



**ONLINE V/S TRADITIONAL EDUCATION –A STUDY OF STUDENT PREFERENCES**

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**Abstract:**

The Internet world in the last two decades has upgraded the way people socialize, communicate, shop, make business and think about learning and exploring new knowledge. Adding on to the distance learning, a new twist of online schooling is modifying the method of traditional offline classrooms and making education more accessible and easily available than ever before. It is kind of a rich learning environment and is much more flexible than a traditional classroom. On the other hand, traditional learning primarily focuses on classroom education which is very much limited to a predetermined time duration and at a specific location where the learners are expected to be present and attend the class. The educators have shifted their traditional pedagogical approach to the online teaching style to tackle new conditions and adapt to the changing situations. This transformation brought forth the daunting question of effectiveness of online versus traditional education. With this question in view, the researcher decided to conduct a study to identify student preferences about online versus traditional learning.

**Key Words:** Online Learning, Traditional Education, Student Preferences

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**Introduction:**

In the last two decades, the Internet world has grown from being almost non-existent into the largest, most accessible database of data and information that has been ever created. It has also upgraded the way people socialize, communicate, shop, make business and think about learning and exploring new knowledge. Adding on to the distance learning, a new twist of online schooling is modifying the method of traditional offline classrooms and making education more accessible and easily available than ever before.

With virtual education, students can acquire knowledge and education from anywhere with Internet access and electric power supply and can turn that place into a classroom. The virtual learning may include learning through audio, video, text, animations, live chats with teachers. It is kind of a rich learning environment and is much more flexible than a traditional classroom. When used to its maximum potential, virtual education via the internet has been shown to be more effective than physical face-to-face interaction. It can be interesting, engaging, fun and good enough to fit almost each and everyone’s schedule including teachers and students.

On the other hand, traditional learning primarily focuses on classroom education which is very much limited to a predetermined time duration and at a specific location where the learners are expected to be present and attend the class. The learners are required to join into the group discussions in the classroom along with their mentors and give their input and also show active participation in all the group activities that are conducted in the classroom. In traditional learning the students become more active and social and the whole learning process is



in a controlled environment when everything is supervised by a teacher. Students can directly share their opinions and ideas and clarify their own queries with the teacher, thus getting their questions answered right away. Students get hands – on experience of the learning process. Continuous interaction between the teachers and students in a traditional classroom setup helps students get rid of most of their academics related fears, which is rarely possible in an online environment.

However, today online teaching is no more an option but a necessity. The (COVID-19) pandemic made institutions to switch from offline mode to online mode of pedagogy. This crisis made the institutions to accept modern technology which were earlier reluctant to change. Many universities all over the world have completely digitized their operations. There was an overnight shift of normal classrooms into the virtual classrooms. The educators have shifted their traditional pedagogical approach to the online teaching style to tackle new conditions and adapt to the changing situations. This transformation brought forth the daunting question of effectiveness of online versus traditional education. With this question in view, the researcher decided to conduct a study to identify student preferences about online versus traditional learning.

**Need of the study:**

The COVID-19 caused schools to shut all across the world. Universally, over 1.2 billion children are out of the classroom. As a result, education changed intensely, with the distinctive rise of e-learning, whereby teaching is undertaken remotely and on digital platforms. With this sudden shift away from the classroom in many parts of the globe, the online learning has continued post-pandemic.

The COVID-19 pandemic activated new ways of learning. Nowadays, advanced learning has developed as a fundamental asset for students and schools all over the world. For many educational institutes, this is an entirely new way of education that they had to accept. In this transition from traditional education to online education, students had to relearn new ways of educating themselves and coping with the new strategies introduced. Thus, the researcher felt the need to conduct a research on the study of student preferences about online v/s traditional education.

**Objective:** The main objective of the study is to determine the student preferences about online v/s traditional education among the secondary school students

**Methodology:**

For this research the researcher has selected Descriptive Research Design, wherein the researcher collected data from the students using a questionnaire.

**Sample of the study:**

For the present study the sample size was 148 students of secondary schools of SSC Board from Greater Mumbai.

**Tools used in the study:**

The researcher used a self-prepared questionnaire for the purpose of collection of data for this study.

**Significance of study:**

The study focuses on the English competencies of the students and it will benefit the Principals to understand

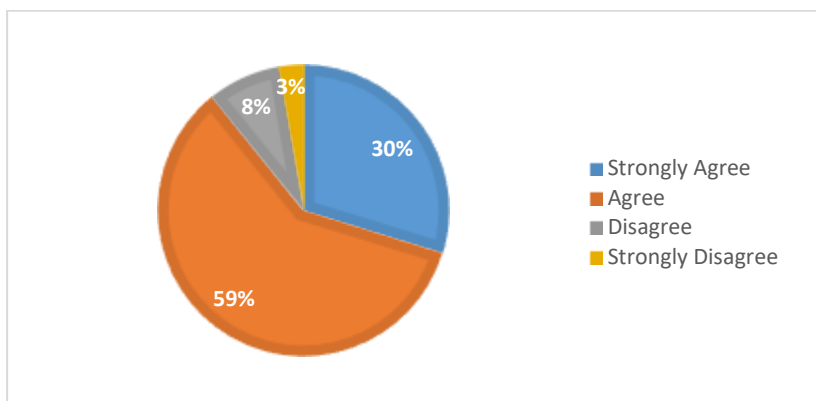


student's preference of online and traditional classroom. It will also make them aware about the difficulties faced by the students during the online classes. The study will help teachers come to know the teaching method they are following is benefitting the students or not also how teachers can improve their way of teaching and interacting with the students. The study will help students to be more aware about their preferences regarding online and traditional learning. They will gain an opportunity to voice their likes and dislikes about online learning, the problems and health issues. This study can also be beneficial to the Parents as they will gain an insight about the problems faced by their children, their interactions and take positive measures to motivate their children to enhance learning experiences

**Findings of the study:**

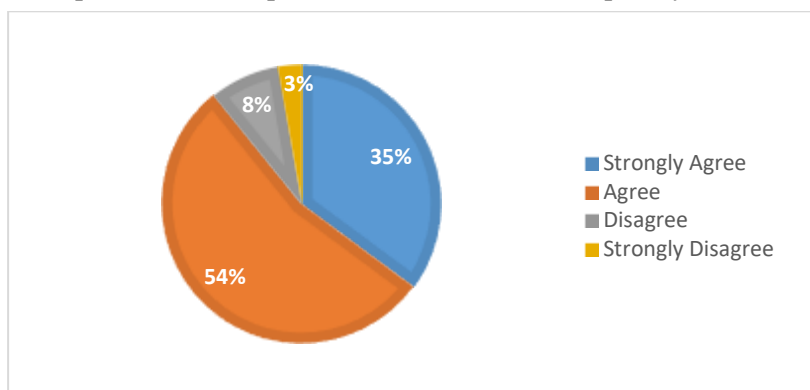
The student preferences about online v/s traditional education were assessed using a questionnaire. Following is the question-wise analysis:

1) I feel comfortable using mobile/computer applications for my online class.



**Interpretation:** In the above graph, 30% students strongly agree that they feel comfortable using mobile/computer applications for their online class, 59% students agree to be comfortable using mobile/computer applications for their online class, only a few percent students Disagree and strongly disagree to the statement.

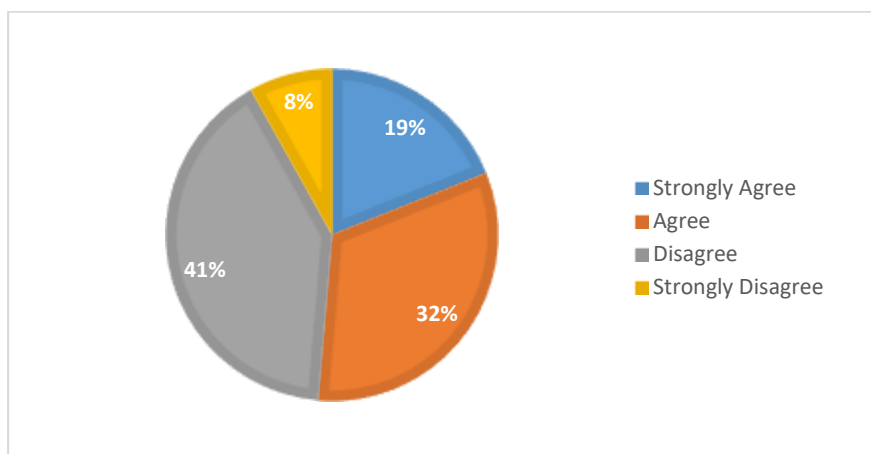
2) I find it easy to access uploaded videos, pause and rewind a video as per my need and ability.



**Interpretation:** In the above statement, 35% students strongly agree that they can access the uploaded videos

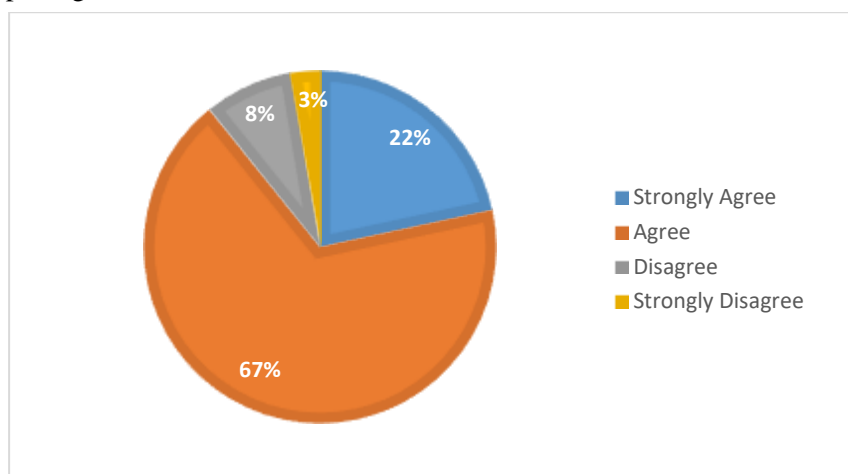
also they can pause and rewind a video as per their need and ability, 54% students agree that they find it easy to access the videos, only a few percent students Disagree and strongly disagree to the statement.

3) I find it difficult to understand subjects like physics and chemistry because of lack of access to the required scientific apparatus.



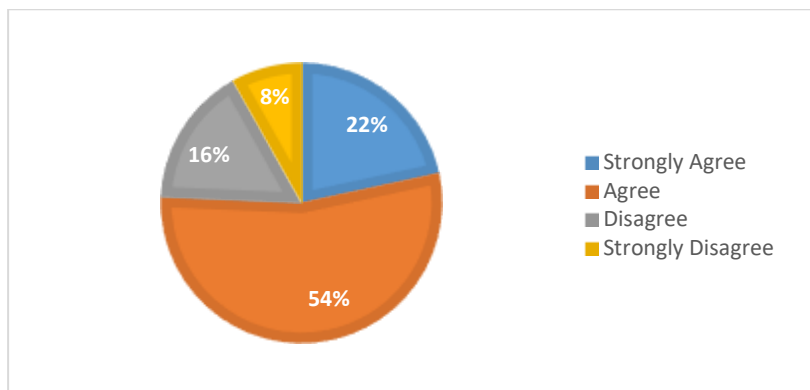
**Interpretation:** In the above statement, 19% students strongly agree that they find it difficult to understand subjects like physics and chemistry, 32% students agree that they find it difficult to understand subjects like physics and chemistry, 19% students Disagree to the statement and only 8% strongly disagree to the above statement.

4) In online classes, I feel connected with the teacher and I feel free to ask my teacher for help when I can't understand a concept taught in the class.



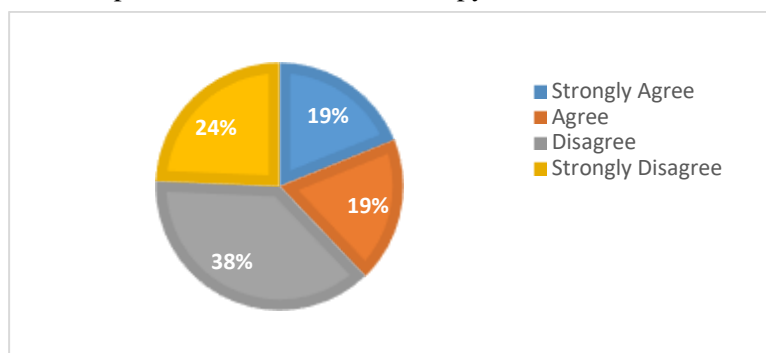
**Interpretation:** In the above statement, 22% students strongly agree that they feel connected with the teachers in the online class and also they can freely ask doubts if they have not understood anything, 67% students agree to the above statement while 8% students disagree with the statement and only 3% student strongly disagree to the above statement.

5) I am able to cope up with the speed of the teacher in my online class.



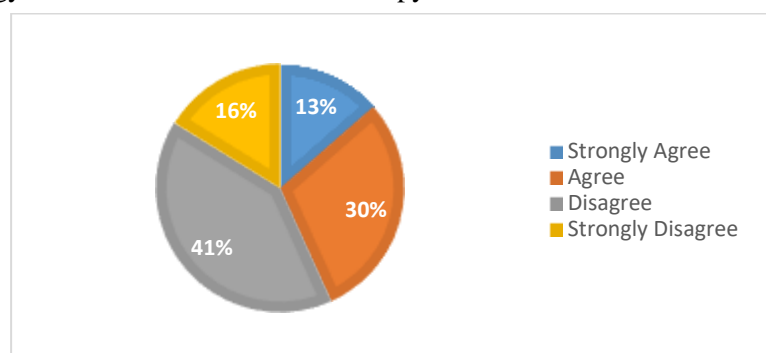
**Interpretation:** In the above statement, 22% students strongly agree that they are able to cope up with the speed of the teacher in online class, 54% students agree to the above statement while 16% students disagree with the statement that they are able to cope up with the speed of the teacher in online class and 8% students strongly disagree to the above statement.

6) I feel that the absence of a supervisor makes it easier to copy in an online exam than in a physical test.



**Interpretation:** In the above statement, 19% students strongly agree that absence of a supervisor makes it easier to copy in an online exam than in a physical test, 19% students agree to the above statement while 38% students disagree with the statement that absence of a supervisor makes it easier to copy in an online exam than in a physical test and 24% students strongly disagree to the above statement.

7) I feel that technology makes it more convenient to copy in an online exam.

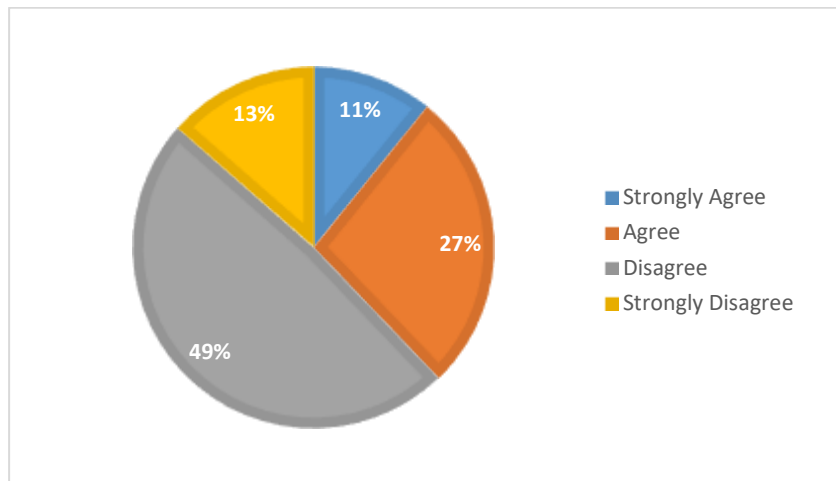


**Interpretation:** In the above statement, 13% students strongly agree that technology makes it more convenient



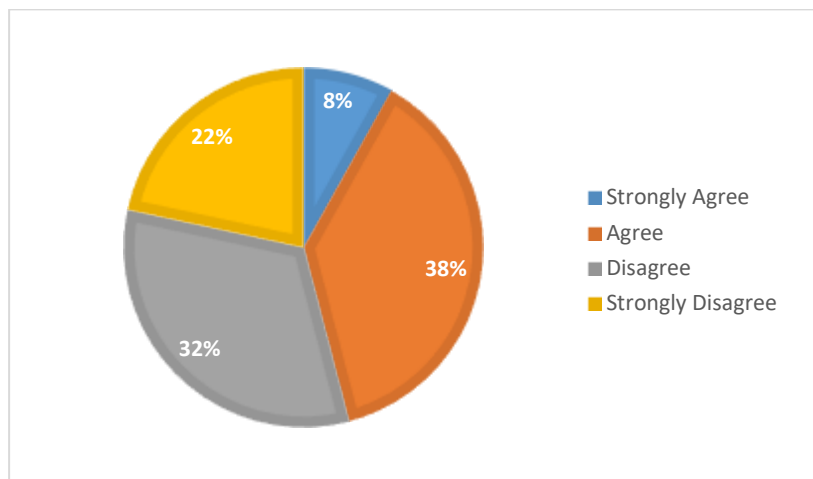
to copy in an online exam, 30% students agree to the above statement while 41% students disagree with the statement that technology makes it more convenient to copy in an online exam and 16% students strongly disagree to the above statement.

8) I feel an increased amount of pressure when it comes to meeting deadlines and giving an exam from home.



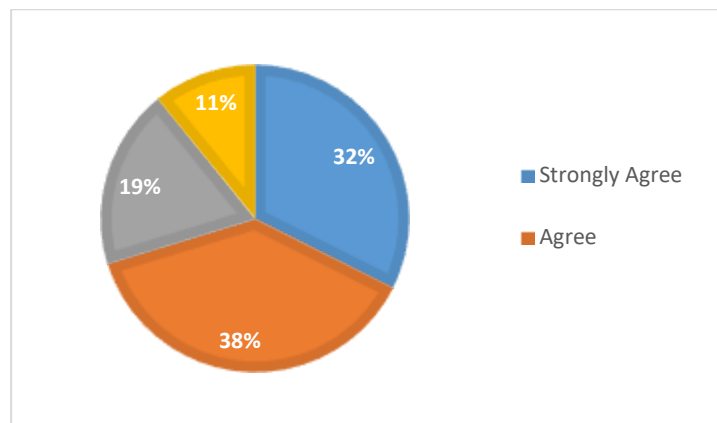
**Interpretation:** In the above statement, 11% students strongly agree that they feel an increased amount of pressure when it comes to meeting deadlines and giving an exam from home, 27% students agree to the above statement while 49% students disagree with the statement and 13% students strongly disagree to the overhead statement.

9) I find it difficult to submit my assignments on time in an online classroom.



**Interpretation:** In the above statement, 8% students strongly agree that they find it difficult to submit their assignments on time in an online classroom, 38% students agree to the above statement while 32% students disagree with the statement that they find it difficult to submit their assignments on time in an online classroom and 22% students strongly disagree to the above statement.

10) Online Education has adverse effects on the eyesight and overall health of students as well as teachers.



**Interpretation:** In the above statement, 32% students strongly agree that Online Education has adverse effects on the eyesight and overall health of students as well as teachers, 38% students agree to the above statement while 19% students disagree that the Online Education has adverse effects on the eyesight and overall health of students as well as teachers and 11% students strongly disagree to the above statement.

#### Findings and Discussion:

The findings shows that majority of the students are comfortable using mobile/computer applications for their online class. Which shows that Students are very much comfortable in using their electronic gadgets for their online class. Very few students find it difficult to use the gadgets. Also majority of the students can access the videos and pause and rewind it as per their need. Also, ease of meeting deadlines for assignments and giving exams from home is preferred by most of the students. The findings also suggest that most of the students feel connected with the teachers in the online class and can clear their doubts during the lecture. They also are able to cope with the speed of the teachers in online class. This shows that students prefer online learning as they can learn through it by their own.

It is also evident that most of the students find it difficult to understand physics and chemistry due to lack of access of the required scientific apparatus. Very few students find it easy to understand these subjects without the scientific apparatus. Here, most of them feel it necessary to have traditional classroom. The graph shows that most of the students don't agree with the statement and feel that it does not makes easy to copy in absence of teacher in online class. Also majority of the students feel that technology does not make easy to copy. The findings show that most of the students feel that Online Education has adverse effects on the eyesight and overall health of students as well as teachers. Hence, students find traditional learning more convenient.

#### Conclusion:

The findings of the study suggest a mixed opinion of students in terms of their preference for online or traditional mode of education. In case of use of gadgets or technology for learning, assignments and examinations and ability to connect with the teachers on an online platform, majority of students prefer the online mode. Whereas in case of practicum and difficult subjects, health reasons concerning eyesight etc, students prefer the traditional mode of education. Thus a good blend of online and traditional education may benefit the overall development of the students.



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