

Perception and Acceptance of online learning among Nursing Students during COVID 19 Pandemic

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ABSTRACT

Educational technology improves efficiency in the educational system by removing the need for traditional methods of obtaining knowledge and learning. Quick access to information is ensured by technology, making teaching easier and making learning more enjoyable and stress free for students. In COVID pandemic, the use of information technology in education is unquestionable. When all educational institutions were closed due to the COVID - 19 pandemic, online learning surely gave a solution to most of our educational needs. The aim of this study was to assess perception and acceptance of online learning among Nursing students during COVID 19 pandemic. A descriptive cross sectional web based survey method was adopted for present study. The study comprised of 50 nursing students of selected nursing colleges. The Web based Perception and acceptance Likert scale was used to collect the data. Convenience sampling technique was used for data collection. Formal permission was obtained from concerned authority for data collection. The analysis of the data was done by using descriptive statistics. The present study shows that, Thirty four percentages of the nursing students were above 26 years of the age and majority 64 % were male. 54 % of nursing students were studying in Basic B. Sc. Nursing and 28% of the students studying in Post Basic B. Sc. Nursing. 54% of nursing students belongs to Hindu religion. Mean perception score of nursing students towards online learning during COVID 19 pandemic was 55.20. Mean acceptance score of nursing students towards online learning during COVID 19 pandemic was 23.72. Nineteen nursing students felt that online learning can solve the educational problems. 30 students said that it helps in saving time and 21 nursing students told that online learning improves access to learning material. Most of the nursing students felt that online learning does not help to achieve better result, increase students engagement in learning, improve teacher and student interaction and improve understanding of the concepts. 13 students said that it is too time consuming, 19 expressed that, online learning had little impact on them and 16 students said that it is as informative as the teacher. 22 nursing students agreed that online learning will never replace other forms of teaching and learning. 20 nursing students said that online learning helped them in reinforcing their knowledge. 21 students felt that it helped them organize their work. 25 nursing students agreed that online learning helps increase their effectiveness to create presentations and 29 students think that it has increased their research capability. 18 students feel that universities should adapt online learning for their students. The present study concludes that, Mean perception score of nursing students towards online learning during COVID 19 pandemic was 55.20. The mean acceptance score was 23.72. This indicates that online learning was perceived to be less effective than traditional learning. This could be the result of the introduction of new learning concepts. The nursing institutes should implement various programme to improve online learning that are more user friendly and allowing online experiences of practical sessions to be conducted successfully and efficiently. This finding will help to solve the actual problem faced by the students while running online classes to make the education system more effective. Online learning is a powerful tool for learning. However, successful implementation of online learning into the curriculum requires a well throughout strategy and a more active approach.

Keywords: Perception, Acceptance, COVID, Nursing student, Online Learning, E Learning

Introduction

The novel Corona virus, officially known as SARS-CoV-2 or Corona virus disease 2019 (COVID-19) was first reported in December 2019, as a cluster of acute respiratory illness in Wuhan,

China, from where it spread rapidly to over 198 countries. It was declared as a global pandemic by WHO on 12th March 2020. [1]

The COVID-19 pandemic significantly disrupted every aspect of human life including the educational system. It caused chaos compelling educational institutions to suspend their regular activities. [2]

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The closure of schools and universities affected more than 1.5 billion students and youths across the globe. Many schools and universities started switching from traditional classroom teaching to virtual education methods to cope with the educational loss due to lockdown. The **Second Global Survey on the Impact of COVID-19 on Higher Education** recently came to a close. Several universities and other higher education institutions participated in this initiative to help drive positive change in the field. We are now in the process of analyzing and evaluating the responses and look forward to sharing the Survey findings later this year. [3]

According to UNESCO Institute for Statistics, COVID 19 has had a significant impact on education facilities in over 190 countries, affecting 90 percent of the world's students. Since March, 35,055 schools, 1,435 colleges, and 11 institutions in Nepal have been closed. There are no concrete plans for the reopening of these facilities as the number of cases in the country grows. These schools lack the most basic infrastructures to continue classes for students while taking all necessary precautions to prevent the spread of COVID 19, including preserving social distance. [4]

A descriptive study conducted on to assess the impact of E-learning during the COVID-19 pandemic among Nursing students and teachers of Nepal. Study comprise of 1116 respondents. Samples were selected by convenience sampling method for the feasibility of the researcher. The primary quantitative data was obtained by self-administered questionnaire through online survey method. The study concludes that most of the respondents suffered from disturbances during online classes because of internet and electricity problem, also students were compelled to use data packs for their online classes. Although the course may be completed the objectives of students and college will not be fulfilled if the problems arising during online classes are not solved. [5]

A study conducted on Students' acceptance and readiness for E-learning in Northeastern Thailand. The study explored student readiness for online learning. The survey also explored students' self regulation, computing devices ownership, and level of familiarity with education related technologies. The responses imply that students have a slightly positive perception toward e-learning. They use mobile technologies extensively, and have experience using social media; but are unfamiliar with other collaborative e-learning tools. [6]

A descriptive web-based cross-sectional study was conducted among nursing students with a sample size of 470. A self-administered validated questionnaire along with a standard tool to measure the attitude was used for data collection. Result

shows that, almost half of the nursing students showed a positive attitude regarding e-learning. The majority of the students had internet problems and technological issues. If e-learning can be made user-friendly with reduced technical barriers supplemented with programs that can enhance practical learning abilities, e-learning can be the vital alternative teaching method and learning in the nursing field. [7]

A study conducted on to measure the impact of COVID-19 on the medical education by asking the student's perception on the practice of long distance learning delivered during this pandemic. Cross sectional study design using electronic questionnaire was used for present study. Total 545 students responded to electronic survey. Study concludes that, effect of COVID to student's education revealed some supportive, but also inhibitory factors. [8]

The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted teaching in a variety of institutions, especially in medical schools. In many countries, including Poland, typical face-to-face classes had to be suspended to ensure the safety of students, lecturers, and patients. To minimize the impact of lockdown, medical schools had to find another approach to teach medical students. Fortunately, current technology enabled electronic learning (e-learning) to be the core method of teaching the curriculum during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Methods and Material

A cross sectional web based survey method was designed for present study. The study was conducted in June to July 2021. The study comprised of 50 nursing students. The Web based Perception and acceptance Likert scale was used to collect the data. It covered the demographic variables, perception and acceptance Likert scale regarding online learning. Convenience sampling technique was used for data collection. The survey was conducted through a link shared on social networking sites. Google Form was created and students were invited to complete and submit the form. Reliability of the instrument was calculated by using Karl Pearson Correlation Coefficient formula and significance of correlation was tested using Spearman Brown prophecy formula and the tool was found reliable. Formal permission was obtained from concerned authority for data collection. The analysis of the data was done by using descriptive statistics.

Result

Analysis and interpretation is based on the objectives of the study. The analysis was done with the help of descriptive and inferential statistics.

Table 1: Percentage wise distribution of nursing students according to their demographic characteristics =50

Demographic Variable	Frequency	Percentage
Age in years		
18-20 years	08	16.00
21-22 yrs	13	26.00
23-25 yrs	12	24.00
Above 26 years	17	34.00
Gender		
Male	32	64.00
Female	18	36.00
Educational Course		
RGNM	00	00.00
Basic B. Sc. Nursing	27	54.00
Post Basic B. Sc. Nursing	14	28.00
M. Sc. Nursing	09	18.00
Religion		
Hindu	27	54.00
Buddhism	10	20.00
Christian	12	24.00
Muslim	01	02.00

The above Table 1 shows that distribution of nursing students according to age, gender, Educational Course and religion. Thirty four percentages of the nursing students were above 26 years of the age and majority 64 % were male. 54 % of nursing students were studying in Basic B. Sc. Nursing and 28% of the students studying in Post Basic B. Sc. Nursing. 54% of nursing students belongs to Hindu religion.

Table 2: Perception of nursing students toward Online Learning N=50

Category	Mean	Standard deviation	Mean percentage
Perception	55.20	7.31	61.33

The above table 2 depicts that the mean perception score of nursing students towards online

learning during COVID 19 pandemic was 55.20. The mean percentage score was 61.33.

Perception of Nursing students toward Online Learning

The perception of nursing students towards online learning shows that, the majority 19 of the nursing students felt that online learning can solve the educational problems. 30 students said that it helps in saving time and 21 nursing students told that online learning improves access to learning material. Most of the nursing students felt that online learning does not help to achieve better result, increase students engagement in learning, improve teacher and student interaction and improve understanding of the concepts. 13 students said that it is too time consuming, 19 expressed that, online learning had little impact on them and 16 students said that it is as informative as the teacher. 22 nursing students agreed that online learning will never replace other forms of teaching and learning. 20 nursing students said that online learning helped them in reinforcing their knowledge. 21 students felt that it helped them organize their work. 25 nursing students agreed that online learning helps increase their effectiveness to create presentations and 29 students think that it has increased their research capability. 18 students feel that universities should adapt online learning for their students.

Table 3: Acceptance of Nursing students toward Online Learning N=50

Category	Mean	Standard deviation	Mean percentage
Acceptance	23.72	4.12	47.44

The above table 3 depicts that the mean acceptance score of nursing students towards online learning during COVID 19 pandemic was 23.72. The mean percentage score was 47.44. This indicates that online learning was perceived to be less effective than traditional learning.

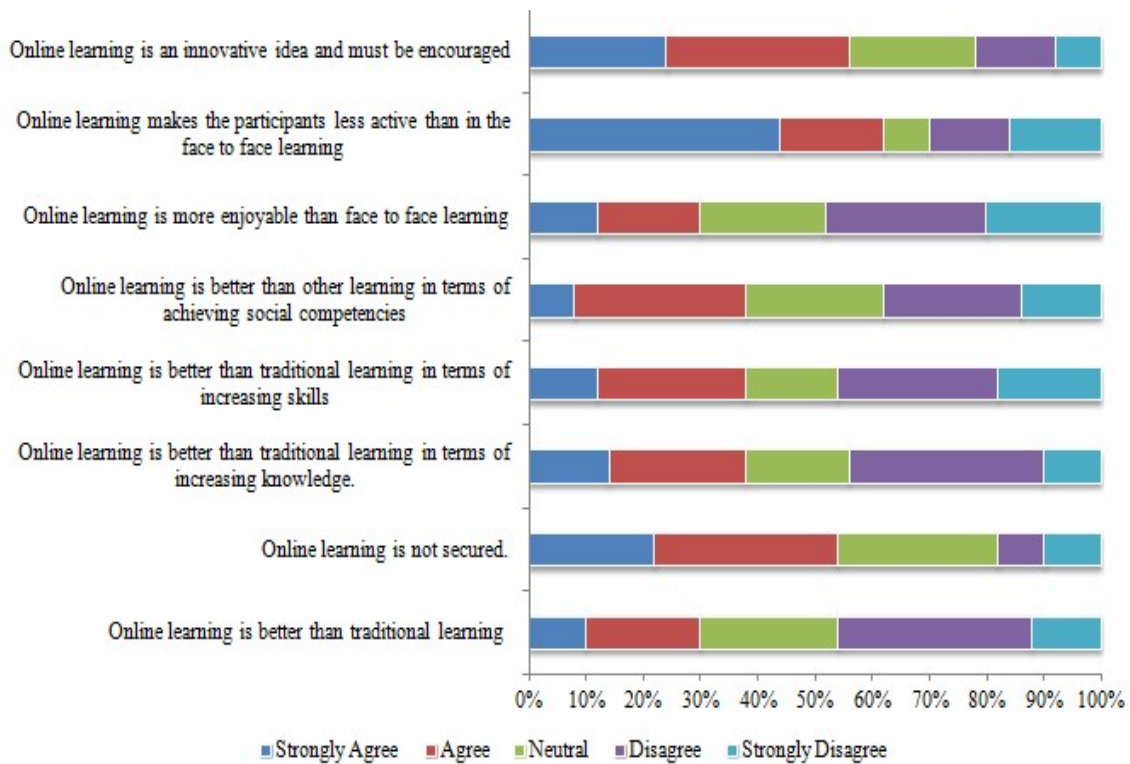
Discussion

The present study shows that, Thirty four percentages of the nursing students were above 26 years of the age and majority 64 % were male. 54 % of nursing students were studying in Basic B. Sc. Nursing and 28% of the students studying in Post Basic B. Sc. Nursing. 54% of nursing students belongs to Hindu religion. Mean perception score of nursing students towards online learning during COVID 19 pandemic was 55.20. Mean acceptance score of nursing students towards online learning during COVID 19 pandemic was 23.72.

Present study shows that, majority 19 of the nursing students felt that online learning can solve the educational problems. 30 students said that it helps in saving time and 21 nursing students told that online learning improves access to learning material. Most of the nursing students felt that online learning does not help to achieve better result, increase students engagement in learning, improve teacher and student interaction and improve understanding of the concepts. 13 students said that it is too time consuming, 19 expressed that, online learning had little impact on them and 16 students said that it is as informative as the teacher. 22 nursing students agreed that online learning will never replace other forms of teaching and learning. 20 nursing students said that online learning helped them in reinforcing their knowledge. 21 students felt that it helped them organize their work. 25 nursing students agreed that online learning helps increase their effectiveness to create presentations and 29

students think that it has increased their research capability. 18 students feel that universities should adapt online learning for their students.

A Similar study conducted to find out the perceptions of students regarding E-learning during lockdown period of COVID-19 pandemic. A descriptive cross sectional study was conducted at Government Medical College and Hospital, Aurangabad. A sample size of 360 was calculated. MBBS students of all levels participated in this study. A Google questionnaire was developed and was validated by Medical education unit of the college. Study conclude that, Students did not prefer E- learning over classroom learning. They admit the usefulness of E -learning. But, classroom learning with rational use of E -learning is preferred by the students.[9]



Conclusion

The present study shows that, Mean perception score of nursing students towards online learning during COVID 19 pandemic was 55.20. The mean acceptance score was 23.72. This indicates that online learning was perceived to be less effective than traditional learning. This could be the result of the introduction of new learning concepts. The nursing institutes should implement

various programme to improve online learning that are more user friendly and allowing online experiences of practical sessions to be conducted successfully and efficiently.

This finding will help to solve the actual problem faced by the students while running online classes to make the education system more effective. Online learning is a powerful tool for learning. However, successful implementation of

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