Original Research Article

STUDY ON THE PREFERENCE FOR ONLINE AND FACE TO FACE EDUCATION OF JUNIOR COLLEGE LEARNERS OF THE COMMERCE STREAM

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Abstract

Education and knowledge seeking and its application have been the fuel to drive a civilization to uplift it to its best functioning capacity with changing times. The said study attempts to understand the preference for online and face-to-face education by junior college learners of the Commerce Stream, it debunks certain assumptions of preferred learning and attempts to highlight the requirements that make education a success in these trying times. The purpose and need of the study are to understand the preference of learners and to provide them the necessary environment to the best of the capacity of the educators and the institute. The conclusions and findings help to provide solutions to the discrepancies in teaching-learning.

A) **Traditional Indian Gurukul System:**

Traditional Indian Gurukul system was the pillar of systematic and disciplined learning. The primary aim of Gurukul was to develop knowledge, achieve discipline, understanding and nurturing the culture of the society while aiming at growing its roots deeper in minds and hearts of the society members. It aims at imparting wisdom which separates us and makes us higher and better species compared with other species. Wisdom helps us to decide of what is wrong and right. Gurukul existed since the Vedic age being very popular for schooling in India.

B) **Online Learning/ E-Learning/ Modern Educational Methods:**

Online learning has branched into several dimensions and mediums to be at the fingertips of the learners or students. It is a practice of conducting courses over the Internet. They are generally conducted through a learning management system, wherein students can view their course syllabus and academic progress. The course involves lectures, seminars, workshops and symposiums, etc which benefit the learner from the comfort of his/ her home or suitable place of learning.

C) **Face-To-Face/ Physical Teaching Environment:**

Face to face education is done in classrooms in a set up where the teacher/ instructor controls and moderates the teaching- learning environment keeping the learner's level of attention and interest in mind. Examinations, assessments can be done easily after giving prior notice to students about the preparation for the same with effective monitoring. The infrastructure of the educational institute leaves a great impact on

the learner's learning potential.

Need of the Study

The field of Education and the drivers of the system proactively anticipate and respond to the only constant in the world i.e. Change. E-learning came into being through the E-Gyankosh, a National Digital Repository of learning resources, the project was started by Indira Gandhi National Open University, in 2006. Over the past few years, the Ministry of Human Resource Development has been trying to achieve the target of making education accessible to every corner of the country. Still there are many parts of the country, which are in darkness about e-learning. It is imperative that researchers and educators consider the effectiveness of online learning compared to traditional face-to-face format and the factors that influence the effectiveness of online courses. (Tuan Nguyen, June 2015).

The study is relevant to understand the following parameters which when accomplished make teaching-learning successful:

1. **Effectiveness:** The level of effectiveness is a parameter concerned with the quality of delivery of the lesson, its time dedicated to research and lesson-planning, duration of the lesson and the use of different teaching aids, methods of teaching, different evaluation techniques, calculation of the result and result analysis, etc on the online and face-to-face teaching-learning modes. The modes of teaching should be holistic and comprehensive in nature.

2. **Retention:** The level and duration of content retention, retention refers to the action of absorbing and continuing to retain knowledge- facts, figures, meanings, data, language, prose, poetry, theories, rules, processes, laws, etc.

3. **Applicability:** Applicability of pedagogical knowledge in simulated learning environments and the real-world scenarios.

4. **Reach:** The reach of education to students through face-to-face and online education opted to cope with change irrespective of background classifications.

Importance Of The Study

The study identifies data obtained through primary and secondary sources which help to identify how online education has paved its way smoothly making it a new normal in the pandemic period. It helps to understand how a Mumbai based college in the Suburbs can make arrangements to deliver quality education to its students by laboring tooth and nail to meet the dynamic demands in the educational sphere where commerce is just as diverse. The emotional, social, cognitive, spiritual and creative quotients of students are developed using both mediums but the researcher tries to comprehend which medium is comfortable and why. The responses help in identifying shortcomings and strengths in lesson delivery, execution of activities, events, evaluation and examinations, etc. The data enables the researcher to provide suggestions through observations made during online lectures or face-to-face lectures as per responses by students/ participants in this case.

Operational Definitions

An operational definition is one that is formulated by the researcher for convenience to describe variables,

concepts, figures, etc during the research process for feasibility. The following are the operational definitions formulated by the researcher to initiate and successfully undertake the research activity:

- **HSC Board:** HSC Board or Higher Secondary School Certificate is the Maharashtra State Education and Examination Board which admits, educates and evaluates students who have passed the 10th Standard Board Exams (from any board) and are promoted to 11th Standard and will further clear the 12th Standard to complete HSC education.

- **Commerce Stream:** Commerce stream of learning and education is the specific line of education which students generally opt for after their 10th standard to learn concepts and skills of commercial significance such as business, money, transaction, market forces, factors of production, accounting, commercial laws, etc. Students learn subjects like Book-keeping and Accountancy, Economics, Mathematics / Secretarial Practice, Organization of Commerce, Information Technology and languages like Hindi/ English/ French/German, etc (depending on the options available in the college of admission.

- **11-12TH Standard/ Grade Student:** Any student who has successfully cleared the 10th standard Board exam of any Board (SSC, ICSE, IGCSE, IB, etc) and takes admission for further education in a college is an 11th standard student and will be eligible to become 12th standard student after successfully qualifying 11th standard final exams.

Aim Of The Study

To study the preference for online and face to face education of junior college learners of the Commerce stream of 12th standards of Rizvi College of Arts, Science and Commerce, Bandra (West). The purpose of the research is to highlight the preference and success of the suitable and successful medium of teaching with results obtained through data collection and observation.

Objectives Of The Study

The following are the objectives of the current study:

- To study the overall preference for online/face-to-face education of the total sample of Rizvi College of Arts, Science and Commerce junior college students.
- To study the preference for online/face-to-face education of students of Rizvi College of Arts, Science and Commerce junior college students on the basis of gender.
- To study the preference for online/face-to-face education of students of Rizvi College of Arts, Science and Commerce junior college students on the basis of division.

Scope Of The Study

Education is the spine of a progressing society. A society or country's progress depends on the type of human and natural resources within its boundaries. The sample size is used to understand and interpret the quality and quantity depending on the availability of data from primary and secondary sources of data collection. The researcher modestly attempts to highlight the preference of a certain medium of teaching-learning through the comparative results obtained by pupil responses during this process. The data is observed during lessons given using blended learning and various teaching

learning strategies to deliver lessons in Commerce and Economics Pedagogy.

Size and Composition of the Sample

The said research consists of a sample of 120 students from Rizvi College of Arts, Science and Commerce, Bandra (West), Mumbai 400 050. The students are from stand 12th/ SYJC. Stream: Commerce. Both male and female students are a part of the study and the responses are collected from division A and B.

Range	Low (25-58)	Medium (59-92)	High (93-125)	Total = 120

Data Collection

The researcher has used a systematic procedure of data collection by using a well-defined and structured questionnaire which was circulated using a link. The questionnaire was created on a Google Form which was circulated on multiple occasions for maximum students to fill the form.

Testing Of Objectives

Objective 1: To study the overall preference for online/face-to-face education of the total sample of Rizvi College of Arts, Science and Commerce junior college students.

Table 1.1 Overall Preference of the respondents

Particulars	Mean	Median	Mode
Overall	72.33	72	68
Gender: Male	72.90	72	77
Gender: Female	72.19	71	68
Division A	72.82	72	68
Division B	72.52	71.5	77

Table: 1.2 Overall Preference with range

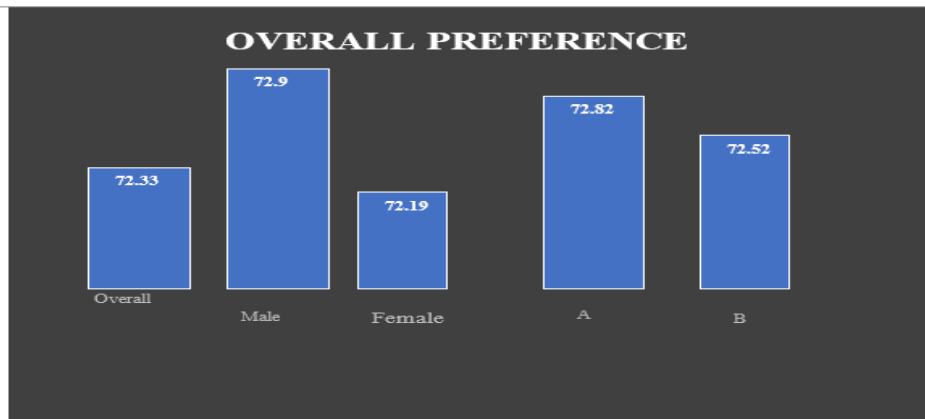| Particulars	Low (25-58)	Medium (59-92)	High (93-25)	Total
Overall	5	113	2	120
Percentage	4.17%	94.17%	1.66%	100
Factors	Mean:72.33	Median:72	Mode:68	

Fig 1.1

The table and figure represent the measures of central tendency of mean (also known as average) calculated after collecting and analyzing the primary-raw data from the questionnaire. The values majorly the Mean of all the objectives defined and interpretated fall between 72 to

73. The average here depicts that majority respondents fall under this range of medium preference. The Median or the mid value is between 71- 72.

The recurring value of Mode of the data are 68 and 77 in respective objectives which fall under the medium range depicting major responses to have an average preference for both mediums.
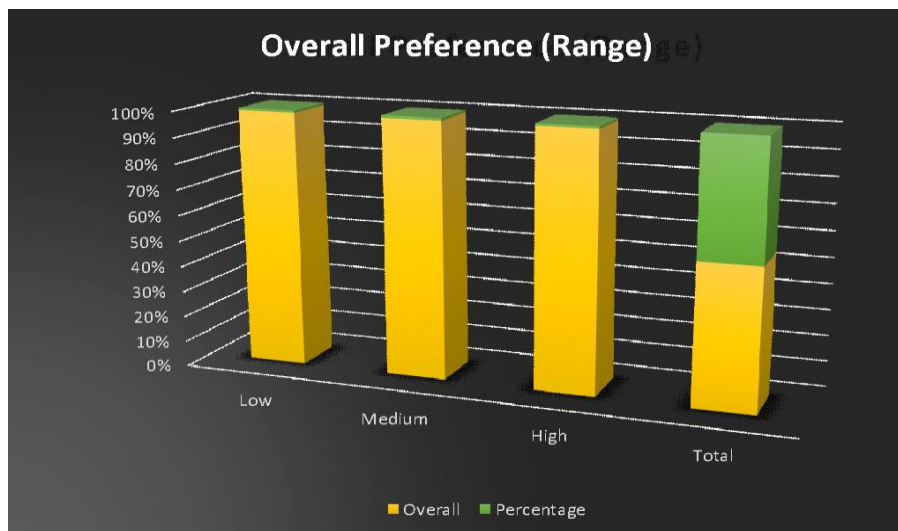

Fig 1.2

The preference of the pupils overall or in totality for online and face to face education is average. It is preferred by most candidates as the preference falls in the 'medium' category where pupil responses fall between the ranges of 59-92 decided by the researcher. 113 candidates fall in this range out of the total 120 responses collected. The mean is 72.33 and the median being 72. The mode is 68.

Objective 2: To study the preference for online/face-to-face education of students of Rizvi College of Arts,

Science and Commerce junior college students on the basis of gender.

Factors	Mean	Median	Mode
Male	72.90	72	77
Female	72.19	71	68

Table: 1.3

Gender (with range):

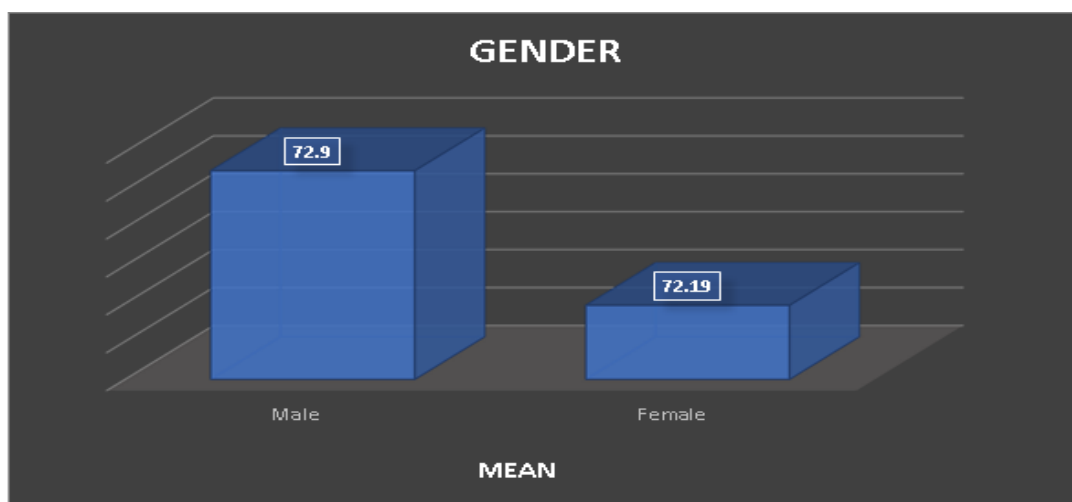| Particulars	Low (25-58)	Medium (59-92)	High (93-125)	Total	Percentage
Male	4	78	2	84	70%
Female	1	35		36	30%
Total	5	113	2	120	100

Table: 1.4

Fig 1.3

The graphical data represents the preference of the respondents based on gender bifurcation. Here majority candidates fall in the medium category ranging from 59-92. The male population is 84 while female population is 36. Only 4 males and 1 female respondent falls in the low range category (25-58) and 2 males and nil female respondent falls in the high range (93-125).

The mean is of male respondents is 72.90, female respondents is 72.19. Median is 72 and 71 for males and females respectively and Mode is 77 and 68 for male and female candidates who fall in the medium range prepared by the researcher to analyze the data collected.

Objective 3: To study the preference for online/face-to-face education of students of Rizvi College of Arts, Science and Commerce junior college students on the basis of division.

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Particulars	Low (25-58)	Medium (59-92)	High (93-125)	Total	Percentage
A	2	68	1	71	59.17%
B	3	45	1	49	40.83%
				120	100

Table: 1.5

Division (with range):

Factors	Mean	Median	Mode
A	72.82	72	68
B	72.52	71.5	77

Table: 1.6

Fig 1.4

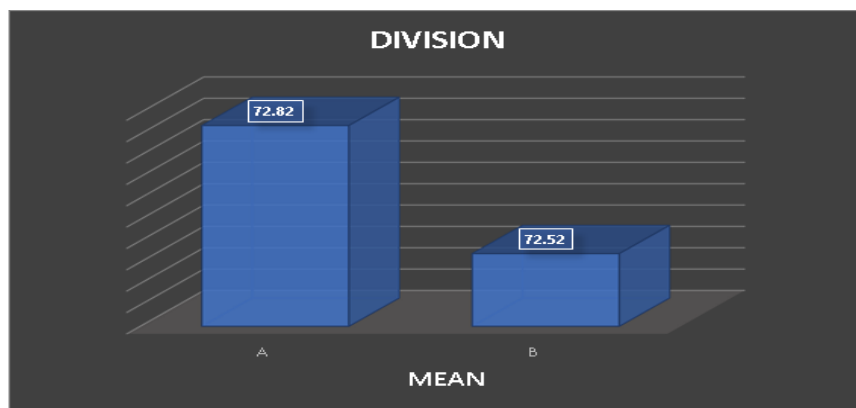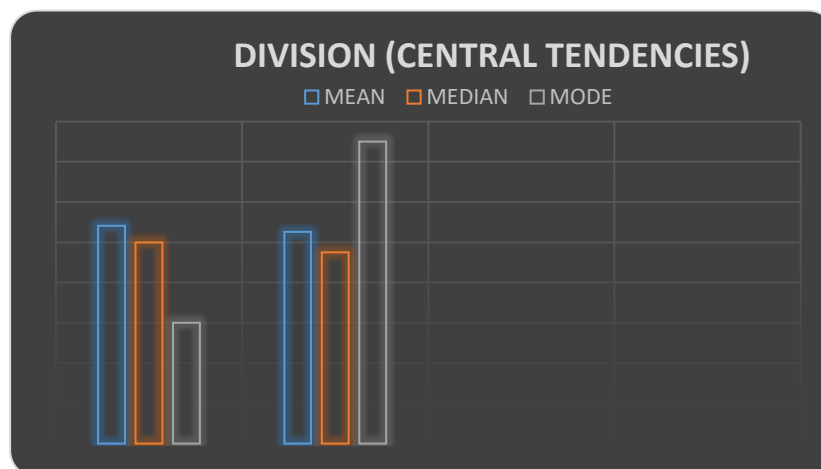**Fig 1.5**

The above table and graph indicate the data analyzed on the basis of division in both divisions i.e. SYJC A and SYJC B. The respondents are from the Commerce stream. There are 68 respondents from the A and 45

respondents from the B division who fall in the medium category ranging from 59-92. 2 and 3 respondents from A and B division fall in the low range

i.e. 25-58. The high category (93-125) has two respondents from both divisions, one each. The mean, median and mode also reflect the average preferences which are above 72 but below 75.

Major Findings and Discussion

1. *Findings based on Overall Preference by the respondents:*

   The research conducted by the researcher depicts an average preference for both mediums of teaching-learning i.e. online education and face-to-face teaching-learning. It proves a certain level of comfort is visible in the attitude of majority pupils as their responses tally to fall in the said category. This indicates the level of curiosity, academic performance, rapport building, and health is not hampered in anyway. The reach of the online and face-to-face teaching-learning medium is fair and available to most and many. The cost-effectiveness of both mediums does not greatly affect the preference of the pupils.

   The students are also satisfied with the innovative teaching-learning strategies used in online education as only 13% percent pupils disagree in some degree to this statement. Improvement in scoring marks and academic performance is observed. It is also noted that pupils feel that they do not get individual attention in online class as they used to in the face-to-face teaching-learning format.

2. *Findings based on preference based on gender:*

   It is observed that there is no sense of dislike for the online mode of teaching-learning. Emotional and social skill development is affected even though ample strategies to implement the same are used by the teacher. Around 74% respondents mention that online classes are regularly conducted by their teachers based on the timetable which ensures regularity on learning and evaluation through formative assessment undertaken by the teacher. The responses of female students are less than that of male respondents probably due to lack of female admissions as the questionnaire link was circulated a multiple number of times to avail equal responses of male and female students. The mean of 72.19 is calculated on the basis of available responses, the preference of female students is less towards online education and more towards face to face or physical classroom environment with respect to the raw data collected by the researcher. No female respondent falls in the high range segment. The reflects difficulty to avail education for either or both mediums by many students.

3. *Findings based on preference based on division:*

   It is observed that major responses are available from the A division than the B division. The mean of data collected and analyzed is similar as the respondents fall in the similar range from both divisions. The reason being the unavailability or level of difficulty to avail the educational facility in either medium or both. The availability affects the reach, interpretation and understanding along with the performance level during evaluation.

Educational Implications

There is no strong feeling or perception of dislike or hostility in extreme measures for either mode of teaching-

learning. The present situation demands a strong online base of teaching-learning focusing on quality and versatile education for students. The results of the data have a certain percentage of pupils who have faced difficulties in arranging for electronic devices such as a laptop/computer or smart phone; along with technical glitches. Students who face a financial crunch may be given facility of fee- reduction which may ease the burden for the expense to meet the needs for arranging devices/internet.

The social interactions and development of social skills is affected due to the barrier of a screen and lack of privacy for many learners which have affected their confidence and curiosity to be active learners. It is the duty of the faculty to provide a comfortable learning environment without disturbing the privacy, discipline, or time-bound completion of the syllabus. The facilitator must have more one-on-one discussions, rapport building strategies planned to ease the environment of the online learning session. The tone of the speaker must always be clear and defined with respect to the purpose or intension.

Professional education is also suggested and recommended by many students using the online mode which reflects that its reach is as effective as the offline mode if not less. Evaluation techniques must be diversified and strictly proctored to avoid malpractices in case there are any opportunities that seem possible. They can be planned to monitor the level of attentiveness and honesty while the examination is conducted along with texting of cognitive, affective, and psychomotor skills.

Suggestions for Further Research

The researcher would recommend conducting the research for a wider audience of the same college or a cluster of colleges. The need of sufficient time to ensure a deeper analysis is recommended. The research can also be conducted for specific subjects, courses, streams to understand the progress and drawbacks from the perspectives of the students and teachers. Using technology to the best of the researcher's capacity is always recommended to bring gravity to the research from the qualitative and quantitative aspects of analysis and interpretations. Deeper analysis helps to provide realistic suggestions to the problem which are achievable and measurable depending on the proactive decision making by the educational institutions.

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