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## Parents' perception about Online Learning in Covid-19 Pandemic

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**Dr. Kirti Dakshesh Thakar**

Associate Professor, Education Department, Veer Narmad South Gujarat University-Surat

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### ABSTRACT

The newly discovered infectious disease called Covid-19 caused by a Corona Virus (SARS-CoV-2) shivered the entire world. We know that it is declared as a pandemic by the WHO- World Health Organization. In this situation whole education system across the world is changed and it forced educators to shift to an online mode of teaching overnight. In India Educational institutions are based on traditional methods of learning, it is face-to-face teaching in a classroom. Due to pandemic all education institutes have no option but to shift entirely to online teaching-learning. The present study was therefore designed to study the parent's perspective and attitudes about online classes being conducted at the school level. An Observational, Descriptive study was conducted. The data was collected using a Questionnaire. The present study was carried out amongst 100 parents. After analyzing the results, it was found that students like studying through online classes. The reason for liking was found as flexible study time and comfortable place. As the parents are not in favor of online classes, such classes must be continued with some interventions and innovation.

**Keywords:** *Corona virus, COVID-19, Education, Online Learning, Educational Technology*

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### Introduction:

The transmittable disease Corona Virus known as Covid-19 has deeply affected the global economy. This situation has also shaken up the whole education system. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic many schools and colleges have to remain closed temporarily. Several areas are affected in the world and there is a fear of losing this ongoing year for education. Various schools, colleges, and universities have discontinued off line teaching. Educational institutes are struggling to find options to deal with this challenging situation and now they have started online teaching learning process.

Many issues are associated with online learning. Its Accessibility, affordability, flexibility and learning pedagogy are some of the issues related to online pedagogy. Online learning is easily accessible for students and it can reach to rural and remote areas also. It is relatively cheaper in comparison with the cost of uniforms, bags, transportation, accommodation, and the overall cost of institution-based learning. It is flexibility so learner can learn anytime and anywhere, thereby developing new skills in the process leading to life-long learning. The government also recognizes the increasing importance of online learning in this pandemic time.

At this time of crisis, it becomes challenging to keep the education continuous and unaffected due to this Corona-19 pandemic. Educational institutions are not much capable to transform all of their curricula into and online resource overnight. There are different challenges for on line teaching learning such as Distance, scale, and personalized teaching and learning. Liguori & Winkler[1] noted that Innovative solutions by institutions can only help us deal with this pandemic. Basilaia et al., [2] noted that there is a requirement of a quick shift to online learning mode. It can be used as an alternative for face-to-face classes in the educational institute. Lederman [3] noted that due to the COVID-19 crisis teachers and students both find themselves in the situation where they felt compelled to embrace the digital academic experience of the online teaching-learning process.

The institutes have been shut down, but teachers and professors are busy working from home, preparing their study material for students so teaching-learning process. They are working hard and are available online for students in order to reduce the hardship and disruption being caused to the students due to the Covid 19 pandemic.

### Online learning:

Online learning is defined as “learning experiences in synchronous or asynchronous environments using different devices (e.g., mobile phones, laptops, etc.) with internet access. In these environments, students can be anywhere (independent) to learn and interact with instructors and other students.” [4] We can term online learning as a tool that can make the teaching-learning process more student-centered, more innovative, and even more flexible.

### Rational of the study:

Martinez[5] noted that as the COVID-19 pandemic spreads, there has been an increasing move towards teaching online because of shutting down of schools, colleges and universities for an indefinite time as the only option left. Lederman [3] justly stated that due to the COVID-19 crisis teachers and students both find themselves in the situation where they felt compelled to embrace the digital academic experience as the summum bonum of the online teaching-learning process.

### Objectives:

1. To study about online platform used for the online classes in primary school during Covid-19 pandemic.
2. To study the perceptions of parents regarding advantages and limitations of online classes during Covid-19 pandemic.

### Methodology:

An observational, descriptive study was conducted. It was based on a questionnaire which was constructed by researcher. The questionnaire was in the form of Google doc. Its link was sent to the parents through WhatsApp.

Snowball sampling technique was used to select sample for data collection. A total of 100 parents participated in the research study. In present research only those parents were included whose children were studying in the English medium primary school only.

**Data Analysis:**

**Online platforms that support live-video communication for teaching**

There are some free online platforms which can be used for teaching learning. Parents gave following response about online platform.

**Table-1:** Online platform used by school teachers

No	Online platform	Numbers of parents	Numbers of parents(percentage)
1	zoom	35	35%
2	Google meet	39	39%
3	Skype	04	4%
4	Facebook live	05	5%
5	You tube live	05	5%
6	Uber Conference	00	00
7	FreeConference	00	00
8	Lark	00	00
9	Dingtalk	00	00
10	Teams	12	12%
11	True Conf Online	00	00
12	Slack Video Calls	00	00
13	Lifesize Go	00	00

From table -1we can read that school teachers were using different online platform for their online teaching. 35 parents said that teachers were using Zoom which is cloud platform for video - audio conferencing and webinars. 40 parents replied that school teacher take their classes on Google Meet, in which Video calls, integrated with other Google’s G-Suite tools. 12 parents responded that teachers use Teams, in which chat, meet, call and collaboration features integrated with Microsoft Office software. 4 parents said about using of Skype, which include Video and audio calls with talk, chat and collaboration features. 5 parents replied that teachers use Facebook live and YouTube live.

**Advantages of online classes**

Parents expressed benefits of online classes taken by school teachers.

**Table-2:** According to the parents’ perspectives advantages of online classes

No	Advantages of online classes	Numbers of parents	Numbers of parents (percentage)
1	Use of less paper	60	60%
2	Money saving	55	55%
3	Time saving	85	85%
4	Quick access to source of information	52	52%
5	Wide source of information	60	60%
6	Study anywhere	89	89%

7	Recorded lecture can be access anytime	39	39%
8	All relevant information in one place	65	65%
9	Interactivity gets a boost	72	72%
10	Student centered learning	69	69%

Parents say that learning through online lecture sessions has a lot of advantages over traditional classroom learning. They gave answer regarding its benefits as it involves the use of less paper, and it involves saving time with easy and quick access to a wide source of information, it also saves time for traveling, student can study anywhere and at any time he wants with a few exceptions.

**Limitations of online classes**

Parents gave their point of view about limitation of online classes taken by school teachers.

**Table-3:** According to the parents’ perspectives limitation of online classes

No	Limitations of online classes	Numbers of parents	Numbers of parents (percentage)
1	Unable to teach skills	85	85%
2	Lack of student feedback	61	61%
3	Limited attention span	89	89%
4	Lack of attentiveness	79	79%
5	Resource intensive	86	86%
6	Lack of discipline	82	82%
7	Time consuming for parents	85	85%
8	Internet connectivity must	89	89%
9	Poor assessment of outcome	63	63%
10	Latest gadgets needed	75	75%

From table 3 we can read that parents gave their feedback about the limitation of online classes. Parents say that online classes have many limitations. Skill needs hands on training; online classes are not useful for it. Teacher cannot get students feedback whether they are understanding or not. Students lose their concentration so attention span is limited. Students get recorded lectures so there is lack of attentiveness among them. Students do not have latest gadgets so they have to buy them for online classes. There is no teacher’s control in online classes so these is some problem by student’s misbehave during classes.

**Parents’ suggestions**

Parents gave following suggestions for making online classes more effective.

**Table-4: Parents' Suggestions for online classes**

No	Suggestions for online classes	Numbers of parents	Numbers of parents (percentage)
1	Monitor students' behavior during online classes	89	89%
2	Use high speed internet connectivity	66	66%
3	institutions should provide free internet and free digital gadgets to all students	36	36%
4	Training of teachers for online classes	69	69%
5	Time duration of online classes should be less	58	58%

Parents suggest some useful steps for smooth functioning of online classes. Many parents suggested that teachers should monitor students' behavior while conducting online classes. High internet speed is very essential for effective online classes. They gave suggestion for teacher training also. Few parents suggested that educational institutions should provide free internet and free digital gadgets to all learners in order to encourage online classes.

#### **Findings**

School teachers were using different online platform for their online teaching. Such as Zoom, Google Meet, Teams, Skype, Facebook live and YouTube live. Parents say that online classes have many advantages. Such as use of less paper, time and money savings and quick access to a wide source of information. Parents face many challenges while online classes going on during covid-19 pandemic. They have to manage their children activities and to make them engage in online classes. In offline mode children go to school so parents can be more relaxed but in online classes they may be busier. They have to give more effort to make

their children participate in teaching learning process in online classes. Parents said about limitations of online classes. Such as for Skill development it is not useful. Students' attention may be low and they may not be concentrate well.

#### **Conclusions:**

The present study revealed that primary school teachers uses different online platform for their classes. Many parents are in favor of studying online class. It is the most common method of teaching adopted during the Covid-19 pandemic. Teachers utilize various applications of the internet during online classes to distribute classroom materials. For effective online classes necessary steps must be taken and train all teachers. Schools should provide free internet and free digital gadgets to all students in order to encourage online learning.

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