

A study of preparedness of schools for online education in Pune city during Covid-19 lockdown

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Abstract :

The Covid-19 virus created historic situation of pandemic lockdown across the globe 2020. Due to prolonged period of lockdown work from was encouraged. The same was applicable to education. Online education was started. The present study focused of preparedness of schools for online education. Before commencement of online education, lots of support of hardware, software and skills was required to ensure the quality online education. The study analysed the readiness of schools for this online education.

Keywords – online education, education in lockdown, work from home in education

1. Introduction:

In the month of March 2020, the Covid19 influenced the world population on larger scale. In respond to that many countries declared lockdown in India. During the period many services were shutdown including education. After certain days step by step unlocking process was initiated. Hence online education also started by schools in online mode. This was new for Indian education system to completely rely on online mode. The system was not prepared for it. The paradigm shift was sudden, so online education became a part of public discussion.

2. Need of the study:

Pune was at the epicenter of Covid-19 in the country. It was leading after Mumbai in case of number of cases. Pune is also educational hub. Lots of schools, colleges, institutions situated in the city. After lockdown, many schools started online education from the month of April. It was one of the most discussed topic on public platforms. Parents, teachers, students etc. all stakeholders were the part of it. Because



of sudden situation, no one was prepared for online education, still online education was started. It was necessary to study under what circumstances school and school started online education. Hence researcher decided to study the topic.

3. Objectives:

- i. To find out the number of school started online education, during lockdown in Pune city.
- ii. To find out the training program for teachers organized by schools.
- iii. To get the information about tools used by the schools.
- iv. To find out the resources provided by schools.

4. Research Questions:

- i. How many school started online education in Pune city during lockdown?
- ii. Whether schools trained all teachers for online education?
- iii. What tools of online education are being used?
- iv. What online education resources are provided to the teachers?

5. Operational Definitions:

- a. **Preparedness** – Providing orientation, training, software and resources required for online education to the teachers
- b. **Online education** – Education given by using computer and internet in distant mode.
- c. Schools-Primary to higher secondary Marathi and English medium schools situated in Pune city affiliated to any board in India.
- d. Corona Lockdown –Lockdown declared by Maharashtra Government due to Corona pandemic from March 2020.
- e. Pune city –A Corporation area of metro city Pune in Maharashtra



6. Scope: The results of the study are applicable to the schools in Pune city.

7. Delimitations:

- i. The study is delimited for Schools of Pune city only.
- ii. The study is delimited for the Lockdown period March to June 2020.
- iii. The study is delimited to a study of school preparedness for online education.

8. Limitation:

- i. The findings about the preparedness of the schools are concluded from the responses given by the teachers. The researchers not verified the responses physically.

9. Method of Research

Survey method was used for the present study. Survey was conducted in online mode in the first week of July 2020.

11. Variable: Preparedness of the schools for the online education is an 'attribute variable' for the study.

12. Population and Sample: Population is Primary, secondary and higher secondary schools situated in Pune city.

Sample of informants were selected from different WhatsApp groups of teachers working in different schools in Pune city. Occasional sampling technique was used. 123 teachers responded to the online questionnaire.

13. Data Collection Tool: Online survey questionnaire was developed by the researcher by using Google Forms. It has total 20 questions. All questions were structured i.e. close ended. 5 questions were related to the variable selected for the present study.



14. Procedure:First the problem was constructed properly in the first week of June 2020. Then online questionnaire was developed by using Google forms in the third week of June. Then it was shared in five Whatsapp Group of teachers working in Pune city in the last week of June. 123 teachers responded to the questionnaire. One week period was given to respond, then Google form was locked to receive responses. After the data collection questions wise Charts were generated in Google form. With the help of data analysis, conclusion were made and a paper was written in the month of July and August 2020.

15. Data analysis:Google form of questionnaire was circulated and responses were collected. It has total 25 questions. Data table was downloaded in excel sheet and graphs were copied from Google form itself. Five questions were related to the variable selected for the present study. So the data analysis of those five questions are given below. Other questions are omitted, so the question number displayed in the graph is different from the report.

Q1. What is your designation?

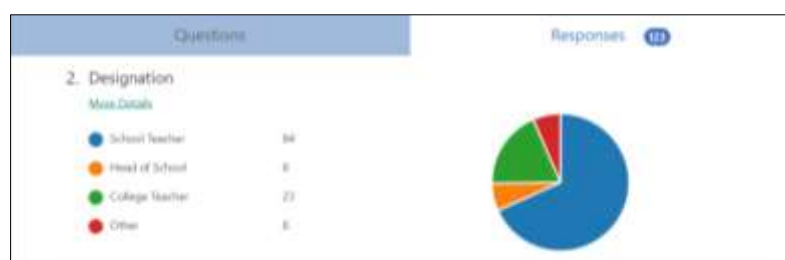


Table 1: Designation of respondents

Observation:68% of the respondents are school teachers. 19% are from Jr. College. 6.5% are Head of the institute. 6.5% are other than these schools.



Q2. Have your school started online education?



Table 2: Online education initiated

Observation:97% schools started online education for students and 3% schools not started online education.

Q3. Has your school given training to teachers?



Table 3: Training by school

Observation: 68% schools given training to the teachers, 32% schools not given training.

Q4. Which online tools are you using for online education?

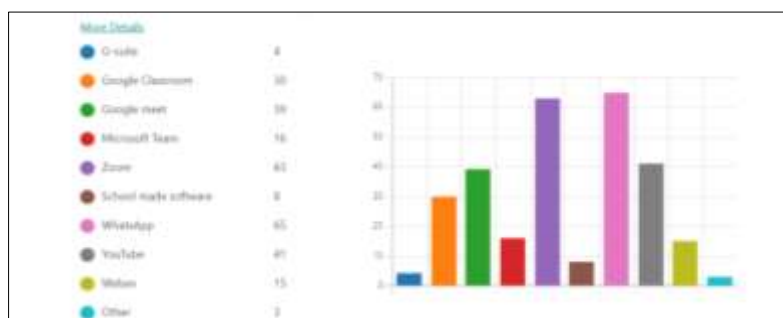


Table 4: Online tools used

Observation: Respondents were allowed to select more than one tool. WhatsApp (53%) and Zoom (51%) were mostly used tools for online education. Other tools like YouTube (33%), Google Meet (32%), Google classroom (23%), Microsoft Team



(13%) and WebEx(12%)schools provided school made software (6.5%) and even used by some G-suit (3%) were also used for online education.

Q5. Which resources school provided to the teachers for online education?

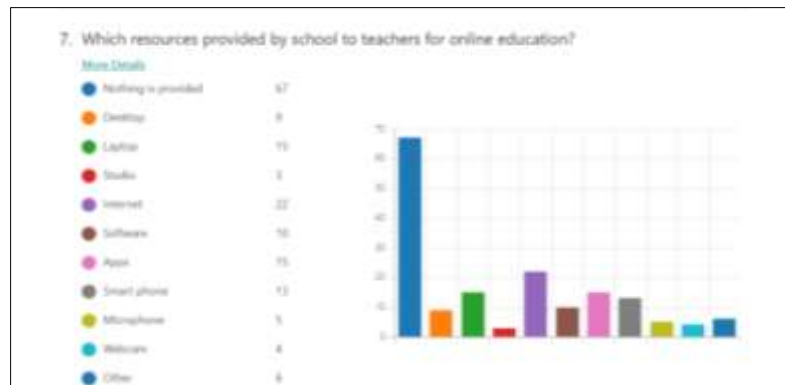


Table 5: Resources provided by school

Observation: Respondents were allowed to select more than one option. 54% of schools not provided any resources to the teachers. Following 5 of schools provided respective resources, Internet 18%, Laptop 12%, Apps 12%, Smart phone 11%, Software 8%, Desktop 7%, other 6%, Microphone 5%, webcam 3% and Studio 2%.

16. Answers of Research Questions:

i. How many school started online education in Pune city during lockdown?

Answer - Most of the schools started online education for students. (Ref. Table 2)

ii. Whether schools trained all teachers for online education?

Answer - Many schools given training to the teachers, some schools not given training. (Ref. Table 3)

iii. What tools of online education are being used?

Answer - Zoom and WhatsApp were mostly used tools for online education. Other commonly used tools were You Tube, Google Meet and Google classroom. Microsoft Team and WebEx even used by some teachers. Few schools provided school made software. (Ref. Table 4)



iv. What online education resources are provided to the teachers?

Answer - Majority of schools not provided any resources to the teachers, means teachers were using their personal resources for online education. Some schools provided Internet, Software, App, smart phone etc. resources. (Ref. Table 5)

17.Objectives wise finding and discussion:

Objective i.To find out the number of school started online education, during lockdown in Pune city.

Finding - Most of the schools started online education for students. There was guidelines issued by different apex bodies about starting online education. Selection of online tools were left on schools according to availability of resources which provided flexibility for preparedness for online education. So most of the schools able to start online education.

Objective ii.To find out the training program for teachers organized by schools.

Many schools given training to the teachers, some schools not given training, and so these teachers had to learn themselves for the online education. Actually there has to be training for teachers to understand and use variety of features in the tools. Training was also required to make them aware about cyber security, netiquettes and copyright issues. There were some training programs conducted by government after this study. Training is essential before starting online education, but some schools not able to manage it. That showed schools were not serious about preparedness.

Objective iii. To get the information about tools used by the schools.

Zoom and WhatsApp were mostly used tools. Many teachers were using You Tube, Google Meet and Google classroom. Microsoft Team and WebEx even used. Many schools tends to make use of free tools. Few schools provided school made software/platforms. Means schools were not really prepared well for online education



were not invested money to develop need based software/platform useful for online education.

Objective iv. To find out the resources provided by schools.

Majority of schools not provided any resources to the teachers, means teachers were using their personal resources for online education. Schools not invested money for online education. Either they were using free resources or forcing teachers to make use of personal devices and internet for online education. It also showed that school were not prepared themselves for online education. Some schools provided Internet, Software, App, smart phone etc. resources.

18. Recommendationson the basis of the study:

- Schools should provide orientation and training to all teachers about all the tools used for online education.
- Schools should provide all resources required for online education to the teachers.

19. Conclusion:

Hon. UddhavThakarey, Chief Minister of Maharashtra State, said school may be closed but education should be continued. Online education is the best way of education in the lockdown period to make our kids out of infection of Covid-19, unless vaccinations comes and reaches to every citizen of the country. Online education cannot be mainstream education here in our country, but it is one of the most useful alternative available today. Of course, it has threat of digital divide among teachers and students as well. All students and teachers may not have resources required for online education, but majority of them are having it. There should be some assistance given to the have-nots to enable them for online education. Let the schools off but education should on during the corona pandemic lockdown.



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