

# The Impact of Covid-19 on Education Sector: A Study with Reference to Madhya Pradesh (M.P. Region)

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## ABSTRACT

*In 2020, in the mid of February last year, we unknowingly got in touch with Corona Virus and since then our world has changed completely. The disease first showed its presence In Wuhan, China and within 2 months it travelled the whole world. It left no corner untouched and every business took a direct hit, every sector was compromised and hence education sector was also not left untouched. Shutting down schools, colleges, cancellation of exams have impacted 94% of our whole student population and to this date, the education sector has not seen a remarkable improvement as general promotions, lack of offline exams has only made it difficult to keep up the standard of education. While at one hand social distancing norms has made it difficult to carry on with the traditional learning and teaching, on the other hand the challenge of reopening the institution if there is relaxation in the covid-19 guidelines is also a very big challenge for the country. The Aim of this study is to explore the options, the problems and the challenges of education imparting during the pandemic and to understand the perception of teachers, parents and students to find out solutions so that another academic year is not completely overlooked yet again. The need of the hour is to find innovative solution to our educational constrains and to come up with effective strategies to make sure that we are ready to face the future with online learning.*

**Keywords:** e-learning, online learning, education standards, constraints, student psychology, strategies and perception.

## I INTRODUCTION

Covid-19 has impacted every sector of our life, there is no section of society which it has not impacted and with the second wave and third wave predictions, we have to start building our future taken into consideration that covid-19 will still be there. According to WHO, we will not be totally free from Corona virus before 2024 at the least. As we discussed that it had impacted every major sector of society, our education sector has also taken a direct hit. The government announced complete lockdown and effective guidelines were also given as it was the only logical solution to control the virus to an extent. This nationwide lockdown has impacted our younger minds especially who hail from rural areas. We have always relied on traditional education system and hence it has been very difficult for parents and students to cope up with online learning.

We can safely assume that institutions will not be opening soon, and hence it is vital for our students that we can achieve maximum productivity with our online learning. This study is aim towards finding out the perception and involvement of parents and students towards the concept of e-learning and to throw light on some of the problems faced by them so we can start looking for solutions to maintain our education standards.

## II LITERATURE REVIEW

**Subedi et al (2020)** in his study gave importance to the online tools which can help students learn better and emphasized that the different age group of students needs altogether different approaches to learn better and the universities should facilitate their students with customized learning tools. He also suggested that students' mindset plays a vital role in the process of learning as a fixed mindset will find it difficult to adapt the changes, new ways of learning and on the other hand flexibility in the thought process will render much more absorption of knowledge and effectiveness with which the learning tools can be applied.

**Petrie, 2020** paid more attention on the psychological distress with which the students went through as in just few days their world completely became online, the mental pressure to deal with the new ways of education and living in general caused reduced productivity. While the government and frontline workers did their job exceedingly well, the educational systems also made it sure that the imparting of the education should not be put on halt and thus there are still new ways yet to be explored so the students can continue performing well like they used to before the pandemic.

**Murgatroid, 2020** his study focused more on the cost at which the education is delivered, he emphasized that most of the developing countries have no access to internet and digitized gadgets and many students who belong to rural areas find it very difficult to cope up with online education as they have no such devices on which they can carry on their learning. On

the other hand there is also the concern of parents who can afford online learning for their children, the problem of increasing screen time, stress on eyes and mind are some of their main concerns. Lack of parental guidelines also poses a threat to young learners, hacking companies has more means to collect data and use it inappropriately.

According to a meta-analysis on e-learning (Cook 2009), he reported that online learning is not that different to conventional learning and is very similar in approach as well, to improve the e-learning experience, it is the duty and the responsibility of the educational institutes to comply with the guidelines and recommendations by government agencies, while keeping students encouraged and motivated to continue learning online during this tough pandemic times.

Vijaya Mary Pothula, 2021 in his recent study stated that there is not all bad news for the education sector as he stated that with this new approach of living and learning, students are becoming far more creative and innovative than ever, they are making most of the technology in front of them and are learning new skills as well. He acknowledged that without online learning, students would not have been this tech savvy and webinars, presentations, online exams, teleconferencing would have been not used till a decade later if it had not been the only way to learn and teach during the unpredictable pandemic.

Cathy Li 2021 in her writings talked about the effort of educational institutions, online coaching classes and tutorials has made in this current pandemic, She suggests that distance learning across the world was getting popular decade by decade and hence the institutions has the power to make online learning effective for students and many online tutorials

companies like Ding, Byjus have started providing free lessons to the students so that the standard of education is maintained and it is not lost with the ongoing challenge our world is facing.

### III OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

(a) **Objectives of the Study:**

(i) The objective of this particular study is to find the problems and challenges faced due to ongoing pandemic in online learning.

(b) **Research Methodology:** To collect more accurate data, primary method of data collection was adopted, since the schools, and other educational institutions are closed, we opted for online survey method to carry out our study and conclude the study in a more effective manner. Total 8 questions were asked which were directed towards parents and students and the questionnaire was based on attitudinal (agree, disagree and can't say) and nominal scale (yes, no, can't say) which was a closed ended questionnaire. The basic questions covered the demographic details of the participants (name, gender), their role in the survey was also asked (as a student, parent, guardian).

Convenience sampling technique was adopted for drawing sample. Sample size was of 100 participants and the data was collected from 108 respondents. In terms of statistical measures frequency count percentage was used to analyze the responses of all the questions and later graphical representation of data was done to highlight responses of the participants.

## IV DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

**Tabular Number 1 : Descriptive Statistics**

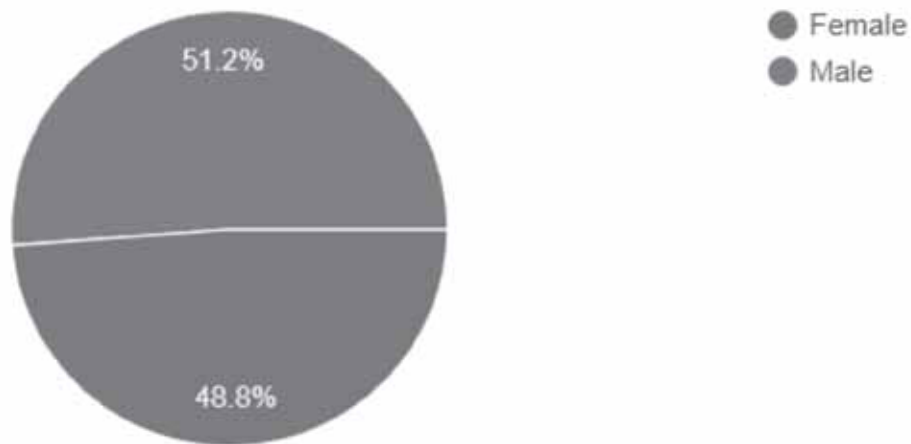
	<b>N</b>	<b>Minimum</b>	<b>Maximum</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>Standard Deviation</b>
<b>Gender</b>	108	1	2	<b>1.5238</b>	<b>0.707106781</b>
<b>Role</b>	108	1	3	<b>2.2035</b>	<b>1.414213562</b>
<b>Online Learning more effective than traditional learning</b>	108	1	3	<b>2.0285</b>	<b>1.414213562</b>
<b>Resources for learning online</b>	108	1	3	<b>2.6548</b>	<b>1.414213562</b>
<b>Increased screen time</b>	108	1	3	<b>2.3985</b>	<b>1.414213562</b>
<b>Time Saving</b>	108	1	3	<b>2.3999</b>	<b>1.414213562</b>
<b>Studying from Online Notes</b>	108	1	3	<b>2.6987</b>	<b>1.414213562</b>
<b>Online Education Structure</b>	108	1	3	<b>2.5647</b>	<b>1.414213562</b>
<b>Confidence in distance learning</b>	108	1	2	<b>1.5325</b>	<b>0.707106781</b>
<b>Option of online learning after pandemic is over</b>	108	1	2	<b>1.5589</b>	<b>0.707106781</b>

Statistical tools like Mean and Standard deviation was used to study the data. The average score (mean) came out to be 2. (2.1528 approx). Those who scored less than 2 were perceived that they have positive response for online learning and those who scored more than 2 were considered to have negative

response to the questions related to online learning. Mean was calculated 10 times and the nominal and Attitudinal scales were used in questionnaire. First 2 of the 10 questions are based on the demographic of the respondents.

### V RESULTS

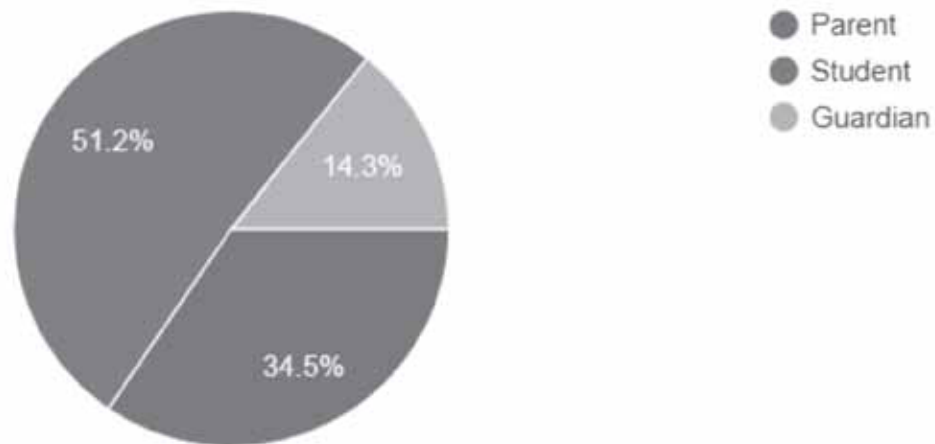
**(a) Gender :**



Out of the 108 participants, 51.2% were male and the rest were female. We focused more on male participants as in most of the household the fathers'

are more involved in the online learning and hence, there are more male participants than female.

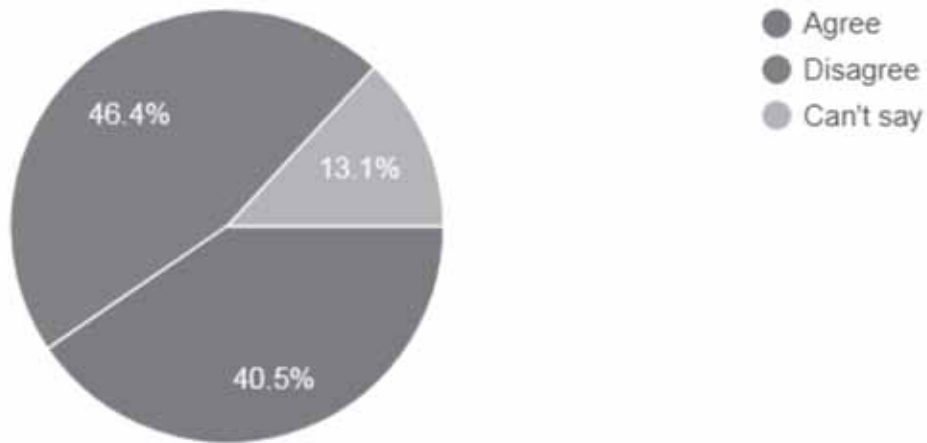
**(b) Role :**



As depicted in the above graph, more than half of our participants were students (51.2%) as the study was based on effect on students' education, we focused more on students themselves. Other than students

34.5% of our participants were parents and rest 14.3% were guardians ( who oversaw the online learning process at home).

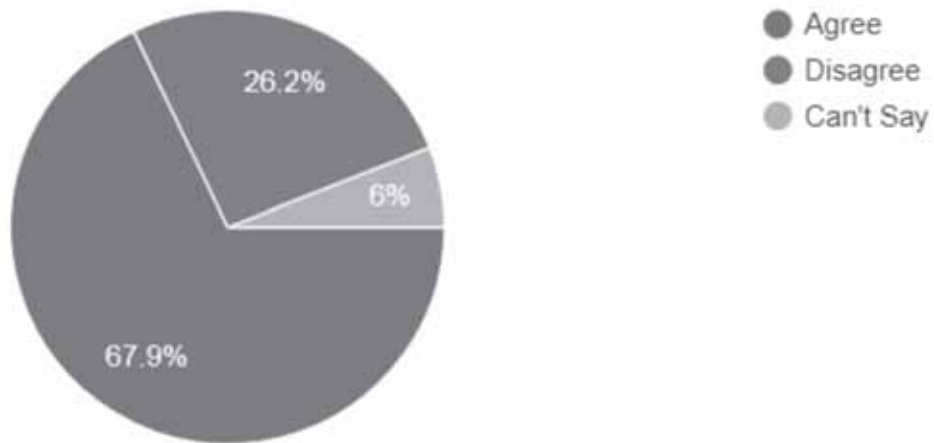
**(c) Do you think that online learning is as effective as conventional learning?**



From the graph above, we can conclude that online learning is still not completely effective as conventional learning and most of our respondents were still coming to the conclusion whether it is as

effective or not, as we saw 13.1% respondents did not answer directly and were not sure of their perception towards online learning.

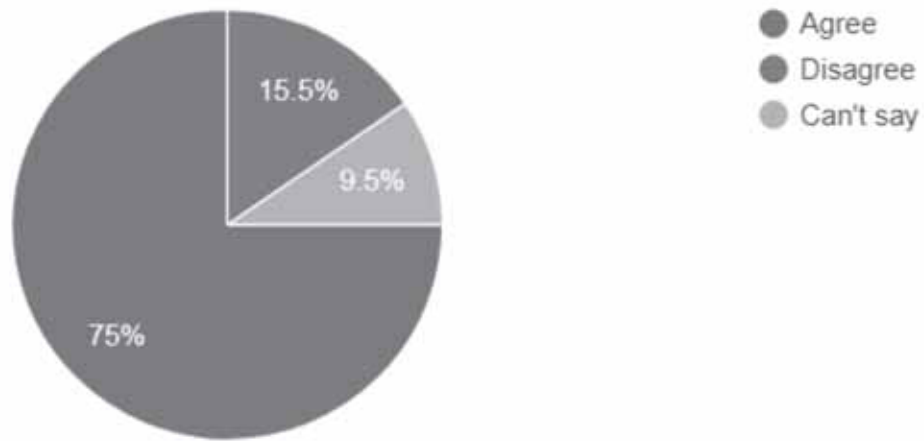
**(d) Do you have enough resources, like internet connectivity, proper applications to attend and take advantage of online learning?**



The figure clearly depicts that internet connectivity; applications were enough for their children and themselves to take most of the advantage of online

learning. 67.9% of our respondents agreed to the very same fact.

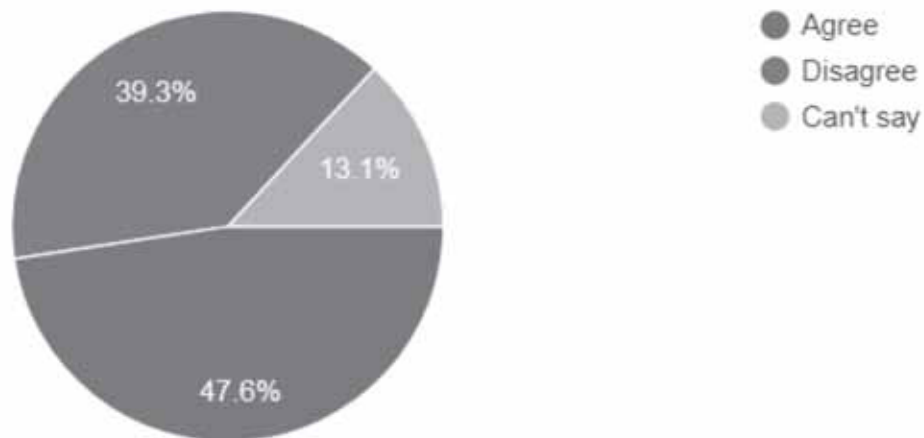
**(e) Do you agree that online learning has led to increased screen time of your child? (Question specifically for Parent/Guardian)**



The above figure explains the concern of the parents (75%) regarding the increase in screen time of their children due to online learning, the students are doing

their homework on devices, reading notes online which has led to exponential increase in their screen time.

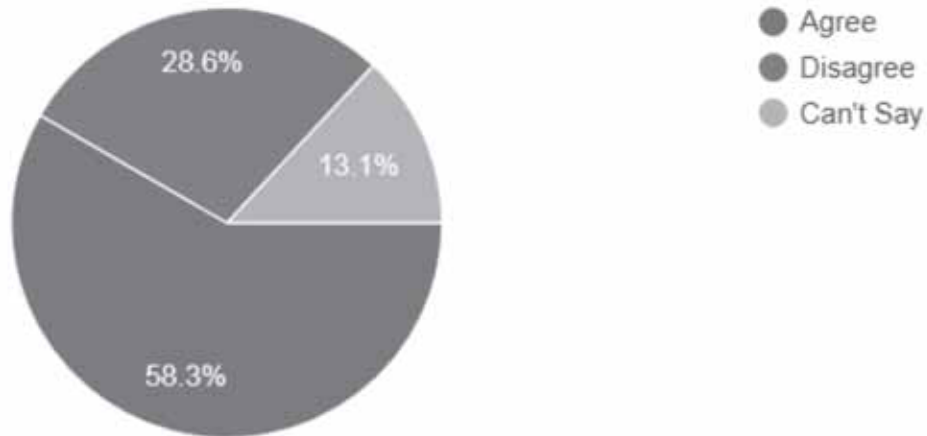
**(f) Do you think online learning is time saving than conventional learning?**



The above figure depicts that, many of the respondents (47.6%) agreed to the fact that online learning is very time effective as the children are at

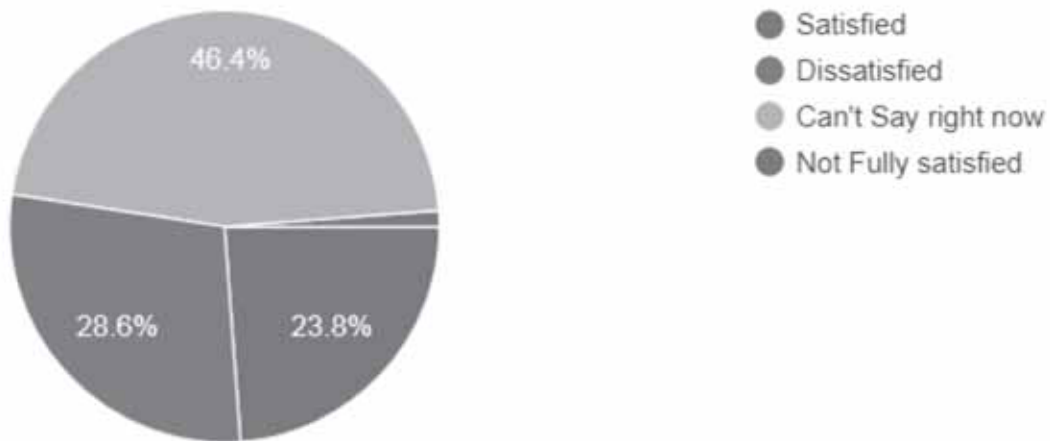
home, there is no pickup and drop time involved, no lunches and the class time is flexible and less as compared to conventional classes as well.

**(g) Do you find it difficult in collecting or studying from notes, as study material is on your device?  
(Question specifically for students)**



The figure above depicts that students are finding it difficult to collect and study the notes online, as it is not in their habit and this question was directed towards students mainly and most of the respondents (58.3%) answered in against of studying from notes online.

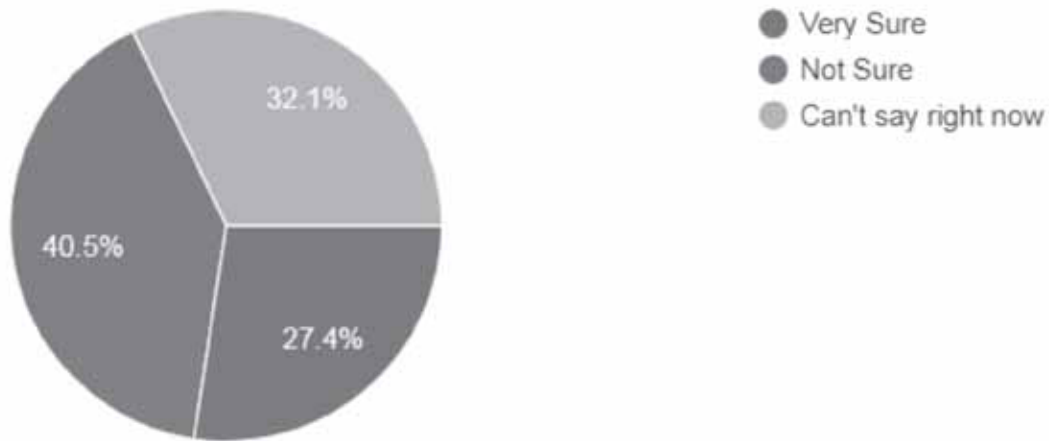
**(h) How satisfied are you with the way learning is structured at your child's school right now? (Specifically for parents)**



This question was directed towards parents and from the above figure we can conclude that most of our respondents (46.4%) are still not convinced in favour

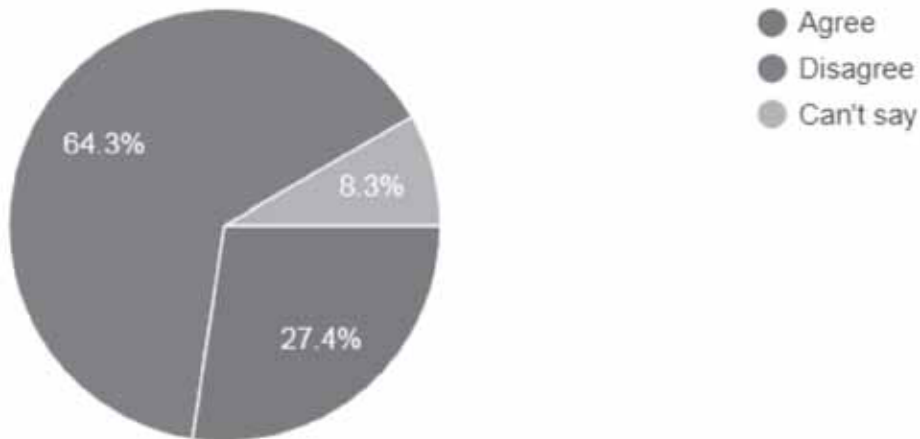
or against of online learning and there is a close competition in other categories as well.

**(i) How confident are you in your ability to support your child's education during distance learning? (specifically for parents)**



The above graph depicts that most of the parents (40.5%) are still not very sure with the idea of online and distance learning and some of them (32.1%) are still weighing the pros and cons of online learning and have not come to a concrete conclusion yet.

**(j) If you had the option, would you consider studying online, even after the pandemic is over?**



The figure clearly depicts that vast majority of our population (64.3%) will not prefer online learning once the pandemic is over and the education institutions are reopened. They will prefer conventional learning over online learning in the long term and considering that things will be normal very soon.

**VI CONCLUSION**

As we discussed that it had impacted every major sector of society, our education sector has also taken a direct hit. We are facing major problems and are learning to cope up with the new ways of learning and keeping our education standard like it was before the pandemic. From the various responses in our survey, we can conclude that there are still a long way to go for us a society, as parents still feel that conventional learning is better and though we have come up with technology which is easy to use and time saving, students find it difficult to study from online notes and would like to continue normal schooling once the pandemic is under control. The parents are worried about the increased screen time and are not very satisfied with the way online learning is structured.



## VII RECOMMENDATIONS

- (a) There should be different ways of learning, so that students don't have to spend too much time on their phones to study from notes.
- (b) More practical approach should be adopted; the parents should be involved in projects as well.
- (c) Parental guidance should be increased so parents can keep an eye on their child and improve his/her learning behavior.
- (d) Morale should be boosted so that students are not taking any add-on pressure.

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