

**A RESEARCH ON OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FACED BY STUDENTS ATTENDING OFFLINE CLASSES POST COVID-19**

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**ABSTRACT**

Study of the challenges and opportunities post COVID-19 is an attempt to study the issues and prospects students confront while attending offline classes. COVID-19 was an unexpected epidemic that wreaked havoc on every industry and a number of countries throughout the world. Education was one of the most heavily impacted industries, as it transitioned from traditional offline classes to online programmes, which had a significant impact on student’s attitudes toward education. This identifies a variety of issues that pupils are experiencing, such as stress, laziness, and a lack of concentration. Along with the different types of opportunities they will get attending offline classes like college exposure, faculty interaction co-curricular activities, etc.

This research is tested for schools, colleges and researchers to understand post COVID student behavior. A survey is being conducted and the results are being used in the studies. A questionnaire is created to capture the problems and possibilities that students are facing after COVID-19. Primary data is gathered and analyzed with the help of statistical and research tools. The data is analyzed using the Chi-square test and regression.

*Keywords: COVID-19, challenges, opportunities, students, offline classes, stress, anxiety, laziness, faculty interaction, co-curricular activities, schools, colleges, exposure, pandemic.*

**INTRODUCTION**

The Covid-19 pandemic brought a dynamic shift in the world education system. The imposition of lockdown led to the shutdown of physical classrooms and thus online education became the new norm. Although online learning has managed to keep education alive in these dire times, it cannot completely replace it. Both online and offline education have their own distinct set of advantages and disadvantages. Each day millions of children were not able to attend schools and colleges due to emergencies and ongoing humanitarian crises.

Online education, which is now gaining popularity worldwide, is considered an advancement in the field of education which has the ability to transform the lives of students. Seeking education online through different sources has become common amongst the students, working professionals, housewives, and senior citizens as it does not require physical presence at a university or a college like the traditional way of teaching. Rather, it allows the enrolled students to study courses that align with their professional goals. Further, with technology reaching sky-high levels, the learners can now educate themselves by watching lessons, reading e-books and participating in online discussions.

Offline education is the traditional counterpart to online education and the original method of learning that allows students to have regular face-to-face interactions with their peers and teachers. As much as online education is predicted to be the future of learning, it cannot replace the holistic aspect of offline education. Offline education is not severely affected by technical issues and provides an excellent opportunity for students to develop a strict schedule and adhere to it. Moreover, offline education also allows teachers to monitor the responses and behavior of their students and accordingly address them as and when required. Hence, no matter how advanced online education is, offline education will continue to play a vital role in the development of the students.

**REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

Source: Article on Challenges faced by students while switching from online to offline classes by Jyothi Menon, Head of School, Ekya School ITPL, Bangalore

With the school and college closure for almost two years due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus, schools and universities are slowly reopening again. While most of the students are relieved to go back to school and are happy that they can interact with their friends, classmates and teachers in person rather than talking to them across a screen, the transition can be challenging. The pandemic brought in a drastic change in the learning spectrum and school systems to have changed from pre-pandemic times.

According to a report by UNICEF, 14 percent of young Indians are depressed in COVID times but are unwilling to talk about it. The same has been found among students, most of them are finding the transition phase difficult and refrain from participating in various class activities and would rather keep to themselves due to the lack of human connection. As the return to in-person school and learning rolls out, things will not simply spring back to the way it was.

### **Understanding the challenges of going back to traditional learning**

**Socio-emotional support:** It is of utmost importance to help students develop their socio-emotional skills when they are back in school. Schools should provide counselling and support to all students, along with sessions in managing emotions and rebuilding their social skills now that they are back in school after a very long time. Building resilience in students and helping them support each other is essential to reconnect and maintain a sense of community and camaraderie.

**Fear and Anxiety:** Another challenge will be to assure parents that the school is safe for their children. Even though students will be permitted to attend class upon their parents' authorization and will be following strict Covid protocols and guidelines. Maintaining safety at school will also be a challenge. Adhering to Covid appropriate behaviour such as washing hands, social distancing and wearing masks at all times could be a challenge. Ensuring a large number of students in a class to maintain social distance between them and make them wear masks throughout is nearly impossible unless the classes are conducted in a huge space such as an auditorium or stadium.

**Adjusting to the environment:** After almost 24 months of schooling at home, students barely remember what “real” school is like. The task of bringing every child back to school in India is herculean and requires meticulous planning. Schools will have new rules in place for social distancing and extra care to maintain a sanitized environment. Given the large numbers of students we host in schools, it seems like it will be hard and a tough task to bring in all students on a full-day schedule for all days. School schedules should be planned accordingly to accommodate multiple needs and also maintain the required protocols. Also, the situation is still not stable and due to this uncertainty schedule must be kept flexible and alternate solutions to keep learning continuity should be planned.

**Restoring routines:** The pandemic has resulted in many students losing a steady routine as they had in school. This has affected their skills overall, especially in basic reading and writing which has now become more dependent on technology. Relying on recorded lectures and PDF notes and typing out homework and exams for months, now they have to start taking notes and submitting handwritten assignments once they are back to school. Students' sleeping & eating patterns have changed. With remote learning, students had the freedom to attend classes from the comfort of their homes. Going back to school means some added effort and change in the laid back schedule they got used to. All these were not an issue during online learning. The challenge is to get

students to come back to school on time and follow a timetable. Giving students time to re-adjust is the only way to help them through this period of adjustment.

**OBJECTIVES**

The objective of the research paper is as under-

To study the opportunities and challenges faced by students attending offline classes post COVID-19

To know the more advantageous mode of education

**RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

It is a descriptive research which aims to identify the traits of student behavior towards offline education post COVID.

**Area of study:** Students from Marathwada region is chosen for the collection of data.

**Research design:** Research design intends to provide an appropriate framework for a study. This design always focuses more on what of the research subject rather than the why of the research subject.

**Population of study:** Population of study includes students of the age group 16-24 who were indulged in their respective education pre and post COVID-19.

**Sample size**

Primary data was collected from 100 individual students from Marathwada region.

**Sampling technique**

The 100 respondent that were selected based on convenience sampling technique.

**DATA ANALYSIS**

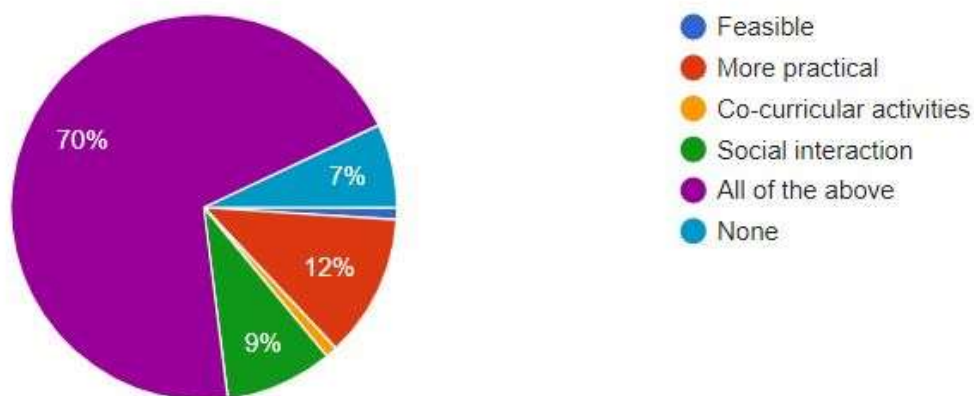
Table.1 Preference of students on online or offline classes

TABLE 1		
Offline classes	Online classes	Total
70	30	100

*Source primary data collected for the study*

The table 1 describes the preference of students between offline and offline classes it clearly visible that offline classes are highly preferred by students. 70% of the total population preferred attending schools and colleges in the traditional way.

Pie chart.1 Merits of offline classes



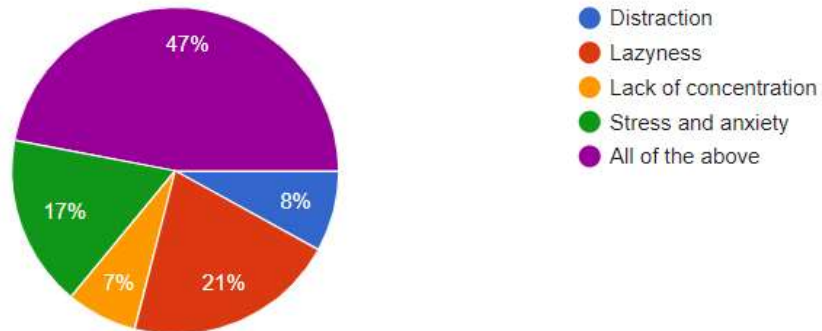
*Source primary data collected for the study*

Pie chart 1 describes the merits for students attending offline classes, this clearly depicts that 70% of the total sample have a common belief that, the traditional mode of education is feasible, practical, includes co-curricular activities, develops social interaction and 93% of the total populations believes that the offline classes is some or the other way on the beneficial side.

Pie chart.2 Difficulties faced while attending offline classes

**Difficulties faced while attending offline classes**

100 responses



Pie chart 2 describes the various difficulties faced by students while attending offline classes post COVID-19, there has been a significant change in the ease of attending on-person classes. As there was a complete change in the way of attending educational activities for 2 long years.

Table.2 Impact of COVID-19 on effectiveness of studies?

TABLE 2		
Yes	No	Maybe
65	10	25

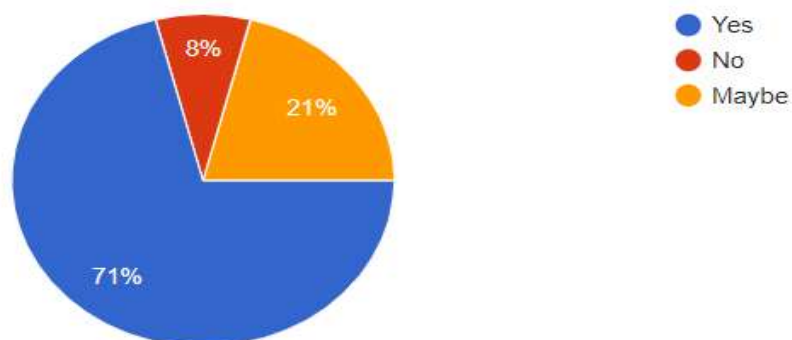
Source primary data collected for the study

Table 2 describes the opinions of students on whether COVID-19 has affected the effectiveness on their studies, here it is clearly seen that 90% of the sample size agree that there are some or the other adverse effect

Pie chart.3 Effects of offline medium of education on personality

**Does offline means of study improve your personality**

100 responses



Pie chart 3 depicts whether there is a positive change in personality of students attending of in-person educational medium, and 92% of the sample belief that there is some sort of improvement in personality of students.

Table.3 COVID norms followed in educational institutes?

TABLE 3		
Are COVID norms followed in your educational institutes?		
Yes	No	Maybe
55	19	26

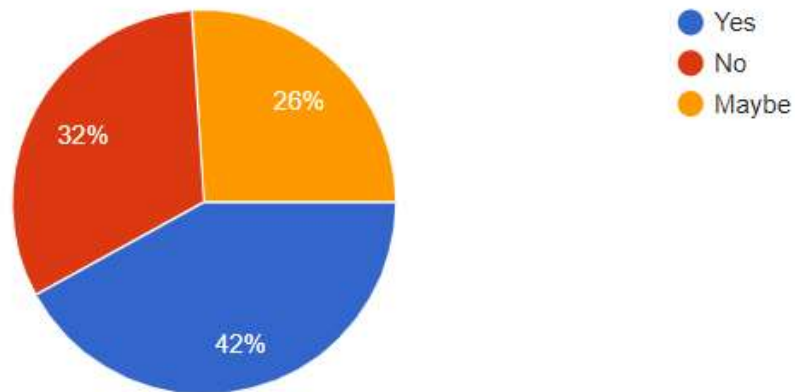
Source primary data collected for the study

The above table depicts whether COVID norms are being followed in the respected educational institutes, it shows that COVID protocols are being followed in majority of the institutes.

Pie chart 4 Fear while attending classes offline

Is there a fear of the virus while attending offline classes

100 responses



Pie chart 4 helps us to know whether there is still a sense of fear regarding COVID-19 while attending regular classes in schools and colleges. Majority of people agree that there is still agitation regarding COVID in students mind.

Table.4 Comparison of student rating offline and online classes 1-5

Table 4				
Following is the comparison of student rating offline and online classes 1-5				
OFFLINE CLASSES			ONLINE CLASSES	
Rating	Respondents		Rating	Respondents
1	11		1	16
2	1		2	21
3	18		3	3
4	33		4	13
5	37		5	18

The rating comparison between online and offline classes which concludes that offline classes are more beneficial for student overall growth.

## **SUGGESTION**

**Hybridization:** After two long years of education, people especially the education system is now well aware about the benefits of technological implications in education, but since offline education is the at the advantageous end it cannot be replaced, so traditional means of education with some technological implication will help in reducing work load and increase productivity. Systems where the case studies, research papers, notes are directly circulated online to students, this will result in increased understanding since there is no need of writing all of those things on paper. Also the submissions of assignments, projects can be done online which will provide a proper record of date, timings and order of submissions and ease the work of teachers.

**Frequent breaks:** Since students were attending online lectures for a long time in their comfort zone, it is difficult for them to grasp all the knowledge in one go. So frequent breaks should be given to freshen up their minds until they are back on routine .

**Engaging activities:** Engaging activities should be conducted in order to make students gain interest in education and learning

## **CONCLUSION**

There are certain challenges and opportunities students are facing while attending offline classes post COVID-19, students enjoy various benefits such as co-curricular activities, networking etc, still they are facing problems like distraction, laziness, lack of concentration etc. Two years of online mode of education made changes on student behavior, because of online classes they were missing from the physical aspect of teaching which resulted in lack of understanding and confusion. Also a lot of students were deprived from education due to lack of resources.

Concluding the research paper on the basis of data collected it can be said that the merits of offline education are more than the temporary demerits of it; so education should be done in the traditional method

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