

STUDENT VOICES ABOUT ONLINE EDUCATION

INTRODUCTION

The Corona Virus sure will bring in few changes that will probably last for a whole lifetime and online education surely is one of them. When the pandemic began a lot of students as well as teachers were very quick in finding solutions as they knew the impact of the virus was going to last for a while and education has to keep continuing because it's an integral part for the future of the nation as well as the lives of the students especially students that were aspiring to get into colleges for higher education. While few educational institutions were trying figure out what can they do about it and if they should go along with online education, there few institutions that were very quick to shift to online education. Although online education is not as same as being in a physical classroom it had its positive as well as negative aspects as well.

THE EXPERIENCE

As a student myself I can say that the whole experience with online education has been mixed. At the initial stages we were trying to figure out as to on which platforms can be chosen to conduct the classes. While few of our teachers wanted us to have a class over skype few teachers proffered zoom. As a design student we usually had a lot of practical classes before we initially went on a brake for the classes hence to find out on alternatives our teachers gave us alternatives to complete those modules by referring to online museums and use all the materials at home and this in fact helped to come up with various ideas and innovation that might not have happened if we had a normal class.

While we started with the online classes it was really nice to see that the teachers were making so many efforts in getting used to the technology as their user interface was very limited. There were certain minor issues of the having online classes that almost all of us faced like internet connection issues, lag of the application that caused a lot of disruptions.

Also initially were supposed to keep our video on and it was interesting to see all my peers faces through a screen and this made the class interesting as well but over the time the video was turned of and the responses towards the teachers also became dim day by day. Online education is very interesting but over time we lost the motivation as it became very monotonous. Clearing doubts along with our mentors and teachers become tough as we were very conscious of asking the doubts and questions in front of others and also with the fear that teachers would go back and forth with the process. With the classes through online platforms we also did not have the environment and feel of the physical class that provided us surroundings to be able to concentrate at what the teachers are concentrating. Having our friends also somehow motivated us to study and pay attention as to what was being thought as we share a common end goal.

Besides all these issues online education did help us become better students by providing free education and exposure sources and fields and getting guidance from various people from different parts of the world. This helped us building our niche and understanding our craft better. The online classes also helped us have a balance between learning theory from the online classes and practice the same and our art after the class while this was not happening prior to this as most of the day was being spent only at the campus and had no time practical skill development. All of this made me realize the importance of internet as underestimated its need and power.

RESEARCH FINDINGS

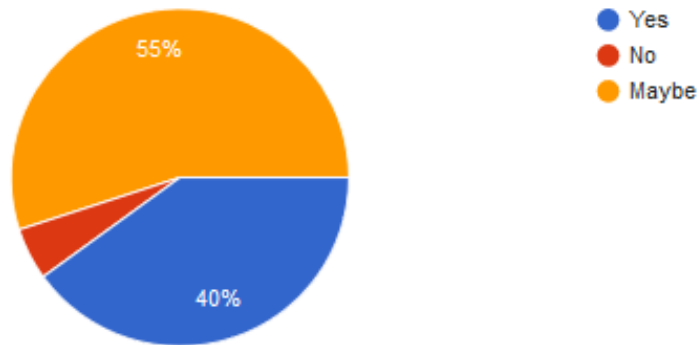
As online classes became such an integral part to continue education during the pandemic it was important to understand what aspects of it affected students like me and what kind of experience did they have.

A research was being done to understand as to how students felt about the online education being conducted through online platforms and to understand them better and they what issues did they have and if they suggested any solutions for the hindrances. This is a primary research done through Google forms being sent to students with a sample size of 20.

The results were as follows:

Did you find the Online classes pertaining to practical education helpful during this pandemic?

20 responses

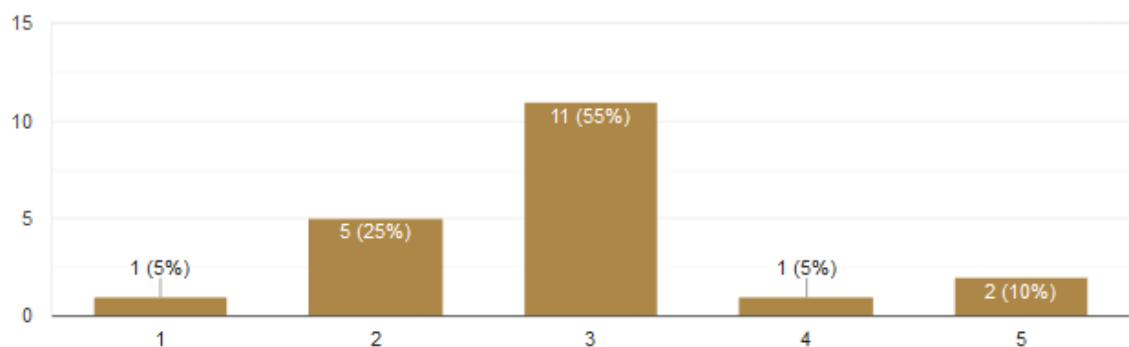


On asking my peers about online education and how helpful and effective due to shift in the form of learning most of them found that they were helpful but also had external issues that might have made the experience of online classes less favourable. 40% of the student actually did enjoy the classes and found the online classes helpful and 5% did not prefer online classes and probably like to have a physical environment to learn from.

On the scale of 1-5, how effective do you think online sessions were for the practical classes?



20 responses



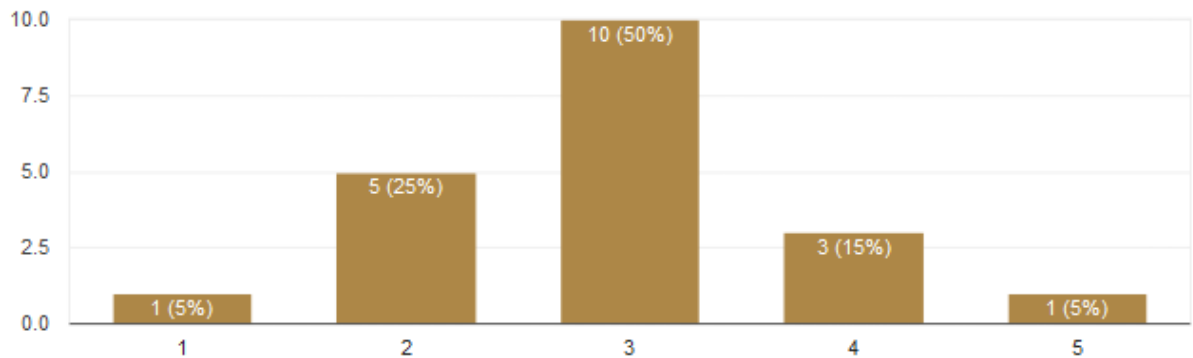
Just having online classes would not be enough of the students hence I thought it was important to understand how effective did they feel the classes were. The scale was marked as 1 being least effective and 5 being most effective where in 55% of the students felt that the

effectiveness was average and they next highest were 25% of students were slightly effective and where as 5 % of students feel that the class most and least effective.

On the scale of 1-5 How well were you able to understand the modules through online classes?



20 responses



50% of the students felt that they were averagely able to understand through the online classes where as 25% of the students felt that moderately understood and these might because of the lack of communication between the teacher, not having the learning environment, external distractions or any other reasons.

In the google forms I also asked if my peers had any suggestions on how online education can better and few of the suggestion was that there can be virtual reality technology that help the students that have practical classes, keep the video conferences active by keeping the video on and not just the audio. This makes the teachers make sure all the students are actually paying attention to classes and not carrying out other activities. Video tutorial that recorded step by step can also be taken which helps us understand better than long classes and also helps us to keep up with the pace.

CONCLUSION

By this paper we can conclude by saying that mostly the classes have been affective in most of the ways and helped to keep the education and also been a source of outlet during these tough times. Although there were few disruptions that affected the process of online classes but can certainly be overcome by taking effective steps. With the having so much do t with online education it helped me understand the importance of education and its potencial to

affect people. Although internet is an abundance resource it is very important for use to use it effectively and education is the best way to use this resource and also has given me time to reflect on what's going around the world and take responsible decisions as students in the future.

However I feel that the education system that will be enforced by the government will surely change the education system for better and we will be more prepared with alternatives like online education if it arises in future.

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