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Shift In Method Of Education From Offline To Online, Due To COVID – 19: Parents Experience (Study Pertaining To Maharashtra State In India)

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Abstract:

In the middle of COVID-19 corona virus pandemic situation in India people from academic field are still trying to cope up with the situation by following new normal way of living. The study explores the parents experience about online education system in the state of Maharashtra, India. Study shows both sides of online education system during pandemic. A likert scale questionnaire was designed to distribute amongst the parents of different age group to collect all the needful data for the research.

Questionnaire was sent to parents through Google form in defined geographical area and only valid responses considered for study. Also, the study of literature is done through various research papers, articles and journals to understand the concept. It is observed that parents are aware about the importance of online education system in such a pandemic situation. But still there are many parents who are in support of off line education system as they say that it is the only correct method for the academic and social development of children. Furthermore, parents who monitored their children during online education experienced, it resulted better in terms of understanding the topics, engagement during the class, effective utilization of internet connection, not as much of stressful as offline education etc. and felt it is a necessity in current pandemic situation. To summarize the experiences of parents regarding online and off line education, all of them agreed on the fact that it should be mixture of online education and off line education system for the overall development of children.

Key Words: *COVID-19, Parents Experience, Students, Education method-Online and Off-line.*

Introduction:

Corona virus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is firstly identified in Wuhan city, China in December 2019 as a virus of unknown origin. COVID-19 outbreak spreads rapidly not only in China, but also worldwide, therefore, World Health Organization (WHO) has announced it as pandemic on March 12, 2020. And then on 21st March, 2020 lockdown was declared in India. Several government events have been taken to respond to the hazard of disease spreading. These measures contain travel restrictions, mandatory quarantines for travellers, social distancing, bans on public gatherings, schools and universities closure, business closures, self-isolation, asking people to work at home, curfews, and lockdown. These measures have a negative worldwide effect on

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the business, education, health, and tourism.ⁱ

The education sectors including schools, colleges and universities closed down due to COVID-

19. All examinations and tests of schools, colleges and universities including entrance tests were postponed. The lockdown destroyed the schedules of though it is an exceptional situation in the history of education. COVID-19 has created many opportunities to come out of the rigorous classroom teaching model to a new era of digital model. The lockdown has compelled many educational institutions to cancel their classes, examinations, internships etc. and to choose the online modes. COVID-19 pandemic outbreak has caused a downward arrow in the world economy and has caused a huge impact on the higher education system. Many universities and colleges' worldwide suspended classroom teaching due to the novel corona virus pandemic and switched to online teaching. The unexpected closure of universities and colleges as a social distancing measure to avoid the transmission virus has transformed face-to-face classes to online teaching & learning systems. This online thing has led the focus on usage of e-Learning platforms for effective student engagement. But this has limitations for some students and parents as per the accessibility and affordability. The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed the inadequacies of the current higher education system.ⁱⁱ

In the post COVID-19 situation, the use of e-Learning and online education may become an essential fragment of the higher education. The higher education institutions and universities need to plan the post-pandemic education and research strategies to ensure student learning outcomes and standards of educational quality. Initially, the teachers, the students and the parents were quite confused and didn't understand how to cope up with the situation of this sudden crisis that compelled educational activities. But later on all realized that the lockdown has taught so many lessons to manage with the emergence of such pandemics.ⁱⁱⁱ

Thus, COVID-19 has challenges and opportunities for the educational institutes to strengthen their technological knowledge and the lockdown has given them a ray of hope for teachers and students to continue their educational activities through online. The teachers assigned work to students via internet, delivered lectures through live video conferencing using different Apps like Zoom, Google meet, Facebook, YouTube, and Skype etc. There are WhatsApp groups of guardians, teachers, students and parents for effective communication through which they are always in touch to share their difficulties through this e-medium. There are some low pay students who don't get to approach broadband and unable to use computerized learning arrangement. The same is the situation that happens with India where not every student is well equipped with the high-speed internet and digital gadgets and are along these lines of suffer. Numerous advanced educational institutions in India are not also equipped with digital facilities right now to cope up with sudden change from traditional education set up to the online education system.^{iv}

Parents also have mixed feelings about the decision of online education. When there was a lockdown, everyone was at home, so it was easy for parents to provide with the gadgets required for online education. But later on, when lockdown was lifted and parents had to go to work, then the real challenge began. Parents were not able to match the timings of the classes; parents had to purchase extra gadgets for online classes. Parents who can afford to purchase, they had purchased new gadgets, but those from low-income groups and jobless parents were not affording to purchase. So, they had no option than leaving their own gadgets at home or borrow from neighbours. Even if they leave the gadgets with students at home, it was very difficult for parents to supervise the students. Researcher would like to find the answers to all these problems faced by the parents during this online education.^v

Objectives:

1. To study parents' experience about online education system adopted during COVID – 19.
2. To study the parents' point of view about their child/children understanding and development through online education.

Hypotheses:

1. Parents still prefer offline education more than online education system.
2. Offline education is significantly better way for overall development than online education.

Research Methodology:

With reference to the available literature on COVID-19 corona virus pandemic situation and global scenario of education were taken into consideration for the research undertaken. Convenience sampling is used for the research considering the limited time available for research. The researchers have used both primary and secondary data sources to collect information. Structured questionnaire was designed by researchers to obtain the primary data related to the research topic. The questionnaire was distributed amongst parents from which only appropriate responses will be considered. In order to make the questionnaires effective Likert-scale questions are designed. However, researchers have collected the secondary data through books, research articles, industry literatures and online reports of various research and government organizations.

Literature Review:

According to the article titled 'Home Learning in Times of Covid: Experiences of Parents' written by Bhamani et al (2020) in Journal of Educational Development. There was a sudden change in the everyday routine of parents and students because of lockdown were implemented and none of the social activities and non-essential activities was allowed throughout the country. During this pandemic lots of challenges were emerged such as infrastructure for work from home almost for all the industries, online learning etc. It was one of the mammoth challenges for working parents and as well as who did not have gadgets required for online education. It is also observed that the many people, organizations have come forward to help and support online learning from home by offering different learning applications and facilities. In addition, parents have become familiar and adopted this new change in their life in this pandemic time also they have made all possible provisions to fill this gap. Researcher found some noticeable finding such as there were few parents who said that this online learning has made their children more responsible kid in terms of attending online school on time and allocating time for their daily routine and students had enough time to submit their school work. Secondly, few parents also expressed their experience that now children are more health conscious and they need not to keep following for hygiene and sanitation but they also feel that still there is gap in their learning routine.

The information revealed by Garbe et al (December 2020) in the research paper titled 'COVID-19 and Remote Learning: Experiences of Parents with children during the Pandemic' published in American journal of Qualitative Research says that schools around the world were closed for many months to break the chain of novel corona virus. This sudden closure changed offline schooling into remote learning which increased parent's responsibilities about kids schooling. Around two hundred countries shut down their education institutes and about ninety percent students ranging from primary education to higher education had some kind of interference to their courses. At the same time, it has been observed that due to the closure of educational institutes, it was effective against the transmission of virus. It is also true that most of them were not prepared for this sudden breakdown but they have adopted very well after some time. Author also says that, it was well accepted by parents about the closure of academic institutions and they are also satisfied about the help and support provided by the institutes in pandemic situation for online education. Parents have also admitted that they were facing many problems related to maintaining the balance between work and child's education, student's motivation for online learning, availability of online venues for schooling and understanding from online teaching.

As per the Alea et al (June 2020) in the research paper 'Teachers Covid-19 Awareness, Distance Learning Education Experiences and Perceptions towards Institutional Readiness and Challenges' in International Journal of Learning, Teaching and Educational Research reveals that the awareness for teachers depends on the teaching experience such as those faculties who have maximum number of years experience care less tech savvy and teachers who less teaching experience and from younger generation are familiar with the online teaching. He also found that the students from higher secondary education were more positive about accepting the change in education method. Urban institutes were more ready to conduct the online lectures during the pandemic situation. Research also suggests some ideas to overcome from such pandemic situation in future such as planning new syllabus content which can be easily conducted through online and offline as well, author also recommends to send study material through courier.

To overcome from pandemic situation universities, colleges and schools shifted their traditional methodology of teaching to online teaching system. It was also the same in African country Ghana but Henaku et al (June 2020) says in his research paper titled 'COVID-19: Online Learning Experience of College Students: The Case of Ghana' published in International Journal of Multidisciplinary Sciences and Advanced Technology that initially it was accepted by students and started attending the online

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lectures. When it was checked through the surveys then college students were reluctant to continue with the online teaching system due to different reasons such as high-speed internet connection issue, economical problems due to the high tariff of internet, compatibility of device and interruption during online classes. These above-mentioned problems made them to demand off line classes instead of online teaching. Author also suggest that the experience and feedback of college students should be informed to the Education Ministry and also the parents and teaching faculties to improve the quality & experience of students for online education.

As per Mr. Mahesh Randhave and Mrs. Prajakta Parasnis, improvement in online education system and the content of online schooling is very much required as well as to deliver such a high-quality content we require a highly quality and tech savvy. According to the article titled “Challenges in Improving Quality of Higher Education in India” published in the national conference preceding held by Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth on ‘Challenges to Contemporary Indian Higher Education’ (Nov 2012) there are certain points discovered to improve the quality such as institutes are not spending even 10% funding amount on delivery of education. They also found that student’s quality and input quality of students need to be improved. As per the time, teachers need to improve themselves not only with the academic but also from technologies point of view.

According to the titled Artificial intelligence: A Better and innovative technology for enhancement and sustainable evolution in education system written by Tilak, G. (2020) says that Artificial Intelligence is most important for today’s world as it helps and eases the work life of all the sectors. Apart from all the sectors it is more beneficial for education sector. Since the pandemic has hit, it has affected education system mostly students. Nobody had a clue of conducting online classes and usage of internet but the AI has played a vital role in online education. Artificial Intelligence has helped to form a bond between students and teachers during the lockdown period.

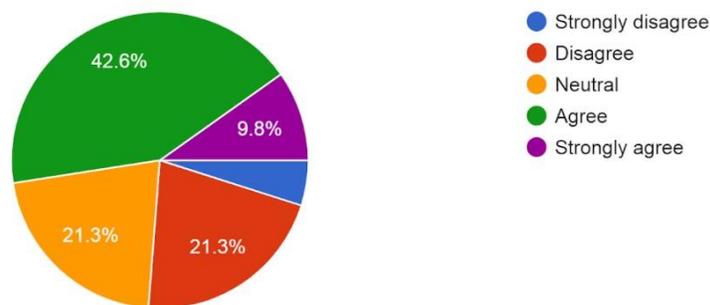
Data Analysis and Interpretation:

The questionnaire was distributed to 200 parents and received 126 appropriate responses. Amongst 126 responses, 29% parents are from the age group of 30 to 35 years, 26% parents are above 45-year age group, and slightly above 20% parents are from the age group of 35 to 40 years. 19% & 5% parents are respectively from 40 to 45 year and 25-to-30-year age group.

In response of question regarding number of children in family, 50% parents said that they have only one kid in their family, 41% parents have 2 children in their family. In third scenario 4% of the parents have 3 children & equal number of parents i.e., 4% has 5 children in their family. On the other hand, less than 1% parents have 4 children in the family.

1. Difficult to manage online classes at the same time as both the children are in the same school

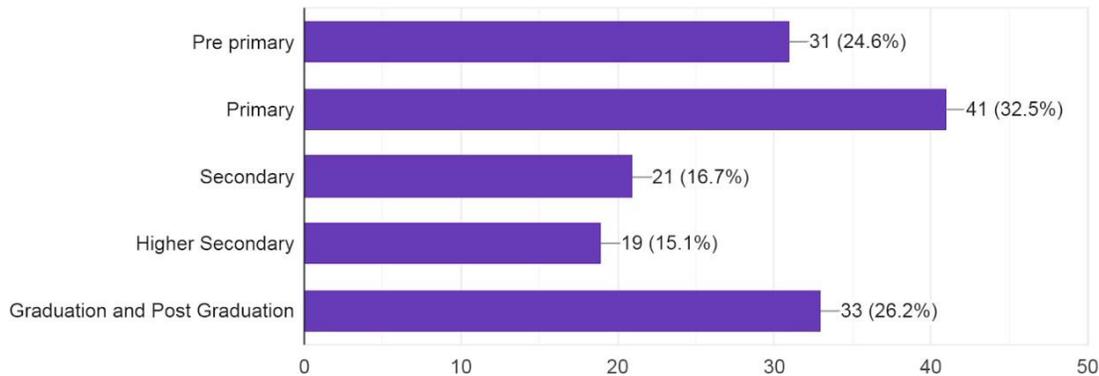
61 responses



The question has been asked regarding managing online class schedule for parents having more than 1 child in their family. Approximately 53% of the parents are facing difficulties in managing online classes for their children as all their children are studying in the same school and having same timings for online classes. Only 26% parents don't face any difficulties in managing online class schedule. Remaining 21% parents are neutral.

2. Level/ stage of education of your child/children pursuing at present

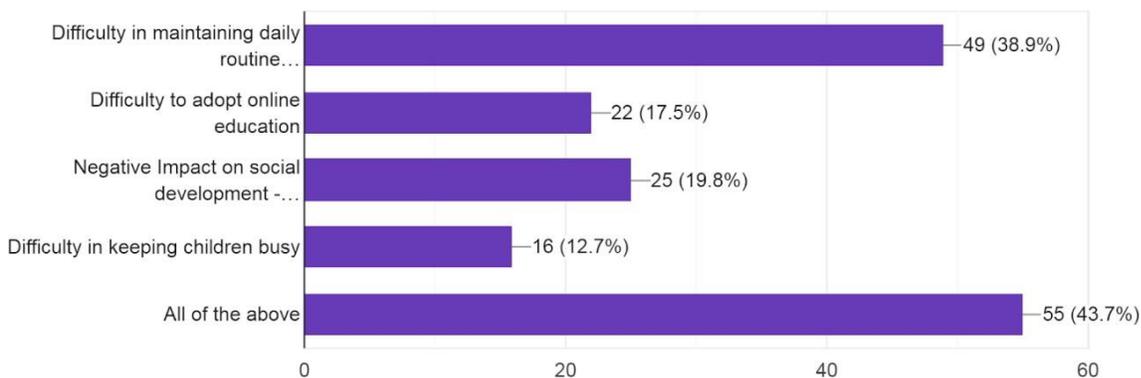
126 responses



The above graph represents the level of education children pursuing at present in relation to this research. 57% children are studying in pre primary and primary level, 32% children are pursuing secondary and higher secondary education. Remaining 26% students are from graduation and post graduation level.

3. Which are the impacts you observed on children's education due to COVID - 19?

126 responses



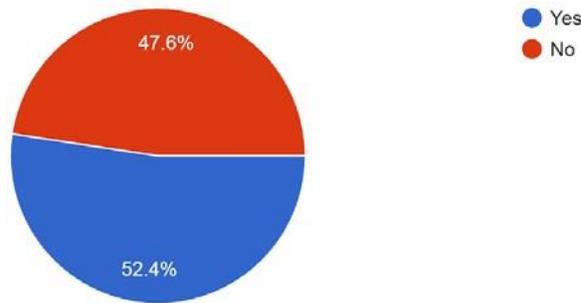
In a survey parents observed that there were multiple impacts on children education due to COVID - 19, such as 39% children were unable to maintain their daily routine, 18% children facing difficulties in adopting online education. Approximately 20% Parents observed negative impact on social development of their children and near about 13% parents faced difficulty in keeping children busy throughout the day as there is no school schedule and other activities to do in a day which they used to before pandemic.

At the same time about 44% parents are saying that they are experiencing all above mentioned difficulties during the online schooling.

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4. Expenses on education during COVID - 19 are increased?

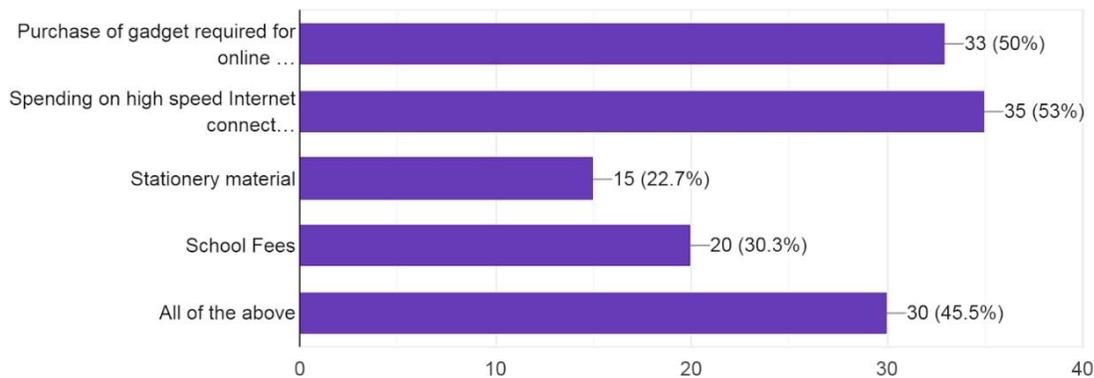
126 responses



When the question has been asked regarding the increase in expenses on education during COVID-19, almost 48% parents are saying that there is no increase in expenses on education and 52% parents said that there is an increase in education expense.

5. If yes, which of the following expenses are increased?

66 responses

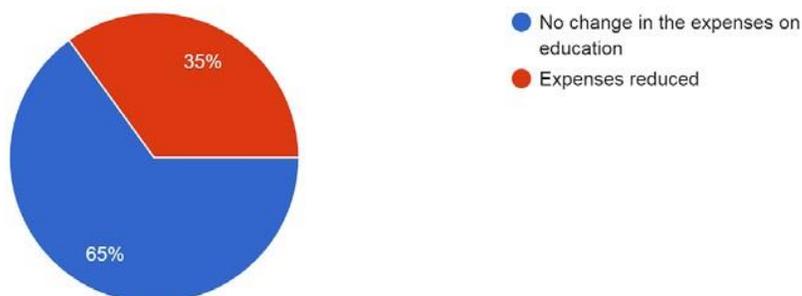


Above question is asked to only those parents who said their expenses for education are increased during Covid – 19. Out of 126 parents 66 parents are claiming that expenses are increased due to following reasons such as, 50% parents said that they spent on purchase of gadget for online classes which increased the expenses on education, spending on high-speed internet connection is the top listed reason said by 53% parents, around 23% parents are saying expenses on stationery material is increased.

Other 20% parents said that expenses on school fees are increased and 45.5% parents are agree with all of the above reasons for increased expenses on education during COVID-19.

6. If No

60 responses

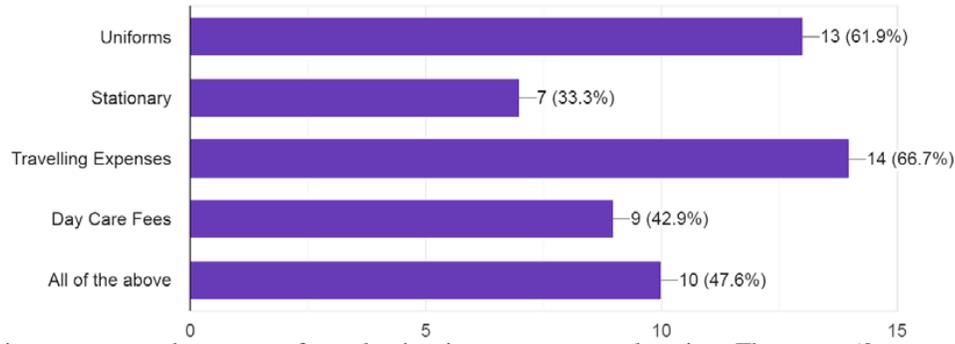


60 parents of 126 said there is no increase in expenses on education during COVID-19.

Out of these 60 parents 65% parents are said that there is no change in the expenses on education where only 35% parents are said that expenses on education are reduced.

7. Reasons for reduction in expenses

21 responses

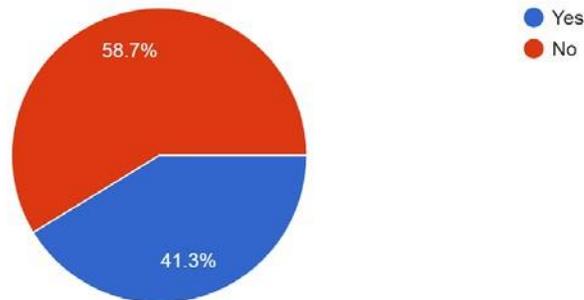


Above question represents the reasons for reduction in expenses on education. There are 62% parents said that they saved on uniform expenses, 67% parents are said that they saved on travelling expenses, 42% parents could save on day care fees and 33% parents saved on stationary expenses.

All together almost 48% parents said reduction on education expenses happened because of all of the above listed reasons.

8. Are you a dual-earner parent couple?

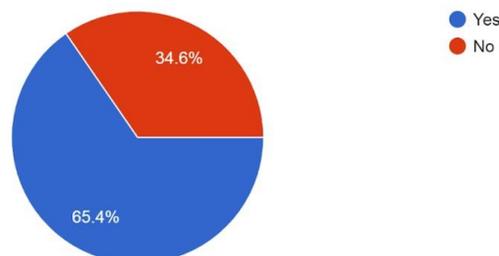
126 responses



Out of the total respondents considered for this research slightly more than 41% of the parents are dual-earner parents and out of remaining 59% parents either of them are working.

9. During COVID - 19 as you are working from home - do you feel that you are getting more time to pay attention on your child/children study?

52 responses

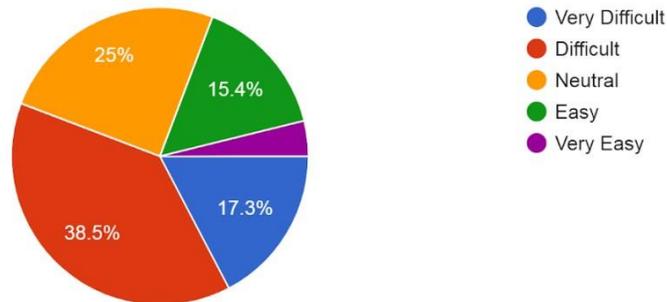


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The question has been asked to the total 52 respondents in this survey who are dual-earnerparents. Almost 65% of the parents could manage to get more time to pay attention on theirchildren as they were working from home. Whereas 35% of dual-earner parents still feel that itwas difficult and to work from home and they didn't get any extra time to pay attention on theirchildren.

10. How did you find work from home and parenting at the same time?

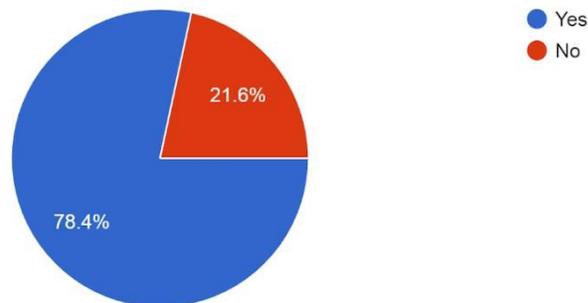
52 responses



Nearly 56% of the dual-earner parents said it was difficult for them to manage both work fromhome and parenting at the same time, 25% parents were neutral while 19% parents feel it waseasyfor them.

11. As a House Maker - do you feel that you are getting more time to pay attention on your child/children study during COVID - 19?

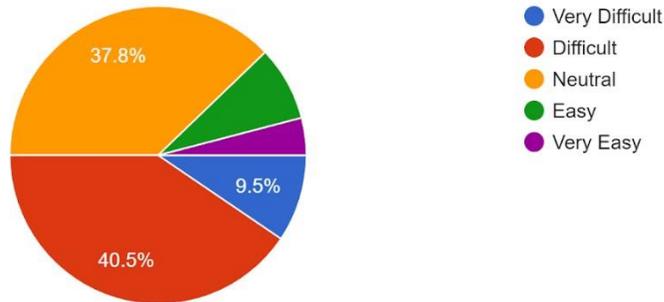
74 responses



There are 74 parents out of 126 responses are house maker. Slightly more than 78% of housemaker parents said they got more time to pay attention on their children. On the other hand, 22% parents (House maker) still feels that they didn't get any extra time to pay attention on theirchildren.

12. How did you find parenting during COVID - 19

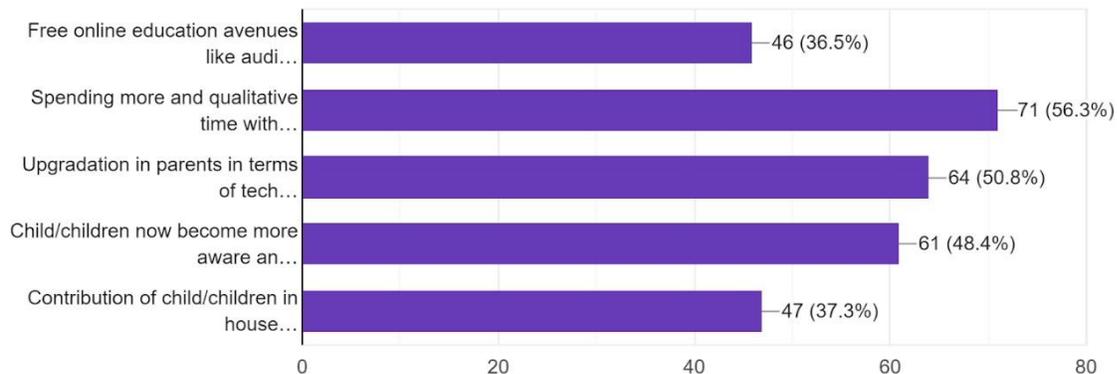
74 responses



50% of the parents (House maker) said they found parenting difficult to very difficult during COVID-19. Nearly 39% of parent (House maker) are not able to decide whether parenting was easy or difficult during the period of COVID – 19. Only 12% of the parents (House maker) said parenting was easy during COVID– 19.

13. What are the Positive Happenings in Education during COVID - 19

126 responses

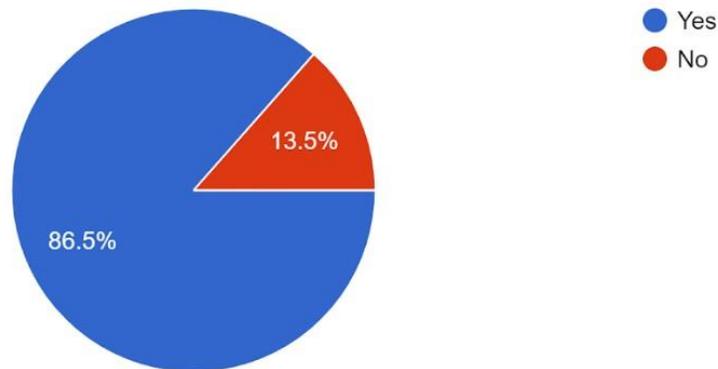


There are some positive happenings in education sector due to COVID – 19, shared by parents as they experienced. Majority of the parents accounting 56%, agreed that they able to spend more qualitative time with their children which helped a lot to strengthen bonding in relations. Almost 51% of the parents could done up gradation in terms of technology orientation while adopting online education. Apart from this 48% of the parents said children are now more aware and following hygiene norms, 37% parents said children are now contributing even in household chores and even free online education avenues like audio books, e – books are now available due to COVID– 19.

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14. Did your child/children developed healthy eating habits during COVID-19?

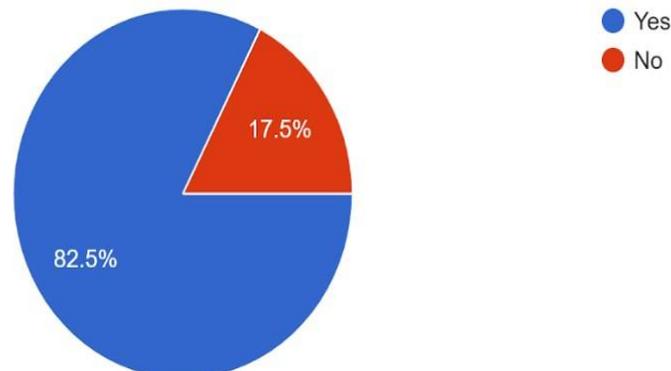
126 responses



All human beings became more cautious and concerned towards their health to stay away from COVID – 19 infections. Children are not the exception to the fact and it is noticed by almost 87% of the parents that their children have developed healthy eating habits during this time. Only 13% parents' still feel that their children could not develop healthy eating habits.

15. Do you find that your child/children is using internet more wisely for education during COVID time?

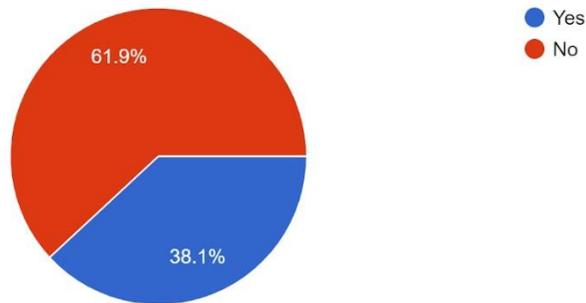
126 responses



Almost 83% of the parents found that their children are using internet more wisely for education during COVID time. On the other hand, hardly 17% parents still think it is not so good idea to allow children to access internet on their own without any supervision.

16. Do you feel, "A healthy competition amongst students is possible in online education system?"

126 responses



Nearly 62% of parents strongly feels, "A healthy competition is not possible amongst the students in online education due to many constraints in this format of education Hypothesis Testing:

H₀: Parents prefer online education more than offline education system.

H₁: Parents still prefer offline education more than online education system.

Table 4.1

Difference Scores Calculations

<p>Treatment 1</p> <p>N1:126</p> <p>df1 =N-1=126 -1 =125</p> <p>M1:4.1</p> <p>SS1:125.66</p> <p>s₂₁=SS1/(N-1)=125.66/(126-1)=1.01</p>	<p>Treatment 2</p> <p>N2:126</p> <p>df2 =N-1=126 -1 =125</p> <p>M2:1.61</p> <p>SS2:61.94</p> <p>s₂₂=SS2/(N-1)=61.94/(126-1)=0.5</p>
<p>T-value Calculation</p> <p>$s_2p = ((df1/(df1+df2))*s_{21}) + ((df2/(df2+df2))*s_{22}) = ((125/250)*1.01) + ((125/250)*0.5) = 0.75$</p> <p>$s_{2M1} = s_2p/N1 = 0.75/126 = 0.01$ $s_{2M2} = s_2p/N2 = 0.75/126 = 0.01$</p> <p>$t = (M1 - M2) / \sqrt{(s_{2M1} + s_{2M2})} = 2.49 / \sqrt{0.01} = 22.83$</p>	

The t-value is 22.83386. The p-value is <.00001. The result is significant at p <.05.

Two-tail t-test is used to validate Hypothesis₁. Table 4.1 presents the sample statistics. From the present analysis,

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calculated value of t -statistics is observed as 22.83 on two-tail. From the present analysis, the result is significant and thus, researchers accept the alternative hypothesis. It is concluded that, parents still prefer offline education more than online education system.

H₀: Online education is significantly better way for overall development than offline education.

H₂: Offline education is significantly better way for overall development than online education.

Table 4.2

Summary of Data						
	Treatments					
	1	2	3	4	5	Total
N	126	126	126			378
$\sum X$	235	230	174			639
Mean	1.8651	1.8254	1.381			1.69
$\sum X^2$	453	438	270			1161
Std.Dev.	0.343	0.3811	0.4876			0.4629
Result Details						
Source	SS	df	MS			
Between-treatments	18.2063	2	9.1032	$F=54.54978$		
Within-treatments	62.5794	375	0.1669			
Total	80.7857	377				

The F -ratio value is 54.54978. The p -value is $<.00001$. The result is significant at $p <.05$.

One way ANOVA test is used to validate the Hypothesis₂. The one-way ANOVA is used to determine statistically differences between two or more independent variables. From the present analysis, the result is significant and thus, researchers accept the alternative hypothesis. It is concluded that, offline education is significantly better way for overall development than online education.

Finding and Conclusion:

Researchers tried to get the insights of parents' experiences about online education system adopting during COVID – 19 pandemics. Parents from various age groups ranging from 25 years to 45 years and even above that were considered for this research study to get better results. As the parents were considered from wide range in terms of their age, their children are also pursuing education at various levels ranging from Pre-primary to Graduation and Post-graduation.

Information and experiences shared by parents in this research study reveals some positive as well as negative findings in relation to the online education system, student's engagement and development, parents concerns and so on.

Researchers could conclude the following,

1. In the pandemic situation it has been observed that due to the lack of availability of gadgets and online classes timing of different standards scheduled by school was same. It was difficult for parents to manage who are having more than one child and both the kids are studying in same school.
On the other hand, in today's world maximum families are seen as a nucleus family and both the parents are working. It is observed in the research that 50% of the parents who were part of the survey are having only one child in their family therefore; they didn't face any difficulty to follow online classes.
2. There are multiple difficulties experienced by parents due to COVID – 19. It becomes difficult for parents to keep their children busy throughout the day and maintain daily routine as the schools were shut and as the maximum day time was spent by the children was in school and school related activities and homework. It also restricted children physical fitness/growth and social development. Adopting new system of online education was not that easy for parents due to lack of technical knowledge and no such past experience.
3. There are mixed reactions from parents about the expenses on education during COVID – 19.
Half of the total number of parents considered for this research experienced increase in the expenses on education while remaining half felt exactly vice versa.
Parents with more than one child in the family spent on gadget required for online classes and internet facility, beyond that they experienced increase in stationary expenses and school fees as well.
On the other hand, the other set of parents said there is either no increase in the expenses on education during COVID – 19. Beyond that they claimed many reasons for reduction in expenses on education and they haven't spent on uniforms, stationary, fees of school transport facility for students and day care facility which otherwise they spend every year.
4. Now a day due to increased living standards and cost, it became a must in every family to be a dual-earner parent couple, especially for those living in mega and metro cities.
Not all but 41% are dual earner parents who felt it was better to work from home during COVID – 19 and because of which they got more time to pay attention to their children. Although most of them said it was difficult to manage both but still they were happy as they spent more time with their children which was not possible otherwise.
Remaining 59% parents are those in which either of them is house maker. These parents experienced that they could spend more time to pay attention to their children and the percentage was also much higher as compared with dual earner parents. Half of the house maker parents felt parenting was difficult during COVID – 19 as they have to work beyond their routine tasks as all family members at home throughout the day.
5. Parents experienced many positive happenings in education during COVID – 19. Many parents could spend more time with their children which strengthens bonding in relation. Parents also trained their children in household chores which will lead to become a responsible family member in future. Children are now more aware about and following good hygiene/sanitation mannerisms. Many parents could even learn few new things for themselves by using online platforms.

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6. Due to COVID-19 children realized the importance of good health and strong immunity. As a result, most of the parents said their children developed good and healthy eating habits without any insisting or instruction from them.
7. Attending online classes for all level of students from primary to higher education was mandatory as well as there are many parents who used to monitor their child during online class and something made students to use the internet data more wisely. On the other hand, there were few students who were busy on gadgets and not very keen to utilize the data more efficiently for schooling purpose. Therefore, as per the available data, it is up to the parents that how strictly they are monitoring their kid while online classes and it is the only key that will help to use internet more effectively for schooling purpose.
8. Parents said that due to less interaction amongst students, it is not possible for healthy competition. It is difficult for teachers to map the talent and efforts taken by student to complete the assignment or any type of work in online education as they are not in front of teacher and therefore students may use internet or may take help from parent to complete the task. If students are not going to interact off line then they won't be able to share their views with their friends. Because in off line education system they have ample of time other than classes, lectures to interact with each other and the same thing is lacking in online education system.
9. It has been observed through the open-ended question about the experiences of parents of online education system during the lockdown period that there is a mix of positive and negative experience, whether it is dual earning or single earning parent. Many parents claim that there are many advantages of online education during pandemic. It was a great opportunity for students to continue with their study even during lockdown and they were also in touch with their friends due to online schooling. Another positive aspect is student can be observed closely by parent and at the same time parents are becoming more techno savvy. Also, online education is time and effort saving as we don't need to travel anywhere to attend the classes. This pandemic also taught us the optimum utilization of technology in education field and now students have become more knowledgeable of different types of software and applications.
At the same time, there are many negative impacts of online education on children academics as well as social development. Students were busy in gadgets instead of study and eventually screen time was increased. Many parents says that this re-engineered teaching style have reduced the importance of teacher and the bond between students and faculties. Another issue is that concentration of students is reduced and it is difficult for parents to monitor throughout the day. It becomes difficult to check their understanding of subject as there are some subjects which can be understood very well only through off line teaching method. To conclude the topic, we can say that every coin has two sides that are positive and negative. It is also very true that online education has helped a lot during difficult time to continue with school. And to avail so many benefits of new technology we have to find out the solutions for problems.

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