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## **Study Resumption during the post-COVID-19 Era: Analysis of Student Perspectives**

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### **Abstract**

COVID-19 has an impact heavily marked on the education and learning process. Students of different education levels had a significant effect on their mental health more than physical health. The world gears back to Old Normal, and every business resumes its old-style functioning similarly to the educational institutions prepare to offer courses in offline mode. However, the students who witnessed the major shift from offline to the online learning process when COVID-19 started are still coping with the impact of COVID-19. This requires a clear understanding of the student's mindset towards back to school. COVID-19 is criticized for its negative impact; however, there is another side. This study aims to map out the positive and negative implications that COVID-19 caused concerning the students' mental health and find out their inclination towards the Offline or Online learning process and its reasons. The study is conducted through a survey of students in different years of study at the undergraduate level by multi-stage cluster sampling and stratified sampling. The collected data is sorted and analyzed to get the necessary inference from which suggestions can be drawn. The outcome of this review can help the educational institutions in developing and implementing policies to accommodate the mental health issues while the students get migrate from Online to Offline

**Keywords:** online education, offline, COVID-19, education.

# 1 Introduction

During the COVID 19 era, many waves recurred. The world witnessed several losses of human lives, economic meltdown, food security, health hazards, etc. Children and young adults between ages 6 to 21 could not grasp the transition in their education patterns, and the most affected ones were those from the 18 to 21 age group [1]. This group is referred to as young adults. They started their schooling with traditional methodologies, evaluated based on the universally accepted physical mode of examination and graded based on their performance during their examinations. The teachers could guide, monitor, motivate, discuss, discipline and instruct the students in their progressive learning process [2]. The responsibility to make a student get an education is mainly determined by the teacher's role and the school environment. The parents played a less important role, and the students depended on the teachers [3].

This group's physiological and psychological patterns were severely damaged during COVID as the students started to stay at home [4]. The responsibility from teachers has been shifted to students majorly, and their parents took the role of monitoring, disciplining, and instructing their children [5].

The above fear factors are believed to have continued to impact students even in the post-COVID era. However, it is essential to know the positive implications of COVID-19 among the students. Though major studies concentrated on negative implications, there is undoubtedly positive strength. Identified from social media and personal conversations, two significant positive effects were found and established as – emotional support from family [6] and absence of unwanted academic peer pressure [7].

While some students are eager to embrace the conventional in-classroom method of studies as schools globally are gradually gearing to go back to the physical mode of teaching, certain groups of students are reluctant to follow this conventional mode [8]. Therefore, the survey undertaken in this work is aimed to pull out the perspective of students concerning their preferred learning modes. This would help both the parents and teachers mitigate the negativities surrounding the different education methods and capitalize on the positive factors while the students shift back to school.

# 2 Methods

This study is focused on understanding the deliverability of the two modes of education (Online and Offline) in terms of the following parameters;

1. acceptability
2. purpose
3. suitability
4. coverage
5. effectiveness and
6. metamorphosis

To realize these objectives, the study employed a quantitative approach in gathering the primary data required for the research. According to [9], "qualitative researches are mainly interested in establishing how perceptions are originated, how

connotations are conveyed, how roles are established, how a prospectus works out, how a policy is framed and executed and how a pupil turns out to be aberrant". A total of 912 respondents were students of the same college, having undergone both modes of education, pre and post COVID methods, for substantial periods. The rest were selected for the survey. Others were picked online from relevant sources. The sampling was done based on the principles of multi-stage and stratified sampling [10 – 11]. This helped in achieving the objective of this study with limited samples.

The survey proceeded with 30 odd questions to compare the merits and demerits of both online and offline modes of education, which are perceived as;

1. The preferred method of teaching for students
  1. Offline
  2. Online
2. The merits of education online:
  1. elimination of commutation
  2. total operational comfort
  3. significant reduction in cost
3. The discouraging aspects of education online:
  1. Discreteness on consumption
  2. Diversion during reception
  3. Disconnect in operation
4. The merits of education offline:
  1. Correlation on transaction
  2. Continuity over operation
  3. Concentration on the comparative scale on the betterment
5. The three discouraging things with education offline
  1. Non-negotiable attention
  2. Fear of contamination
  3. Direct supervision

Inferences were generated from the 912 respondents. A cluster was drawn to find relevance, rationale and regression on data. A cluster of 52 data responses was rejected. However, 360 responses were considered on fulfilment on the purpose of which 263 of them had expressions favouring online education while 597 respondents provided logic and projected the traditional offline path. The responses were analyzed using possible data analytic tools, and the following results were inferred.

### **3 Results**

#### **3.1 Favouring Offline mode of learning:**

Figure 1 below represents a bar chart analysis of the preferential criteria that sets offline way ahead of the modern online method for reasons inferred from the responses from 912 respondents. Figure 1 indicates that although some students still wish they should continue their online studies from home, a more significant percentage of all the respondents from the 10 different categories still prefer to resume their offline (in-classroom) mode of studies.

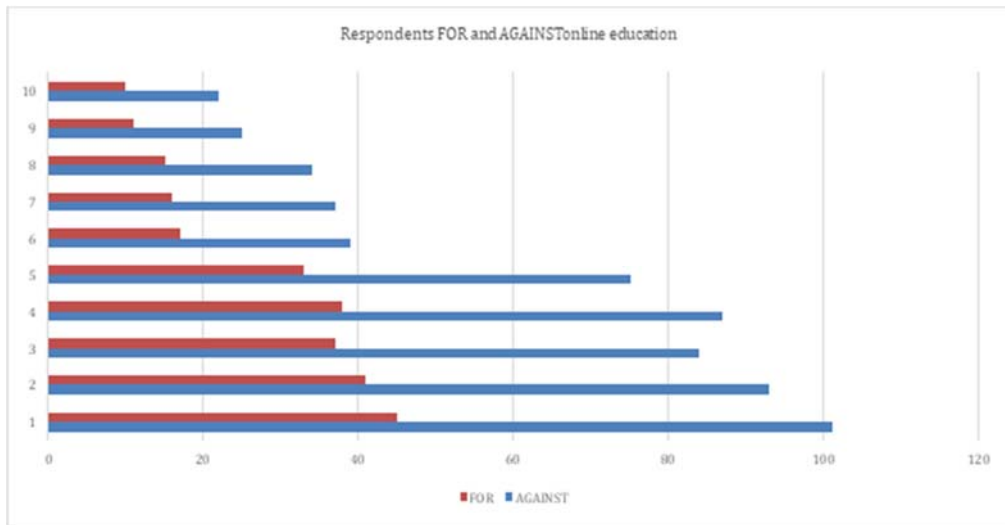


Figure 1: Result analysis of student perception of online education

Furthermore, the bar chart in Figure 2 illustrates how students are inclined to offline education mode based on their individual opinions. Inferences were made on the construct of their logic by which they listed out the advantages of education offline in comparison. Feedback from the students indicates that most of them prefer offline education due to health challenges associated with the online mode of study.

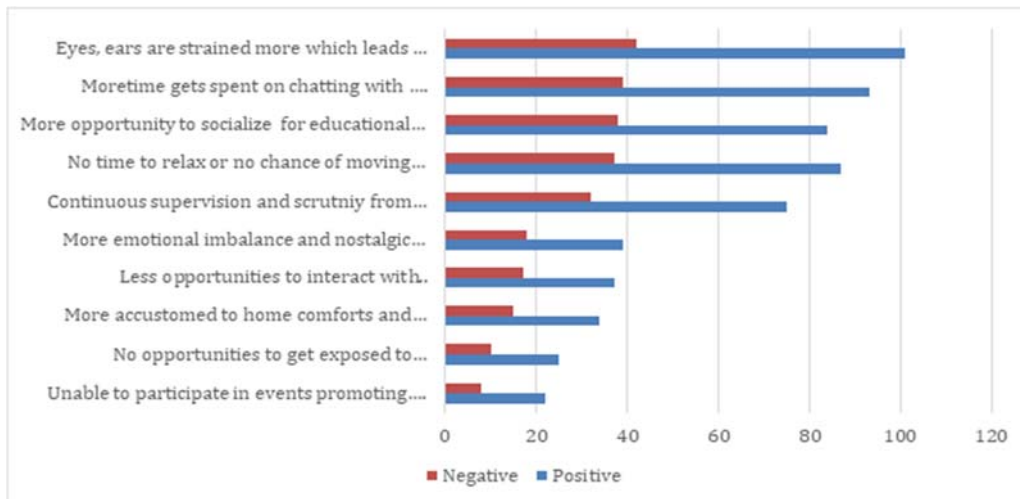


Figure 2: Respondents' views that favour offline education

Most of these respondents agree that online studies result in the straining of major body sense organs such as the eyes, ears, and other sensory parts. Also, more respondents believe that the offline mode of studies offers them more time to chat and associate with their peers. A more significant percentage of them also responded on the affirmative, indicating that offline studies provide more opportunities to scrutinize educational materials and tools.

### 3.2 Favouring online mode of Learning

The chart in Figure 3 indicates the result of the five most significant constructs from the respondent's viewpoints favouring online education.

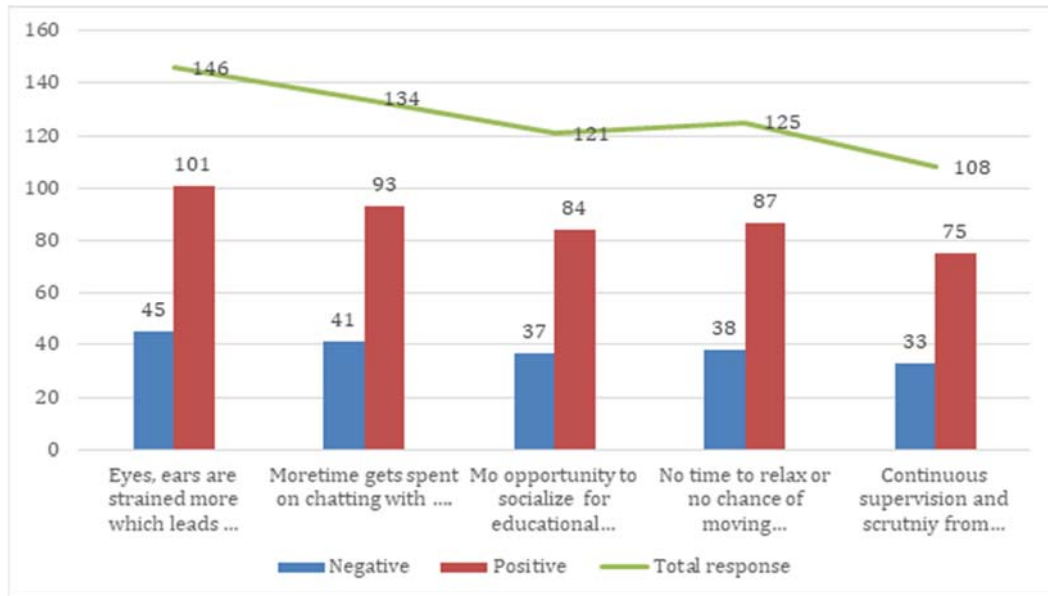


Figure 3: Response Indicators - Favouring Online Education

## 4 Conclusions and Contributions

In conclusion, this study aims to research the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has on the mental health of young pupils and their perspective on returning to school. This paper has highlighted the different contributing factors that impact students' mental health after these two years of living with the virus and studying from their respective homes. The responses received and the preceded analysis gave mixed views from the students with respect to offline and online modes of education. However, it has established that the majority of the respondents representing the views of most students globally are excited to return to their in-classroom activities as they have faulted the online learning strategy in so many ways. The results from this study would help governments and schools develop policies and solutions to address better and manage the mental health of these youths going through a tough time in their developmental years

### 4.1 Research Finding

1. offline over online education as the latter is monotonic and has a negative impact on health;
2. to be in the company of friends, share ideas and learn together rather than being remotely connected by way of chatting;
3. to go out of the comfort of their homes, a kind of closed atmosphere that creates chances to increase the factors of stress and boredom, which instead is taken care of through socialization with other students;

4. to move out of the emotional effects of being confined to home due to covid as the nostalgic ill-effects haunt the mind frequently;
5. to attend college than being with the 12/7 schedule, home online;
6. to be off to college to avoid the continuous, constant parental supervision;
7. to receive practical training over and above the theoretical stuff;
8. to have physical interaction with teachers and students to align with the learning process on better terms;
9. to listen, feel and learn in person with an open and relaxed mind rather than taxing the ears and eyes more in an imbalanced manner
10. to participate in extracurricular activities to express their dormant and unexpressed skills.

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