



NATIONAL SERVICE SCHEME
Sri Venkateswara College

PRESENTS

PROJECT
पहल
2.0

Research on Online education
during pandemic
MAY 2020

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INTRODUCTION

Earlier this year after a December 2019 outbreak in China, the World Health Organization (WHO) identified SARS-CoV-2 (Severe acute respiratory syndrome Corona virus 2) as a new type of corona virus which causes a disease that affects your upper respiratory tract (sinuses, nose, and throat) or lower respiratory tract (windpipe and lungs). It spreads primarily through droplets of saliva or discharge from the nose when an infected person coughs or sneezes, so it's important to practice respiratory etiquette and to maintain social distance. The disease is called Corona virus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). It is responsible for millions of infections globally, causing hundreds of thousands of deaths. In March 2020, The World Health Organisation declared COVID-19 a pandemic.

The first case of the COVID-19 in India was reported on 30th January 2020. Till mid-March the Union Ministry of Health had declared more than 120 active COVID patients in India. In response to the rapidly increasing number of active cases and in an attempt to minimise the surge in the number of cases, when the pandemic was forecasted to be in peak, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 24th March, announced a nationwide complete lock down, starting from midnight, explaining that it was the only way of breaking the COVID-19 infection cycle.

Lock down or "Stay at home" is the most efficient method of ensuring Social Distancing, which is the primary solution to prevent and break the chain of this rapidly spreading disease as of now. It is an emergency protocol that restricts people from leaving a given area like stepping out of their homes. This scenario usually allows for essential supplies. All non-essential activities remain shut for the entire period.

In India, initially international travel was restricted and eventually all transport services—road, air and rail—were stopped, some states even prohibited inter-state movement, Educational institutions like schools, universities and colleges, industrial establishments and hospitality services were also suspended. As of 30th May, we are in the 4th phase of the nationwide lock down.

In the wake of the infection outbreak, on 12th March, The University of Delhi (DU) announced suspension of classroom lectures and later released a notice asking the students and teacher to "maintain continuity in teaching-learning process" in all undergraduate and postgraduate programmes, through online classes and asked the departments to make study material available on a weekly basis.

WHERE DO WE STAND?



Corona virus, which has spread its tentacles in every continent of the world is speculated to emerge from Wuhan, China. The 1st known case was traced back to November, 2019. Since then, the number of cases all over the world is increasing at such a high pace that more than 5 million people have been tested positive within 5 months .



India, overtook Iran in terms of increasing number of cases and has become the tenth worst hit country globally on 25th May , 2020. The number of affected people across the nation has surpassed the figure of 150K. But, so far the number of deaths recorded is still something which provides relief in tough situations as the death margin is 0.2 deaths per lakh population as against the global figure of 4.1 .This is the reason that India is registered as one of the lowest Covid-19 fatality rates in the world. Over 42% of total corona virus patients are cured from deadly disease. Punjab showed one of the best recovery rates in India , over 90% people are cured from the disease. Most of the cases are active and emerging in seven states I.e. Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal and Rajasthan.



Amidst of these lock down conditions, the lives of people are disrupted, their livelihoods are hurt or even destroyed, and they stare at an uncertain future for themselves and their loved ones. These drastic changes have posed a high turmoil on their mental, physical, social and emotional health. With the world in the grip of a raging pandemic, all the institutes and students have been forced to shift to online classes. The online learning which was generally opposed by schools, colleges and Universities, due to this pandemic, within a fortnight, became acceptable - even mandatory. Online education needs high speed internet and computers/mobiles for its transmission. The present technology enabled the interaction of students and teachers for continuation of studies in these difficult times but it can be limiting too, especially in our country where basic access to these facilities is a challenge as not every student has a computer or fast streaming internet at home.

Hence , Delhi University also shifted to online education providing its students with all the study material including notes, references, classes etc. online. As on one hand this technology has helped the students and teachers to maintain continuation in studies but on the other hand has become a bane for a few due to several issues related to online learning.



ONLINE EDUCATION -THE BURNING TOPIC

The COVID-19 pandemic is first and foremost a health crisis but it has affected the educational systems worldwide, leading to the near-total closures of schools, universities and colleges. Most governments around the world have temporarily closed educational institutions in an attempt to contain the spread of COVID-19. According to UNICEF monitoring, 153 countries are currently implementing nationwide closures and 24 are implementing local closures, impacting about 98.6 percent of the world's student population. 10 countries' schools are currently open. The severe short-term disruption is felt by many families around the world: home schooling is not only a massive shock to parents' productivity, but also to children's social life and learning.

Going to school is the best public policy tool available to raise skills. While school time can be fun and can raise social skills and social awareness, from an economic point of view the primary point of being in school is that it increases a child's ability. Even a relatively short time in school does this; even a relatively short period of missed school will have consequences for skill growth.

First, let us see what all educational institutions are doing to fight against COVID-19.

Measures taken by the educational institutes are as follows:

- 1 **Closed schools**
- 2 **Postponed or rescheduled the examinations**
- 3 **Cleaning and sanitisation of premises.**
- 4 **Consideration of long term uncertainty etc.**
- 5 **All major entrance examinations are postponed including engineering, medical, law, agriculture, fashion and designing courses, etc.**

This situation can be a ringing alarming bell mainly in private sector universities. Maybe some faculties and employees may face salary cuts, bonuses and increments can also be postponed.

The impact on the education sector has been significant with the disruption of academic schedules at schools and higher education institutions due to suspension of classes over a prolonged period. This unplanned closure has severely affected the scheduled plans for completing courses within the academic year.

As students and faculty remain confined to their homes, education institutions are exploring ways to keep engaged with their students virtually and completing their courses.

While most education institutions are not equipped to virtually connect with students and conduct on-line classes, given the present situation, many educational institutions have started leveraging meeting platforms and applications having video conferencing facilities to run online classes. Teachers are connecting with their students at a predetermined time to conduct online classes.

Technology may play an important role in the lock down period like study from home and work from home. In India, some private schools could adopt online teaching methods. Low-income private and government schools may not be able to adopt online teaching methods. And as a result, there will be completely shut down due to no access to e-learning solutions. In addition to the opportunities for learning, students will also miss their meals and may result in economic and social stress.

Teaching is moving online, on an untested and unprecedented scale. Student assessments are also moving online, with a lot of trial and error and uncertainty for everyone. Many assessments have simply been cancelled. Importantly, these interruptions will not just be a short-term issue, but can also have long-term consequences for the affected cohorts and are likely to increase inequality.

Many online platforms are being used by institutions for assessments and teaching.

THE AVAILABLE PLATFORMS

With the advent of this lock down following the spread of COVID-19, the whole of our education system experienced a paradigm shift in its manner of operation, while the government had introduced digital India in its previous tenure, it seemed like the education sector experienced it in its entirety during this lock down only. While it was already anticipated that corona was not a touch and go thing, it was already required to make arrangements in a way that social distancing was adequately followed through the whole process, so taking inspiration from work from home (WFH), study from home (SFH) was the next in line waiting to be explored by the citizens of our country. Starting from prep to even masters, whole of the courses were started being taught through the means of digital platforms only. Some of them which were extensively used for this purpose were :-



ZOOM MEETINGS

To provide a classroom like experience and for one to one experience, zoom was the platform many educational institutions resorted in order to teach the students.

Having an extremely easy to operate interface, features like screen sharing and interactive chat options, zoom was initially the most popular option amongst the teachers, till many IT professionals pointed out about the privacy policy about the application which revealed how it gives the developer an access to your mobile data not in its entirety but a huge portion of it. Scared from the privacy issues, while guidelines were issued by the ministry of IT in India, updated versions later came out to defeat the otherwise prevalent concerns.



GOOGLE MEET

As a competitor to zoom in the domain of video telephony market, google meet initially introduced discreetly in 2017 to replace the hangouts application for the purpose of business meetings later became another alternative for the purpose of online classes when Google made it a free to use app after lifting the requirement of having a g suite account to hold meetings, to suit the needs of students and teachers amidst the COVID-19 lock down. Providing the similar features as that of zoom, Google meet provides an option of AI closed captioning to enhance the experience of studying through a video lecture.



GOOGLE CLASSROOM

To aid the teachers as well as students with the process of assignment allotment and its grading, study material sharing and one to one interaction with the students through an official platform, Google classroom was a rather efficient platform to serve these purposes. It streamlined the whole process of file sharing between the students and teachers. It also enabled teachers with various other helpful aids to track down the performance of the students, tracking down the originality of the assignments submitted and sharing various media files with students and experiencing a hassle free, add less interface.



WHATSAPP MESSENGER

A leading platform in the field of instant messaging and social media interactions, WhatsApp has emerged out as an important tool to ensure a smooth communication amongst the teachers and students when it comes to sharing study materials, audio visual content, assignments and tests. It ensured a healthy and timely contact between the students and teachers so they can receive updates on a timely basis as to what future steps the institutions are going to take in terms of evaluation and examination.



YOUTUBE

Yet another subsidiary of Google, in the past few years YouTube has emerged as this video sharing platform equally famous among around the globe irrespective of their age, gender, ethnicity and social stature. With videos on a variety of topics, YouTube's educational content really did wonders for smooth functioning of virtual teaching. With ample videos on a variety of topics covering almost anything and everything related to the subjects taught in schools and colleges, YouTube remains a free of cost, time flexible, easy to use and accessible to all applications for students in India. Channels like unacademy, khan academy are the few of the thousands of other YouTube channels that are available on the platform to cater the purpose of online teaching.



CISCO WEBEX MEETING

Another application with the similar functioning to that of zoom and Google meet, Cisco WebEx was another choice that teachers had for teaching the students, with no time limit like the former, WebEx was a little less popular but certainly equally credible application to aid online teaching.



NPTEL

NPTEL-National program on technology enhanced learning) Started out as a brain child of IIT Madras in 2003 and later joined by various other IITs and other prestigious government educational institutions, NPTEL boomed to popularity during this lock down amongst the students around the country. The lectures from the professors of these esteemed institutions are available for free on the topics ranging from engineering, basic sciences to finance, management to humanities and social sciences. Catering to such a wide spectrum of fields, it also provides certificate courses for students on selected courses. This website and its e-content fared as a boon to teachers as well as students during these difficult times.

THE BRIGHT SIDE

In the current state of affairs, online learning is the safest bet for educational institutions and students. With schools and colleges being closed, online learning has gained significant popularity.

Flexible schedule

Online learning provides students with immense flexibility and allows them to learn in a comfortable environment.



More Individual attention

Another benefit online learning has is that it allows the teacher to give a student individual attention. Students who feel intimidated in class are free to ask doubts personally in a safe space.

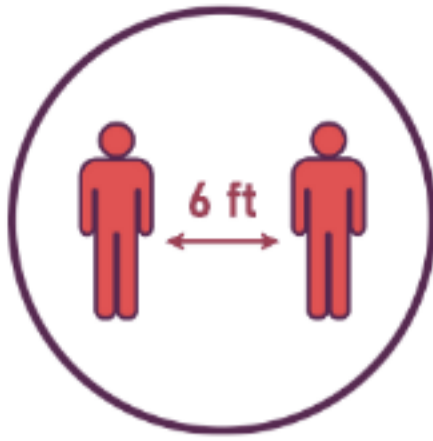


Various Sources of Information

With e-notes and e-books available, the students don't have to go through the trouble of writing long notes and can refer to these as and when required. All information one needs will be stored in an online database which is a much safer and convenient option than traditional notes and books.



Social distancing can be exercised



Online education is the need of the hour as it promotes social distancing and at the same time allows quality learning.

Time Saving



Since online platforms are easily accessible at home the commuting time is saved and students can invest that time somewhere usefully.

Minimal consumption of resources



All information one needs will be stored in an online database which saves a lot of paper and other stationery. Fuel consumption has also decreased.

Creation of a digital database



The information one needs can be stored in an online database which is a much safer and convenient option than traditional notes and books, which would also save a lot of time in the long run.

THE HURDLES

A coin has two sides to it and so does online learning. With the pros come the cons as well. Online learning does have some major drawbacks which cannot be overlooked.

Lack of access of resources

The most basic necessity of online learning is a reliable internet connection and an electronic device through which one can access it. In India especially, a fast internet connection and a decent network is a privilege many don't have.



Lack of accommodating atmosphere

At the same time, many students don't have a supportive and comfortable learning environment at home which hampers their study pattern and adds to their disadvantage.



Hampered interactions

The traditional form of learning encourages healthy group discussions and doubt sessions which becomes difficult in an online platform.





Need for self discipline

E-learning also requires strong self-motivation and time management skills as without any direct supervision students get easily distracted and lose focus.

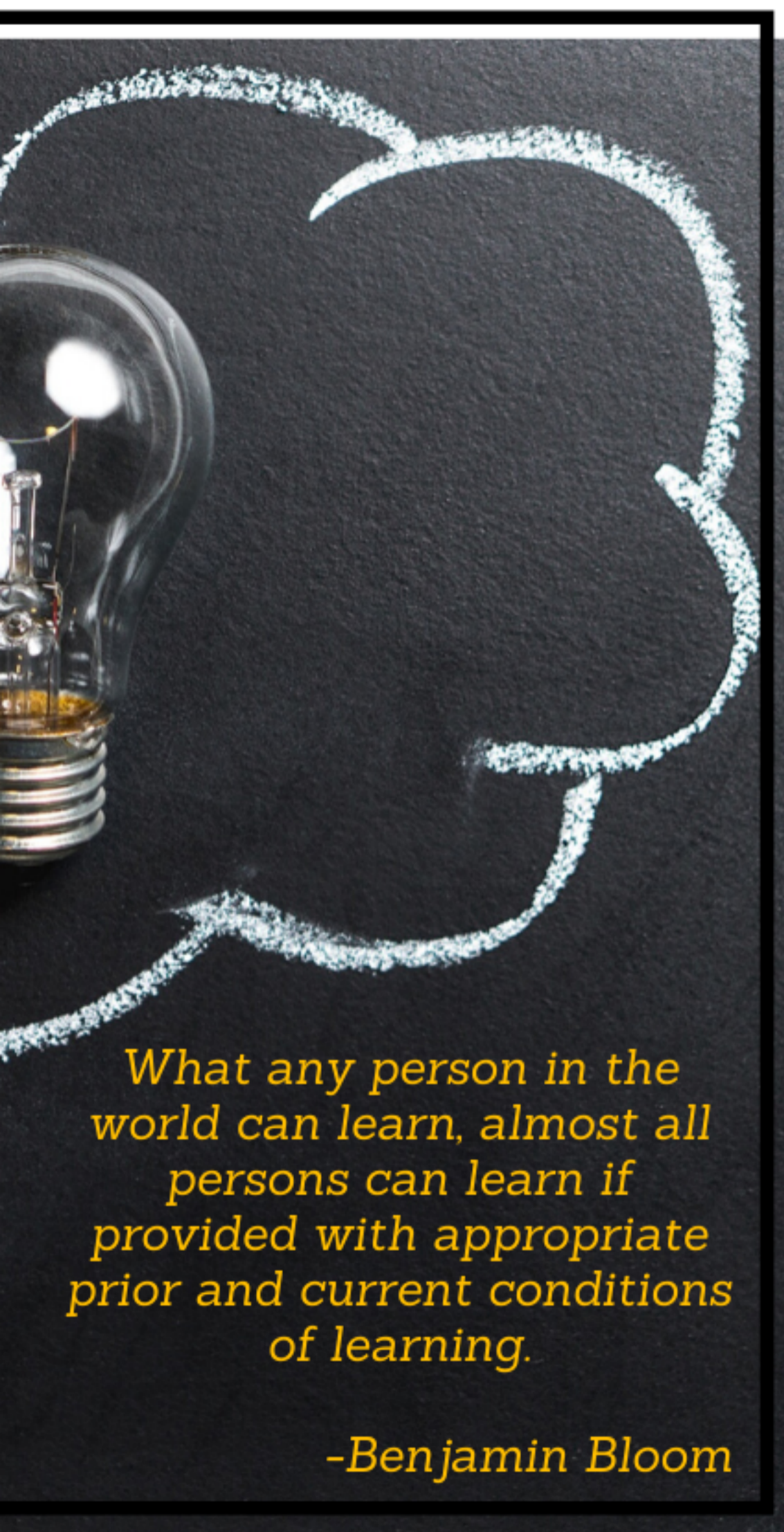


Limited social interaction

A healthy peer relationship is very important for the overall development of students and traditional classrooms are the best way for such a healthy interaction. Moreover, online classes can become mundane as it mainly consists of long texts and MCQ's that fail to engage students.

The lack of face to face communication is a major setback as student feedback is delayed and many teachers are not very well versed with the online mode of teaching and are unable to teach to their full potential.

ABOUT PAHAL



What any person in the world can learn, almost all persons can learn if provided with appropriate prior and current conditions of learning.

-Benjamin Bloom

The Pahal Research Project is one of the projects initiated by NSS SVC which aims to address several social issues through research and surveys and finally to bring a possible solution for those problems.

In this second edition of Pahal Research Project, an online survey was done on the Impact of Lock down on Students' and their Education among the Delhi University college students as many students in the Delhi University circuit are facing a lot of changes due to this lock down.

RESEARCH SURVEY

We carried out our online survey focusing on Delhi University Undergraduate students in their first , second and third year of graduation. We started on 11th of May and within 10 days of circulation got more than 1600 responses . Hence, here we present our report on the data collected.

The Survey included the following questions:

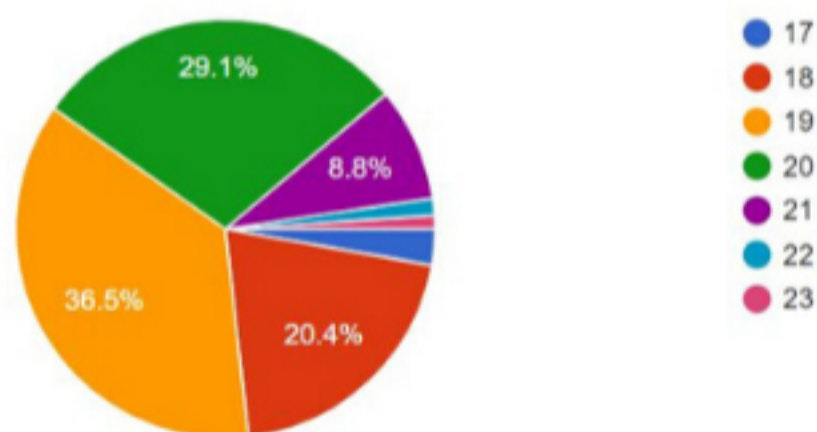
- General Information (name, age, college year)
- Are you a Delhi student or an outstation student ?
- As Delhi University resorted to online means of education during lock down. Did you have all the means to attend the classes ?
- Did you face any of the problems (connectivity, hardware, etc) ?
- Do you feel material and resources provided to you by the teacher , are enough for preparation of exams ?
- Do you think all the material should be made available online not just during lock down but also afterwards ?
- How much time do you spend on the following in a day ?
- Do you think online classes are effective and should be continued even after the situation gets back to normal ?
- Do you think internal and external assessment should be taken online ?
- Amount of sleep you take before and after lock down ?
- Do you feel insecure, dejected or basically low about yourself, watching other being more productive than you during lock down ?

SURVEY ANALYSIS

We conducted a survey of students of Delhi University on how this lock down has affected their studies, their mental health and the advantages/disadvantages of online learning and By analysing the overwhelming response we got from the student's, the result is shown in the form of bar graphs and charts to get a better perspective about the present situation.

Age

1,654 responses

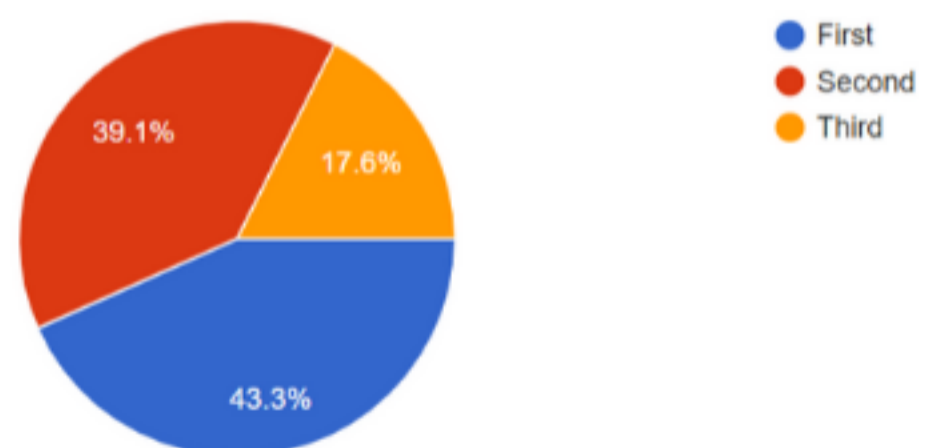


The sample constituted students from the age of 17-23, where maximum aged 19 (36.5%) and least of the age 23. Also 29.1% students were of the age 20 and 20.4% of age 18.

The respondents were mostly from the first and second year of their graduation, while 17.6% of them were from the third year.

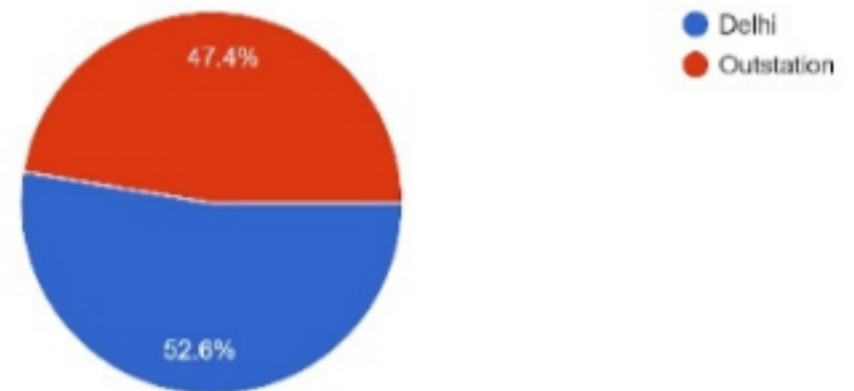
College year

1,654 responses

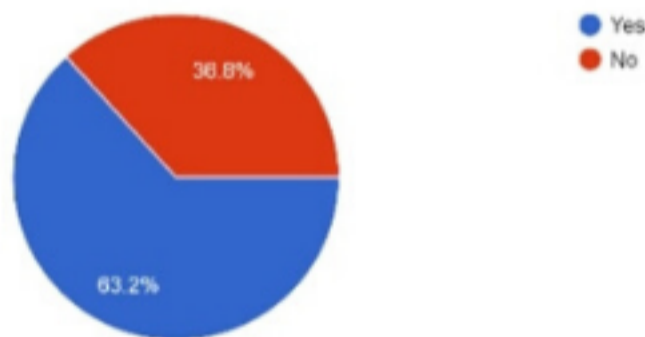


About 47.4% of the total students surveyed, were the ones who reside outstation in different parts of the country that contribute almost the half number of students studying in Delhi University and the remaining 52.6% were the ones who live in Delhi NCR.

Are you a Delhi student or an Outstation student?
1,654 responses



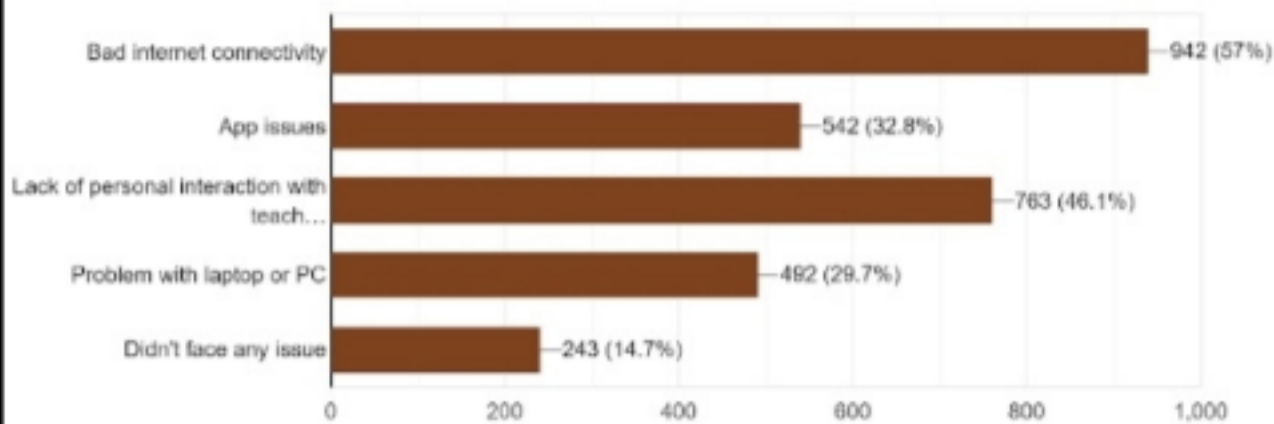
As Delhi University resorted to online means of education during lockdown. Did you have all the means to attend the classes?
1,654 responses



During this lock down period, the only means to provide education is via online classes. The data collected suggests that 63.2% of students have access to attend the classes. While 36.8% are unable to study online which makes Delhi University's move to conduct online examination questionable.

Did you face any of the problems listed below?

1,654 responses

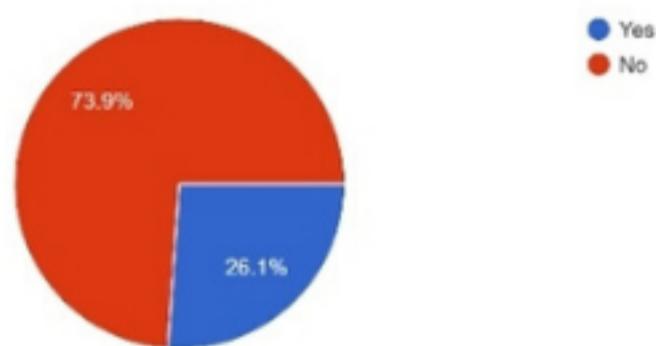


During our survey ,we found that 57.09% of students are facing the problem of bad internet connectivity. Moreover, the lack of personal interaction with teacher and app issues are other 2 major concerns of students. Only 14.7% students seem to be satisfied with online classes/education provided.

A substantial portion in the graph, i.e, 73.9 % shows that material provided online by teachers is insufficient for students to sit in exams!

Do you feel material and resources provided to you by the teacher , are enough for preparation of exams?

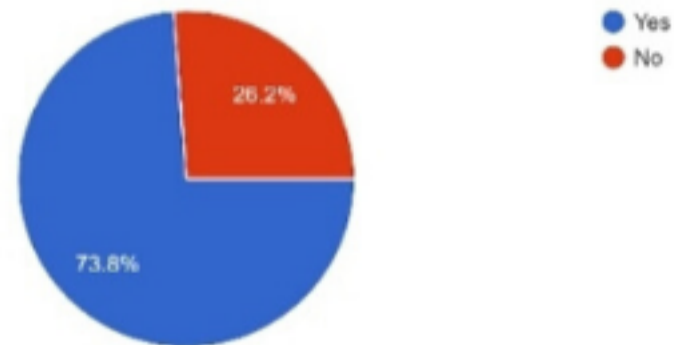
1,654 responses



73.8% of students think that all the material should be made available online not just during lock down but also afterwards so that they could study more effectively.

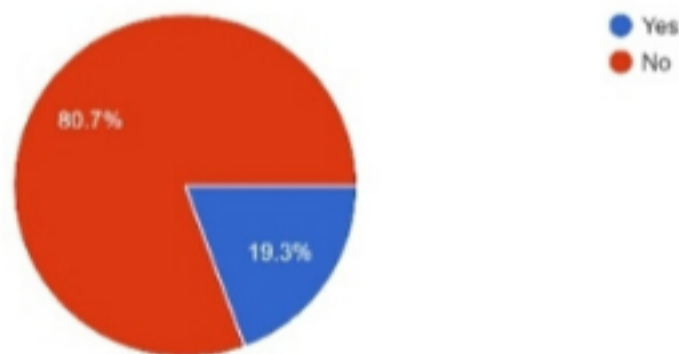
Do you think all the material should be made available online not just during lockdown but also afterwards?

1,654 responses



Do you think online classes are effective and should be continued even after the situation gets back to normal?

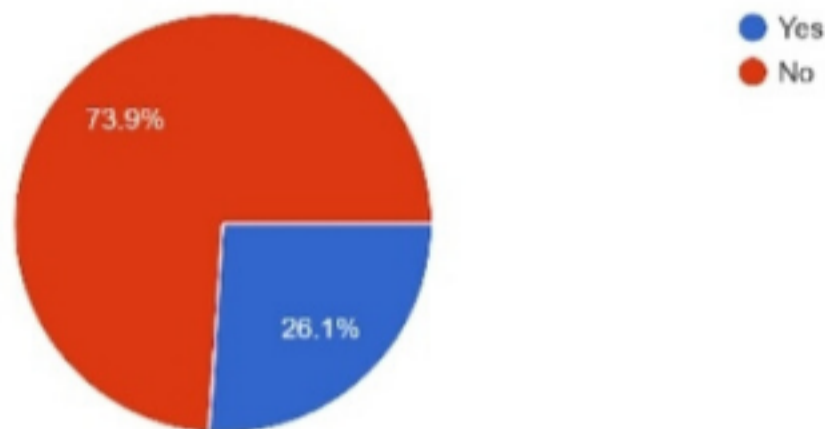
1,654 responses



Majority of the students (80.7%) do not find online classes effective and that it should be continued after the lock down because of various reasons.

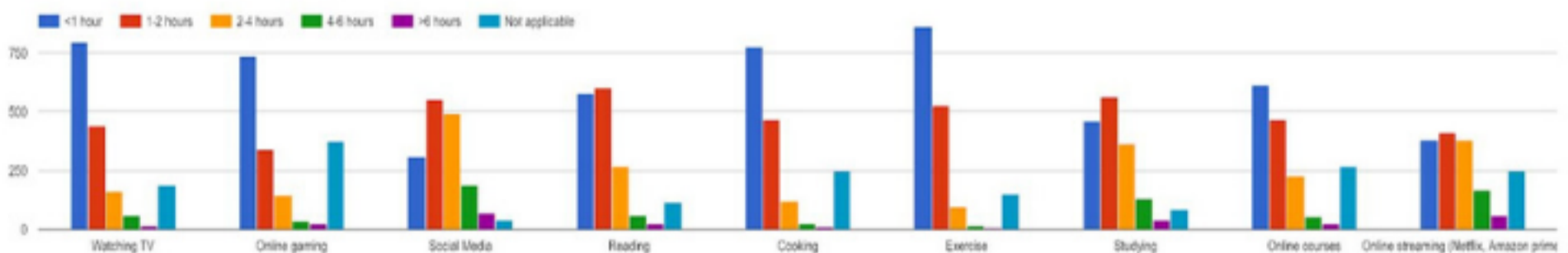
Do you think that internal and external assessment should be taken online?

1,654 responses



Students do not think that there should be online external or internal assessment, 73.9% students are totally against this fact.

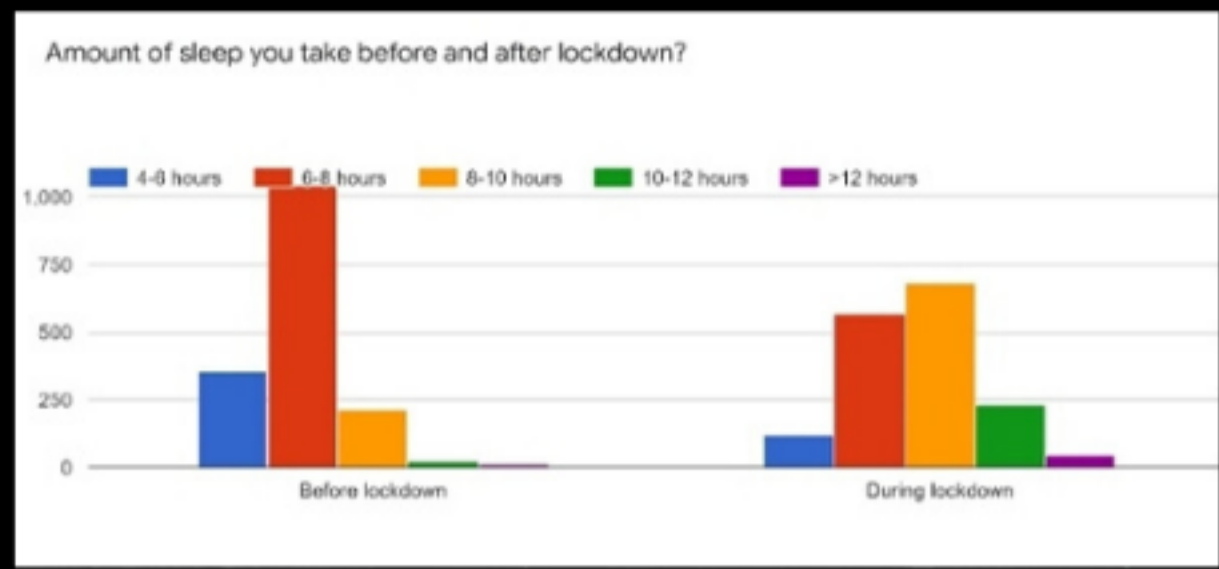
How much time do you spend on the following in a day?



Mixed responses were found when asked about how the students are spending their time during the lock down period, most responses tend to show almost every student spent their 1-2 hours in cooking, some physical exercise, reading, studying and surfing on social media.

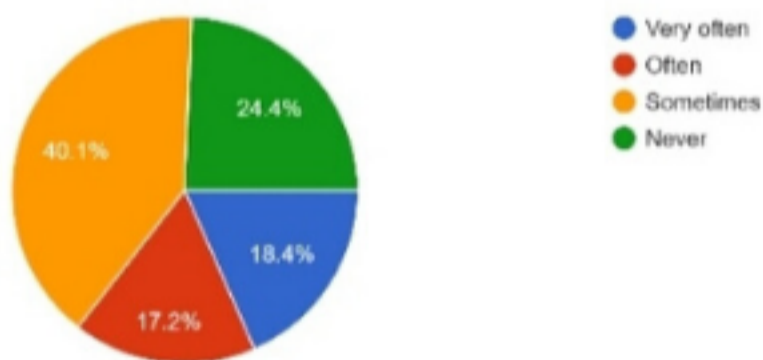
Moreover, online streaming and social media hours have rose to 2-4 hours amongst many amidst lock down. Students are also indulged in some online courses, while watching TV and online gaming is mostly limited to an hour or so.

One of the striking observations of this survey was that students who used to sleep less before lock down i.e. 4-6 hours inflated to 6-8 hours in 571 students and 8-10 hours in 680, while 10-12 hours in 234 students.



Do you feel insecure, dejected or basically low about yourself, watching other being more productive than you during lockdown?

1,654 responses



The database records that 40.1% students feel insecure, dejected or basically low sometimes about themselves, watching others being more productive than them during the lock down, 18.4% students feel it very often while 17.2% feel it often. Moreover, 24.4% never feel insecure about it.

STRUGGLE IS REAL

We asked students how exactly are they feeling about the current mechanism. And some of them replied to give us the real image.

Hey! I am a student from Sri Venkateswara College. I am from Jammu. Well this lock down situation is not as pleasurable as the normal times and the same can be said about the imparting of academic classes through online means. Few online classes were held initially after the lock down was announced that were accompanied with disruptive connection as in my state just 2G network is working plus the syllabus covered in those classes was miniscule when compared with the rest over syllabus. Plus the learning experience was nothing when compared to a live student and teacher interaction in a classroom environment. If I have to describe the present virtual learning initiative in one word, I would say it's unsatisfactory.

XYZ from Jammu
Student; Sri Venkateswara College, University of Delhi



Hey everyone! I am a student from a very small town in Odisha but currently I am studying in Sri Venkateswara College, Delhi University. In the current situation of a pandemic and a national lock down it is we students who have to suffer the most! Our University as well had started online classes and exams. Speaking of the classes there were hardly any classes conducted. The teachers simply used to send PDFs in the class whatsapp group of a particular chapter and told us to read it. How can you expect a student to learn law by just reading the chapter and not understanding it? In Fact we were not given any resource by 2 of our teachers. Coming to the online examination system, I am strictly against it. It is not possible for all the students to have network. Du has students from all over India, there are students who don't have access to internet. Also, there are many students who don't have access to the study material as we all came home for the holi celebration for 5 days and it turned out to be more than 2-3 months. As I am currently in Odisha, due to the cyclone Amphan there has been a lot of damage and the internet connection is very slow.

ABC from Odisha
Student; Sri Venkateswara College, University of Delhi



So I reside in one of the most controversial states of the country i.e. J&K and as you all must be aware of the situations over here for the past 1 year has been very uncertain also till date the state has 2G internet connection and at some places no internet connection at all. In such a scenario online classes become very difficult to attend because of the poor internet connectivity. In so much of struggle I cannot even think of giving online exams as it's not possible with a 2G connection. Also online classes and offline classes are way two different things and understanding things in an online class becomes very difficult cause sometimes the screen freezes, sometimes audio is lost and likewise. Online classes can be a temporary media for teaching but cannot be taken as a reliable source in the future for revolutionising the education sector.

XYZ from Jammu and Kashmir
Student; Sri Venkateswara College, University of Delhi



A DIFFERENT VIEW

I'm ABC from Bangalore, Karnataka currently studying in Sri Venkateswara College. We have been receiving continuous materials from our teachers that are helpful. As our course as a whole is pretty compound, our teachers have helped with any kinda doubts we put forward. Staying at a metropolitan (which has contained the virus outbreak considerably well relative to other metropolitans in the country), I have no internet connectivity problems. I have access to a pretty good internet connection; also as a backup the mobile internet works satisfactorily well across all carriers. I'm cool with the online exams and personally believe it to be fair. I mean it's not only me who has the liability to use study resources. So, in accordance I believe it to be completely fair considering the current situation. And in fact, I truly think that these kinds of application based exams which gauge the students' understanding of the subject is more of a necessity than just an exam that checks on how well you can remember a inch/inch and a half fat textbooks...

ABC from Bangalore, Karnataka
Student; Sri Venkateswara College, University of Delhi



WE THANK THE ABOVE INDIVIDUALS FOR
COOPERATING AND CONTRIBUTING TO THIS REPORT

UNIVERSITY'S NOTICES AND THE MENTAL HEALTH


On 5th March the University Grants commission issued an advisory for universities and colleges regarding COVID-19 which suggested avoiding gatherings, checking the travel history of faculty, to maintain social distance and measures for health and hygiene.

On 12th March after declaring closure of the university, measures to maintain continuity in the teaching-learning process were announced which included guidelines to continue classes through e-resources. Internal assessments were postponed till 30th march.

Another notice was issued on 19th march in accordance with the one issued by the Health and Welfare Department reinforcing the complete shutdown of campuses till 14th April and directing the teachers to work from home and remain available on telephones and electronic means of communication. Hostelers were asked to leave for their hometowns for their own safety. Later, methods to access Delhi University online library using VPN along with other links to different e-learning websites for study and research (as an initiative by HRD) were provided for student references.

After the lock down was extended for its 3rd Phase on 14th April, the university released another notification on the same day, announcing that colleges will remain closed till 3rd may.



 दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय
University of Delhi

F.No. Estab.II(j)/330/COVIC-19/M/2020 31st March 2020

OFFICE ORDER

In continuation of the Office Order of even No. dated 19th March 2020, it is brought to the notice of all concerned that in view of the Order No. 40-3/2020-DM-I (A) dated 24th March 2020 (copy available on www.mha.gov.in) issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, the University shall remain closed till 14th April 2020.

During this period online teaching-learning process will continue and should be strengthened by the Departments/Colleges. The University website provides details of online platforms and services for teaching and various learning resources. The website also provides details of VPN connection for students and teachers to access the Library resources from home.

The Task Force constituted by the University (Notification dated 27th March 2020 (available on www.du.ac.in) is facilitating the e-learning of the students of the University.

REGISTRAR (Acting)

दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय, दिल्ली-110007
University of Delhi, Delhi-110007
दूरभाष/Tel : 27667853; फैक्स/Fax : 27666356; वेबसाइट/Website : www.du.ac.in; ईमेल/E-mail : registrar@du.ac.in



Online Platforms for Teaching

To provide learning support to students, Google Services are integrated with our DU domain, including our mails etc. Two of their major apps viz. Google Classes and Google Hangout have been integrated. All of us can use these services to teach the students.

Following are the links of user guides for basic know how and to conduct classes online.

[Google Classroom User Guide](#)

[Google Hangouts Tutorial](#)

There are many video based collaboration services available e.g. webex, Zoom, Loom, Skype etc. Google has both the component and it is free for education.

These services are now very well integrated with your DU email account, just login and click on the top right (multi dot icon) and you will get multiple apps and these two services are listed there.

Please use following link to proceed:

<https://accounts.google.com>

Please use the following:

1. Google Classroom: It works like LMS (learning management system), you can share any type of document (doc, ppt, pdf etc.), create assignments, share links, conduct online test (assessment). You can create multiple classes as per your requirement.

2. Hangout: This service is for the live video interaction with your students. You can run this along with the google classroom or as per your requirement and convenience. Here also you can share multiple things (including your

Guidelines to fill examination forms online were issued initially, the deadline for which was 30th April but later due to inability of many students to fill them up because of network issues and portal being down for days, the deadline was extended till 15th may.

In view of the unprecedented situation of COVID-19 which led to lock down being extended till 3rd may. On 28th April, a notification was issued announcing the extension of the date for dispersal of classes for even semesters from 28th April to 15th may. Followed by an office order posted on 3rd may directing the university and colleges to remain closed for 2 weeks with effect from 4th May. Importance of online teaching and resources available were highlighted.

An appeal was issued on 6th may requesting departments and colleges to carry out interactive online teaching via suggested tools like Google Meet, Zoom classes etc.

A public notice by UGC was issued guidelines on examination and Academic calendar on 29th April, redressing which Delhi University posted a notification on 10th may, which informed the students that university was requested to establish a cell for for handling grievances of students related to examination and other academic activities arising due to the pandemic. Contact information for the same like helpline number, email address and link for the same was provided in the same.

Following this, on 11th may, the university welcomes the stakeholders to send their comments and suggestions related to examination to an email address.

On 13th May, all the stakeholders were notified to conduct internal assessment, practical examination through assignments, Online oral viva for final semester students through skype or other meeting apps and online internships and apprenticeship. In a redressal to the same the university informed all concerned that examination for final semester/ term/ year for all UG and PG programs shall begin from 1st July in an alternative mode of examination, OBE- Open Book examination to maintain social distancing, safety and health of the students. Another notice was issued on the same day regarding the review and revision of online courses in the following 3 days i.e from 15th-18th may.

On 17th may, in compliance to the order issued by the Ministry of Health, the university announced its further closure for 2 weeks with effect from 18th May.

Mental health of the students is the topic of interest throughout the world. The entire performance of the students depends on their mental health. This lock down continues to take a heavy toll on the mental health of every-one especially the students, the youth of the country. As the rate of spread is increasing day by day, lock down is the only option available to slow it down. But, with students being in different phases of their academic year like some were about to complete the academic sessions and some were about to write their entrance. It is well known that they were experiencing lots of anxiety already, additionally with the abrupt suspension of classes as all the educational institutes were locked down which followed a sudden transition of the education system to an entirely new concept of online teaching, this adaptation for students to change from routine teaching methods has been stressful.

Considering the same, The University Grants Commission (UGC) directed all universities and colleges to set up mental



UNIVERSITY OF DELHI

Ref. No. Dean(Exams)/
Dated 13.05.2020

To
The Dean/Head/Principal
Director SOL/NCWEB

Subject: Conduct of Internal Assessment (IA), Practical, Viva-Voce, Projects, Oral (Moot courts) Apprenticeship, Internship, Field Work etc. for 2019-20.

Sir/Madam,

The following procedure shall be followed for conduct of Internal Assessment, Practical, Viva-Voce, Projects, Oral (Moot courts), Apprenticeship, Internship, Field Work which are required for completion before the conduct of End Term Theory Examinations.

- **Internal Assessment:** Instead of the three existing components of Internal Assessment, viz., Class Tests, Tutorial Test and Attendance, only one component i.e. internal assignments will be carried out for the current semester. Internal assessment of the students should also be carried out using IT tools. Teacher should give the assignment to the students in prescribed format via e-mail. The student should submit the solved assignment to the teacher via e-mail in a defined time. The top of the Assignment Sheet must have Program name, Semester, Title of Paper and Name of the Student. After evaluation, respective teacher will submit the result of the same to the o/o the principal of the college and to the o/o the Head of the Department in the case of PostGraduation. Those who have already completed the process of internal assessment in the continuous form or as per existing rule in this regard are required to submit the same to the o/o the principal of the respective college. Attendance component in IA shall be considered full for the lockdown period and benefit should be granted to all students while calculating IA for each paper as per the distribution of marks.
- **Examination of Practical Courses:** The evaluation of Practical Examination, wherever applicable, will be in the 100% continuous evaluation mode. For Laboratory paper, teacher should give the assignment based on Experiments already performed through e-mail to the students. The student should submit the solved assignment to the teacher via e-mail in a stipulated time period. The name of Program, Semester, title of practical paper and name of the student should be mentioned at the top of the answer sheet by the student before submission.
- **Practical and Viva voce, Oral (Moot courts) Examinations:** For final and Intermediate semester/Term/Year students of all professional and technical programs, all such practical and viva voce as part of the requirements of the completion of degrees for final semester /Term/Year students should be conducted through Skype or other meeting apps.



UNIVERSITY OF DELHI

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- **Conduct of Internship/Apprenticeship for all Semester/Term/Year:** Following measures in the view of COVID-19 shall be undertaken by all concerned as required for completion of degrees in professional/ technical course etc. wherever applicable:
 - 1) Students shall be allowed to take up online internship/ activities including activities that can be carried out digitally or otherwise from home.
 - 2) They can be engaged as interns in ongoing projects.
 - 3) The date for start can be delayed.
 - 4) The period of internship can be reduced clubbing with assignments etc.



दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय
UNIVERSITY OF DELHI

Ref. No. Dean (Exams)/02/2019-20/
Dated 14.05.2020

Notification

Reference: Conduct of Examinations for Final Semester/Term/Year for the Academic Session 2019-20 in view of COVID-19.

It is hereby notified for information of all concerned that Examinations for final semester/term/year students for all Under Graduate (UG) and Post Graduate (PG) programs including examinations for students registered with School of Open Learning (SOL) and Non Collegiate Women Education Board (NCWEB) shall begin from 1st July 2020. All these Examinations shall be conducted in three sessions in a day including Sundays with a duration of two hours. A detailed date sheet is likely to be notified by the end of this month.

In case the situation does not appear to be normal in view of COVID-19 and to maintain social distancing, safety and health of the students become difficult, university will adopt alternative mode of examinations i.e., Open Book Examinations (OBE) for final semester/term/year UG and PG students of all programmes and streams along with arrears (ER) of previous semesters/term/year. Students shall be allowed to attempt their examinations as per the date sheet and courses as filled in examination form from seating at home or any place as per instructions/guidelines issued in this regard.

All Ex-Students of Choice Based Credit System (CBCS), Three-Year Semester Scheme admitted in the year 2014 and students of erstwhile FYUP (B.Tech.) and Ex-Students of Annual Scheme registered with SOL and NCWEB as per specified Span Period shall also appear as per date sheet applicable for each said case. All these students shall also attempt their examinations in alternative mode mentioned as above for regular students of all streams i.e., OBE. They will attempt their examinations based on the syllabus applicable as per scheme of study at the time of admission.

A detailed guideline of OBE along with date sheet of all schemes of UG shall be notified by the end of this month and shall only be available on the official website of university of Delhi i.e., www.du.ac.in. The date sheet for all PG programmes shall be notified separately by the respective departments, centre and faculty. No separate information shall be sent to students by examination branch in this regard. Further, all are required to note that information available on the official website of university shall only be considered authentic. The authenticity of communication may be confirmed from the website of university of Delhi www.du.ac.in before relying upon any message circulating in social media.

It may be noted that separate guidelines for examinations of the students of First and Second Year (i.e. Second and Fourth Semester) in case of UG Programs and First Year (i.e. Second Semester) in case of PG Programs, shall be issued in due course of time.

Vinay Gupta 14/5/2020
Dean (Examinations)

health helplines to address psycho social concerns of students during the lock down imposed to combat corona virus, following the same Delhi university had started the counselling service for its students on 8th April

Conversely, with the introduction of online classes by University of Delhi in a notice dated 14th April' 2020 and inability of many students to access it due to genuine reasons like lack of resources and poor internet connectivity followed by unsettled concentration because of change in environment the anxiety level amongst the students has heightened. Many students were unable to attend and submit online VIVAs and assignments for practical examination.

Above all, in a guideline issued on 13th May, the university announced 'Open Book - Take Home' examinations as the mode of the online assessment for students of final year (semester) of all streams, regular, SOL and NCWEB in UG and PG programs to be held 1st July onward. It caused more panic amongst the students as they were already undergoing stress regarding their career and admissions procedure ahead and this brought out a feeling of helplessness as many did not have adequate studying material even for open test book exams .

Students of other semesters are also feeling anxious as there is uncertainty about their examination procedure because the university has not issued any guidelines for other semester examinations. They are worried about whether they'll be able to access the resources, study and appear for their exams and when they will learn about the clear picture ahead.

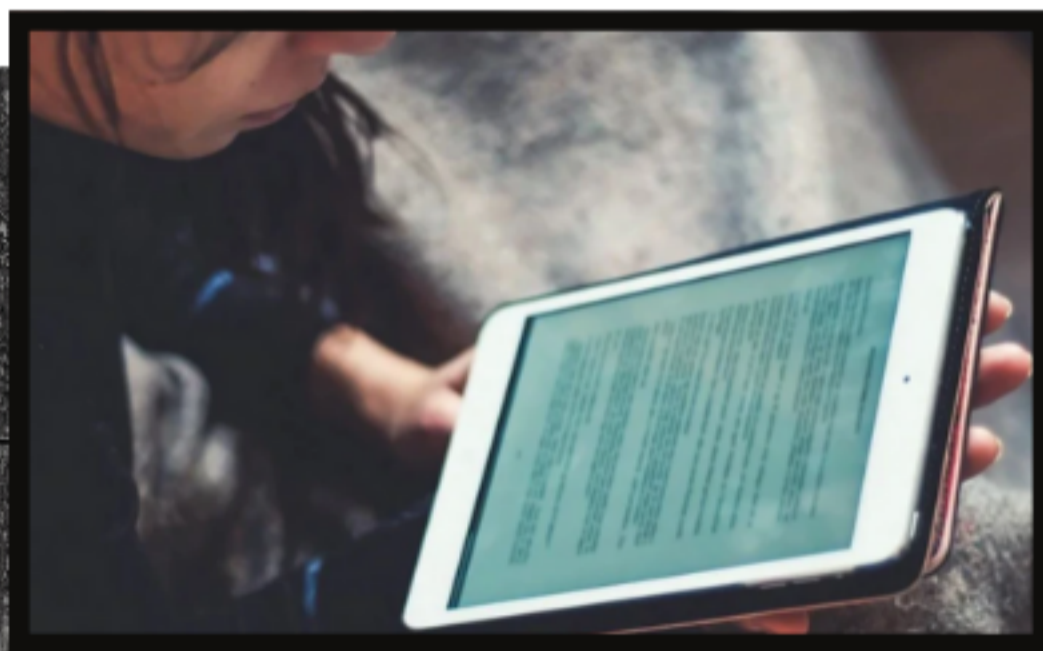
IS ONLINE EDUCATION A REMEDY ?

Education has changed dramatically with the distinctive rise of e-learning. Whilst this shift away from the classroom have posed many difficult challenges on mental, technical and psychological fronts.

On focussing the half full part of the glass, we discovered ways to deliver quality education even to the remote areas where establishing an infrastructure for the same impact might take years.

Crises have a way of highlighting the flaws which otherwise would have prolonged unnoticed. With uncertainty looming large over the time ,this sudden transition to online education is getting difficult to manage as the students are left clinging onto their mobile phones and computer screens. Students without reliable internet access or technology are struggling to participate in digital learning.

The whole discussion of limitation of online education comes to a point that the integration of information technology in education needs to be accelerated and whether we believe it or not online learning is going to be an integral part of the future of education.





We need to look at how to provide equal opportunities for learning so that a student in a rural setting gets the same education material as a student in urban one. Equating the two very diverse experiences might not be the very correct thing but yes keeping an open mind and accepting this changed dynamics might as well lead to a much better and improved education system.

Change is the only constant, riding on this mantra, it becomes rather important to realise that it's time to change the very definition of what we often describe as infrastructure. And hopefully, when this pandemic is finally averted, the government and the citizens of this country will have a better perspective on as to how digitise the workings of our day to day life and move to a more developed and technologically advanced tomorrow.

In a nutshell, education needs to be imparted in a proper way for the positive development of young learners. Looking at present crises , online education is the future and for this to work we have to look into methods to provide a better digital infrastructure and go beyond the concept of replicating the physical class instead try to make online learning suitable and available for more propositions of people.

ROLE OF NSS SVC

NSS SVC like various other organizations was at first taken by surprise with the severity of the current COVID-19 situation. As most of our projects involve fieldwork it was initially difficult to continue and monitor these successfully. But with hardworking and enthusiastic volunteers NSS SVC decided to take its Project PAHAL to another level by conducting an online survey.

With the global pandemic affecting each one of us, we conducted a survey for the students of colleges across Delhi University. As educational institutions are shut down, students are left stranded at home with limited contact with their peers and almost no physical activity. The volunteers ensured that the questions asked took each and every possible situation into consideration.



The survey mainly focused on the much debatable concept of online learning which has been adopted by the university and the impact of COVID-19 on the mental health of students. The members worked day and night to ensure that this survey reached the maximum number of students as possible.

The survey had an overwhelming response and was appreciated by many. It has resulted in students self-examining their thoughts and also being sensitized to difficulties faced by their fellow mates. With this research project, NSS SVC has yet again stood by its motto of "Not me, but YOU".

MEET THE TEAM

PEOPLE BEHIND PROJECT PAHAL

FORMER OPERATIONAL HEADS



ARJUN SHARMA

Pahal has been a journey, we started this project with utmost intention to make a difference even at minute level possible. When we see our juniors carrying forward the same legacy with purest intention this is absolutely bliss to both of us.



V. LOKAMANIKANTA

FORMER PROJECT HEADS

We are absolutely grateful to have such active juniors, always excited and keen to learn. Hope their innovative ideas give appropriate direction to our beloved project Pahal.



NISHANT CHHABRA



PRASUN AGARWAL



SIMRAN

MEET THE TEAM

PEOPLE BEHIND PROJECT PAHAL

OPERATIONAL HEADS



SEJAL MAKHIJA

It has been an immense pleasure working for project Pahal since I joined last year. As the name suggests "Pahal" i.e An initiative" has always tried to represent social problems on behalf of others by conducting a survey and presenting a report thereby providing a suitable solution or drawing results. I would like to thank seniors for giving me the opportunity to lead this wonderful project and the juniors for being such a good sport and completing the report in a quick deadline. I hope this report appeals to the readers and they are able to connect to it. We promise to keep up with the quality and bring more reports to you.

RAJSHREE LAISHRAM



In these most trying times where every sector is hit by the pandemic and uncertainty looms everywhere, we are proud that Project Pahal is able to come forward with yet another report addressing an issue of utmost importance. It always gives me utter delight to work with Project Pahal ever since I joined NSS last year due to its dynamic, pragmatic approach. I owe my profound gratitude to my seniors for providing me with this opportunity to take the project forward. The credit for the success of this report goes to our seniors who have guided us with their experience and also to all my team members who with their plethora of talents and enthusiasm made the report possible. We will try our best to make sure Pahal will carry forward its legacy with more brighter visions and stick to noble ventures.

MEET THE TEAM

PEOPLE BEHIND PROJECT PAHAL

PROJECT HEADS



PALAK TANEJA

PAHAL has always been a great project. I have seen my seniors working wholeheartedly towards it and making its first report a success. I am grateful to them for trusting me, guiding me and giving me this opportunity to carry forward this project along with my fellow heads. Here, we present our second report, diligently prepared by our team members. We promise to leave no stone unturned in keeping up the name and legacy of Pahal by bringing more such useful reports in future. Hoping to take this project to newer heights!

SHASHANK SAHU



I had an amazing experience with my teammates while working for project Pahal. Personally I had my doubts in the beginning as a team head in correctly directing my teammates on how to properly do every single task but to my surprise we did everything flawlessly as a perfect team and on time without any difficulty. When we distributed our work, practicals were still going on side by side but no one ever gave an excuse that would cause a delay in the deadline. Sincere thanks to our seniors who made it easy for us to take this huge responsibility and who felt that we had it in us that we will be able to handle this and I think together as a team we have shown them that they were right to put their faith in us.

MEET THE TEAM

PEOPLE BEHIND PROJECT PAHAL

DESIGNED BY



KAJAL PHOGAAT
(Graphic Designing Head)

Pahal is special to all of us. Our aim is to reach out to thousands of people and address current issues of importance, this time online education. It's quite an amusement to take my place as the Graphic Designing Head. I feel grateful to my seniors for trusting me, recognising my talent and supporting me always and I believe this is one of those moments, dramatic enough, that fills you with confidence and joy. Designing this report is an expression of my gratefulness for this opportunity and my love for NSS. I hope the readers will like it. Looking forward to bringing the best designs along with my amazing team mates.

PALAK TANEJA

Pahal report designing was itself a great task. Also the first report was such a beauty so Report 2.0 couldn't be any less. Here's our second report, highlighting yet another cause. Kudos and credits to Kajal for the entire design. We have designed it with all of our heart.

Hoping, it appeals to the readers and ending with a promise to bring more such useful reports ahead!



MEET THE TEAM

PEOPLE BEHIND PROJECT PAHAL

EDITORIAL TEAM



**DIPANSHU
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**RADHIKA
GARG**



**RIYA
NEGI**



**SRASHTI
SAHAY**



NATIONAL SERVICE SCHEME Sri Venkateswara College

At the outset, a big hats off to the Pahal report writing team who put their hearts and souls in writing this report .

A special thanks to the ones who contributed to make this report wholesome by sharing their personal experiences.

Last but not the least, a heartfelt gratitude to all those who spent their valuable time and gave responses for our survey.