



RELEVANCE OF BLENDED (DIGITAL AND TRADITIONAL) TEACHING-LEARNING IN NEW NORMAL: A CASE STUDY ON SELECTED HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTION

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Abstract:

The purpose of this research paper is to examine student's opinion on digital education, The digital methods that are used in an institution they are studying and how it is impacting their learning. The paper focuses on overall digitalization of teaching i.e., not just after COVID-19 but also before that. This research is based on primary data which contains both Quantitative and Qualitative questions. Precisely they are comparative survey questions between digital and traditional education, and student's opinion on blended teaching-learning methods. Also, what online platforms students are using for the syllabus related notes and videos and their opinion on the preferable teaching methods has been taken.

Keywords: *Blended Teaching-Learning, Digital Teaching Methods, Traditional Teaching Methods, Remote Learning*

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Introduction:

As we all know that, from using mobile phones just for calling and sending messages to operating it for each smallest activity; how virtual the world has become. But it is not just about mobile phones but also other digital devices we use i.e., laptops, mobile tablets, projectors, smart tables, animators and many more. If we think about adaptation of these digital technologies in education then it has made exceptional and exponential change in teaching-learning methods. Also, it has made communication easier and faster in between students and teachers. Remote learning made education more reliant on digital platforms.

Precisely if we see the education system now, then digitalization has turned traditional classrooms into

Smart classrooms. For e.g. Using projectors to show Power point presentations, graphics to explain a topic which may not be possible to explain that clearly by using traditional chalk and talk method, Showing YouTube videos related to the topic to improve student's understanding, conducting online meetings or doubt solving session through platforms like Zoom, google meeting; Also with the use of smartboards various audio-visual tools can be used at a time with lesser efforts of carrying books or notes by teachers.

Along with these digital platforms students look forward to get instructions from their tutors too. It means a significant use of both traditional and digital teaching methods which is called as Blended learning. Blended learning works as a great facilitator in today's



educational scenario.

Review of Literature:

1. Palvia, S., Aeron, P., Gupta, P., Mahapatra, D., Parida, R., Rosner, R., & Sindhi, S. (2018). Online education in its various modes has been growing steadily worldwide due to the confluence of new technologies, global adoption of the Internet, and intensifying demand for a workforce trained periodically for the ever-evolving digital economy. Online education is on track to become mainstream by 2025. According to KPMG India and Google, the major drivers for online/blended education in India include (a) phenomenal growth in Internet² and smartphone penetration³; (b) low cost of online education; (c) digital-friendly government policies; and (d) escalating demand by working professionals and job-seekers for continuing education (Bansal, 2017).
2. Badre, P. (2020). Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) are no more exception to this situation. Pandemic disrupted the higher education system in India. E-learning and blended learning has become new normal in pandemic. Blended learning is integration of online and face to face learning. In present era of pandemic, there is no option for blended learning, of which online education is vital element.
3. Navaneeth, M. S., & Siddiqui, I. (2022). The unprecedented consequences precipitated by the COVID-19 pandemic compelled academic institutions to shift to remote education. Along with this sudden transition was the outburst of challenges with varying degrees and intensities. This chapter explored the experiences of teachers, students, and parents from rural municipalities in the Philippines who have been underrepresented in pandemic-driven investigations.
4. Pasha, M. A., & Gorya, J. (2019). Most people respondents are agreed that it will improve the quality of higher education which is lack right now in the

market. In our research agreed that online education gainer will get more skill than On-Campus learner. If we conclude full report, then we can say that online education and offline education has their own advantages and disadvantages according to the requirements of the student because some student want education while working and some students wants education full time so, both has different priorities.

5. Saboowala, R., & Manghirmalani-Mishra, P. (2020). Blended learning is the application of Information and Communication Technology in the instructional designs and processes in such a way that it can support and complement face-to-face delivery models effectively. It offers the teachers and the students to get access to information-rich resources anywhere and anytime. It also has the potential to ensure educational equity for all learners with complete transparency of rendering education to the community of learners.

Objective:

1. To examine student's preference for teaching methods.
2. How many students from particular institute are using digital methods of learning.
3. Observe student's opinions and suggestions on different teaching techniques in their institute.

Limitations of the Study:

The study is limited to Primary data only. Area of the research is limited to under graduation students of Reena Mehta College from Bhayandar region of Mumbai only. The main focus of the study is highlighting on usage of digital technology and blended learning in an institution. No other area has been chosen, but for the further study any other area can be chosen.

Research Methodology:

Research Design:

The research conducted was descriptive hence structured questionnaire was used. Data is collected through



circulation of questionnaire to the undergraduate students from an institute.

Sample Size :

The study was limited to the participants from Reena Mehta College of Arts, Science, Commerce and Management Studies. There was total 50 respondents from an Institute. It consists of students from undergraduate programs.

Primary data:

The primary data was collected through structured questionnaire in Reena Mehta college, which was done through random sampling method.

Sampling design:

A. What are the different platforms used by the students?

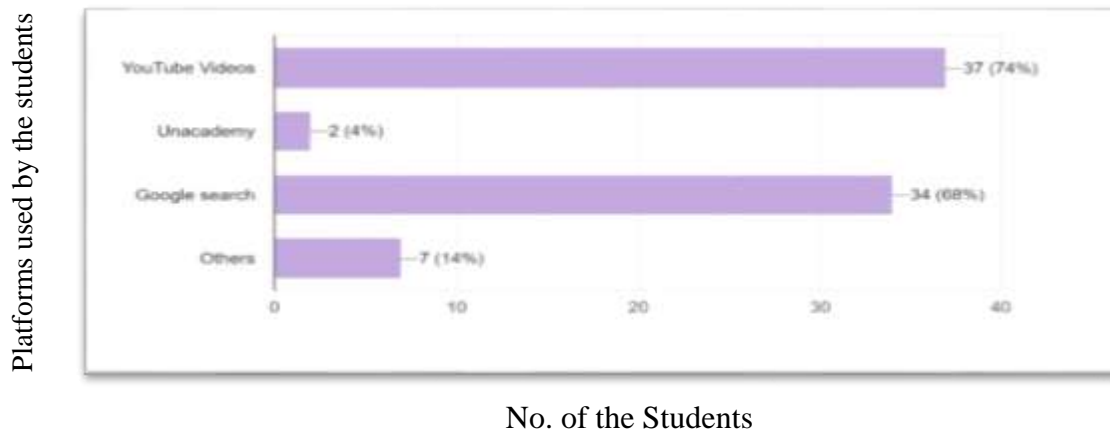


Table 1 Source: Primary data

(Students were given option to select more than one option in a questionnaire (google form), hence there are percentage written accordingly, it has been interpreted concisely in findings of the study)

B. What are student's preference on teaching methods nowadays?

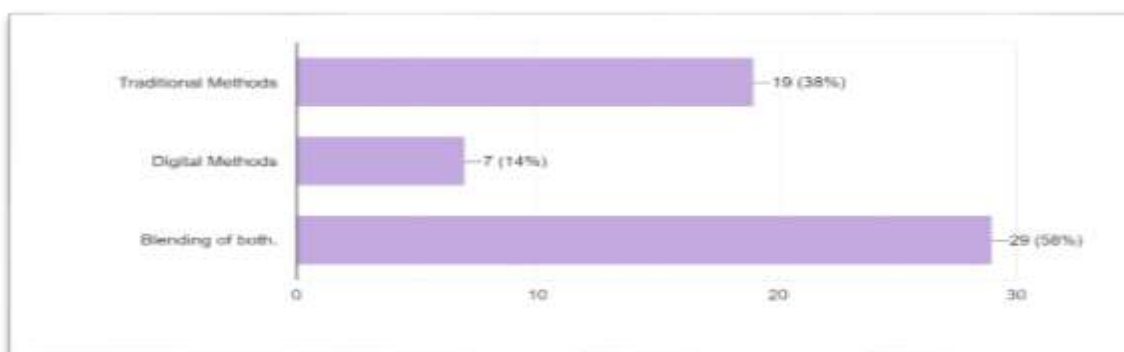


Table 2 Source: Primary data

(Students were given option to select more than one option in a questionnaire [google form] , hence there are percentage calculated by the software

accordingly, It has been interpreted concisely in findings of the study)

C. Were these digital platforms used by your institution for teaching even before COVID-19 pandemic ?



No.of students

Table 3 Source: Primary data

Findings of the Study:

Students are using digital platforms on a great level. For reference material, related videos and for detailed understanding of the topic, for up-to-date content, upgradations in content related to study material, for assignment and project works. But along with the usage of these materials students want good interactive communication with their professors. According to the findings it has been observed that even after giving preference to the digital learning, students need teachers to solve their doubts, to create better understanding of the topic and also to teach productive use of digital technology in education. The findings of the study i.e., all the 12 questions from questionnaire are bifurcated in few points, which has been shown in graph below.

There was total 50 respondents from an institute. According to the statistics 43 (86%) students are using digital platforms. They were also given most familiar platforms to select any or all from the

options in the questionnaire. And the results have been shown in graph below. Out of 50 respondents YouTube and Google search are mostly used platforms i.e., 37 and 34 students respectively. Unacademy is very rarely used whereas, 7 respondents are using other platforms too. It means more than 50% of the students in an institution take help of digital teaching platforms for learning, which is proving our H2.

As one of the main focuses of the study students were also asked about their preferable method of teaching. Which is more sustainable in a long run, easy to access and also to understand; 29 (8%) respondents said that blending of both traditional and digital method would be a boon. Precising, neither only traditional nor only digital method individually going to help. As to solve the doubts after watching any video students will need personal interaction with tutor or through some other means. If we see through classroom interaction perspective, 56% of the students are agreeing that digital



methods make classrooms interactive whereas 23 (46%) respondents deny the same. So, through these statistics we can conclude that students are most preferably look forward blending of both traditional and digital teaching methods. Hence H1 is confirmed through the study.

Respondents were also asked about usage of digital methods in the institution they are pursuing their degree from. On which 50% respondents are agreeing and others are denying the fact that there is no usage of digital methods. Talking more evidently about the same then out of all these respondents 54% i.e., 27 students are saying that even before COVID-19 pandemic digital methods like projector, PPT, online videos, online reference material was used by the teachers.

Student's suggestion on digital learning and platforms for the same was also taken. On which students said that, online platforms like Unacademy, Byjus, Google, Google classroom notes provided by teachers, Gradeup, Class matrix, Skillshare, moodle, edx, future learn, are also of a great help. They are also suggesting that Animators should also be used for the subjects that are difficult to understand just with the use of notes or Pdf.

Students also say that, digital teaching makes learning convenient, at their own pace, anytime accessible, conceptual content related to syllabus which is also easy to understand, and cheaper too. But according to the findings, there are hardly the students who are completely relying on digital learning. They are clearly mentioning in the suggestions that, "technology should be used in classroom by the teachers, where we will be able to access both the teaching methods along with doubt solving and queries regarding the same." Because

individual use of any one method could not make that satisfactory impact which can be attained by accompanying of both.

Conclusion:

Online education is not a new concept for India and even for a world throughout. As we all are aware about, how it has made great impact on education during pandemic but digitalization in education was already existing and growing in India, it is just that due to COVID-19 it made us more reliable on it. As no doors were open internet made it possible. But we also need to understand that COVID was never a reason for digital education it just made a realization that, how flexible and accessible the education can be.

So according to the data collected through the standard questionnaire, it can be clearly said that none of the teaching methods can create an impact individually. To make learning interactive, up-to-date, interesting, relevant and reliable blended teaching-learning methods should be used. As there may be plenty of institutes already following the pattern, which should also be followed by the institutes yet stucked to the any single pattern of teaching. It will be really helpful in case of engagement of students, flexibility in learning and also good command over digital technologies.

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