

TO STUDY ON ONLINE-OFFLINE EXAMINATION PARADOX POST COVID-19

¹Parimal Badwane, ²Sujal Kasliwal

Department of IOMR, MGM University, Aurangabad, India^{1,2}
Parimalnbadwane1@gmail.com¹, Kasliwalsujal128@gmail.com²

ABSTRACT

The spread of pandemic Covid-19 has drastically disrupted every aspects of human life including education. It has created an unprecedented test on education. The COVID-19 pandemic led to a sudden shift to online teaching and restricted campus access. In many educational institutions around the country, campuses are closed and teaching-learning has moved online. Not only learning but examinations are also moved online.

The only way of conduction of examination was online during the pandemic, but now in post covid pandemic the teachings and examinations started offline. Precautions should be taken because the pandemic is still far from over. Due to pandemic situation students did not took the examinations seriously and became lazy. This research study aims to answer; decision between online-offline examinations during the uncertain time (with precautions). And to find some solutions to balance these conduct of examination.

In this research we are trying to talk about the dilemma over online-offline examination which helps in understanding the mentality, opportunities, and challenges of students going through post covid era.

This is qualitative, where data is collected from the primary sources. Data used here is both primary data and secondary data. Primary data was collected through survey with questionnaire which was circulated among the students and some other people.

Keywords: Covid-19, impact, India, post Covid-19, examination, precautions, opportunities, challenges, online, offline, mental health etc.

INTRODUCTION

On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared Covid-19 a pandemic. Covid-19 has affected more than 4.5 million people worldwide (WHO).

Almost every nation has been affected by the direct and indirect effects of the virus, and the lives of millions of people have been changed. Covid is not yet complete; we will still call the current situation as post covid era.

The COVID-19 lockout and subsequent transition to virtual learning have prompted us to examine the student-teacher dynamic and the examination system for flaws. Teachers could make rounds in the classroom and examine each student's performance and understanding individually in the old days (before the Covid-19 epidemic). In contrast, when teaching online, professors are required to turn off their student's microphones to avoid disruption, and due to laziness students goes for malpractice. And, now in **post-covid**, if there's offline examination some precautions are taken due to which teachers cannot take rounds near students because of the fear of transmission of virus.

In times of such uncertainty, making too many changes to the exam pattern is a source of anxiety for students, especially when these changes are not properly communicated by the authorities, creating greater confusion.

What to choose between options? This creates stress on students as well as the authority.

The COVID-19 pandemic has created problems on school systems around the world, affecting about 95 percent of the world's student population. Over 1.2 million schools in India were crushed because of the pandemic, affecting 286 million children from pre-primary to secondary education and also higher education. This is in

totaling to the 6 million girls and boys who were already absent from school before COVID-19. This disturbance in education has serious economic problems as well. **There is many challenges and opportunities in today’s post covid-19 situation.** Actually, we cannot say this as post covid-19 situation because the pandemic is still far from over.

OBJECTIVES OF THE RESEARCH STUDY

- To know which mode of examination is good in post Covid-19 pandemic.
- To understand the thinking of students, what they prefer.
- To know online-offline examination’s merits and demerits by student’s view.
- To answer the challenges and opportunities students are facing in post-pandemic period.

LITERATURE REVIEW

[1] The education system is upgrading these days with advanced technologies that are from conventional learning to e-learning and this is relevant for the learner as it is providing flexibility in learning with optional choices for study to the learner with unlimited access to information (**Shakya, Sharma, & Thapa, 2017, p. 10**).

Not only studies, examinations have also upgraded!

The examination system of any academic institution is closely associated with the educational system-curriculum, teachers, teaching and learning materials, and pedagogy. In this regard, [**Ahmed, Mahmoud, Ghuman, and Wain (2013)**] claims that the Examination system in any institution is the main source to judge the academic level of that institution. Similarly, [(**Jiang, Li, Li, Qin, & Zhou (Nepali) (2015)**)] opines that Examinations have been an important part of teaching

Activities in universities, and have been an important means of evaluating teaching. The examination has been closely related to teaching, learning, as well as education quality, and student quality (**p.620**). Therefore, there is a close relationship between teachings and testing that supports each other. Since the conventional teaching-learning activities are in the physical and face-to-face mode, so as the examination system. However, due to the COVID-19, the face-to-face mode of examination is not possible, most of the academic institutions particularly in the case of higher education practiced in the online and alternative examination system.

[2] Impact of Covid-19 on higher education in India Pravat Kumar Jena, Assistant Regional Director, IGNOU Regional Centre, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, India:-

The Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) have reacted positively and managed to ensure the continuity of teaching-learning, research and service to the society with some tools and techniques during the pandemic. This article highlights on major impacts of Covid-19 on HEIs in India. Some measures taken by HEIs and educational authorities of India to provide seamless educational services during the crisis are discussed. Due to Covid-19 pandemic, many new modes of learning, new perspectives, new trends are emerged and the same may continue as we go ahead to a new tomorrow. So, some of the post Covid-19 trends which may allow imagining new ways of teaching learning of higher education in India are outlined. Some fruitful suggestions are also pointed to carry out educational activities during the pandemic situation.

I did not found any exactly related or similar topics.

From the above-mentioned sample representative reviews, it can be claimed that there is no such studies related to the issue and challenges & opportunities and dilemma towards the online and alternative examination system. Therefore, this study is worth researching reflecting the experience of students and some other people.

METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

3.1 Why it is important to study the selected topic:

During the COVID-19 epidemic, the word “social distancing” – both imagined and actual – looked to be the critical worry of existence, to the point where every collective space must now be organized in terms of adapted safety, which will reconstruct social relations in the upcoming.

Tests in schools are no longer possible as they used to be. Written tests with a large syllabus system are rendered invalid. The whole system is put under a microscope, and understanding the curriculum has taken precedence over grades. Since the outbreak, education has changed online and offline in some areas, and to a large extent, in both schools and colleges around the world. Online instruction and testing is now a relatively new phenomenon. In this state of siege, information technology has emerged as a star.

Examination, which has taken center stage in disputes over the Union government’s intention to organize, tests in the sphere of national “technical” education – medical, engineering, computer sciences, business administration, biotechnological sciences, and so on – despite the epidemic.

And now in the post period the debate has **refocused** on the question of life safety (of students). Against the backdrop of the question of life, the need to maintain the academic calendar as the focal point of educational activities is raised.

To know about the **dilemma** over online-offline examination which helps in understanding the mentality, opportunities, and challenges of students going through post covid era.

And to know the answer of “What types of tests are good for students and which **mode** of tests is more beneficial in this situation post pandemic period”.

3.2 Design of the study:

The method used in the topic is **Descriptive research**. Descriptive research is attempted to determine, describe, or identify what problem is about. Descriptive research is related to surveys, facts finding enquiries. Descriptive research aims to accurately and systematically describes population, situation or phenomenon. It can answer what, where and when questions. Descriptive data, because I have described and tried to answer, ‘what mode of examination are advantageous and comfortable.

So, I found it relevant to my project. And Also Qualitative research,

A qualitative research design is concerned with establishing answers to the whys and how of the phenomenon in question. Qualitative because I also tried to answer “why” and “how” questions through the data.

3.3 Methods of data collection:

In this project I have used both the types, primary data as well Secondary data.

1) Primary data- I have collected primary data through a small survey with the help of Questionnaire. The survey was conducted in MGM IOMR Aurangabad. The survey was conducted in MGM IOMR Aurangabad. The size of the sample was 102 and was random sampling method.

2) Secondary data- The collected data/ Referred data is from various websites that provide Some updated information about my research.

3.4 Limitations of the study:

- This study is undertaken in MGM IOMR, Aurangabad only.
- Previous research on the topic was not properly available.
- For the primary data, a questionnaire was distributed and 102 responses were collected, hence the sample size is 102.

3.5 Some basic information:-

1) An online exam (also called eExam) is a great way of conducting tests and other important exams with help of the internet. An online exam needs a device capable of accessing the internet such as a computer or a smartphone. This can be either done at an examination center or at home. But in this case the exams are taken from homes.

Some advantages of Online exams:-

- Online tests are able to respond to the constant efforts of teachers and people working to simplify and develop test strategies.
- The online test provides flexibility and security for the question paper as each student can receive random questions of the same test pattern.

2)Offline exams which are conducted in the classroom under the supervision of an invigilator and it are pen paper test.

Some advantages of Offline exams:-

- Students can neatly describe their thoughts and knowledge in pen-paper exam (subjective).
- Offline examination provides a good competitive environment to the students, and students are more serious and attentive.

3) What is “Hybrid mode of examination”? :-

This type of examination is a newly proposed mode of conducting exams. With the pandemic situation disappearing steadily, schools and colleges have started reopening and students have returned back to university grounds and curriculums in the physical mode have commenced again. Yet, some students living away from their campus (in other states or cities/villages) may not be able to be present on campus for attempting the exam. This is the root of what has given rise to this proposal.

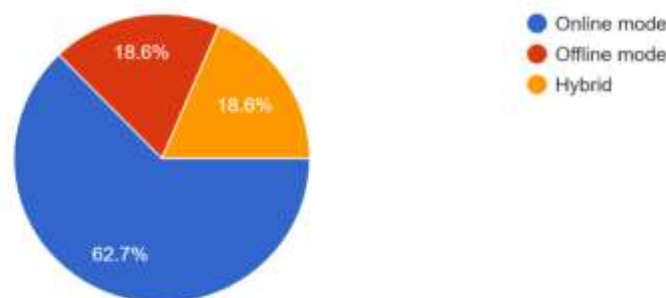
Thus, hybrid exams would ensure that each student would be given the option to choose the method of attempting the exam as per his/her convenience in this post-pandemic situation.

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

Major Facts related to the study: E-ISSN NO:2349-0721

Questionnaires are administered to respondents selected randomly within MGM IOMR Aurangabad. 102 respondents have responded. The data so collected is tabulated, analysed, interpreted and presented in the following tables and charts:

1) In today's post Covid-19 situation, Which one of the following mode of examination you prefer to take?
102 responses



Options	Number of respondents	Percentage (%) of respondents
Online mode	64	62.7%
Offline mode	19	18.6%
Hybrid mode	19	18.6%
Total	102	100%

Table-1

INTERPRETATION- From the above chart it is observed the 62.7% of respondents (64/102) prefers Online mode of examination, 18.6% of respondents (19/102) prefers Offline mode of examination and the remaining 18.6% of respondents (19/102) prefers Hybrid mode of examination.

Their opinions are different because of pandemic everyone’s perspectives are changed, some feel safe some does not because the problem is not ended yet.

2) Which mode of examination is more advantageous according to you in this post Covid-19 time?
102 responses

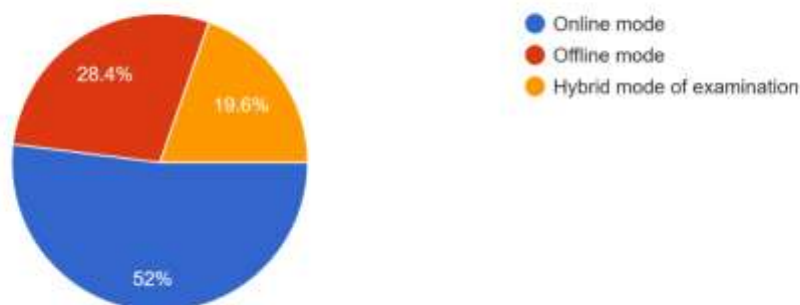


Table-2

Options	Number of respondents	Percentage (%) of respondents
Online mode	53	52%
Offline mode	29	28.4%
Hybrid mode of examination	20	19.6%
Total	102	100%

INTERPRETATION- From the above Pie chart it is observed that the 52% of respondents (53/102) thinks that online examination is advantageous. 28.4% of respondents (29/102) fall under those who respondents who think offline examinations are advantageous. And the remaining 19.6% of respondents (20/102) fall in the group who thinks Hybrid mode of examinations is advantageous.

3) Do you agree, online exams reduce your stress and anxiety?

102 responses

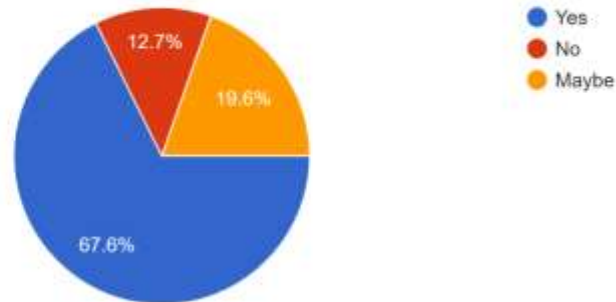


Table-3

Options	Number of respondents	Percentage (%) of respondents
Yes	69	67.6%
No	13	12.7%
May be	20	19.6%
Total	102	100%

INTERPRETATION- From the above Pie chart it is observed that the 67.6% of respondents (69/102) fall under the group who thinks online examinations reduces stress and anxiety. 12.7% of respondents (13/102) fall under the group who thinks online exams has nothing to do with reduction of stress and anxiety. 19.6% of respondents (20/102) are respondents who are confused or don't exactly know what they think or feel.

4) Do Students take online exams in fair manner in this post covid time?

102 responses

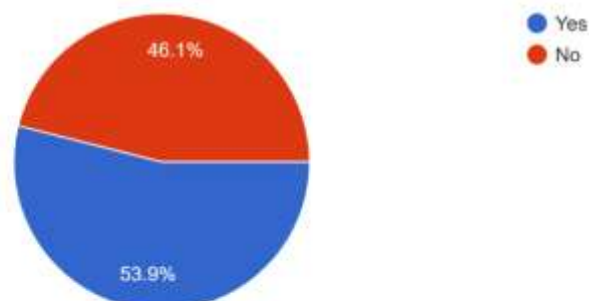
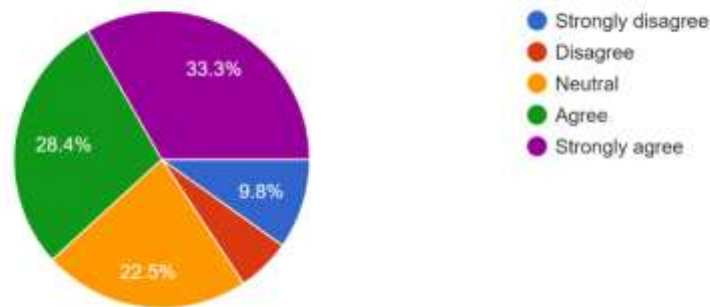


Table-4

Options	Number of respondents	Percentage (%) of respondents
Yes	55	53.9%
No	47	46.1%
Total	102	100%

INTERPRETATION-From this we can assume that 53.9% of respondents (55/102) agree that students take online exams in fair manner in this post covid time. And 46.1% of respondents (47/102) deny that students take online exams in fair manner in this post covid time. We can conclude that some might cheats in online examination and some fairly takes take the exams

5) Offline exams are taken in more fair manner compared to online mode by students?
102 responses



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Options	Number of respondents	Percentage (%) of respondents
Strongly Disagree	10	9.8%
Disagree	6	5.9%
Neutral	23	22.5%
Agree	29	28.4%
Strongly agree	34	33.3%
Total	102	100%

Table-5

INTERPRETATION- From the above Pie chart it is observed that the 9.8% of respondents (10/102) strongly disagree that Offline exams are taken in fairer manner compared to online mode by students. 5.9% of respondents (6/102) disagree the same thing. 22.5% of respondents (23/102) fall in the group who are saying neutral which means they also agree and disagree. 28.4% respondents (29/102) agree that some offline exams are taken in fair manner by students compared to online mode of examination. 33.3% of respondents (34/102) strongly agree the

thing.

6) Education online and examination offline, was that good decision by Government?

102 responses

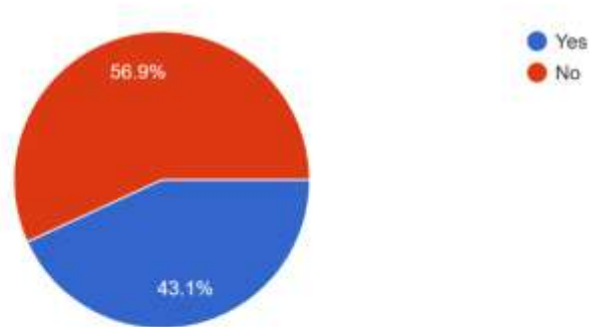


Table-6

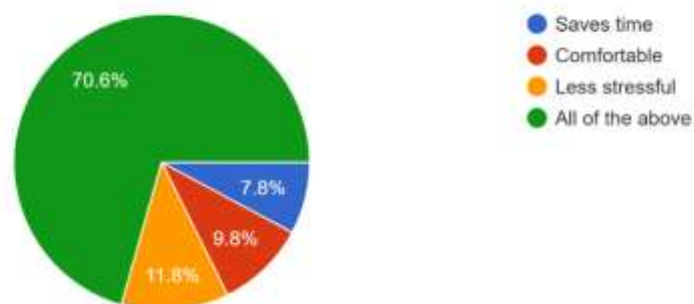
Options	Number of respondents	Percentage (%) of respondents
Yes	58	56.9%
No	44	43.1%
Total	102	100%

INTERPRETATION- There are many advantages and disadvantages of online education and vice versa with offline examinations.

Here we can analyse that 56.9% of respondent (58/102) are unhappy with the government’s decision of keeping examinations offline. And the remaining 43.1% respondent (44/102) are finding no problem in the government’s decision.

7) Advantages of Online mode of examination?

102 responses



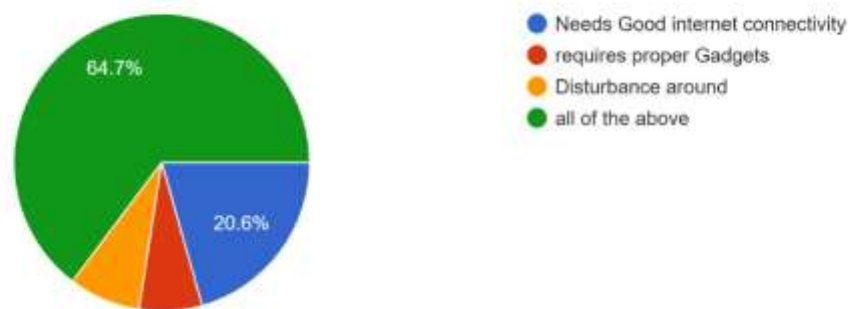
Options	Number of respondents	Percentage (%) of respondents
Saves time	8	7.8%

Comfortable	10	9.8%
Less stressful	12	11.8%
All of the above	72	70.6%
Total	102	100%

Table-7

INTERPRETATION- From the above Pie chart it is observed that the 7.8% of respondents (8/102) finds that advantage of online examination is that it saves time. 9.8% of respondents (10/102) think that online examinations are comfortable, 11.8% of respondents (12/102) thinks that the advantage of online exam is that those are less stressful and the remaining 70.6% respondents (72/102) finds that all of the options are true.

8) challenges faced in online examination?
102 responses

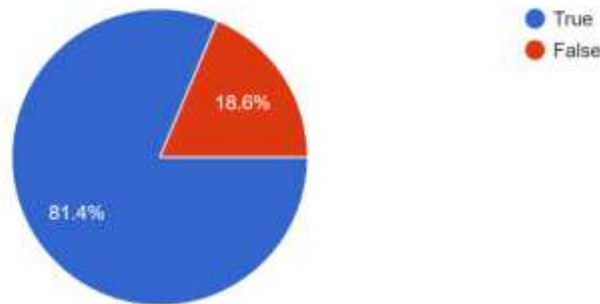


Options	Number of respondents	Percentage (%) of Respondents
Needs Good internet connectivity	21	20.6%
Requires proper Gadgets	7	6.9%
Disturbance around	8	7.8%
All of the above	66	64.7%
Total	102	100%

Table-8

INTERPRETATION- Responses of respondents for Challenges faced in online examinations are 20.6% of respondents (21/102) says internet connect is problem, 6.9% of respondents(7/102) says there should be proper gadgets for proper attention in online examination. 7.8% of respondents (8/102)and the remaining 64.7% respondents (66/102) says that all the listed options are correct. Majority of respondents said that all of the option are correct because majority of people might have faced challenges.

9) Advantage of offline examination is that it's feasible and can properly investigate student's knowledge.
102 responses

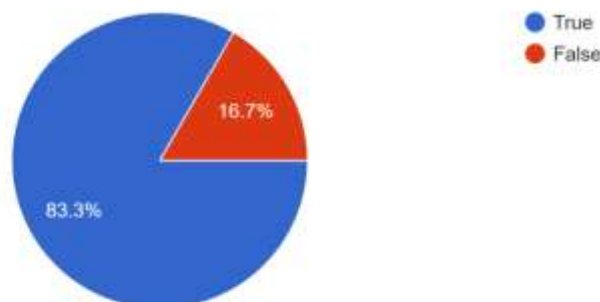


Options	Number of respondents	Percentage (%) of respondents
True	83	81.4%
False	19	18.6%
Total	102	100%

Table-9

INTERPRETATION- 81.4% of respondents (83/102) agree that Advantage of offline examination is that it's feasible and can properly investigate student's knowledge. But, the remaining 18.6% respondents (19/102) do not agree the statement. Majority of respondents agreed to the statement because, in this post-pandemic people are not strong economically and cannot afford the advanced gadgets.

10) Gathering a huge number of students in exam centers can make the area a catalyst for spreading the virus. It can become a hotspot and can trigger a new wave. True or False
102 responses



Options	Number of respondents	Percentage (%) of respondents

True	85	83.3%
False	17	16.7%
Total	102	100%

Table-10

INTERPRETATION- 83.3% of respondents (85/102) agrees the statement “Gathering a huge number of students in exam centres can make the area a catalyst for spreading the virus. It can become a hotspot and can trigger a new wave”. But, the remaining 16.7% respondent (17/102) does not agree the statement. We got the responses like this because covid is not ended and can comeback so majority of respondents said that above statement is true.

FINDINGS:

The major findings are the interpretations of the answers we got through the questionnaire and, to summarize, the findings of the research claim that students who are learning at the university level are highly motivated and interested to participate in the online and alternative examination system in this post covid era. They have access to internet for sending and receiving the questions and answer copies via the online and alternative mode of examination.

Advantage of Hybrid mode of examinations is that this mode will ensure the convenience for students in terms of attempting the exam if they can't be physically present on campus. And the disadvantage of Hybrid mode of examination that some students attempting the exams through the offline mode may possibly have the chance to indulge in malpractices.

These findings are similar to the findings from the other researches in both national and international contexts such as (Gautam&Gautam, 2020; Ilgaz&Adanir, 2019; Dhital, 2018; Fluck, Adebayo, & Abdulhamid, 2017; Jiang, Li, Li, Qin, & Zhou, 2015; Ahmed, Mahmood, Ghuman, & Wain, 2013).

SUGGESTION

In short, Government/universities should loosen the rope of burden on students.

In offline mode of examination proper precautions should be taken.

The new Hybrid mode of examination should be introduced in every part of the world.

CONCLUSION

Nowadays the words Online-Offline has been more prevalent and engrossed all ages from teen to adulthood. When we talk about the mode of examination it has been broadly defined the offline and online modes or the new hybrid mode. Covid isn't ended yet still we called here the term 'post covid-19 the new normal'.

With the help of this research we saw that what difficulties students are facing in this post covid-era. In this post covid time, students are still disturbed. What should they choose between spoonful of options? Online examination is increasingly more than just a supplement to traditional classroom pen paper offline examination. It announces new boundaries of accumulation as a method of distance learning and taking examination. There is increase in laziness because due to lockdown everyone was in homes.

One thing can be concluding here that those who preferred online examinations instead of offline mode are homesick or afraid to attend in offline mode. Offline examinations are carried with precautions; maintaining of social distancing, allowed only vaccinated people, sanitized benches and seats and many more things are taken care of. And if still anyone feels inverse they are allowed to take examinations online....; this is hybrid mode of examinations

In the last, we can properly conclude that the dilemma choosing between online and offline examination is answered, and we have one more option to use hybrid mode of examination

Government and Universities should loosen the rope of burden on students, until the student’s mind gets normal. Everyone around the globe is finding things difficult in this post covid era. This research was conducted to answer this= To know which mode of examination is good in post Covid-19 pandemic. To understand the thinking of students, what they prefer. To know online-offline examination’s advantage and disadvantages. To answer the challenges and opportunities. We got all the answers from with the help of a questionnaire!

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