



Assessment of Perception about Online Classes among B.Sc Nursing Students in selected Nursing College

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ABSTRACT

Background & objectives: Sudden onset of pandemic situation made changes in every one's life. Likewise in our education system also, there are lot of changes happened. We are committed to switch over the method of teaching from traditional system to the on line education in order to maintain the quality of education since it is considered as one of the essential aspect for the students who are undergoing professional education like nursing where we need to prepare them in a practical aspect also. Though there is lot of benefits due to emergence of newer technology in the educational system, there are few issues experienced by the consumers with varying perception. Individual to individual online classes in needed for students for attending regular classes in online platform which plays a vital role in the utilization of newer technology. So the investigator is more interested in studying the perception of online classes among our nursing students. The objective of this study is to assess the existing level of perception about online classes among B.Sc nursing students.

Methodology: A descriptive cross sectional survey was conducted among the B.Sc nursing students in selected nursing college, Pondicherry. Sample size was 40, selected through purposive sampling technique. Data was collected by using self constructed 5 Likert scale for assessing the level of perception about online classes with 20 statements having equal number of positive and negative statements and sent through the through Google forms for data collection since we could not gather the students at a single place due to lock down.

Result: The results predicated among 40 samples by using 5 Likert scale prepared by the researcher which indicates 92.5% of subjects had neutral level of perception. There is very highly significant association between the level of perception and education status of the father at $p=0.0001$ regarding online classes among B.Sc nursing students (Chi-square test).

Conclusion: From this study that the subjects have neutral level of attitude towards online classes. This made the researcher that there is need to improve the perception about online classes among the students during this crisis situation.

KEYWORDS *Online classes, impact, perception*



INTRODUCTION

How to ensure the quality of online learning in institutions of higher education has been a growing concern during the past several years, but now it has reached the expected height with the help of these advancements.

Teaching and learning process is a process of interaction and communication between the teacher and learner in order to come out with newer ideas, newer thoughts and to improve level of understanding for the students¹. These kind of transition in learning process needs lot of training and motivation to the teachers to handle the classes by using newer technology where we need to interact and handle the classes virtually². In the present scenario, it is a challenge for every teacher not only in the health care sector even in other organizations since they are been well trained to take classes for the students in traditional method of tesching^{3, 4}. But, when there is emergence of the development in the technology gives another way for understanding the situation for students as well for the teachers to handle the classes according to the consumer's needs⁵. This Sudden critical situation made the teacher to take up the classes in online platform by using various technology⁶.

This type of online education was mainly practiced for the persons who are studying distance education and also for self – instructional media for learning and update of newer things for their development in their career previously⁷. The online classes are well accepted by the society since it is easily accessible for the persons in different geographical area and the information can be easily communicated to the different parts of the world in the globally especially to the persons who are residing in a very deep rural. Though there is lot of advantages it's also having very good advantages like quick access, speed training, constant delivery of content and gaining the knowledge with the help of the experts⁸.

According to the survey conducted by USA (2020) most of the people (72%, 71% & 70%) have used the technology for the purpose for their carrier development, study purpose and for their job respectively which clearly shows that the perception of advancement in technology has created positive wave among youngsters⁹.

Even though the traditional education is adopted and practiced for many decades, the sudden emergence of newer technology in teaching and learning also well appreciated by the learners which is considered as a another milestone of educational system¹⁰.

According to educational learning aspects, the main five aspects are cognitive learning, behavioral learning, humanism learning, constructivism learning and connectivism learning. These five levels



of learning are more important and it is necessary to achieve the optimum level of education in E-learning such as to improve their knowledge, skill, create newer things, cardinal relationship, and personality and carrier development in their day-to-day life¹¹.

Though there are new technologies like the Internet, YouTube video, Google-meet, Zoom meet and blogs etc. are been practiced for many years, and those things were combined with the traditional education too. But technology is the only option to the institutions to disseminate the knowledge to the students now which makes higher education more accessible and affordable for many students during this pandemic, and also for those who would have been unable to pursue higher education in a traditional in-class setting. This learning made the people to understand the different cultures and lifestyle in various parts of world. The technology is not only used for education by professionals all over world and also for many things in health care system like tele-consultationetc¹². Currently, online learning has now become vital and an integral part of higher education institutions for expanding curriculum. Therefore, there is a need to investigate the student's perceptions towards the quality of online education. This made the researcher to assess the perception of the students during online classes. So, the researcher wants to assess the impact of the online classes faced by the students during their sessions.

PROBLEM STATEMENT

A study to assess the perception about online classes among B.Sc nursing students in selected nursing college, Pondicherry.

OBJECTIVES

- To assess the existing level of perception about online classes among B.Sc nursing students.
- To find out the association between the level of perception about online classes with selected demographic variables.

METHODOLOGY

Quantitative research approach and descriptive cross sectional research design were selected for this study. A total number of 40 samples were selected for this study with purposive sampling



technique. A study was conducted in a selected nursing college with help of inclusion criteria such as Available at time of data collection, willing to participate in this study and having access to internet connect and exclusion criteria such as Sick during the data collection period for this study. The tool used for this study consists of section A (demographic variables) and section B (5 Likert scale for assessing the perception about online classes). Data was collected through the online media that is Google forms which was sent for 60 students and only 40 samples were responded during the period of this study.

ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS:

The ethical clearance was obtained from my own institution (MTPG &RIHS) and from the consent college of nursing. Before the collection of data formal permission was obtained from the principal. The selection of sample was based on inclusion criteria. Moreover, informed written consent was obtained from the sample through Google forms. The samples had the freedom to withdraw from the study at any time.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Characteristics of the subjects:

Regarding the demographic variables of the subjects, around 62.5% of the subjects were from the age group of 17 to 19 and 37.5% are from 20 to 22 years. Regarding gender 87.5% were female and 12.5% were male. Most (42.5%) of them had high school education, 22.5% of subjects father completed intermediate schooling, 17.5% of persons completed undergraduate, 15% of persons completed postgraduate and 2.5% of them completed middle schooling. Regarding the occupation of father 52.3% were skilled workers and shop & market sales, 32.5% were professionals, 7.5% are legislators, senior officials and managers and 2.5% were technicians & associate professionals, skilled agricultural and craft workers. The educational status of the mother most (32.5%) of them completed were professionals, 25% of the subject's mother completed high schooling, 20% of them completed under graduation & intermediate schooling, and very few 2.5% of them completed primary schooling. The total income of family per year, 30% had income of Rs.49,962 – Rs.74,755, 22.5% had income of Rs.99,931 – Rs.199,861, 20% had income of Rs.74,756 – Rs.99,930, 15% had income of Rs.29,973 – Rs.49,961 and 12.5% had the income of more than Rs.199,862. The most



(80%) of subjects had residence in rural area and 20% were in urban area. The total number sibling in a family, 32.5% of subjects had more than three members, 30 % of subjects had two siblings.

Level of perception:

There are 40 subjects were selected for assessing the level of perception about online classes among B.Sc nursing students which indicates, 92.5% of subjects are having neutral, 5% of subjects are having satisfactory and 2.5% of subjects are having unsatisfactory and the details are described in the table 1.

Table 1 Level of perception about online classes among B.Sc. Nursing Students **N = 40**

Level of perception	Frequency	Percentage
Unsatisfactory (<50)	1	2.5
Neutral (50 – 75)	37	92.5
Satisfactory (>75)	2	5.0

Further, this was analyzed based on this items used in the scale in which there are 2 compounds including 5 statements in each component in order to find out the level of perception in each significant area. Out 40 samples, 37.5% had agreed to stimulation during online session, 50% had agreed that there was flexibility during online classes, 40% of subjects agreed that there was good interaction during online sessions, 45% of them agreed that there was positive way of organisation of content during online sessions, 35 % had agreed that they gained adequate knowledge, 47.4% had agree that content issues, 60% had strongly agreed that they had technical issue, 37.5% had agree to have health issues and 30 % had strongly agreed that is economic issues about online classes which is described in the table 2

Table 2 Item wise distribution of perception about online classes among B.Sc. Nursing Students **N = 40**

S.NO	Perception statements	Strongly agree		Agree		Uncertainty		Disagree		Strongly disagree	
		n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Perceived strength of E- learning											
1.	Stimulation	10	25	15	37.5	4	10	9	22.5	2	5
2.	Flexibility during class	09	22.5	20	50	3	7.5	6	15	2	5
3.	Interaction during class	13	32.5	16	40	2	5	8	20	1	2.5
4.	Organization of content	11	27.5	18	45	4	10	6	15	1	2.5
5.	Knowledge	5	12.5	14	35	10	25	10	25	1	2.5
Problems of E-learning											
6.	Content issues	10	25	19	47.5	4	10	4	10	3	7.5
7.	Technical issues	24	60	9	22.5	2	5	2	5	3	7.5



8.	Assignment issues	10	25	15	37.5	4	10	7	17.5	4	10
9.	Health issues	9	22.5	10	25	4	10	7	17.5	10	25
10.	Economic issues	12	30	11	27.5	3	7.5	7	17.5	7	17.5

Association of level of perception with demographic variables:

Chi Square test was used to find out the association between the demographic variables and the level of perception and the study results revealed that there is very highly significant association between the level of perception and education status of the father at $p=0.0001$ regarding online classes among B.Sc nursing students.

DISCUSSION

This pandemic has disturbed the learning process among the learners throughout the world. So, on line education has become a core method of teaching. Currently on line learning is commonly used by the student community right from the preschool to graduate level since there is less possibility of traditional teacher led learning. In this study, the investigator evaluated the perception of undergraduate students who are depend on E- learning for most of the time since this would be more helpful to mould a good learning platform by knowing the difference of opinions. The results of this study are discussed based on the objectives of the study. The first objective of this study was to assess the existing level of perception about online classes among B.Sc nursing students in which the majority (92.5%) of the subjects are having neutral perception that is they not able to decide neither as positive nor as negative. In a study conducted by say that 54.1% person agreed that E-learning with interactive discussion was good, 21.1% of respondents agreed that E-learning with clinical aspects was better and 24% students maintained neutral in their level of perception¹³. The results of the present may be due to the immaturity and the limited time frame that they had since they started to use the E- Learning. Further the subjects were asked to express their opinion against the each statement in the Questionnaire. There are ten statements which are been classified under two main sub headings namely perceived strength of E- learning and problems of E- learning. In the perceived strength of E learning, most of the subjects had positive opinion on flexibility, interaction and organization of content except the knowledge gained by E learning. So this should be further more studied to find the reason behind why they are not gaining knowledge even though there is good content, interaction etc. Regarding problems of E learning, most of the subjects expressed that they have content issues in which content organization might be good but quality of content may



not be up to the expected level which has to be left on the hands of the every organization again. Then about technical issues and economic issues, majority had experienced that they have some technical and economical issues. This is again expected to be quite common in developing countries like India where the lot of people are from lower middle class and poor economic status.

The second objective of this study to find out the association between the level of perception about online classes with selected demographic variables. There is very highly significant association between the level of perception and education status of the father at $p=0.0001$ regarding online classes among B.Sc nursing students (Chi-square test).A conducted by **Smart.L.K(2006)** shows that there significant association between the prior awareness of online module & the level of perception ($p=0.004$) and prior awareness of completion of module in online ($p=0.047$) & the level of perception at $p<0.05$ level¹⁴.

CONCLUSION

The present study states that majority of the subjects have neutral level of attitude towards online classes. Hence the researcher concludes that there is need to improve the perception about online classes among the students during this pandemic situation since this is the only option to follow to pursue the knowledge an also it is our duty as a educationist to create a positive perception among student community.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST:

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest related to the publication of this article.



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