



A study to assess the preferences regarding online classes during Covid-19 among students studying at selected colleges of Haryana

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ABSTRACT

The covid 19 has changed the view of educational institutions regarding online classes, as now a day's students and teacher can convert the physical classes into online classes. To know the student's preference regarding online classes, we have conducted a descriptive cross-sectional study in which data was collected via online mode from 901 students enrolled in various colleges of Haryana irrespective of their stream. The data collection tool consists of knowledge questionnaire containing of 17 questions related to preferences. Purposive sampling technique was used in study. The study findings were like 68.30% of student's preferred online classes whereas 30.70% of participants preferred offline mode of teaching. The association of preference with demographic variables was calculated using chi-square test and 0.05 level of significance.

Keywords: Covid -19, online classes, preference, cross- sectional, knowledge questionnaire.

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INTRODUCTION

As the world becomes increasingly interconnected for something good, so do the risks we face. Covid-19 pandemic, has not refrain itself to the national borders but it affects the world in spite of the nationality, gender, level of education, income, race but yes can say hit the vulnerable people around the globe as elderly and people with comorbidities the most [1]. The global outbreak of Covid-19, makes countries to take extra precautions by maintaining the social gap, wearing face masks, frequently hand washing, avoiding social gatherings are few of them [2]. So, the education is not exempted, the educational institutes was shut as lockdown has been announced the much needed action to flatten the curve of transmission of infection where particularly face to face classes has been suspended to ensure the safety of school students which has disrupted the education especially in the medical colleges and schools where practical skills are the part of learning [3]. Globally, the countries are at different stages in their Covid-19 counts, around 1.2 billion children in 186 countries are affected by the school closures due to pandemic which provoked the managements of educational institutes to find the alternative solutions to this where they have shifted to online mode of teaching and learning to minimize the impact of lockdown on the academic activities. Currently, online mode of teaching is considered the most acceptable and feasible method of teaching the curriculum during this Covid-19 pandemic [3, 4]. Though there was a high usage of e-platform and the online market even before which is projected to reach up to \$350 billion by the year of 2025, but still there is significant surge of online platform whether it is a language app, virtual trainings and classes for the students from the covering of curriculum till the conducting of examination since Covid-19 [5].

Problem Statement

"A study to know the preferences regarding online classes among students studying at selected colleges of Haryana."

Objectives

1. To know the preferences regarding online classes among students studying at selected colleges of Haryana."
2. To find out the association of preferences regarding online classes among students with selected demographic variables studying at selected colleges of Haryana."

MATERIAL AND METHODS

1. **Research approach:** Quantitative Approach.
2. **Research design:** Descriptive cross-sectional design
3. **Population:** Students studying at colleges of Haryana.
4. **Sample:** Students studying at selected colleges of Haryana.
5. **Sampling technique:** - Purposive Sampling.
6. **Sample Size:** - 901

Inclusion criteria

The study will include the students who:

- Gives consent to participate in study.
- Understands and read English.

Tool description

1. Demographic variable Performa including age, gender, marital status, type of residence, type of family, family income per months, course name, year of study, type of gadget used to attend online classes and type of internet connection.
2. Preferences questionnaire regarding online Classes

Data collection techniques: Data is collected through online mode by google form.

Ethical clearance

- Ethical approval to conduct the study is obtained from the institutional ethical committee of SGT University Gurugram, Haryana.

Statistical Analysis**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

TABLE 1: Frequency and Percentage Distribution of students regarding online classes during covid-19 Based on Demographic Variables N=901

	Sample Characteristic	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1.	Age (in years)		
1.1	17-20	445	49.4
1.2	21-24	400	44.4
1.3	24 above	056	6.2
2	Gender		
2.1	Female	507	56.3
2.2	Male	394	43.7
3	Marital status		
3.1	Married	35	3.9
3.2	Unmarried	866	96.1
4.	Type of residence		
4.1	Urban	480	53.3
4.2	Rural	421	46.7
5.	Type of Family		
5.1	Nuclear	636	70.6
5.2	Joint	265	29.4
6.	Family income per month (in rupees)		
6.1	< 10,000/-	213	23.6
6.2	10,00-30,000/-	365	40.5
6.3	30,001-60,000-	197	21.9
6.4	60001 and above	126	14
7.	Course Name		
7.1	Nursing	463	51.4
7.2	BCA	105	11.7
		37	4.2

7.3	Pharmacy	117	12.9
7.4	MBA	53	5.8
7.5	M.Sc.	73	8.1
7.6	B.Tec.	53	5.9
7.7	B.Sc		
8.	Year of study	442	49
8.1	1 st Year	188	20.8
8.2	2 nd Year	173	19.3
8.3	3 rd Year	98	10.9
8.4	4 th Year		
9.	Type of Gadget	797	88.5
9.1	Smart Phone	94	10.4
9.2	Laptop / Desktop	10	1.1
9.3	Tablet		
10.	Type of Internet Connection	673	74.7
10.1	Cellular data	228	25.3
10.2	Wi-Fi		
11	Have you ever attended online classes before pandemic?		
11.1	Yes	332	36.8
11.2	No	569	63.2

Table 1 describes the demographic variables included age, gender, marital status, type of residence, type of family, family income per month, course of study, year of study, type of gadget for online classes, type of internet connection and whether attended online classes before pandemic. The majority of students belongs to 17–20-year age group 445 (49.4%) There were more female respondents 507(56.3%) than male respondents 394(43.7%). 866 (96.1%) students were unmarried. Majority of the respondents were belonging to urban background 480 (53.3%) whereas 421 (46.7%) were from rural area. Most of respondents belong to nuclear family 636 (70.6%) whereas 265 (29.4%) were from joint family. Majority of respondents' family income 365 (40.5%) was 10000-30000 per month. Most of the respondents were from nursing course 463 (51.4%) and 37 (4.2%) belongs to pharmacy course. Majority of students were in 1st year 442 (49.0%). 797 (88.5%) were using smart phone to attend online classes by using cellular data 673 (74.7%). 569 (63.2%) students have not attended online classes before pandemic.

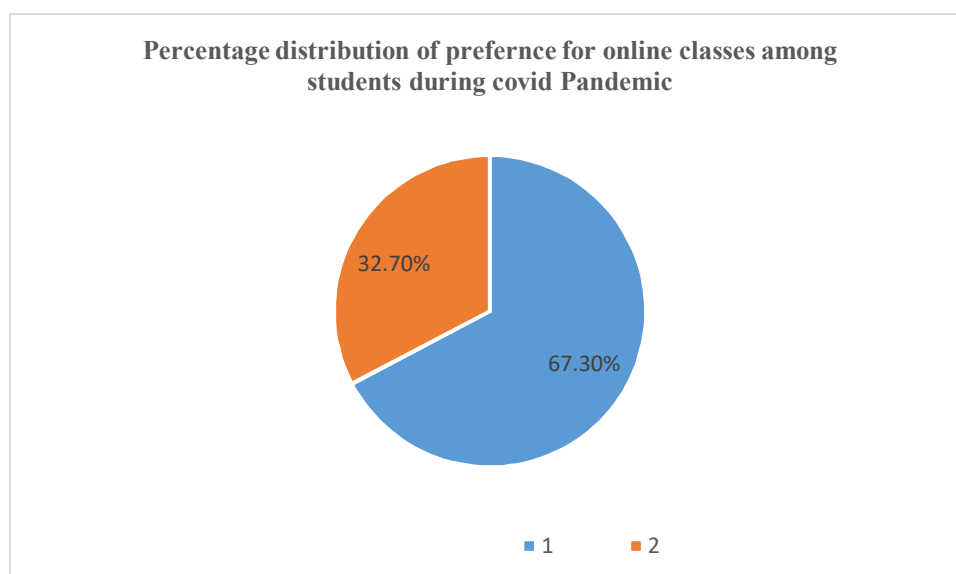


Figure 1 depicting the preference of students for online classes. N = 901

Above pie chart depicts the percentage of preference of students for online classes during COVID pandemic. It was found that (67.30%) of students prefer online classes over offline classes during pandemic. Only (32.70%) participants prefer offline classes during pandemic.

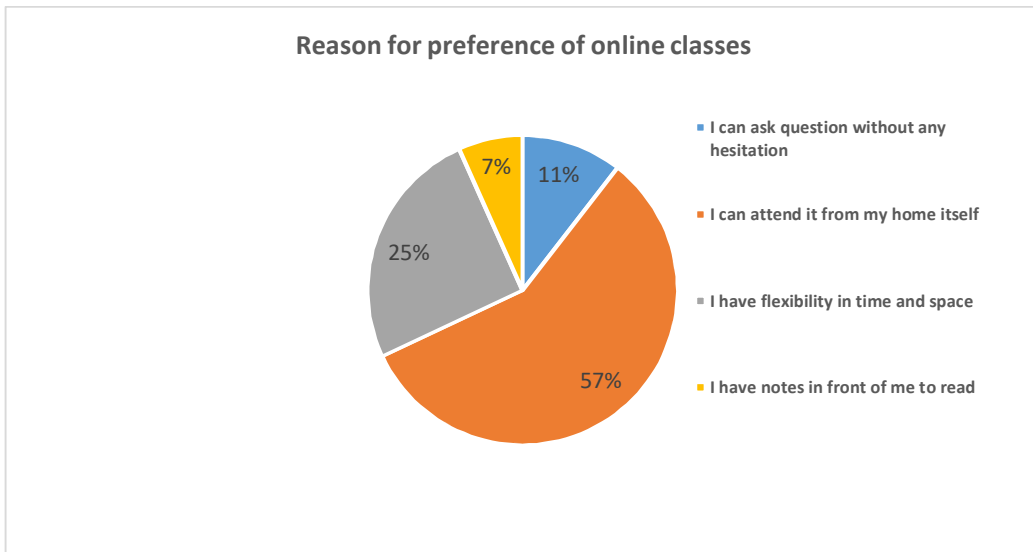


Figure 2: Showing reason for preference of online classes. N=901

Pie Chart depicting reason for preference of online classes. The major data (57%) shows that they can attend classes from their home itself. the second preferred answer (25%) tells that the student gets flexibility in time and space. (11%) study samples give the reason to opt online classes as they can ask questions without any hesitation and only (7%) study participants say that they have notes in front to read during online classes.

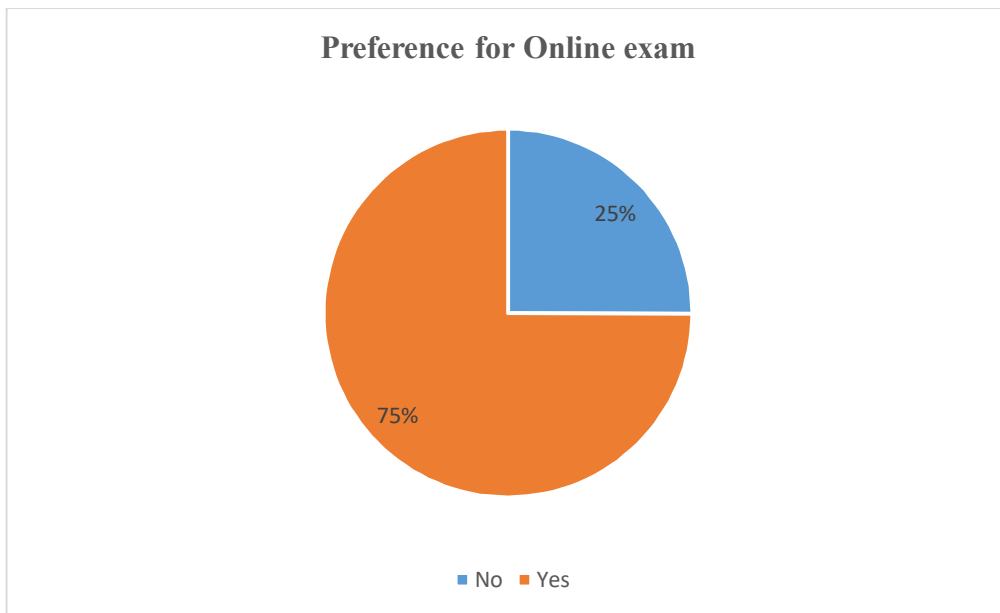


Figure 3 depicting preference for online examination. N = 901

Above Pie chart showing students preference for online or offline examination. The calculated data shows that out of 901 study participants (74.9%) of study participants preferred online examination a evaluation and only (25.1%) of students preferred offline examination i.e. to be conducted in university physically.

Table 2: Association between the selected demographic data with preference for online classes during COVID Pandemic among students studying in various colleges of Haryana. N = 901

S No.	Variables	Options	Preference for online classes		Chi-Square	Df	Asymp. Sig. (Significance Value) /P-value
			YES	NO			
1	Age	17-20	304	141	4.862	2	.088
		21-24	258	142			
		24 and above	44	12			
2	Gender	Male	269	125	.328	1	.308
		Female	337	170			
3	Marital status	Married	29	6	4.023	1	.045
		Unmarried	577	289			
4	Type of residence	Urban	320	160	.163	1	.370
		Rural	286	135			
5	Types of family	Nuclear	423	213	.551	1	.254
		joint	183	82			
6	Family income	Below 10,000per month	146	67	.942	3	.815
		10,000-30,000per month	247	118			
		31,001-60,000per month	127	70			
		Above 60,000 per month	86	40			
7	Course of study	Nursing	324	139	12.149	6	.059
		BCA	79	26			
		Pharmacy	23	14			
		MBA	67	50			
		M.Sc.	33	20			
		B.Tec.	48	25			
		B.Sc.	32	21			
9	Year of study	1 st Year	258	125	5.463	5	.362
		2 nd year	152	69			
		3 rd year	116	54			
		4 th year	80	47			
11	Type of gadget for online classes	Smart phone	528	269	3.325	2	.19
		Laptop/despot	71	23			
		Tablet	7	3			
12	Type of internet connection	Wifi	166	62	4.267	1	.023
		Cellular data	440	233			
13	Attended online classes before pandemic	Yes	264	68	35.880	1	.000
		No	342	227			

P value less than 0.05 is significant.

In above table marital status, type of internet connection and attended online classes before pandemic are significantly associated with preferences regarding online classes during covid pandemic and the rest are non- significant.

The main objective of this research study was to know the preferences of students regarding online classes during covid 19 pandemic.

Majority of participants preferred online classes over offline classes during pandemic. The data showed that (67.30%) of students prefer online classes whereas (32.70%) students prefer offline classes during pandemic. If we talk about the reason of preferences of online classes, there are many factors which

students have been opted. (57%) students give the reason that they can attend classes from their home itself. Another (25%) tells that they get flexibility in time and space in case of online classes. (11%) study samples give the reason to opt online classes as they can ask questions without any hesitation and only (7%) study participants say that they have notes in front to read during online classes. If I talk about the online exam the calculated data shows that out of 901 study participants (74.9%) of study participants preferred online examination as evaluation and only (25.1%) of students preferred offline examination i.e., to be conducted in university physically. Second objective was to find out the association of preference with selected demographic variables. The analysed results shows that only marital status, type of internet connection and attended online classes before pandemic are significantly associated with preferences regarding online classes during covid pandemic. The rest variables such as age, gender, type of residence, type of family, family income, course of study, year of study and type of gadget for online classes are non-significant in the study. The significance level was calculated at 0.05 using chi-square test. Overall, in this changing era students are preferring online teaching mode as compared to physical classes.

SUMMARY

The covid pandemic has shown its impact on each and everything including educational institutions, schools, and colleges across the globe. But it's true that life cannot stop due to these problems, human beings have alternatives for everything. For instance, we have seen the shifting of offline classes to online mode to catch the curriculum at various educational institutions all over the world. We cannot waste the precious time of students as they are future representatives. Hence in this research study we tried to know the preferences of students for online classes and the findings we have seen, a greater number of students are preferring online teaching mode in contrast to physical mode due to many factors mentioned above.

LIMITATIONS OF STUDY

The study was conducted in Haryana state only which could be done at large scale across India to give the more interesting results. Another we have limited our study to preference of students regarding online classes where other parameters could be added such as perception, attitude and effectiveness of online classes as compared to offline classes.

CONCLUSION

During Covid 19, the preferred method of teaching in educational institutions is through online mode convenient both for teachers and students to cover the curriculum. The evaluation can also be conducted through online mode using various tools. Teacher has to prepare the teaching material in good way and convey the same very effectively. Hence the online mode can effectively be implemented by universities, colleges and schools whenever required.

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