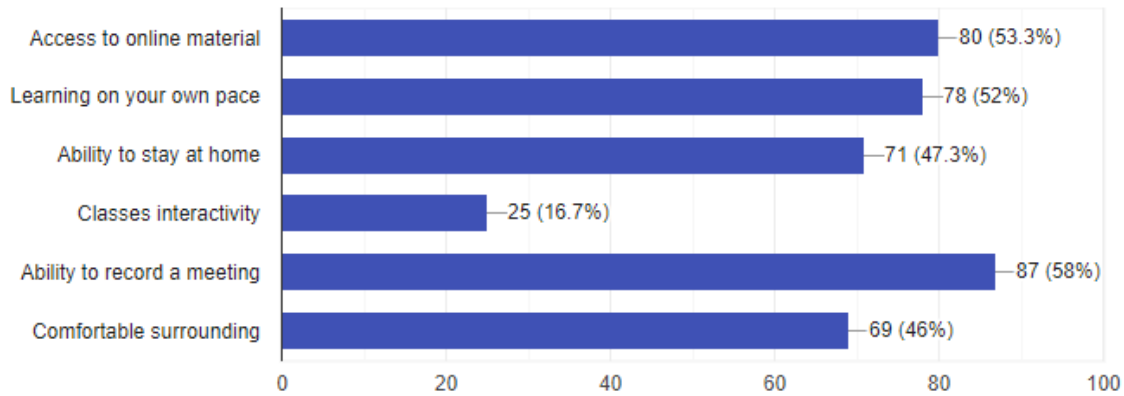
150 responses



What are the advantages of e-learning? Pick all that you consider true.

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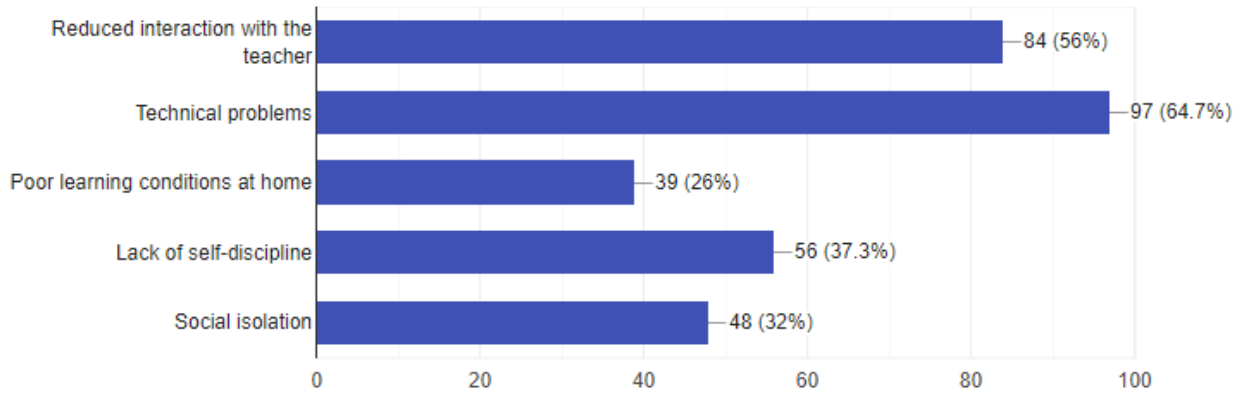
150 responses



What are the disadvantages of e-learning? Pick all that you consider true.

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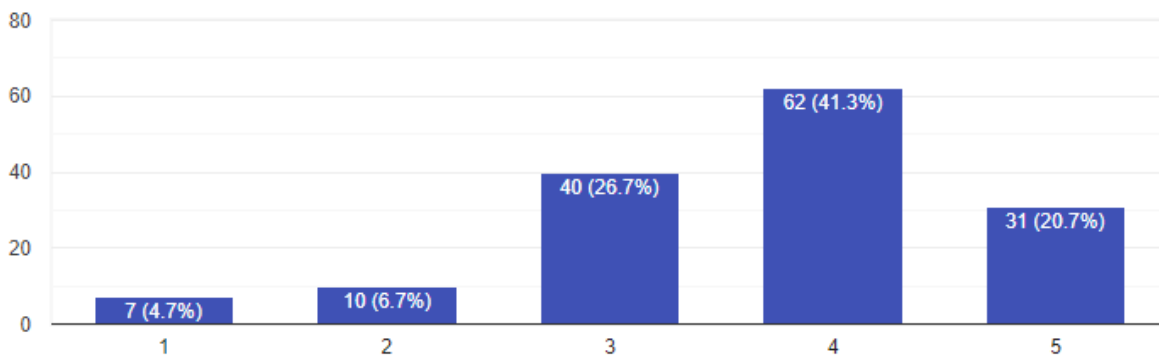
150 responses



Using a five-point scale (where 1-extremely ineffective, 5-extremely effective) rate the effectiveness of Online learning in terms of increasing knowledge

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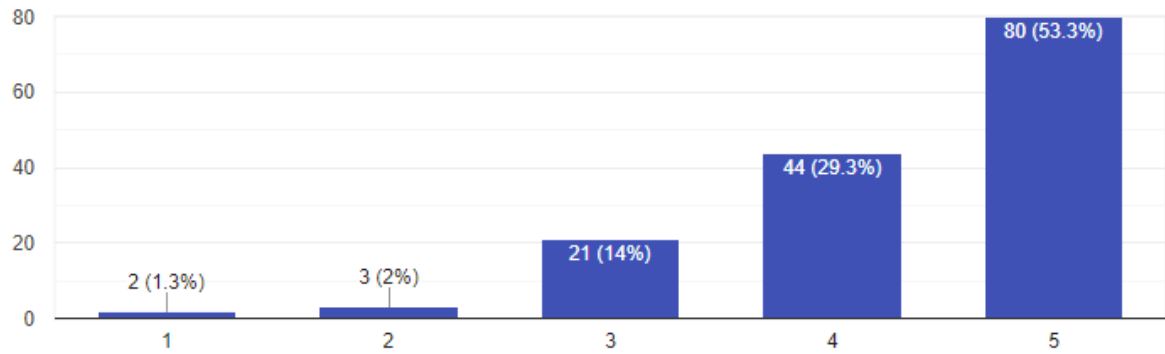
150 responses



Using a five-point scale (where 1-extremely ineffective, 5-extremely effective) rate the effectiveness of traditional face-to-face learning in terms of increasing knowledge



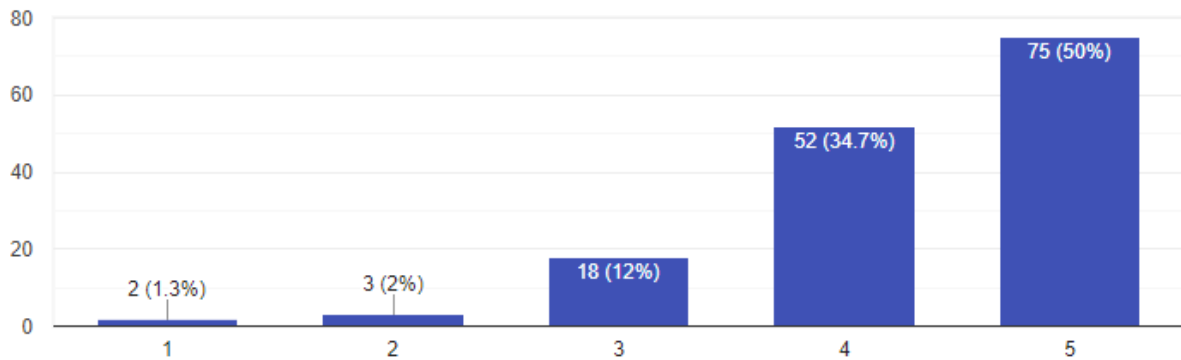
150 responses



Using a five-point scale (where 1-extremely inactive, 5- extremely active) describe your activity during traditional face-to-face learning



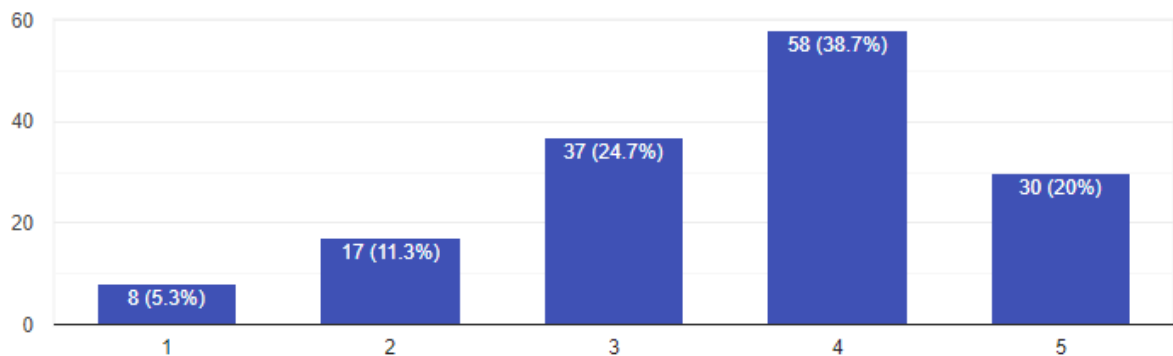
150 responses



Using a five-point scale (where 1-extremely inactive, 5- extremely active) describe your activity during online learning



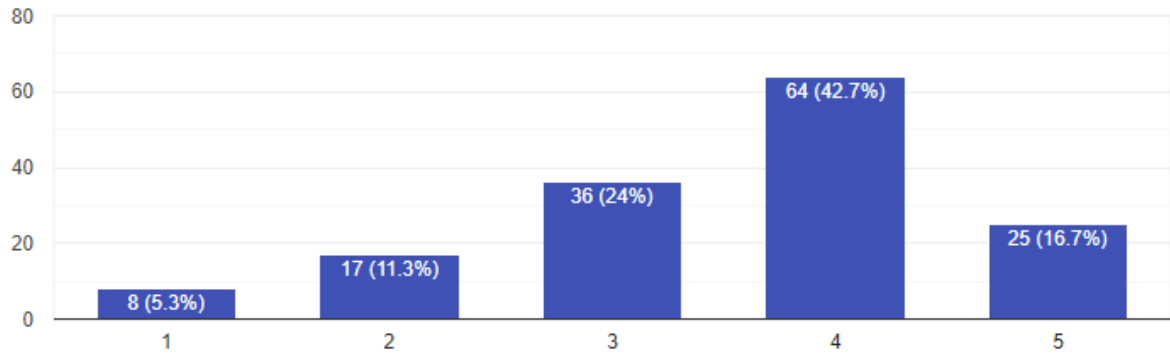
150 responses



Using a five-point scale (where 1-extremely unenjoyable, 5- extremely enjoyable) rate how much did you enjoy e-learning classes during the pandemic

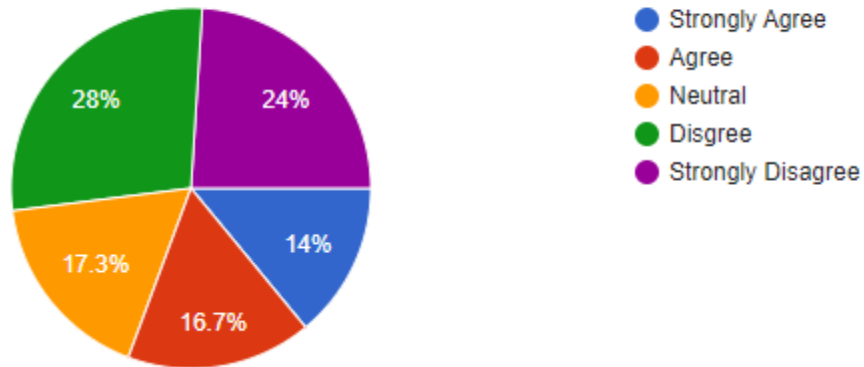


150 responses



Learning is the same in class and at home on the Internet.

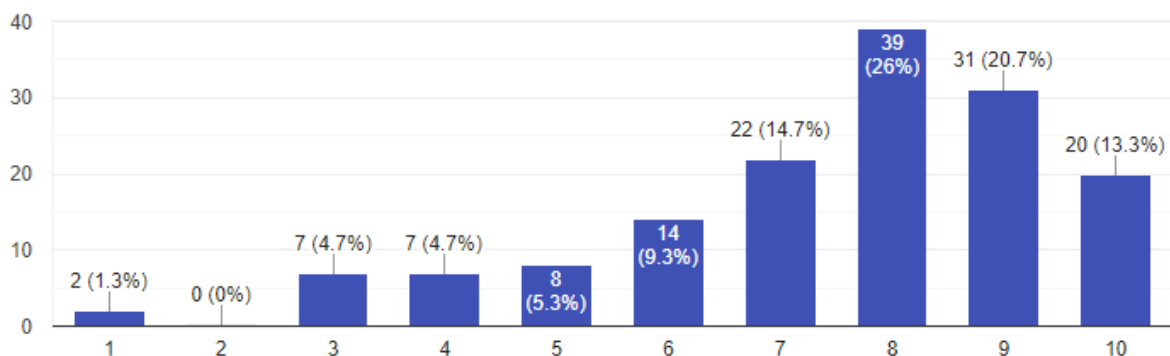
150 responses



Rate Your Overall experience of Online Learning.



150 responses



INTERPRETATION:

A questionnaire was made by me to conduct the survey for getting a proper data for my Research. An online survey was carried out in which 150 members participated from both the genders. Out of this 150 members, 60% were men and 40% were Women. The surveys shows that 52.7% people lie between the age group of 20-25 years, whereas 22.7% lie in the age group of 26-30 years, 16.7% people are below the age of 20 and 8% fall in the age group of 31-40 years. It further depicts that 44% of the surveyors are pursuing Post Graduation in their respective fields, 32% are pursuing Graduation, 13.3% are in higher secondary and the remaining 10.7% are pursuing PHD. It was further found that majority of the people were new to concept of e-learning with 66.7% of the total surveyors being introduced to the concept of e-learning only after the pandemic occurred, whereas the remaining 33.3% were not new to this mode of education. On being asked whether they have a device for learning online, 84% said Yes, whereas the remaining 16% responded negative. Out of these surveyors, 54.7% of them use Laptop for online education, 31.3% use Smartphone, 8% use desktop and the remaining 6% use Tablet as a device for e-learning. The survey shows that 34.7% of the people spend around 3-5 hours each day on online education, 32.7% spend around 5-7 hours, 16% spend around 1-3 hours, 9.3% spend around 7-10 hours and the remaining 7.3% of the people spend more than 10 hours each day on online education. The graph also shows that. 56.7% of the learners take a break of 10 minutes between two online classes, 27.3% spend 20 minutes and the percentage of people taking 25 minutes break and 30 minutes break are both 8% respectively. On being asked about their level of satisfaction with the technology and software used for online education, 74.7% were found to be satisfied whereas the remaining 25.3% were unsatisfied. 34.7% of the people find online learning to be moderately effective, 28.7% find it to be very effective, 15.3% feel it to be slightly effective, and 4.6% find it extremely effective whereas 16.7% do not find it effective at all. The survey and the graph further depicts that 43.3% of the learners get so focused on online activities that sometimes they tend to lose track of time. There was a mixed response from people on being asked how effective has their respective School or University been in offering them the proper resources to learn from home, with responses ranging from slightly helpful, moderately helpful to very helpful. There was a very positive response regarding the advantages of e-learning where 53.3% people feel they have sufficient access to online learning materials, 52% feel they can learn at their own pace, 47.3% consider staying at home a huge advantage, 58% were found to be satisfied that they could record lectures in case they missed it, 46% feel they are learning in a comfortable surrounding and 16.7% were positive about the class interaction. On being asked about the disadvantages of e-learning, 64.7% people have faced technical issues, 56% feel there is a lack of interaction with the teachers, 37.3% are suffering from lack of self discipline and poor learning conditions and social isolation are the other two disadvantages they found. Majority of the people i.e. 53.3% of them have rated 5 out of 5 and find the traditional face to face learning to be extremely effective in terms of increasing their knowledge. 50% of them rated 5 out of 5 and find themselves to be extremely active during face to face learning, whereas 20% have rated 5 out of 5 and find themselves extremely active during online learning. Majority of the voters have thoroughly enjoyed the online mode of learning. 41.3% of the people have rated 4 out of 5 and find Online learning to be effective in terms of increasing knowledge. 14% of the voters strongly agree that learning in class and at home on the internet is the same, whereas 24% of the people strongly disagree with it. The graph further depicts that 48.7% of the people have proper internet connection at home, whereas 28% have limited access. People are found to have been using various applications such as Zoom, WebEx, Microsoft Teams, Google meet etc for meetings and online classes where Google meet was found to be the most commonly used application. On being asked about their overall experience in terms of online learning, 26% have rated 8 out of 10, 20.7% have rated 9 out of 10 and 13.3% of the people have had a really positive experience overall with 10 out of 10 rating.

FINDINGS:

One most important finding of the observe is the positive response of the majority of the respondents that claimed to be very conversant with online education. This research investigated the perception and readiness of college students' toward online education . Knowledge and familiarity with any innovation like online education wherein it does now no longer exist earlier than may be very essential in figuring out the rate of achievement of that innovation while eventually deployed or implemented. The stage of conversant of college students with online education has been measured on this observe to decide the quantity of expertise they own approximately the idea of online studying. From the responses accrued at the perception of college students toward online education , it's miles obvious that a variety of college students have positive belief toward the idea. This final results carefully corroborated the findings of preceding research which suggested that scholars perceived online education as very beneficial as maximum of them fairly agreed to the effectiveness of online education. However, a few college students have reservations as regards positive area including choice and the convenience of use of online education over the traditional face-to-face technique wherein they have got come to vary in terms of the perceptions expressed. For a success adoption and powerful use of any device or technology, measuring the extent of readiness of the users to examine their preparedness toward its effective utility and use turns into imperative. On college students' level of readiness towards the usage of online education platform in the course of the Covid-19 pandemic, an overwhelming majority of the respondents indicated a excessive level. The end result additionally indicates absolutely that majority of the scholars claimed to be proficient with the usage of online education of readiness besides for the concern of irregular electricity supply as expressed via way of means of a few units of college students. This suggests standard willingness of the students to just accept and adapt to online studying beneathneath the cutting-edge circumstances.

SUGGESTIONS:

- Teachers should try building up more connections with the student.
- More Student Engagement strategies should be used to make the Students interact more in the classroom
- Make the learning in online classes more interesting so that the students don't feel lazy and whereas enjoys the mode of learning.

CONCLUSION:

Online education is convenient and has much less primary requirements as compared with conventional learning. It additionally permits beginners who may need normally now not long gone again School to induce entry to a training. Online education may be a developing and interesting new mode study nearly anything. However, studying online is not the same as about to know in a very face-to-face putting, and it's important to reflect inconsideration on our goals, our desires and our hobbies prior committing your self to some thing. Online instructions aren't any more easy than instructions provided within the conventional lecture room putting and in a very few instances even also be greater difficult. There are numerous motives for this. Online courses require greater self-motivation. It might be tough for some college students Be

encouraged while that they had instead be doing a little thing else. within the instances of the pandemic Online training became a boon for learners everywhere the globe.

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