

**MEDICAL STUDENT'S PERSPECTIVE ON ONLINE TEACHING DURING COVID-19
LOCKDOWN PERIOD**Siva Prabodh V.^{1*}, Lakshmi N.², Srinivas C.³, Kumar Chowdary K. V. S.⁴ and Srinivas G.⁵¹Professor of Biochemistry, NRI Medical College, Chinakakani, Guntur, AP, India.²Professor of Ophthalmology, NRI Medical College, Chinakakani, Guntur, AP, India.³Professor of Forensic Medicine, NRI Medical College, Chinakakani, Guntur, AP, India.⁴Professor of E N T, NRI Medical College, Chinakakani, Guntur, AP, India.⁵Professor of Anesthesiology, NRI Medical College, Chinakakani, Guntur, AP, India.***Corresponding Author: Siva Prabodh V.**

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: The COVID-19 has resulted in shutting down the schools and colleges all over the world. Globally, all students are out of the classroom. Rapid developments in technology have made distance education easy. Online learning can be termed as a tool that can make the teaching-learning process more student-centered, more innovative, and even more flexible. The present study aims to collect feedback from the students on online classes with structured questionnaire, which may further help to improve the quality of online education. **Materials and methods:** A structured questionnaire consists of ten questions was given online as Google forms to 1st year, 2nd year, final year part -I and final year part -II MBBS students and informed them to answer the questions online. The responses were analyzed using descriptive statistics like percentages. **Results:** In our study we observed that around 72% students felt that online classes are useful for their studies in this pandemic, but only 52.1% students are serious about their online classes. 74.4% students felt that study material provided in the form of ppts is more useful for their learning. 72.4% expressed that the time limit of 45 minutes for each online class is appropriate and 61.1% felt that they understood the concepts easily in online classes also but only 46.7% students felt that participation and interaction in online classes is less when compared with traditional class room. 61.1% felt that weekly assessment in each subject will help them better learning during this pandemic. **Discussion and conclusion:** It is observed that online classes are helpful in their learning during lockdown period because of Covid-19 pandemic, online classes along with provision of study material in the form of ppts and weekly assessments were best appreciated by majority of students. It is prudent to give study material of each class in advance/or immediately after the online class and also weekly assessments in each subject help the students to learn with high interest and learn the concepts better.

KEYWORDS: Online class, Traditional class, Pandemic, Covid-19.**INTRODUCTION**

The COVID-19 has resulted in shutting down the schools and colleges all over the world. Globally, all students are out of the classroom. As a result, education has changed dramatically, 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, some are wondering whether the adoption of online learning will provide proper teaching-learning environment for students. Rapid developments in technology have made distance education easy.^[1] Online learning can be termed as a tool that can make the teaching-learning process more student-centered, more innovative, and even more flexible. Online learning is defined as "learning experiences in synchronous or asynchronous environments using different devices e.g., mobile

phones, laptops, etc. with internet access. In these environments, students can be anywhere (independent) to learn and interact with instructors and other students.^[2] During this tough time, the concern is not about whether online teaching-learning methods can provide quality education; it is rather how academic institutions will be able to adopt online learning in such a massive manner.^[3] Students feel that lack of community, technical problems, and difficulties in understanding instructional goals are the major barriers for online learning.^[4] Also, there is a low-level preparedness among the students concerning the usage of Learning Management Systems.^[5] Online courses should be made dynamic, interesting, and interactive. Teachers should set time limits and reminders for students to make them alert and attentive. The Internet has made online learning possible, and many researchers and educators are interested in

online learning to enhance and improve student learning outcomes while combating the reduction in resources, particularly in higher education.^[6,7,8] Students should be given an opportunity to learn through online classroom, where they can interact with the content, and gets space to share learning objects. Similarly they also get an opportunity to collaborate with their peers in creating knowledge.^[9] As, online classes started for all students worldwide it is important to know whether the online education is helping them in learning or not. Hence, this study aims to collect feedback from the students on online classes with structured questionnaire, which may further help to improve the quality of online education.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

This study was conducted in NRI Medical College, Chinakakani with prior approval of IEC. 500 study participants were included from 1st year, 2nd year, final year part -I and final year part –II MBBS students of NRI Medical College, Chinakakani. A structured questionnaire consists of ten questions was given online as Google form in the whatsapp group of all the study participants and informed them to answer the questions online. The responses for each question collected from the students were analyzed using descriptive statistics like percentages.

RESULTS

Table: 1. Shows the ten questions asked in the Google form.

1.	Online classes are more useful during lockdown period.
2.	I am as serious during online classes as traditional lectures
3.	I am able to take down lecture notes during online classes
4.	In online classes quality of Lecturing is better than class room teaching.
5.	Study material (PPT) provided as supplement is more useful
6.	Time limit for each online class is adequate
7.	Easy to understand the concepts in online classes
8.	I feel the participation and interaction in online teaching is less than traditional teaching
9.	It is difficult to interact with teacher in online class
10.	Weekly assessment in each subject will help me in learning

Table: 2. Mean responses in percentages for each question.

Question no:	Mean responses in %				
	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
1.	30.9	41.2	17.5	5.7	4.6
2.	12.4	39.7	22.2	12.9	12.9
3.	9.3	36.6	26.3	17.5	10.3
4.	9.8	8.8	27.3	30.9	23.2
5.	34.2	40.2	11.4	3.1	2.1
6.	24	48.4	18.2	4.2	5.2
7.	26.4	34.7	22.3	10.4	6.2
8.	16.6	30.1	17.1	22.3	14
9.	7.8	17.6	27.5	36.3	10.9
10.	17.1	44	22.3	9.8	6.7

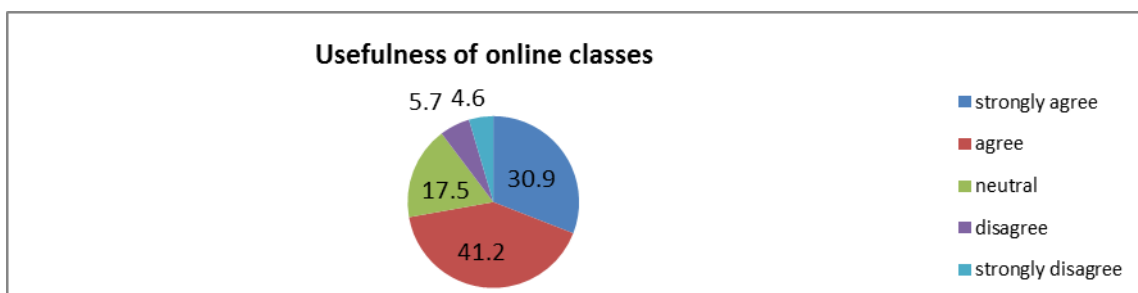


Figure: 1.

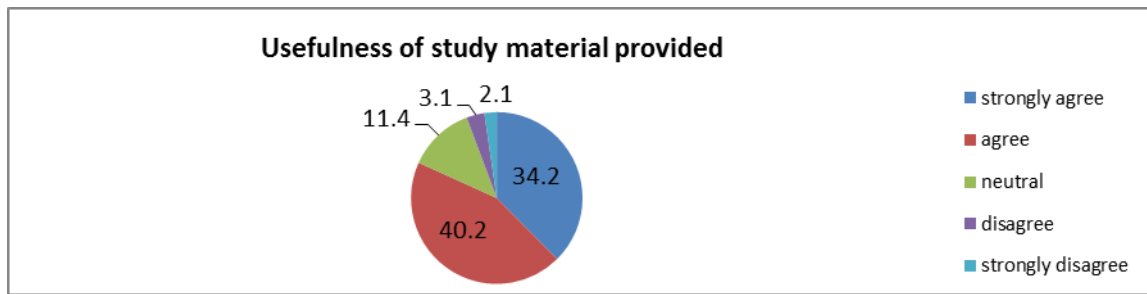


Figure: 2.

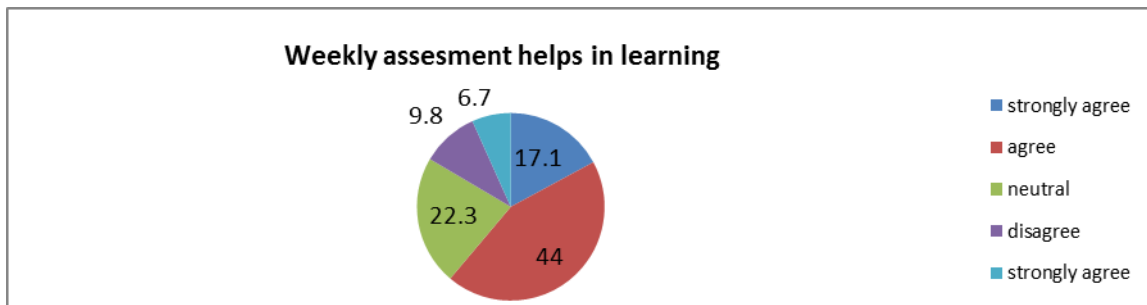


Figure: 3.

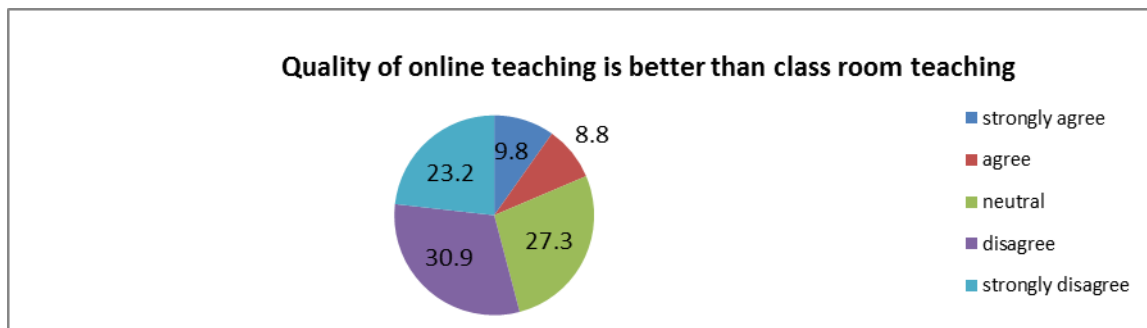


Figure: 4.

DISCUSSION

In our study we observed that around 72% students felt that online classes are useful for their studies in this pandemic, but only 52.1% students are serious about their online classes. 74.4% students felt that study material provided in the form of ppts is more useful for their learning. 72.4% expressed that the time limit of 45 minutes for each online class is appropriate and 61.1% felt that they the concepts were well understood in online classes whereas 46.7% students felt that participation and interaction in online classes is less when compared with traditional class room. 61.1% felt that weekly assessment in each subject will help them better learning during this pandemic. Finally only 18.6% accept that the quality of online lecturing is better than classroom teaching, which focus mainly on teachers and technology to improve further for the betterment in online teaching. The potential of Web-based instruction will increase in pedagogical practices and improve the advances in standards for structured learning content in students.^[10] From our study we observed that online classes are very much helpful for students in their learning.

CONCLUSION

It is observed that online classes are helpful in their learning during Covid-19 pandemic lockdown period. Online classes along with the provision of study material in the form of ppts and weekly assessments are better appreciated by majority of students. Hence, from our study we found that, it is prudent to give study material of each class in advance/or immediately after the online class and also weekly assessments in each subject help the students to learn the concepts better with more interest.

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