Attitude Towards Virtual Learning During Pandemic Among Parents Of School Going Children

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Abstract

Attitude towards virtual learning during pandemic among parents of school going children. Conducted with objective of assessing the attitude and to find whether there is any association of demographic variable with attitude of parents.

Material and Methods

Non experimental descriptive research design was used to find out the attitude of parents towards virtual learning with assumption of that the parents may have some attitude towards virtual learning. Parents of children who were attending virtual learning was selected as sample. 200 samples were selected in that 100 mothers and 100 fathers were selected. Sample sizes were calculated by using power analysis. Validity of the tool was done by experts from the field including psychologist. Reliability of the tool obtained by using split half method, calculated r   were .82 which is more than .7 and tool found to be reliable. Ethical permission from institutional ethical committee .Consent from the sample was taken after explaining the purpose.   Maintained the confidentiality of the data by giving Code numbers to the data collection tool. Samples were selected by using Non probability convenient sampling method. Data collection tool had two sections .Section I contained demographic variables which included   age, gender, education and type of family. Section II had 4 point scale for assessing the attitude which had 24 statements with strongly agree, agree, disagree and strongly disagree. Positive statements were scored as 4,3,2,1 and negative statements were scored as 1,2,3,4. Total score was 96 and the scores were divided in four categories 24-42(highly unfavorable), 43-61 (unfavorable), 62-80 (favorable), 81-96 (highly favorable).

Result:

Analysis of the data showed that 74% showed favorable attitude and 16% were highly favorable with virtual learning. Only 10% were not in favour of virtual learning of their children. There was no association of demographic variables with attitude of parents.

Key words: Virtual learning, Attitude, Children

Introduction

The outbreak of COVID virus in 2019 effected the whole world in a drastic way effecting every life. The respiratory virus first detected in Wuhan, China has caused its effect in more than 70 nations around the world.The whole world process had to be stopped and the people were forced to stay at home for their own safety and precautions. Initially because of no knowledge about the disease and its cause, the spread from one person to another was unavoidable. This communicable and infectious disease became a major health problem in the world.

Good and right education is very important for all people. It helps in learning process in children, adults and people of various ages, sex, culture and social groups. It is the gaining knowledge, values, skills and attitudes. It is important for people to be aware about the importance of education for them benefits. Education develops us in the perspective of viewing the world. It is the most important element in development of any nation. Without education one will not be able to get new ideas, thoughts. One will not be able to bring development in the nation because without education there is no ideas without ideas there is no creativity and without creativity there is no development process.Because of the pandemic the schools, college and offices, everything had to be closed down to avoid the spread of virus from one person to another person. This led to change in the process of doing daily activities and developing of new ways and techniques of carrying out our daily work.

Because of the spread of infection the mode of study has changed from direct face to face interaction to online education. Online education prevented the spread of the disease. Students were able to attend their classes according to their speed at their own homes. Parents were able to take part in their children's education process a home. In researches it was found that parents influence and involvement affected the child's learning.More research studies had showed that more than 90 % schools and colleges had converted their face to face meeting and lectures into online study lectures.

Material and Method

A quantitative approach with Non experimental descriptive research design is used to find out the attitude of parents towards virtual learning with assumption of that the parents may have some attitude towards virtual learning. Parents of children who are attending virtual learning were selected as sample. 200 samples were selected in that 100 mothers and 100 fathers were selected. Sample sizes were calculated by using power analysis. Validity of the tool were done by experts from the field including psychologist. Reliability of the tool obtained by using split half method, calculated r were .82 which is more than .7 and tool found to be reliable. Ethical permission from institutional ethical committee .Consent from the sample were taken after explaining the purpose. Maintained the confidentiality of the data by giving Code numbers to the data collection tool. Samples were selected by using Non probability convenient sampling method. Data collection tool had two sections .Section I contained demographic variables which included age, gender, education and type of family. Section II had 4 point scale for assessing the attitude which had 24 statements with strongly agree, agree, disagree and strongly disagree. Positive statements were scored as 4,3,2,1 and negative statements were scored as 1,2,3,4 .

Total score was 96 and the scores were divided in four categories 24-42(highly unfavorable), 43-61 (unfavorable), 62-80 (favorable), 81-96 (highly favorable).

Result and Conclusion:

Collected data were analyzed by using descriptive and inferential statistics. Frequency and percentage were calculated for demographic variables and attitude. Chi square was used to find the association of variable with attitude.

Table No: I

Frequency and percentage distribution of demographic variable

N=200

S.No	Demographic Variable		Frequency	Percentage (%)
1	Age (in years)	29-32	41	20.5
		33-37	86	43
		38-42	61	30.5
		43- above	12	6
2.	Sex	Male	100	50
		Female	100	50
3.	Education	Primary	18	9
		Secondary	62	31
		Higher secondary	86	43
		Graduate	30	15
		Post graduate	4	2
4.	Type of Family	Nuclear	127	63.5
		joint	73	36.5

Table No: 2
Attitude of parents regarding virtual learning

N=200

Sr.No	Attitude	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1	Highly Unfavorable (24-42)	2	1
2	Unfavorable (43-61)	18	9
3	Favorable (62-80)	148	74
4	Highly favorable (81-96)	32	16

Table NO:3

Association demographic variables with attitude

N=200

S.No	Variables	Chi square	P value	Remark
1	Age	0.79	0.85	Non significant
2	Gender	2	0.15	Non significant
3	education	0.55	0.96	Non significant
4	Type of family	34	0.55	Non significant

Analysis of data showed that there is no significant association of attitude of parents towards virtual learning with age ,gender, education and type of family of the sample as the calculated p value is more than 0.05 in all variables .Association of data done in categories of different variables.

Study findings concluded that in general irrespective any category maximum was in favour of virtual learning mainly because of pandemic. parents are aware that their children are not able to learn the things how they were before.

Conclusion:

Study result were in favour of virtual learning .Many of the parents verbalized that even though they were not satisfied like physical class, it is better because our children are safe and our anxiety is less. Which clearly shows that the parents are aware about the sevearity of pandemic.Many of the parents (80%) suggested that the timing should be reduced to 3-4 hours as the children looses the concentration and they are watching social medias simultaneously .

Similar study conducted by Dr. Sohail Imran Khan to find out the parents perspective towards online learning of their children . This research works overviewed 183 Indian parents' attitude and perception for young children's online learning during the lockdown of the Covid-19 pandemic. 10 different schools were selected for the study. They opined that online learning has a positive influence on learning on the children and it is the need of the hour during this pandemic. t is clearly evident that parents are supportive to the online classes. Most of them agreed that online learning is good for their children. Parents have given their opinion that online classes are able to deal with the pandemic situation and are the online option to continue the education. However, they support that face-to-face teaching and learning is still better than online teaching. They strongly believe that practical subjects like mathematics and science need classroom teaching. Present study findings will helpe the authorities to do needed change in the pattern of virtual classes.

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