



Research Paper

Educational Challenges Faced By Student Community Due To Covid-19

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Abstract: The Lockdown declared by Govt. of India in educational institutions for long period due to Covid-19 hampered the educational situation very much. Student community missed their classes. It also hampered on course completion, examination system and mentality of the students and as a result it caused innumerable lose on the part of students. So, the target of this paper is to know how much students were felt and realized the seriousness of the situation and what kind of challenges faced by them in their study due to Covid-19. The methodology of the study is descriptive analysis, i.e. both qualitative and quantitative data analysis will be there based on primary and secondary data. The data are collected with simple random sampling technique with interview method. As the finding of study it is revealed that more than 50% students were aware about their educational lose, about course completion and about academic support they have got from the teachers. Moreover, more than 50% students were interested to study on online mode though they had got many challenges like network problem lack of devices. Moreover, near about 50% students faced problems to handle the devices and lacking of new technical devices like android phone or computer with them. Moreover, students showed their interest to appear in examination on online mode so that they don't miss their learning and academic year.

Key words: Educational challenges, student community, Covid-19.

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I. INTRODUCTION:

Covid-19 is a pandemic that emerged in Wuhan city of China in last months of 2019. It was declared as pandemic on March 11, 2020 by The World Health Organization (WHO) as its spread was over 110 countries of the world. As a result many countries of the world compelled to declare lockdown in their nation's looking into the seriousness of the situation. The educational institutions, public places, factories, religious institutions were closed as a result and caused innumerable lose in every sphere of our life. In case of India Labours came on the road with all miseries and hunger, student community missed their academic situation and all kinds of crisis of health and mental threaten took placed. The educational institutions are declared complete closure from 15th March, 2020. As a result, mostly the classes hampered and it continued till 21st September, 2020 when Govt. of Assam declared partial reopening of classes following all Govt. protocols including class IX, X and XI, XII in alternate days. That pandemic situation makes the students to miss many months of their study and assessment period and as a result the Govt. of Assam changed its academic period from August-July to April-March by a cabinet decision. So, all kinds of lose was endured by student community which could hardly be replaced by online classes and examinations taken during the period. Because, only final year examination was could complete through both online and offline mode and other examinations of Sem.II and Sem.IV remain incomplete and going to declare results based on previous semester. So, it is very tense causing and serious situation for student community as they are remaining in uncertainties now. So, considering the seriousness of the situation some queries came in mind like-

Are students aware about their academic losing due to Covid-19?

Are students learned through online mode during the pandemic period?

Are they got difficulties or challenges to learn through online mode?

Are they tense now due to their examination or result issue?

Thus, taking these queries in mind the study targeted to know students awareness of the situation and all the challenges they faced during the period.

II. REVIEW OF THE RELATED LITERATURE:

Literature review is very important part of our study as we have to take some ideas from previous studies and moreover to look into the matter that any duplicity does not take place in our study. It is the re-viewing part of our writing. So to prepare this research article I myself have gone through the following articles so that I can get help in my study.

Claudia, Salceanu (June, 2020)¹ has studied on Higher Education Challenges during Covid-19 Pandemic: A case Study, where a sample of 152 students from Ovidius University of Constanta, the faculty of Psychology and about the problems that the transition of the entire teaching-learning activity in the online environment raised for them. With different outcomes the results are discussed in relationship with educational outcomes and future outcomes and future directions of the educational activity during the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic isolation period.

Dhawan, Shivangi (June, 2020)² has studied on Online Learning: A Panacea in the Time of COVID-19 Crisis and gone through importance of online learning and strengths, weakness, opportunities and challenges (SWOC) analysis of e-learning modes in the time of crisis. This article also put some light on the growth of EdTech Start-ups during the time of pandemic and natural disasters and includes suggestions for academic institutions of how to deal with challenges associated with online learning.

Konikkal, Zubair (4th July 2020)³ has studied on Education in Covid-19 Scenario- Challenges and Opportunities and discussed about the tough and unpredictable phase of life and stated that every challenges open up new opportunities and in higher education also many possibilities and challenges has brought by 'keep social distance'. The main hindrance of online education system is Digital Divide due to network issue, lack of device etc. So online education will success only if it is reached to every student. Thus the government and social organizations and colleges and universities can support students in these fields in a big way.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY:

The study on this issue is very important and relevant right now as all students are in crisis. Along with health and economic crisis the crisis in the education sector is also equal to be bothered and we are specially being part of education sector, it is demanded to look into the matter seriously so that something we can be contributed. Student community missed many months of their study period; it is really causing tense to them. They are in uncertainties. In other countries though the gap could fulfill by online mode of classes but in our country here we are in remote areas and lacking of devices which are serious problems to fulfill this gap. So, in some areas during these pandemic months they spend leisure period, no contact with teachers and no study on their parts. Among them some serious students remained in tense bothering their future and about examination and all. Especially the targeted group of this study is BA Sem. III Students now and their last semester examination is not held and they are in uncertainties bothering their result and all, although it is declared that based on previous examination results the present result will be declared. So, these groups of students are targeted for this study to know their consciousness on academic lose and challenges they are facing during this pandemic period.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

The target of the study is to know how much students felt and realized the seriousness of their academic lose due to Covid-19 and what kinds of challenges students faced in their study due to pandemic.

III. METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY:

The methodology of the study is descriptive analysis based on both primary and secondary data. Quantative data are analyzed in a simple percentage statistical technique.

The target group for the study is students of BA Sem.III, Regular Course under Subject Education of Lumding College. In B.A. Sem.III more than 239 students are there, but only 239 students are there in the subject education under regular course so these students are targeted for the study. Moreover, among these 239 students only 20 percent students are targeted with simple random sampling technique for the study and as a result total 48 students were chosen as the sample for the study.

For the primary data collection a questionnaire of 11 closed-ended questions were prepared and data are collected through interview method by telephone and analyzed it in simple percentage statistical technique.

DELIMITATION OF THE STUDY:

As the number of students were more it could be selected more number of students as sample of the study to get more reliability, but due to time factors as well as students were not available in the institution right now only 20 percent students were selected with simple random sample technique and collected the data by telephone through interview method.

ANALYSIS AND INTERRETATION:

Analysis and interpretation is very important part of any study. So for this study the data were collected through interview method by Telephone connecting with 48 numbers of students considering 20 percent out of total 239 numbers of students. The responses of these students are here to analyze with simple percentage statistical technique to make the study relevant as well as to get answer of the proposed study.

Information related to student’s awareness regarding academic lose during pandemic:

Our educational institutions especially classroom were closed for long period from 16th March, 2020 to till 21st Sep., 2020. During this period students were lose their classes, examination, interaction with teachers and other friends. It is a great lose on behalf of students and especially on behalf of learners and thus the fact was realized by most of students and regret for the same. So, to know the realization of the students about the great lose the study was conducted and make the following queries.

Table.1: Students Awareness of Academic Lose due to Pandemic

Items	Responses in total (%)		
	Yes	No	Total
Are you felt hampered on your study due to Covid-19?	30 (62.50)	18 (37.50)	48 (100)
Could your courses complete in previous semester during Lock down period?	31 (64.58)	17 (35.42)	48 (100)
Are your teachers mentally and academically supportive to you during these critical days of your academic life?	26 (54.17)	22 (45.83)	48 (100)

Students awareness and realization on their achievement, lose etc. determines their future course of action. So, when study was done on their feelings of hamper on their study due to Covid-19 in table.1, it revealed that more than 50% students were felt that their study was hampered due to Covid-19, whereas 37.50% denied it. When the study was in course completion then also more than 50% students agreed that their courses could complete though pandemic but we can’t deny those 35.42% students who were failed to complete their course may be due to network issue or lack of devices or other connectivity issues. Moreover, in the study of teachers being supportive during this pandemic situation more than 50% students said that they got support from teacher whereas, the 45.83% students who denied of getting support from the teacher can’t be overruled but to take care of it that all students can fell that teachers are always there for their academic and mental support.

Information related to students preference of learning platform during the pandemic:

During this pandemic period mostly the study and teaching learning system was done through online platform. So how much students are satisfied, successful and learned as per their expectation makes a matter. So, the study tried to know their online process of learning, their difficulties and facilities related to online classes and their satisfaction from the ongoing system of learning.

Table.2: Student’s preference of learning platform during the period

Items	Responses in total (%)		
	Yes	No	Total
Are you preferred online classes during this pandemic period?	43 (89.58)	05 (10.42)	48 (100)
Are you faced Network problem during the class or test period?	31 (64.58)	17 (35.42)	48 (100)
Are you faced the problem to handle your device during class or assignment period?	20 (41.67)	28 (58.33)	48 (100)
Are you faced the problem of not having new technological device for class like Smartphone or computer?	22 (45.83)	26 (54.17)	48 (100)
As a conscious student are you satisfied with present system of online learning including one sided voice and video recorded teaching, Whatsapp instructions etc.?	29 (60.42)	19 (39.58)	48 (100)

In table 2 the study reveals that more than 50% students preferred online class during this pandemic which is time relevant and important by anyhow to make our learning continue. The Network is also one big issue of online classes so in this study more than 50% students got network problem during classes as most of the students are in remote areas which is very matter of tense and we have to take care of it and it is our responsibility to give importance and search measure for the same. Likewise the study on handling of their devices for online classes, the 41.67% students who got problem to handle the devices for online classes should also take into consideration. Moreover, one very important issue of study was on students not having of new technical devices to attain online classes then 45.83% students showed not to have such advance learning technical devices like android phone or computer with them and this is very problematic issue for us to continue

our virtual classes. Lastly the study was on whether students are satisfied with one sided audio and video recorded and whatsapp classes or not then it reveals that though more than 50% students were satisfied with the system but 39.58% students who were not satisfied with such classes are also to be considered where demand is definitely there to make our classes more practical, lively and interactive.

Information related to Student’s Worry regarding Examination Results:

Though National education policy of 1986 says about delinking degree from job, but in practice results of student determines their future placement. So, student’s worry about examination and result is not irrelevant. This time especially due to pandemic the end semester examination of BA Sem.II could not held and notified to declare results based on previous examination result. So, to know their state on this issue study was done and got the result as follows.

Table.3: Student’s Worry about Examination Results

Items	Responses in total (%)		
	Yes	No	Total
Will you may be more satisfied if examination may held online or offline?	34 (70.83)	14 (29.17)	48 (100)
Are you satisfied with your previous Sem. result as your Sem. II result is going to be based on it?	35 (72.92)	13 (27.08)	48 (100)
As a conscious student, are you satisfied with our examination system before and now?	26 (54.17)	22 (45.83)	48 (100)

As per the study on table 3, regarding student’s satisfaction and dissatisfaction on conduction of examination, more than 50% students expressed that if their examination may held then they may be more satisfied either it be online or offline. In another study on student’s satisfaction on previous examination’s result based on which present Sem.II result is going to declare then more than 50% students were satisfied with their previous examination results but the thing is that 27.08% students those who were not satisfied can’t be ignored because this time their examination may be more better. Moreover, in the study of student’s satisfaction on examination system of ours before pandemic and now revealed that more than 50% students were satisfied with the system no doubt but 45.83% students who were not satisfied with our examination systems early and now is not good which is to take note and do necessary modification if any limitation is there.

MAJOR FINDINGS:

The following are the major findings of the study.

- The study on students awareness regarding academic lose during pandemic period states that more than 50% students realized that their study hampered due to Covid-19. Moreover, in spite of pandemic more than 50% students admitted that their courses could complete and they got academic and mental support from teachers during these crisis periods.
- The study on student’s preference on online classes reveals that more than 50% student’s preferred online class, although more than 50% students felt network problem during the class. Moreover, more than 50% student’s were not felt any problem to handle the devices but more than 50% students felt that they have lacking of modern competent devices to take online classes. Lastly more than 50% students were showed their satisfaction with one-sided audio and video and whatsapp classes during the pandemic.
- The study on examination related issues reveals that more than 50% students may satisfy if examination may be there either in online or offline mode. Moreover, more than 50% students satisfied with their previous examination result based on which Sem.II result is going to declare. Moreover, near about 50% students showed dissatisfaction taking our examination system.
- As per the queries it can be concluded that students are aware of their academic lose during the pandemic period. They also learned through online mode of learning though they faced challenges and difficulties during the period. Moreover, they are in tense regarding their Sem.II result which is going to be based on previous semester’s result.

IV. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

Educational lose due to Covid-19 can’t be fulfilled by any means. But the challenges whatever it brought give us opportunities to learn and develop in a new way. We learned and developed in online mode of learning and in spite of many difficulties students are now interested to learn through online mode of learning. Because we all know that something is better than nothing. In this study also students are showing their willingness to study through online mode of learning and showing their mastery to handle the devices and even ready to appear examination through online or offline mode. So, it is recommended that whatever problems we

have like network, lack of devices should be give due attention by Government or we well wishers so that students without such interruption can continue their classes till the normalcy of the situation.

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