

Virtual Learning and Student's performance in new normal

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Abstract

Virtual learning has become a necessity now-a-days due to Covid-19 pandemic situation. Everyone has to learn how to make various tools used for Virtual education. There are various advantages and disadvantages of Virtual learning but it is essential to adapt this new technology.

This paper focuses on the impacts of Virtual learning on student's performance. There are various tools/software/applications used to learn the subjects. It seems that subject like accounting, mathematics, statistics requires extra effort and skills to teach and learn. Students feel difficulty to study and learn such subjects due to Virtual mode and its limitations. To avoid such phase of confusion, students and teachers have to put extra effort in different ways so as to avoid confusion in such subjects.

It is important to note that based on the Virtual software or Google forms it is compulsory to take the feedback of students to know the opinion of the students. Performance of students can be counted based on not only the score obtained in the final examination but also on overall personality development. In this paper, researcher has used change weighing scale, informal observation, self assessment and multiple test format through Virtual mode to evaluate the student's performance.

Keywords: Technology, Virtual learning, performance, evaluation, Covid-19 pandemic

Introduction

Virtual education: Computer-based training, Web-based training, Internet based training, Virtual training, e-learning (electronic learning), m-learning (mobile learning), computer-aided distance education - Virtual education goes by many names and comes in a variety of styles, but at its core:

Resources for Virtual Learning

In general, when taking a Virtual degree program, you might encounter resources like:

- EBooks;
- Journals;
- Videos;
- Recorded lectures;
- Quizzes;
- Discussion forums
- Live Q&A sessions; and
- Interviews.

The resources offered to you for learning Virtual will depend on the institution where you take your Virtual program. Some Virtual learning programs may require you to order physical textbooks in advance by in the mail, but these are generally being phased out in favor of eBooks and Virtual-only methods of delivery.

Advantages of Virtual Learning

1. Efficiency

Virtual learning offers teachers an efficient way to deliver lessons to students. Virtual learning has a number of tools such as videos, PDFs, podcasts, and teachers can use all these tools as part of their lesson plans. By extending the lesson plan beyond traditional textbooks to include Virtual resources, teachers are able to become more efficient educators.

2. Accessibility of Time and Place

Another advantage of Virtual education is that it allows students to attend classes from any location of their choice. It also allows schools to reach out to a more extensive network of students, instead of being restricted by geographical boundaries.

3. Affordability

Another advantage of Virtual learning is reduced financial costs. Virtual education is far more affordable as compared to physical learning. This is because Virtual learning eliminates the cost points of student transportation, student meals, and most importantly, real estate.

4. Improved Student Attendance

Since Virtual classes can be taken from home or location of choice, there are fewer chances of students missing out on lessons.

5. Suits A Variety of Learning Styles

Every student has a different learning journey and a different learning style. Some students are visual learners, while some students prefer to learn through audio. Similarly, some students thrive in the classroom, and other students are solo learners who get distracted by large groups.

Disadvantages of Virtual Learning?

1. Inability to Focus On Screens

For many students, one of the biggest challenges of Virtual learning is the struggle with focusing on the screen for long periods of time. With Virtual learning, there is also a greater chance for students to be easily distracted by social media or other sites. Therefore, it is imperative for the teachers to keep their Virtual classes crisp, engaging, and interactive to help students stay focused on the lesson.

2. Technology Issues

Another key challenge of Virtual classes is internet connectivity. While internet penetration has grown in leaps and bounds over the past few years, in smaller cities and towns, a consistent connection with decent speed is a problem.

3. Sense of Isolation

Students can learn a lot from being in the company of their peers. However, in an Virtual class, there are minimal physical interactions between students and teachers. This often results in a sense of isolation for the students. In this situation, it is imperative that the school allow for other forms of communication between the students, peers, and teachers. This can include Virtual messages, emails and video conferencing that will allow for face-to-face interaction and reduce the sense of isolation.

4. Teacher Training

Virtual learning requires teachers to have a basic understanding of using digital forms of learning. However, this is not the case always. Very often, teachers have a very basic understanding of technology. Sometimes, they do not even have the necessary resources and tools to conduct Virtual classes.

To combat this, it is important for schools to invest in training teachers with the latest technology updates so that they can conduct their Virtual classes seamlessly.

5. Manage Screen Time

Many parents are concerned about the health hazards of having their children spend so many hours staring at a screen. This increase in screen time is one of the biggest concerns and disadvantages of Virtual learning.

Objectives of the study

- 1) To evaluate the impact of Virtual learning on performance of students of professional courses in Karad city.
- 2) To suggest improvement for the Virtual learning

Research Design

Researchers have selected the students from the different professional courses from professional institutes in and around the Karad city.

The different institutes and students selection is done by the random sampling method which is shown below:

Sr. No	Course	Total students	Students selected for study(20%)
1	MBA-I,II	499	100
2	MCA-I,II	110	22
3	BBA-I,II,III	405	111
4	BCA-I,II,III	470	94
		1484	317

Researchers have finally selected 317 students by random sampling method as a whole for further analysis and interpretation. After that based on the data analysis and interpretation findings, suggestions and conclusion are drawn.

4. Data analysis and interpretation

Researchers have prepared questionnaire and collected the responses from the students of professional courses. Collected data has then arranged properly and the analysis and interpretation is done.

Table no.:1 Change weighting scale (Virtual test, assignment, quiz, presentations, attendance and final examination) be used for calculating student's performance.

Sr. No.	Respondents	Yes	NO	Total
1	317	241 (76%)	76 (24%)	317 (100%)

The information about the feelings of students to the change weighting scale (Virtual test, assignment, quiz, presentations, attendance and final examination) be used for calculating students performance.

It is observed from above table that 76% respondents are of opinion 'yes' and 24% respondents are saying 'no'.

It is concluded that majority of the respondents are of the opinion that change weighting scale (Virtual test, assignment, quiz, presentations, attendance and final examination) is verymuch useful for calculating student’s performance.

Table no.:2 Informal observations and self assessment are useful for measuring academic growth?

Sr. No.	Availability of mobile	Yes	NO	Total
1	317	226 (71%)	91 (29%)	317 (100%)

Above table shows the information about informal observations and self assessment are useful for measuring academic growth.

It seems from above table that 71% respondents are saying yes and 29% are saying no.

It is interpreted that informal observations and self assessment are useful for measuring academic growth.

Table No.3: Do you agree multiple test formats, multiple choice, long answers, short answers, diagrams, charts are useful to understand the subject?

Sr. No	Respondents	Agree	Strongly agree	Dilemma	disagree	Strongly disagree
1	317 (100%)	174(55%)	89(28%)	16(05%)	29((09%)	09(3%)

Table No.3 reveals the information about the multiple test formats, multiple choice, long answers, short answers, diagrams, charts are useful to understand the subject.

It is found from above table that 55% respondents are of the opinion agree, 28% are of opinion that strongly agree, 5% are in dilemma state, 9% are of the opinion disagree and 3% are of opinion that strongly disagree.

It multiple test formats, multiple choice, long answers, short answers, diagrams, charts are useful to understand the subject.

Table No. 4: Are you satisfied with the present evaluation method?

Sr. No	Respondents	Satisfied	Strongly satisfied	Dilemma	dissatisfied	Strongly dissatisfied
1	317 (100%)	168(53%)	95(30%)	19(6%)	22(7%)	13(4%)

Above table shows the information about the satisfaction level with the present evaluation method.

It is observed from the above table that 53% respondents are saying satisfied, 30% are saying strongly satisfied, 6% are in dilemma sate , 7% are saying dissatisfied and 4% respondents are saying strongly dissatisfied.

It is interpreted that majority of the respondents are satisfied with the present evaluation method.

5. Findings and suggestions

1)It is concluded that majority of the respondents are of the opinion that change weighting scale (Virtual test, assignment, quiz, presentations, attendance and final examination) is verymuch useful for calculating students’ performance.

2)It is interpreted that informal observations and self assessment are useful for measuring academic growth.

- 3) Multiple test formats, multiple choice, long answers, short answers, diagrams, charts are useful to understand the subject.
- 4) It is interpreted that majority of the respondents are satisfied with the present evaluation method.
- 5) It is observed that few examinations are not strict and partial.
- 6) It is suggested to the management of few examinations to improve the conduction of Virtual examinations to count real performance of students.

6. Conclusion

It is concluded that Virtual learning gives us best option to learn the new subjects if Virtual learning is conducted properly. Virtual learning is now need of the hour due to pandemic situations like Covid-19, floods, drought and different disease. Subjects like accounting and mathematics/statistics and some computer practical/projects related subjected should be given more emphasis for understandability. It is also expected that proctored type of examination should be organized so that evaluation of students' performance can be done more efficiently.

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