



## Post graduate students' perception of online classes during the covid-19 pandemic

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### Abstract

The subject of my research is to investigate the post graduate students' perception of online classes during the COVID-19 pandemic. The three purposes for which I have studied are – to study the perception of post graduate students towards online classes during the COVID-19 pandemic, to study the difference in perception of post graduate students towards online classes during the COVID-19 pandemic with regard to gender, to study the difference in perception of post graduate students towards online classes during the COVID-19 pandemic with regard to locality. The quantitative research method has been used for the study. The results I obtained through the questionnaire are- there is no significant difference in perception towards online classes between male and female post graduate students during the COVID-19 pandemic. And there is no significant difference in perception towards online classes between rural and urban post graduate students during the COVID-19 pandemic. The perception of most students is not effective for the development of Knowledge, Critical thinking and Social Competences of the students in Online Class. But the perception of most students is effective for the development of Knowledge, Critical thinking and Social Competences of Traditional face to face Class students. 14.3% of students are Extremely Unenjoyable, 18.6% of students are Very Unenjoyable, 45.7% of students are Somewhat Enjoyable, 15.7% of students are Very Enjoyable and 5.7% of students are Extremely Enjoyable with the thought that they have enjoyed the Online Classes during Pandemic.

**Keywords:** perception, online class, covid-19 pandemic and post graduate student

### Introduction

The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted teaching in different types of institutions. In maximum countries, including India, typical face to face classes had to be suspended to ensure the safety of students, professors and non-teaching staffs. Since being declared a global pandemic by World Health Organization, there has been great concern in all circles and levels of society. This has an impact on changing attitudes and behavior of patterns in society, including the enthusiasm for teaching. Due to the widespread of COVID-19, the government regulated online learning from primary to university level. Online classes are also referred to as e-learning, is the use of modern information and communication technology (ICT) to convey instruction, information and teaching content using internet. With online education, students can turn anywhere with Internet access and electricity into a classroom. It can include audio, video, text, animations, virtual training environments and live chats with professors. It's a rich learning environment with much more flexibility than a traditional classroom (www.indiaeducation.net). An online class is a course conducted over the Internet. They are generally conducted through a learning management system, in which students can view their course syllabus and academic progress, as well as communicate with fellow students and their course instructor. Online classes are generally self-paced, allowing for greater flexibility in completing coursework (tophat.com).

### Research objectives of the study

The objectives of the present study are

1. To study the perception of post graduate students towards online classes during the COVID-19 pandemic.

2. To study the difference in perception of post graduate students towards online classes during the COVID-19 pandemic with regard to gender.
3. To study the difference in perception of post graduate students towards online classes during the COVID-19 pandemic with regard to locality.

### Hypothesis

In order to test the objectives, the following hypothesis were formulated

**Ho1:** There is no significant difference in perception towards online classes between male and female post graduate students during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Ho2:** There is no significant difference in perception towards online classes between rural and urban post graduate students during the COVID-19 pandemic.

### Methodology

A brief description of the methodology of the study has been presented below:

### Research Design

Quantitative research method has been used for the study on the post graduate students' perception of online classes during the COVID-19 pandemic.

### Tools

The questionnaire was developed by Baczek, M, Baczek, M.Z, Szpringer, M, Jaroszynski, A and Kaplon, B.W. (Baczek et al. Medicine 2021). The questionnaire consisted of 4 parts.

**Population**

The population of the study is all post graduate students in State of West Bengal.

**Sample**

The total number of sample is 70 post graduate students.

**Sampling Techniques**

The study can be followed by Probability sampling – Simple Random Sampling Technique.

**Delimitation of the study**

The major limitations of the study are

1. This research will be conducted with 70 numbers of post graduate students.
2. This research is delimited with in the area in the State of West Bengal.
3. This research will be conducted with these variables Perception, Gender and Area.

**Significance of the Study**

1. This research can be applied to know the perception of post graduate students regarding online classes at COVID-19 pandemic.
2. This study can be applied to know the perception of rural post graduate students regarding online classes at COVID-19 pandemic.
3. This study can be applied to know the perception of urban post graduate students regarding online classes at COVID-19 pandemic.
4. This study can be applied to know the perception of male post graduate students regarding online classes at COVID-19 pandemic.
5. This study can be applied to know the perception of female post graduate students regarding online classes at COVID-19 pandemic.

**Data analysis**

**Advantages of Online Classes**

The most frequent advantages of Online Classes chosen by

respondents were the ability to record a meeting (38.6%), ability to stay at home (62.9%), access to online materials (65.7%), learning on your own pace (45.7%), classes interactivity (21.4%) and comfortable surrounding (24.3%).

**Disadvantages of Online Classes**

The most frequent disadvantages of Online Classes chosen by respondents were the reducing of interaction with the teacher (65.7%), technical problems (85.7%), lack of interactions with classmates (68.6%), poor learning conditions at home (38.6%), lack of self-discipline (35.7%) and social isolation (40%).

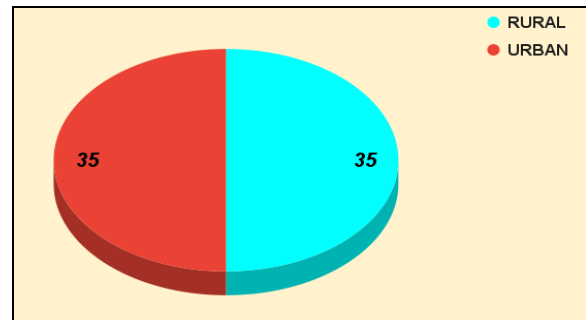


Fig 1: Distribution of Samples: Geographical area basis

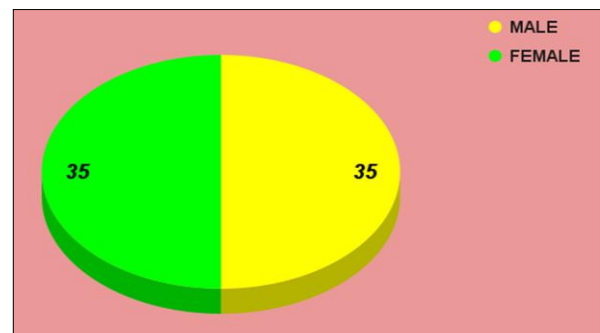


Fig 2: Distribution of samples: Gender basis

Table 1: Data analysis for Ho1: Analysis of the result by using The Maan Whitney ‘U’ Test.

The Maan – Whitney ‘U’ Test			
	Male		Female
N =	35		35
Sum of R =	1394		1091
U =	461		764
Z =			- 0.73
0.05 Critical Value (Two – tail)			1.96
0.01 Critical Value (Two – tail)			2.58
Ho1: Result – Null Hypothesis is Accepted at the 5% and 1% levels.			

The ‘Z’ value is -0.73. The table values should be  $Z_{0.05} = 1.96$  and  $Z_{0.01} = 2.58$  as per table-1. Whereas, the present Z-value is -0.73, which does not exceed the table value of ‘Z’ at both levels of the significance. The hypothesis “

Ho1: There is no significant difference in perception towards online classes between male and female post

graduate students during the COVID-19 pandemic.” Is accepted.

Table 2: Data analysis for Ho2: Analysis of the result by using The Maan Whitney ‘U’ Test.

The Maan – Whitney ‘U’ Test			
	Rural		Urban
N =	35		35
Sum of R =	1213.5		1271.5
U =	641.5		583.5
Z =			0.14
0.05 Critical Value (Two – tail)			1.96

0.01 Critical Value (Two – tail)		2.58	
Ho2: Result – Null hypothesis is Accepted at the 5% and 1% levels.			

The 'Z' value is 0.14. The table values should be  $Z_{0.05} = 1.96$  and  $Z_{0.01} = 2.58$  as per table-2. Whereas, the present Z-value is 0.14, which does not exceed the table value of 'Z' at both levels of the significance. The hypothesis “

**Ho2:** There is no significant difference in perception towards online classes between rural and urban post graduate students during the COVID-19 pandemic.” is accepted.

### Interpretation and Discussion

1. IT Skills of 4.3% of students are 'High', IT Skills of 87.1% of students are 'Moderate' and IT Skills of 8.6% of students are 'Low'.
2. 38.6% of students participated in online learning before COVID-19 pandemic but 61.4% of students did not participate in online learning before COVID-19 pandemic.
3. 12.9% of students are Extremely Ineffective, 14.3% of students are Very Ineffective, 40% of students are Somewhat Effective, 27.1% of students are Very Effective and 5.7% of students are Extremely Effective with the thought that there is the effectiveness of Online Classes about to increase the development of knowledge.
4. 15.7% of students are Extremely Ineffective, 15.7% of students are Very Ineffective, 48.6% of students are Somewhat Effective, 15.7% of students are Very Effective and 4.3% of students are Extremely Effective with the thought that there is the effectiveness of Online Class about to increase the critical thinking.
5. 14.3% of students are Extremely Ineffective, 20% of students are Very Ineffective, 31.4% of students are Somewhat Effective, 27.1% of students are Very Effective and 7.1% of students are Extremely Effective with the thought that there is the effectiveness of Online Class about to increase Social Competences.
6. 7.1% of students are Extremely Ineffective, 17.1% of students are Very Ineffective, 17.1% of students are Somewhat Effective, 28.6% of students are Very Effective and 30% of students are Extremely Effective with the thought that there is the effectiveness of traditional face to face classes about to increase the development of knowledge.
7. 10% of students are Extremely Ineffective, 11.4% of students are Very Ineffective, 20% of students are Somewhat Effective, 32.9% of students are Very Effective and 25.7% of students are Extremely Effective with the thought that there is the effectiveness of traditional face to face class about to increase the critical thinking.
8. 7.1% of students are Extremely Ineffective, 7.1% of students are Very Ineffective, 31.4% of students are Somewhat Effective, 25.7% of students are Very Effective and 28.6% of students are Extremely Effective with the thought that there is the effectiveness of traditional face to face class about to increase Social Competences.
9. 12.9% of students are Extremely Inactive, 21.4% of students are Very Inactive, 31.4% of students are Somewhat Active, 22.9% of students are Very Active and 11.4% of students are Extremely Active during Online classes.

10. 7.1% of students are Extremely Inactive, 10% of students are Very Inactive, 15.7% of students are Somewhat Active, 40% of students are Very Active and 27.1% of students are Extremely Active during traditional face to face classes.
11. 14.3% of students are Extremely Unenjoyable, 18.6% of students are Very Unenjoyable, 45.7% of students are Somewhat Enjoyable, 15.7% of students are Very Enjoyable and 5.7% of students are Extremely Enjoyable with the thought that they have enjoyed the Online Classes during Pandemic.

### Conclusion

Judging from all aspects, there is no significant difference in perception towards online classes between male and female post graduate students during the COVID-19 pandemic. And there is no significant difference in perception towards online classes between rural and urban post graduate students during the COVID-19 pandemic. The perception of most students is not effective for the development of Knowledge, Critical thinking and Social Competences of the students in Online Class. But the perception of most students is effective for the development of Knowledge, Critical thinking and Social Competences of Traditional face to face Class students. According to the perception of most students, the students are not more active in Online Class, but the students in Traditional face to face Class are most active. During COVID- 19 Pandemic very few students have enjoyed Online Class, most of students could not enjoy Online Class.

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