

CHAPTER 34

ACCESS TO ONLINE EDUCATION DURING PANDEMIC IN JALANDHAR CITY

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ABSTRACT

These days life is quite uncertain about everything same was happened in the world, where no individual was ready with the situation that took place in the entire world and destroyed the very being of the human, corona virus, the virus that was sufficient in his nature to destroy the entire existence of the human being, it has adversely affected, almost all the areas be it humans ,be it environment and most importantly, the education of the children, the education sector from the past two years is struggling everyday to survive, similar conditions are followed in the state of Punjab in Jalandhar district where although the government provided all the online education platforms for the students during that time, but still somehow many were not aware about the same as well as many had difficulties due to the Infrastructures around them. Different impact of covid-19 on online education has been discussed, along with research conducted on thirteen candidates by way of questionnaire for establishing the truth about the access of online education in the Jalandhar district of the Punjab state, following the Conclusion and the recommendations for the same.

Keywords : Online Education, Covid-19 Situation, Jalandhar District

I Introductory Remarks: Everyday human faces a new challenge in his life humankind is not something that does not face challenges on regular basis some day it is the challenge of education where as an another day it is a challenge of a survival, making the interrelation between the both , they are equally important if child will study we have the capacity to take out his family

out of any kind of problems and challenges they are facing on regular ground as well as in daily routine about their survival.

Humankind is not something that is new to the challenges every single day a person is facing a challenges to overcome the situations of the life which he has not faced in the past same is like the condition of the corona virus into the world and to be more specific India and in India in district called Jalandhar.

What exactly was this corona virus who has taken away thousands and lacks of life in no time, left the families with the utmost burden of their survival, for some they have lost their parents and for some they have lost children and for some the whole family is been affected by this dangerous virus called corona virus.

Every industry has been affected by the Global Impact of pandemic covid-19 the very first case that was recorded for this particular virus was from the country, China in the region Wuhan on December 31st 2019.

What exactly was the result of this corona virus, it created a situation into the world into the countries where it was necessary to put the lockdowns on so that no people get affected from the same unthinkable virus. There were technically lot of effects of coronavirus was there.

The most major effect of this coronavirus was the death of the people of all age categories, where as there were other major impacts of coronavirus was there one such impact was on the education of the children, coronavirus in India established its root in December 2019, which led to the complete curfew situation in all the districts and the states of the country India including Jalandhar district of Punjab state. Technology facilitates education by allowing students and professors to connect remotely via online classrooms, webinars, and digital assessments, among other things. However, the sad reality is that many pupils around the country do not have access to it.¹.

Due to the lockdown situation into the district, it was a situation in front of the government of Punjab that what all things we can be done so that there will be no effect on the education of the children, but now again the question was that there are literally a lot of categories of people who are living in the Jalandhar district some are living in the rural, remote areas of the district where as some are living in the cities and have greater access to all the Technologies as well as all the internet, but what about the children who are living in villages and do not have any kind of access to such things called internet as well as call Technology rather for whom it is very difficult to

attend the school even on regular basis what should be done so that the education can reach to every household in the country. 67 percent of the population lives in rural regions and barely half have access to the Internet; online schooling is a near-impossible step. The lack of electricity is a huge barrier to taking use of online education.²

Education is a very important roles in every child's life to them it is like a most important ride that can ensure their future that can ensure that even if they do not have anything tomorrow, by education they can become a person of a greater demand as well as a person who will be successful and even if you leave that person in a different country and do not give him anything or provide him with anything still he will stand straight because he has education and he is educated.

Due to the Corona, no schools, no colleges as well as no universities were allowed to open and to ask the students to come physically to join the classes it is there was a greater danger in allowing them to sit together during this Corona period as this was the disease that has lead everything down into the society from education to a basic needs of the society. Even the international instrument like World Health Organization was afraid to talk about this deadly disease that was spread for the period of almost two years into the country and it still continuous today also with lesser restrictions.

¹ Covid-19, (2022 April 3). *Impact of Covid-19 on school education in India.*

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/readersblog/theenchantedpen/impact-of-covid-19-on-school-education-in-india-32475/>.

² Covid-19, (2022 April 4). *Impact of Covid-19 on school education in India.*

<https://www.actionaidindia.org/blog/impact-of-covid-19-on-school-education-in-india/>.

II Access to online education platforms: Keeping the same thought in mind Punjab government took much initiative for the purposes of the children to provide them with the access to online education during the covid-19 times as well; question again comes about the implementation of the same. Many initiatives were taken by the Punjab government such as DTH TV channels that provided the students of class 6th 7th 8th and 12th the daily classes for the four hours slot, where as there was another initiative that was e d u s a t YouTube channel that had more than 2000 videos as well as according to the hours there were a lot of recorded PDF'S, projects were made available for the classes 1st to grade 10, even there was the distribution of E-books on monthly basis for all the grades starting from 1 to 12 through Google drives, they were making of WhatsApp groups and other online platforms were also the initiation by the Punjab government to ensure the access of online education for all the students of Jalandhar district.

The purpose behind this research was to analyze the effect of the corona virus on the education of the children specifically the access of the online education in Jalandhar district during the corona virus, for which there were in total 10 questions that was asked to the different individuals living in the Jalandhar city some were professors, some parents and some were students themselves. The whole purpose was to know their viewpoint that what exactly does they feel about the ongoing situation of the pandemic in the district of Jalandhar and how the state is ensuring the right to education to the children of Jalandhar city.

III Impacts of corona virus: The general scenario regarding the access to online education during the Corona time in the Jalandhar district was neutral, as it provided the students with both positive as well as negative impacts, for some it was very easy to stay at home and attend the online classes in their desired environment but for some it was extremely difficult even to access the internet on laptops or on mobile phones.

How successful would the digital education model be in a country like ours, given the digital divide in India? Will India be able to learn to adapt anywhere, at any time? Will it pave the way

for educational advancement? Will it, on the other hand, fall flat due to a lack of a more adaptable infrastructure arrangement?³

The situation somehow in the areas deferred like in the city almost all the people were aware about how they were supposed to use the phones for the purposes of their studies were as in the remote area where even there is lack of infrastructure how one can expect that they might know about the access to online platforms. So during the online education there were basically making of different groups for the purposes of sharing of the materials on the phones and on the emails itself was there, where some faced the lack of knowledge about the usage of the latest technologies, for some it was the fact that with the one click they get all the information together on one platform, for another it was a not a boon if they have no access to the technology how even for them a one click is possible.

Although virtual teaching had certain positive impact also during the Corona times for Students all over the world online lessons have become an increasingly popular choice digital learning has made it possible to manage and preserve data and folders without causing any physical harm students can retrieve their notes and assignments with us English lake reducing the chance of them being displaced or poet even it has made possible to make people aware about the technology that they are us have and they can use it for making their future better students have also become more careful with the Online submission since their regular reminded at a simple for teachers to track down students who have failed to complete their tasks on time.

Whereas on the other hand, the greater effect on employment of the staffs and faculty, Teachers and students who are unprepared for online learning as well as the Global career opportunities got vanished badly. Increased parental responsibility was there due to the pandemic for children's education Due to the closing of schools, there has been a loss of nourishment. Fees for schools and colleges have been delayed as parents were not able to pay the same because of lock down and almost there all the savings were spent. This pandemic has exposed some of India's educational system's main flaws. The shutdown of schools has had a significant impact on students who are on the margins. India isn't yet ready to use digital platforms to bring education to every corner of the country. Students who aren't as fortunate as their peers would suffer as a result of the current digital platform selection⁴.

³ Covid-19, (2022 April 5). *How covid -19 will affect to the indian education system.*

<https://studyabroadlife.org/how-covid-19-will-affect-the-indian-education-system/>.

IV Data Analysis : Now when the study was conducted related to the "access of online education" during the Corona times, Researcher laid down the question, to all the 13 candidates that what is their view is the most important out of two ,virtual education or physical education, to which all the 13 candidates said that definitely physical education is better in all the terms, the significance behind this question was to know about the reason ,behind why did all of them opt about the physical education, their opinion behind selecting the physical education was that, firstly, it insured more connectedness among teachers and students and, secondly it is the most appropriate traditional way of learning, Where are some also stated that students who do not know how to use technologies are saved from virtual learning systems.

The inference that the researcher can made out of this is that somehow virtual learning affect the relations among the teachers and the students as well as it also destroys the traditional values of the learning system , similarly it also reflect about the lack of knowledge regarding the usage of Technology, as many of them are not aware about how to use the technology or the internet to attend the classes and even some are not aware about the platforms that are been provided by the government are there for the purposes of the online education.

The another question that was asked was that what in the knowledge has been most impacted by the covid-19, the purpose behind this question was to have a knowledge regarding both positive as well as negative effect of the Corona on the students and their education for which almost 38.5% treated that it has badly impacted the studies of the students and 30.8% of the people stated that it has impacted the practical approach .

⁴ Covid-19, (2022 April 7). An analysis of COVID-19 Impacts on Indian Education System.

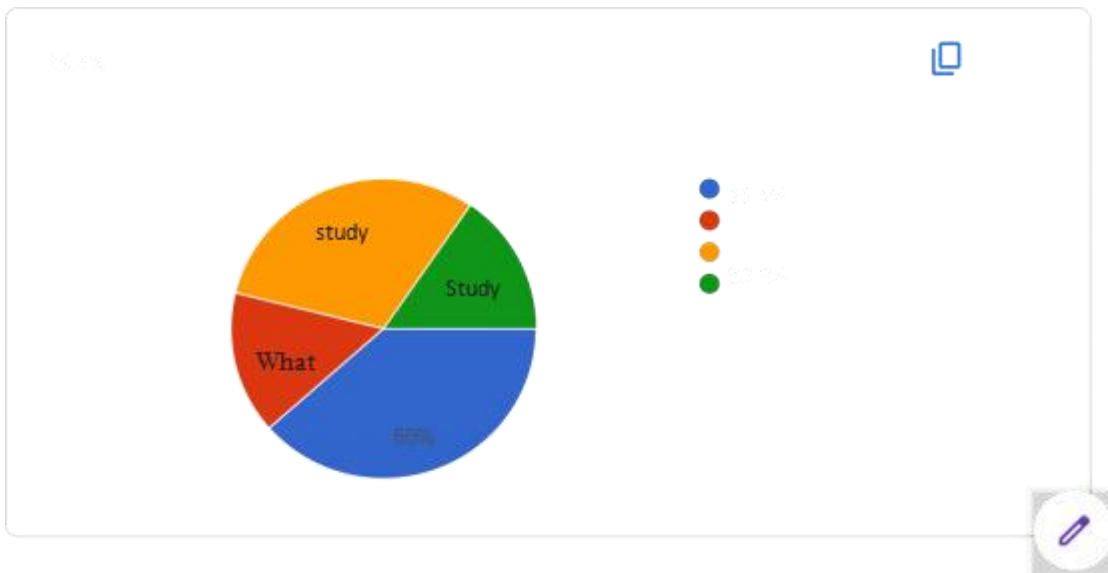


Table 1.1

The inference that the researcher can make out of the question asked is that although there were a lot of resources provided by the Punjab government to the students of Jalandhar district still majority stated that virtual learning has impacted the studies of the students as many of them are not serious about their studies, as well as lack knowledge about the government policies related to the online education platforms available to the students.

Challenges faced by the students due to the virtual learning was the lack of connection by being at home that is the students were not able to concentrate because of the environment in which they were attending their classes online and many also stated that the challenging aspect was basic infrastructure to ensure a smooth working of online classes,

the inference that the researcher can make out of this is that again even there is the policies which are been provided by the government of Punjab such as “edusat YouTube channels” but the question is have the government provided them with the technology and internet as well so that they can have no issues in excess of the internet, that means by just writing the laws, one cannot think that they have done enough it is also needed that the implementation of those laws should be must.

The researcher would say the major drawback of this combination of online education and the Corona pandemic was the effect on students as they lost the learning ability as well as the study ability among themselves, it's more like a situation where certain change in the rules can help

the same like regular test while the webcams are on can be taken, as when the same question was asked almost 92.3% percent of the people stated that they are of the view that definitely it has impacted the above written both.

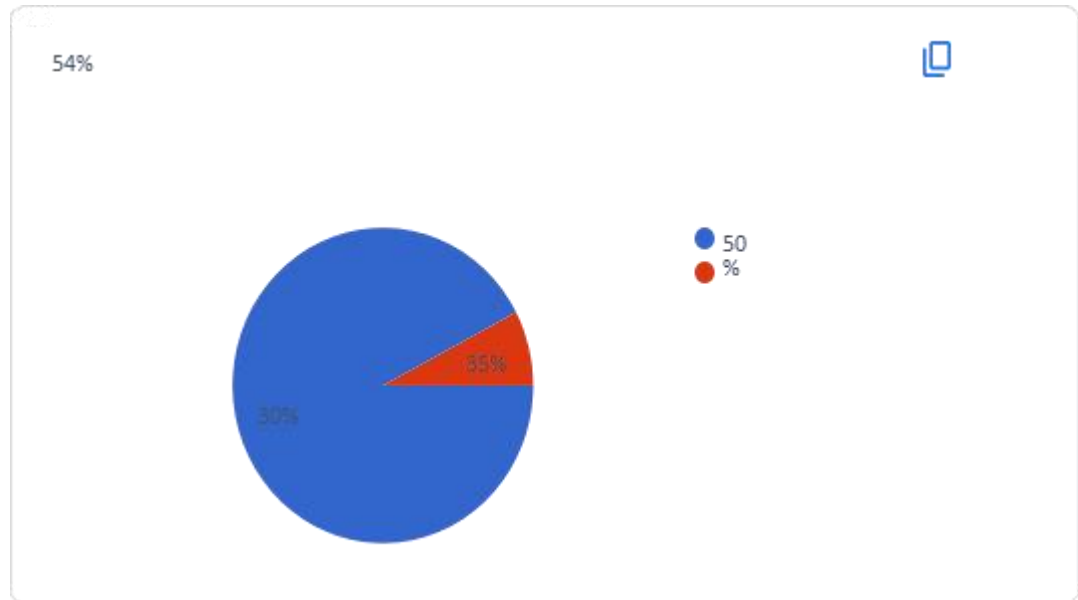
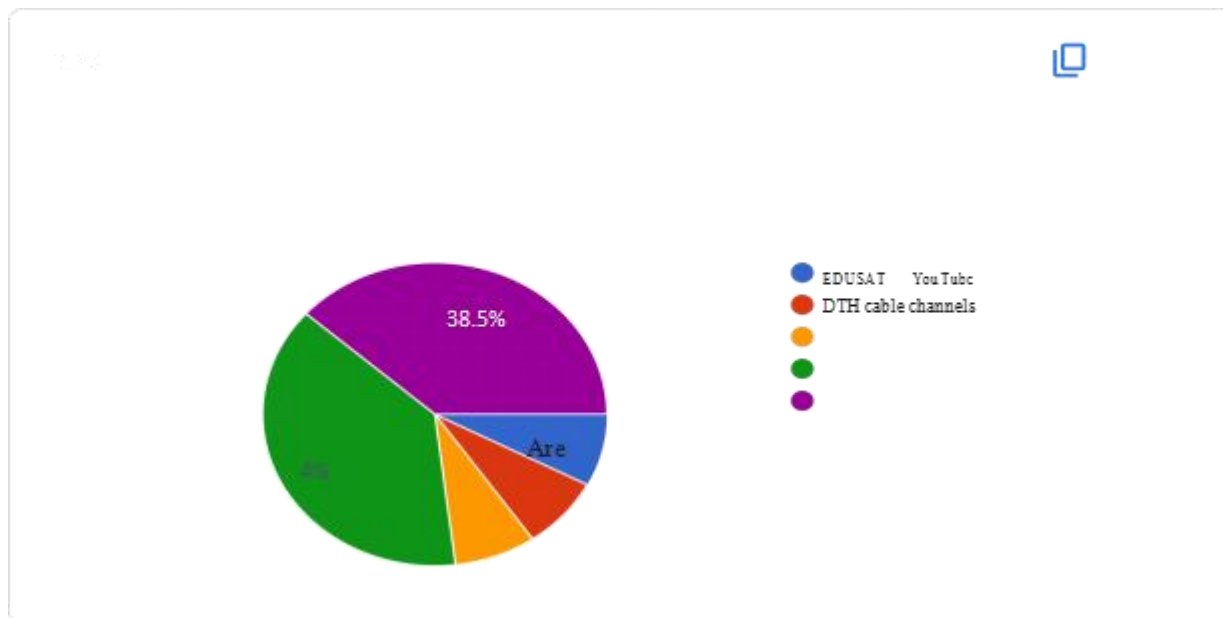


Table 1.2



For researcher it was really disheartening to know about the next question that researcher asked was that were any of the candidate was aware about any of the policies that has been given by the Punjab government for the purposes of the access to online education during the pandemic situation, 38.5% stated that they were clearly not aware about any of the online studying platforms that was available to the students during the pandemic,

Table 1.3

inference that the researcher made out of this was that again there was a complete lack of implementation of the policies by the state government, as many of the people were not aware about the the online platforms that was been provided by the government for the children for the purposes of education.

The Other impacted areas of education system of Jalandhar district according to all the candidates were learning ability of the student, life skills of the child that is taught to him in school have been hampered, and body fitness of the children has also been affected. And further the question was the us that what do they feel that has to State of Punjab done a good job in case of making available every possible online platform for students to study during pandemic out of 13 candidates 53.8 stated yes where as 46.2 stated no,

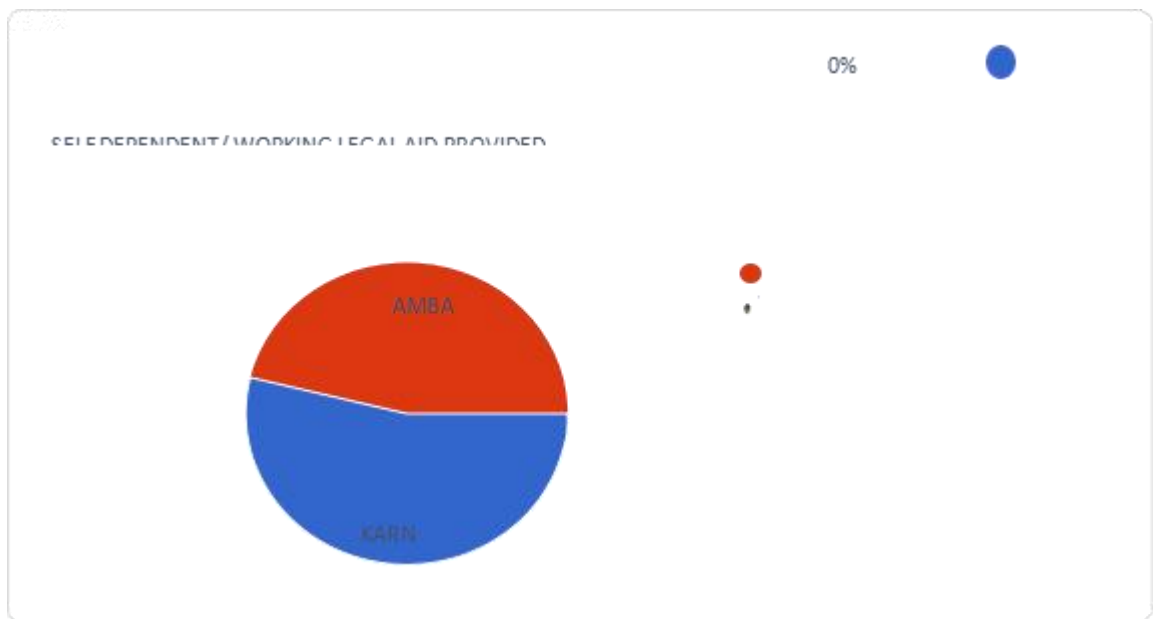


Table 1.4

although the majority says yes that they have done no wrong in providing of the online platforms but again the question remains what about the other 46.2 % of the people who think that the state of Punjab specifically the district of Jalandhar has the lacked regarding the implementation of the policies.

V The Concluding Remarks: The conclusion that the researcher can make out of the study is that although there were different efforts made by the government of Punjab purposely for the online education of the children was there, but still it lacked the implementation of those efforts made. If some law or some rules are made, it is important to inspect the same on a regular basis same like in this situation if lot of online platforms for the purposes of education of the children was there, why did they still lack behind in their education, it is the duty for the state to ensure that whether everyone is having the access to online education or not, for that purposes regular inspections must be done.

VI Recommendations: The recommendations that can be made here is the proper implementation of the policies, one must be given the duty to form a group on online platform where they can add the data of all the children that are present in a particular district , and make sure that they are aware about the policies that are being provided to them by the government of Punjab, as well as to ensure with the regular inspection ,to have knowledge about all are the children who are facing the issue with the technology, they can also be given classes for the future purposes as well if any such condition appears in the future all the children must be ready to face the challenges of the outbreak but they also know about how to fight those outbreaks and in result their education must not suffer because of such outbreaks.