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RESEARCH ARTICLE

Awareness of Students regarding Online Education during COVID-19 Pandemic**Shivani¹, Sangeeta Gupta², Apoorva Singh³ and Sumi Raj⁴**

1, 3 & 4. PG Scholar
2. Assistant Professor,
Deptt. of Ext. Edu. &
Communication Management.
CSAU&T, Kanpur,
(U.P.), India
Corresponding author e-mail:
singh.shivani3101@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

The present study entitled, "Awareness of students regarding online education during COVID-19 pandemic" was undertaken in the year 2021-2022. In this study Chhatrapati Sahuji Maharaj University of District Kanpur Nagar was selected purposively. From the selected Chhatrapati Sahuji Maharaj University, randomly six colleges were selected. From each college twenty-five students were selected so; total 150 numbers of students were selected. Most of the students were between 23 to 24 years of age group majorities of them were post graduate. Mostly students were belonged to General. Majority of students were belonged to urban background having whose family annual income was Rs.3, 00,000 and above while mostly students were aware used to YouTube and Zoom as their source of information during COVID-19 pandemic.

Key words: Awareness; Education; Pandemic; Technology.

The 2019–20 coronavirus pandemic is an on-going pandemic of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (sars-cov-2) (WHO, 2020a). The outbreak was identified in Wuhan, China, in December 2019, declared to be a public health emergency of international concern on 30 January 2020, and recognised as a world pandemic (WHO, 2020b) (Agormedah et al. 2020). The unexpected closure of educational institutions as a result of the emergence of COVID-19 prompted the authorities to suggest adopting alternatives to traditional learning methods in emergencies to ensure that students are not left without studying and to prevent the epidemic from spreading (Abdelsalam et al. 2022). The concept of education has changed dramatically over the last few years, with many questions being raised as to what the best mode of instruction is with the advent of technology and the Internet (Gratiela Dana Boca, 2021). Face-to-face learning activities in the classroom have been stopped to prevent COVID-19 from spreading and transmitting (Khusni Syaqui et al. 2020). In the current scenario of COVID 19 pandemic, the contribution of information technology has gained momentum due to closure of educational institutions

that raises challenges for students' learning. During this quarantine time information technology is serving the solution for the ongoing learning process through innovative and learning management systems. (Khan et al. 2020). The present investigation is planned with the following objectives:

- To study the socio- economic background of the students.
- To determine the awareness of students regarding online education.

METHODOLOGY

To complete the above objectives, by employing the appropriate research methodology, the study was conducted in district Kanpur in the year 2021-2022. District Kanpur Nagar of Uttar Pradesh was purposively selected for the study. From the selected Chhatrapati Sahuji Maharaj University, randomly six colleges were selected. From each college twenty-five students were selected. Thus, 150 students were selected. Dependent and independent variables, namely residence, gender, age of students, education, caste religion, background, type of family, parental occupation size of family, type of family, annual income of the family, material possession, source of

information, awareness, opinion, impact, constraints and suggestions were used. The data so collected were subjected to statistical analysis for which statistical tool, such as percentage, rank, weighted mean, standard deviation and correlation coefficient.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The perusal of table 1 indicates that the distribution of students according to age group maximum 43.3 per cent students belong to the age group 23 to 24 years with mean age 23.4 years and standard deviation 0.5 years followed by 39.4 per cent students who were found to be in the age group of 25 years and above with mean age 26.0 years and standard deviation 1.0 year in the study area of Kanpur Nagar District. 17.3 per cent of students were found to be in the age group of 20 to 22 years with mean age 20.7 years and standard deviation 0.7 years in the research study area. So it can be concluded from the data that mostly students belonged to 23 to 24 years age group followed by 25 years and above age group. The perusal reveals that distribution of students according to education, 50.7 per cent of students educated up to post graduate level and 49.3 per cent of students educated up to under graduate level in the research study area of Kanpur Nagar. The finding reveals that most of students in the study area were pursuing post-graduation. Distribution of students according to their source of information, 100.0 per cent students had you-tube and zoom as their communication media followed by 96.7 per cent of students who had Google meet in their houses as a source of information minimum 20.0 per cent of students using discord.

Table 1. Socio-economic status of the students

Variables	No.	%	Mean age	S.D.
<i>Age group</i>				
20 to 22 years	26	17.3	20.7	0.7
23 to 24 years	65	43.3	23.4	0.5
25 years and above	59	39.4	26.0	1.0
<i>Education</i>				
Undergraduate	74	49.3		
Postgraduate	76	50.7		
<i>Source of Information</i>				
A. You Tube	150	100.0		
B. Google meet	145	96.7		
C. Zoom	150	100.0		
D. Discord	30	20.0		

Hence, most of the students used you-tube and zoom as their source of information.

The data pertaining in Table 2 reveals that awareness of students regarding online education, 64.0 per cent of students were fully aware and 33.3 per cent partially aware to post a query in chat box with mean score 2.61, standard deviation 2.12 and rank I followed by 66.7 per cent and 63.3 per cent of students were found to be fully aware about awareness of various online learning platforms and aware of the academic programs offered by the institution respectively with mean score 2.53 and rank II in the study area. 56.7 per cent fully aware and 32.7 per cent partially aware that over use of digital technology is proving harmful for students with mean score 2.46, standard deviation 2.01 and rank III, followed by 50.0 per cent of students were found to be fully aware and 38.0 per cent partially aware the podcast learning and communication with

Table 2. Distribution of students according to their awareness regarding online education (N=150)

Awareness	Fully aware	Partially aware	Unaware	MS	S.D.	Rank
Students are aware of the digital learning resources	56.0	25.3	18.7	2.37	1.97	V
Online campaigns and webinar are held to motivate for the digital learning	44.0	34.7	21.3	2.23	1.83	VII
Students have been provided with number of platform where they can get quality education	28.7	42.7	28.7	2.00	1.60	IX
Lowering prices of internet resources are taking places	22.7	51.3	26.0	1.97	1.54	X
Over use of digital technology is proving harmful for students	56.7	32.7	10.7	2.46	2.01	III
Awareness about various online learning platforms	63.3	26.0	10.7	2.53	2.08	II
How to attend online meetings	44.0	30.7	25.3	2.19	1.80	VIII
Giving online proctored examination	10.7	33.3	56.0	1.55	1.14	XI
How to post a query in chat box	64.0	33.3	2.7	2.61	2.12	I
E-learning is affecting self-efficiency of students	51.3	27.3	21.3	2.30	1.90	VI
Students are aware of the academic programs offered by the institution	66.7	20.0	13.3	2.53	2.10	II
Students are aware of the podcast learning and communication	50.0	38.0	12.0	2.38	1.94	IV

Table 3. Correlation coefficient between awareness and opinion regarding online education

Variables	Correlation coefficient
Age	0.2338*
Education	0.3165*
Background	0.1141 ^{NS}
Father occupation	0.2062*
Mother occupation	0.3117*
Family size	0.2330*
Income	0.4071*

*Significant at 5% level of significance, df-148

NS-Non significant.

mean score 2.38, standard deviation 1.94 and rank IV. 56.0 per cent of students were fully aware and 25.3 per cent were partially aware of the digital learning resources with mean score 2.37, standard deviation 1.97 and rank V, whereas 51.3 per cent of students were found to be fully aware, 27.3 per cent partially aware then e-learning is affecting self-efficiency of students with mean score 2.30, standard deviation 1.90 and rank VI in the research study area. 44.0 per cent of students were found to be fully aware and 34.7 per cent partially aware about online campaigns and webinar are held to motivate for the digital learning with mean score 2.23, standard deviation 1.83 and rank VII, followed by 44.0 per cent were fully aware students regarding online meeting and how to attend them, whereas 30.7 per cent of students were partially aware with mean score 2.19, standard deviation 1.80 and rank VIII. The table 5.15 also denotes that 28.7 per cent of students were fully aware about students have been provided with number of platform where they can get quality education whereas 42.7 per cent of students were partially aware with mean score 2.00, standard deviation 1.60 and rank IX. 22.7 per cent students where fully aware lowering prices of internet resources are taking places, 51.3 per cent students were partially aware about that with mean score 1.97, standard deviation 1.54 and rank X. 10.7 per cent of students were fully aware about giving online proctored examination whereas 33.3 per cent students were partially aware with mean score 1.55, standard deviation 1.14 and rank XI.

It may be concluded that students were aware about how to post a query in chat box, awareness of various online learning platforms, also aware of the academic programs offered by the institution and over

use of digital technology is proving harmful for students, which confirms with the findings of *Kumar (2020)*.

The correlation coefficient between awareness regarding online education with independents variable, age (0.2338*), education (0.3165*), father occupation (0.2062*), mother occupation (0.3117*), family size (0.2330*), annual income of the family (0.4071*) significantly positive correlated with awareness of the students regarding online education at learning platforms, online meeting, query chat box, e-learning and digital learning at 5% level of significance and 148 degrees of freedom.

CONCLUSION

The findings related to most of the students were belonged to 23 to 24 age group, mostly students were educated up to post graduation. Majority of students were fully aware about how to post a query in chat box. The study also concluded that maximum numbers of students were aware of the academic programs offered by the institution and overuse of digital technology is proving harmful for students.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The authors have no conflicts of interest.

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