ONLINE VERSUS TRADITIONAL LEARNING: A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF STUDENTS PREPARING FOR COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION IN PUNE CTY

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ABSTRACT

India has a unique education system designed to uphold its nations culture, history, values and customs. The time is changing so are the ways of teaching and learning. An ongoing and important debate in the education community questions whether online learning is as effective as traditional classroom learning. Traditional education is good, we are not the machine we like to do different things along with studies, which digitally not possible. The traditional education system gives the opportunity to participate, shares, meet, involves, cooperate, learn etc. On the other hand, online coaching classes have gained immense popularity in the metropolitan cities of India in recent times. The city of Pune is considered to be the home of learning.it has emerged as a hotspot for competitive exams and preparations. Students from different villages, cities and countries come to Pune to prepare for competitive exams. The purpose of this research is to analyze which system of learning is more effective, offline or online as judge by the student's level of understanding. All the respondents are students of Pune city who are preparing for various competitive examinations.

KEYWORDS

Competitive exam, learning, Online coaching, opportunity, Traditional education

RESEARCH PAPER

Introduction

The Gurukul was India's first system of education. It was a residential schooling system dating back to around 5000 BC, where shisya (student) and guru (teacher) used to reside in the guru's ashram (home) or in close proximity. It's an undeniable fact that education in modern India is different from that of the "Gurukul." The curriculum is mostly taught in English or Hindi, computer technology and skill have been integrated into learning systems, and emphasis is more on the competitive examination and grades rather than moral, ethical and spiritual education. The modern school system was brought to India, originally by Lord Thomas Macaulay, in the 1830s.Now the education sector in India is not bound to just classrooms. Distance Learning in India was first introduced by Delhi University in 1962 through the School of Correspondence Courses and Continuing Education. The aim was to enable those who had the inclination and aptitude to acquire further knowledge and improve their professional competence. As technology developed, significant advancements were made and continue to be made in online education in India.Teaching in the 21st century is riddled with technology that brings the ability to offer students anytime anywhere performance possibilities for course work. But is this flexibility in an online delivery format as efficient as the traditional face to learning experience? As the trend towards online education intensifies it leaves in its wake a series of question that remain unanswered regarding overall efficiency of these courses. As a vast country with a significant population, India's biggest problem today is the competitive spirt among its citizens for exams. There is competition everywhere in India be it jobs, schools or higher education. Moreover, in the education sector, competition is neck to neck. Most of the students are going for a government job and preparing hard for competitive exams. The reason being the better career opportunities that can lead to better, more stable life.

Objectives of the study

- *To find out the various aspects of online learning.*
- *To find out various aspects of traditional learning.*
- *To gauge the expectations of the students from online as well as offline classes.*
- *Various sectors of economy use technology to enhance efficiency in their respective sectors it includes banking sector, insurance sector, etc. The study attempts to see if technology is playing a crucial role in the field of education or not. And how do the students of Pune city preparing for competitive exam think about the same.*
- *Many households can barely afford to pay for the education of their children, especially for additional coaching. In such situation which method of learning students use? The study will help to answer all these questions*

Hypothesis of the study

Ho: Students of Pune city preparing for competitive exam are satisfy with offline learning and prefer offline learning.

H1: Students of Pune city preparing for competitive exam are not satisfy with offline learning and prefer online learning.

Research Methodology
Research design
The research is comparative in nature. The data collection is done through primary and secondary sources. The simple random sampling is used for collecting data.
The secondary data collection sources included research organization reports, scholarly articles, university publications and newspaper articles.
Size of sample:
Usable responses are obtained from 50 respondents with help of questionnaire. The respondents are all the students who are preparing for competitive exam.
The analysis is done using Excel, coding and decoding, tables and percentage.

Review of literature
The review of literature shows opinions and works of various authors, who have worked in this area.
In December 2012, Dr. Adarsh Preet Mehta and Mrs. Ritu Mehta wrote a paper on "internet-based education in India: paradigm in contemporary learning'. The authors said that online education is providing opportunities to researchers, faculties, and students as a regulator to the educational institutes. In India, online education is already gaining popularity. The authors said that in the years to come, many more people would benefit from this increasing access of online education.
KM Upasana in 2014 and Sunita Gour, Archana Choudhary and Mithilesh Mittal (collectively) in 2015 wrote two papers. It is ground level study. The authors suggest online education as beneficial to all. Technology can improve the drawbacks of traditional education.
Economic view, January 19,2019 Online courses are harming the students who need the most help.
In 2017 Zahoor Ahmad Lone wrote a paper on Impact of online on India. The paper was published in IJESC journal. The paper talks about the rural India and digital education. Author said with the Digital India programmers' vision to transform India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy, the education sector in India is poised to witness major growth in the years to come.
In 2015, Dr. Urvesh Chaudhary and Dr. Satish Gill wrote a paper on "online education in India: Enhancing overall knowledge of the students". In the paper the author did the comparison between the traditional ways of education and the online education system with relation to the needs of students, and perception in Indian environment.
India has more than a million schools and other organizations for higher education. Various surveys show that Many organizations compete with each other when it comes to online education, in the form of distance learning. At the same time studies also show that students are more inclined towards classroom teaching than digital form of teaching.

Data analysis and Interpretation
Profile of selected respondents

Table 1		
Gender	count	percentage
1. Male	21	42
2.Female	29	58

3.Transgender	0	0
Total	100	100
Education	**count**	**percentage**
1.Below Graduate	6	12
2.Graduate	24	48
3.Post graduate	20	40
4.Professional	0	0
Total	50	100
Accommodation cost	**count**	**percentage**
1.20000 per annum	0	0
2.30000 per annum	1	2
3.40000 per annum	5	10
4.50000 per annum	10	20
5.More than 50000 per annum	34	68
total	50	100

From the above table indicates that 58% respondents were female and 42% were male respondents. Out of the 50 population samples 6 students were below graduation but still preparing for competitive exam, and it constitutes 12 percent of total samples.48% students were graduated, and 40% students were post graduated. None of the student was professional. Accommodation cost in Pune is also very high.68% students answered that their accommodation cost is more than 50000 per annum for 20% students the accommodation cost is 50000 per annum and for 10% students the accommodation cost is 40000 per annum.

Table 2		
Students from coaching institutions (offline)	**Count**	**percentage**
1.yes	29	58
2.no	21	42
Total	50	100
Amount spent on offline coaching classes	**Count**	**percentage**
1.50000 per annum	8	16
2.60000 per annum	5	10
3.70000 per annum	4	8
4.more than 70000	17	34
5.blank	16	32
Total	50	100
Online coaching costs only, a fraction of offline coaching classes	**Count**	**percentage**
1.strongly agree	21	42
2.agree	26	52
3.disagree	3	6
4.Strongly disagree	0	0
Total	50	100

Above table shows the classification of students based on whether they are from offline coaching institution or not and the amount spend by them on offline coaching classes. 58% students were from offline coaching classes.42% students were not from any offline coaching

class.34% students spend more than 70000 per annum on this offline coaching classes and all were from middle income group. which shows the tremendous sacrifice especially the middle-income households are willing to make to send their children for coaching classes. Majority of Students have given their opinion that the online coaching cost only a fraction of offline coaching classes.

Table 3		
Students' platform preference	**count**	**percentage**
1.Offline	17	34
2.Online	33	66
Total	50	100
online learning gives better result than traditional learning	**count**	**percentage**
1.strongly agree	17	34
2.agree	18	36
3.disagree	15	30
4.Strongly disagree	0	0
total	50	100
time saving and convenient option for exam preparation	**count**	**percentage**
1.onlne	41	82
2.offline	9	18
total	50	100

Above table shows the preference of students with respect to online and traditional platform of learning. Out of total 50 students 34% students preferred offline platform for preparation of competitive exam. 66% students preferred online platform as the best way for preparation. They have given various reasons behind joining online classes like easy accessibility, very low cost, faculty unable to complete syllabus, variety of sources available.36% students were of opinion that the online learning gives better result than traditional offline learning but 30% students were disagreed on it.41 students which constitutes 82 % said online learning is a time saving and convenient option for competitive exam preparation as they do not need to travel anywhere and study at their convenience. From the above analysis we can conclude that the students of Pune city preparing for various competitive exams prefer online learning than that of costly, traditional offline learning. Therefore, we reject the null hypothesis and accept the alternative hypothesis.

Conclusion

From the very early days of competitive exam preparation offline coaching centers have made tons of money by ripping off the average students. Even though some of the less popular coaching do good for students, there are big players in the market who keep luring the students with names of famous teachers and good course material. It has created the parallel economy. The cost of studying involved in an offline coaching is huge. This creates burdening pressure on students. Many offline teachers don't update themselves; they lack practical knowledge; this may create a vast gap between classroom education and real world. Online education enables the teacher and students to set their own learning pace, and there is the added flexibility of setting a schedule that fits everyone's agenda. As a result, using an online educational platform allows for a better balance of work and studies.

As per the NEP 2020, the government of India encourages an online mode of education and skill development.so we should accept for the new policy. The online mode of education is cost-effective compare to conventional learning. It reduces the cost for office and classroom setup, infrastructure expense.so we get quality education at lesser price. It can be proven by these days where a pandemic has taken place. Today almost every school, colleges, coaching centers is dependent on online classes. Moreover, students themselves are opting for online certificate courses to upgrade their skills. Now it is time of hour to promote online education system and government may provide education related electronic device, internet etc. to students free of cost to promote online education system. New young generation also wants to learn with new technology.it encourage young learners to study and make a new world.

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