The Impact Of Blooming E- Learning Courses During The Lockdown

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Abstract:

This study involves the impact of online education during the lockdown period. There are some primary factors which should be noticed about the students all over the country, as this lockdown should not be a barrier to them in learning further. This lockdown has made the working professionals also to learn new technologies and helped them to learn with the flow. Education is a treasure which can be shared to any number of people. This is not going to be decomposed in any situation. E- Learning in this scenario had paved a way for the students to learn things from remote places. Thus this study focuses on the enhancement of the education, Self-learning, Learning with the flow, etc.

Keywords: E- learning, Self- Learning, Skill development, learning with the flow.

Introduction:

Storms can hit the ocean but ocean never disappears because of the storms likewise this COVID19 lockdown had surprisingly paved a new way in making learning an affordable asset to students and learners.

In India till today (19th May 2020) there are many rising cases of COVID19. Doctors and healthcare workers are making their best to struggle the war against the virus, whereas on the other hand educational institutions and many online learning portals had offered the courses for free and easily accessible. Thus it is an opportunity for the students as well as the working professionals to accelerate their level of knowledge and learn new technologies and theories. This study holds various perspectives of the students and the learners engaged in E-learning. It is about their behavior compared with the physical classes, the duration of time they are willing to spend their time in E-learning and also how much knowledge they can be able to deliver with the skills enhanced with the courses and classes through E-learning.

Objectives:

- ❖ To find the impact level of embracing technology.
- ❖ To analyze the commitment level towards Self-learning.

❖ To measure the interest levels of students and other learners such as working professionals.

❖ To gauge the knowledge enhancement through online learning platform.

❖ To find the amount of duration which can be spent through E-learning?

Literature Review:

"There is always a change in the change". To brief my statement- The lockdown due to COVID19 had bought the whole world to shut the offices, educational institutions, factories, transportation, etc. Thus what will be the challenges which are faced by the education sector in order to cope up with the current situation? The answer is obviously yes. Most of the educational institutions had found a dramatic change in their teaching process through E-learning.

Most of the suggestions from the Researchers are stating that E-learning has been introduced to multiply the retention of information, they consume less time can be accessed at anytime and anywhere.

From a research from WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM it is said that currently, worldwide there are 1.2billion children in 186 countries who are affected by this world wide lockdown on being closing of schools and educational institutions. Thus comparing the current scenario most of the teaching professionals had taken up online classes as the supportive platform in inculcating education. These are all the possible ways of conducting an e-learning class:

- Virtual tutoring
- Online learning software (like BYJU'S and VEDANTU)
- Video conferencing
  In India and other countries to be supportive towards the student some of the online learning portals are offering free access to their courses. In which some of the E-learning platforms are Lark, Alibaba Cloud, Byju's, Vedanta, Bite size Daily, Google classroom, etc.
  There are nearly 1.2 billion learners approximately between Feb 25th to March 23rd 2020 (Source from UNESCO).
  In India they are around 1.6 billion online learners according to the study done by eduxpert.in (in the year 2016) .Approximately 48% population in India between 15–40 age groups with high hopes but lower income is a respectable target market for online education. It is also estimated that it will be 175% increase in the cost of classroom education compared to which online education is preferred. The increase in the number of enrollment in these online courses clearly shows the future potential of India in the field of education. If we compare few decades back there were no such advanced development in the field of online education but by this time people had started accepting that online education is also a platform where they can learn many things. Comparing students with

the other working professionals, students are mostly interested in programming, machine learning and other technological tools and other working professionals mostly prefer online education only when they are in need of enhancing their skills.

Research Methodology :

In this article I had done a research with 30 respondents from Tamilnadu and neighboring states which includes students as well as working professionals. The survey was taken by using questionnaire using Google forms and distributed through links in social apps.

Findings:

Anyhow in India assumptions were that a certificate only holds the recognition than the skill level but in my study it has been found that 83.3% of the students are interested in online education only for Skill development, Self- learning, updating with technology and only 16.66% of the learners are seeking e-learning for certification. Thus this is actually a good sign for our country to be a potential nation in the field of education.

Reasons	Count of Reasons for doing online courses
Improving skills	40%
For Certification	16.66%
Self- Learning	20%
Updating with technology	23.33%
Grand Total	**100%**
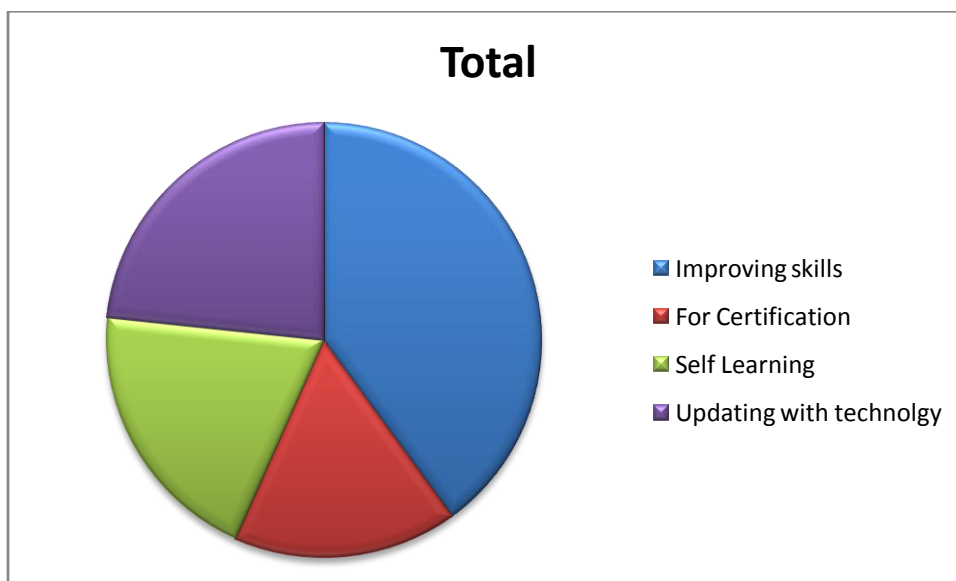
Thus in this pie chart it can be noted that gradually the self-learning characters are being 20% thus it is a good sign of improving themselves as an individual to learn things by themselves. Improving skills and updating with technology is also in high numbers in India.

❖ Measuring the interest levels of the E-learners:

| Statement	Count of respondents
Learning is not affected by lockdown	36.66%
Learning is affected by lockdown	20%
partially affected	43.33%
Grand Total	**100%**
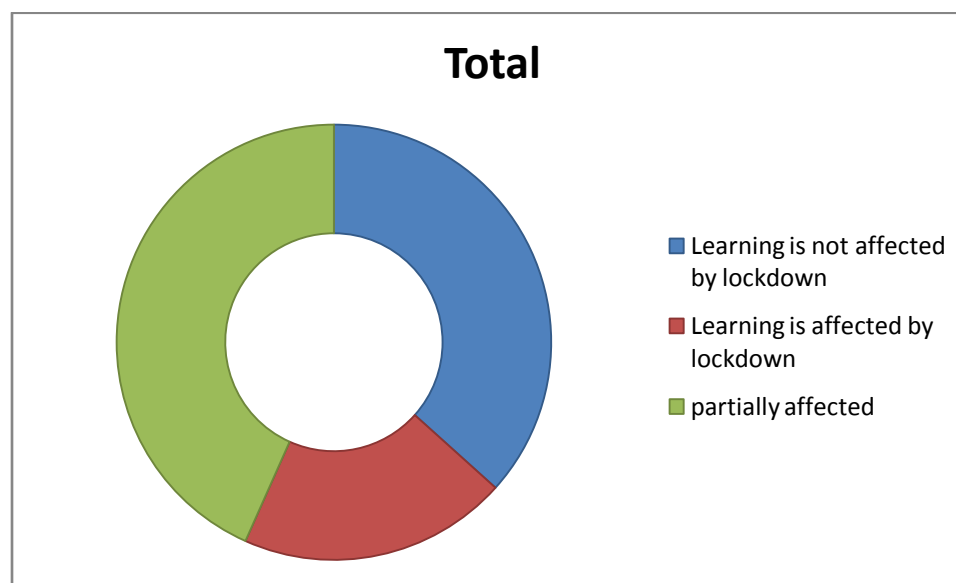
Thus from this chart it can be assumed that most of the learners are interested in learning new things, improving their skill in some courses like machine learning, Software development, management skills, communication skills and also in some of the courses for UPSC and other government examinations. Some of the portals are Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) are flattering more prevalent in higher education - SWAYAM, NPTEL, Coursera, edX, etc.

❖ To gauge the knowledge enhancement through online learning platform.

In order to judge the knowledge level which is enhanced through online education it is very difficult to identify because we may be able to find out the answers are drawn from online or offline learning in an assessment. Thus better is to ask the individuals about their capability in

understanding online better or offline better. I asked each individual to rate their knowledge they obtained through E-learning platform compared to the physical classes and these were the results:

Rating level	count of respondents in percentage	
1	4	13.3%
2	7	23.3%
3	11	36.6%
4	6	20%
5	2	6.6%
Grand Total	30	100%
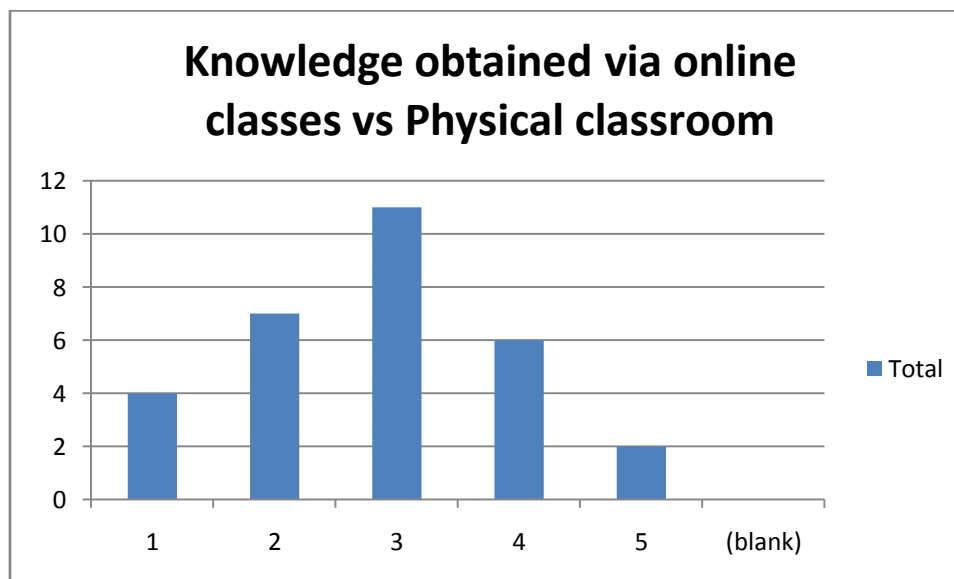
Thus from this graph we can conclude that nearly 63.3337% of the students and learners had opted for the rating of moderate (rating 3) and above moderate which shows that E-learning platforms are equally important as of a physical classroom. But there are always challenges in many cases, though E-learning platforms are useful and they can be accessed from anywhere and anytime but some people cannot even access the internet properly due to following reasons:

I.   Improper network connection
II.   Fraudulent Online courses
III. Expensive fees

Though these are the challenges our country had induced the level of commitment through conducting government online coaching classes like SWAYAM and NPTEL.

❖ To find the amount of duration which can be spent through E-learning?

As mentioned in the above case there are always challenges in learning online. How many hours or minutes an individual can concentrate in online learning for one day. Let us look into the results:

Duration	Count of Duration of concentration(Online classes)
5-10mins	3.333333%
15-30mins	16.66667%
30mins-1hr	20%
1-2hrs	43.33333%
3-4hrs	16.66667%
Grand Total	100%
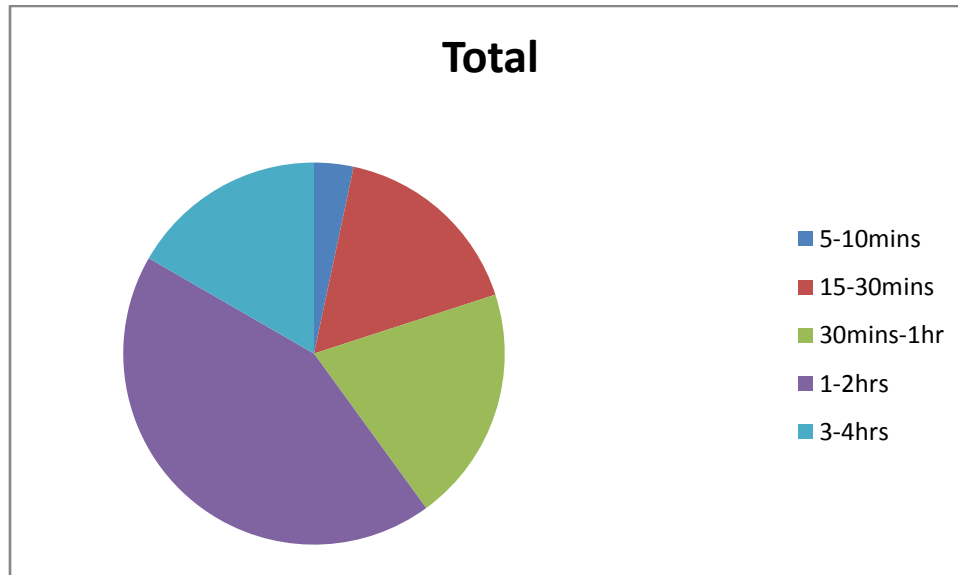
Thus from this pie chart we can find that most number of learners can concentrate only for 1-2 hours of online classes or E-learning classes in a day. Thus it is very important to find the duration of concentration as the lessons which are learnt should be meaningful to them. Long lectures are not important where as effective lecture for 1-2hours will increase the level of

concentration and also the interest for the following subject. These results are obtained from the demography range of 15-30years.

The comfort level is also judged according to the duration that how comfortable the learners are to interact with their teachers and tutors the obtained result about the behavior of the learners mostly say that they are neither comfortable nor uncomfortable (43.33%) these learners where the one who preferred class concentration duration as 30mins to 1hour.

Conclusion:

➢ From this study it was evident that online learning platforms had paved a greater hand in continuing education without disruption with the help of E-learning.

➢ During this lockdown it is evident that most of the learners had opted for online courses to enhance their skill and also a main factor self-learning has been inculcated in their behavior.

➢ When compared with the physical class room vs. online classroom most of them nearly 83.33% of the students opted for Physical classroom.

➢ The knowledge level doesn't have a great difference between the online classes and the physical classes.

➢ When the duration of time of learning hour is minimized the concentration level is increased.

➢ Most of the students and learners are very conscious about updating their skills in technology.

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