

Online Schooling versus Offline Schooling: An Effectiveness Assessment

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ABSTRACT

The COVID 19 situations became a worldwide health issue at the very beginning of the year 2020 and has formed a public health emergency of global concern. Thus online schooling has gained popularity and its practice has increased amazingly. The coronavirus situation not only made online education more crucial and urgent, but also gave scope for a thorough discussion on the subject. The purpose of this study is to know which one is more effective between online schooling and offline schooling and also to learn the limitation of these two schooling systems. A total of 56 students of K.M.Latif Institutions, Mathbaria in class x (section "A") were attending a mathematical class where 28 of them were in the classroom with the teacher and 28 of them were attended online using the Zoom apps facility at the same time as requested. After one hour of class, a test was held between two groups. According to the study's findings, both offline and online schooling methods are effective under different circumstances. The study has found that despite some limitations online schooling method is preferable at least in pandemic or emergency situations. But both schooling systems have advantages and disadvantages of their own. And it is also predicted that in the age of 4th IR, we cannot deny the blessing of technology. Thus online schooling method has become increasingly popular in recent days.

KEYWORDS: Online Schooling, Offline Schooling, COVID-19 Pandemic, Schooling Methods, Education System

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INTRODUCTION

The emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic posed the biggest threat of the last few decades to the global education system (Ross 2020; Onyema et al. 2020 and Grek & Landri 2021). The closing of schools has negatively impacted more than 1.6 billion people who are participating in the education system across more than 190 nations and all seven continents (Sunita 2020). It is proved that technology has the most effective ally in defending everyone who is involved in the educational system ((Adedoyin & Soykan 2021). The answer was provided by certain broad and dominant governmental policies that aimed to be adaptable and prepared to provide a substitute for offline learning. Thus the Internet took over as the preliminary instrument. Saul Carliner (2004) found that online schooling is instruction delivered through the Internet. Online education is only one sort of "traditional learning" which refers to all learning that occurs remotely and outside of a regular classroom. Hannay & Newvine (2006) conducted a study on perceptions of distance learning and stated that online schooling is typically created to serve students who live away from campuses. For students who are unable to enroll in regular courses because of their employment, marital status, childcare duties, distance from campus, or the cost of traditional education, these programs offer access to higher education. Additionally, it offers a practical way to serve a sizable number of students everywhere.

In March 2020, Bangladesh Government declared a complete lockdown to control the pandemic situation. As a result of that, the whole education system of Bangladesh was disrupted. Students could not go to school as the country was locked down. But the situation became worse with time. The coronavirus situation continued for almost 2 years. Even now we are not completely safe. Lockdown may be announced at any time if the situation demands. Thus, the Government understood that they must cope with the COVID situation. The coronavirus will not go completely. So Government started home education through online schooling. Students don't have to come to school but they have to attend online classes through Zoom online meeting platform or similar platforms. The teacher of the respected subject would control online classes. Even assignment or exam was held in zoom class. The assignment was uploaded in zoom software by the student so that teacher could access and assess the assignment.

But things were not smooth in online schooling all the time. In the age of globalization, technology is a blessing of course but it has some limitations. Therefore, online schooling has some limitations too. In online schooling, the interaction between teachers and students has decreased. In school, only bookish knowledge is not the only target. For example, integrity improvement, religious values, cooperation, social norms and values, wisdom, respect for others and acknowledgement are also achieved through the offline schooling method. In offline schooling, it is practised practically but online schooling is not a sufficient procedure yet. Online schooling is a result-based schooling method. Besides in online schooling, method concentration is a very important factor that was most time found absent. Besides as it is new in Bangladesh, it has some technical problems. Students are not trained to use online assistance like zoom software. So sometimes they are misguided. Besides as a developing country many can not afford mobile or laptops for online schooling systems, especially in rural areas. Govt. implemented online schooling without supplying the instruments that are mandatory to use. Yuhanna et al (2020) carried out a study on the advantages of e-learning and revealed that online schooling is the outcome of teaching being electronically provided utilizing computer-based media. A network, comprising websites, the internet, intranets, CDs, and DVDs, is routinely used to access the content. Students who attend classes online can obtain material as well as receive targeted assistance. It can deliver online education as well as track students' progress and report on their performance.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Ni (2013) found that in comparison to traditional classes, online methodology classes may provide greater difficulties for persistence in an online context. Additionally, in online classes, participation might be less scary and engagement might be better overall. Besides students may lose their concentration at any time because there is no eye contact between students and teachers. Besides when a teacher asked a question in online classes, he/she can answer the question by browsing the internet. There is no process for justifying it. This happens mostly during the online examination. That is why online schooling is a result-oriented method whereas offline schooling is more practical. Lyke& Frank (2012) found that in distance learning systems there are some drawbacks like

lack of engagement and lack of sufficient technical support. Actually, our government could not ensure the policy of mobile for all. Besides recently a Digital Quality of Life Index survey was published where Bangladesh has ranked 103rd position out of 110 countries in internet speed. India has ranked 59th position, Pakistan 97th, and Srilanka 88th position.

Redding & Rotzien (2001) found that online schooling has better flexibility during scheduling and has the opportunity to learn at own and convenient environment. Students feel more relaxed during learning in online sessions. According to James (2002), "Users can complete a training program at their own speed and location. Additionally, they get unlimited access to the training and only take what they require." For health safety, online education is preferable as there is no fixed time for education. Teachers can call a meeting or class at any time at any place. No need for a classroom, blackboard, paper, book or physical existence. In online schooling, E-Book can be helpful. Mukhtar et al. (2020) studied the advantages of online schooling and revealed that comfort and accessibility were two advantages of remote learning, whereas inefficiency and the difficulty of maintaining academic integrity were two disadvantages. The recommendations included instructing instructors on how to use online tools and designing interactive, less mentally taxing lesson plans. Smart & Cappel (2006) found that students prefer significantly online schooling rather than offline schooling as online schooling focused on learner satisfaction.

Adnan & Anwar (2020) found that in developing and least-developed countries, where the vast majority of students are unable to use the internet owing to technical as well as financial constraints, online learning cannot yield desired results. Other difficulties raised by college students included the instructor's lack of face-to-face engagement, response times, and the lack of typical classroom socialization. Zhang et al. (2004) revealed in a study on e-learning that we can be benefited from online schooling only when we use moderate online teaching procedures. Teachers are needed to be trained in online teaching procedures and techniques. Oreopoulos et al. (2011) conducted a study on the benefits of online schooling and found that in spite of having many benefits, online schooling lacks face-to-face interaction and it has potential social isolation. Therefore, the synopsis is that we cannot deny

online schooling as the whole world is accepting online schooling with warm reception. So we shall stress more to develop an online teaching system, supply online teaching tools and create a welcoming environment for online learning.

METHODOLOGY

This study adopted a quantitative method to compare students' performances between online and offline schooling. The data were collected between 22 May to 26 May 2022. A simple performance test was conducted among the students of K.M.Latif Institution in Mathbaria Upazila in the Pirojpur district of Bangladesh. There were 56 students in class x in section "A" in this school. A mathematical class was taken by the course teacher. The class was a one-hour session starting from 10 am to 11 am. Half of the students(28) were present in the classroom with the teacher and the other half of the students were attending the class online through zoom app facilities. After the session, a simple test was taken by supplying an identical question paper to both groups of students. The offline group were given the hard copy of the question and the online group was given the soft copy through zoom software. The offline group were asked to answer all the questions and submit the answer script in hard copies to the teacher. And online group were asked to submit the answer script in the comment section of this software in the form of a softcopy. The exam time was the same for the two groups and the question was also the same. The questions were very specific and short like "What is a triangle", or "what is the sum of the angle of a triangle". The answer scripts were evaluated by the same teacher who took the class.

After the exam, a questionnaire survey was administered among the students. This survey was done to determine how they feel about online schooling and offline schooling. Some questions were supplied to the students, guardians, and also teachers of the K.M.Latif Institution. The questionnaire was designed to collect data on whether online schooling enhances the learning experience as well as communication skills, provides the opportunity to acquire new knowledge, is as efficient offline schooling method, better for achieving a good result in the exam, better for speaking and listening skill and provides positive feeling about learning.

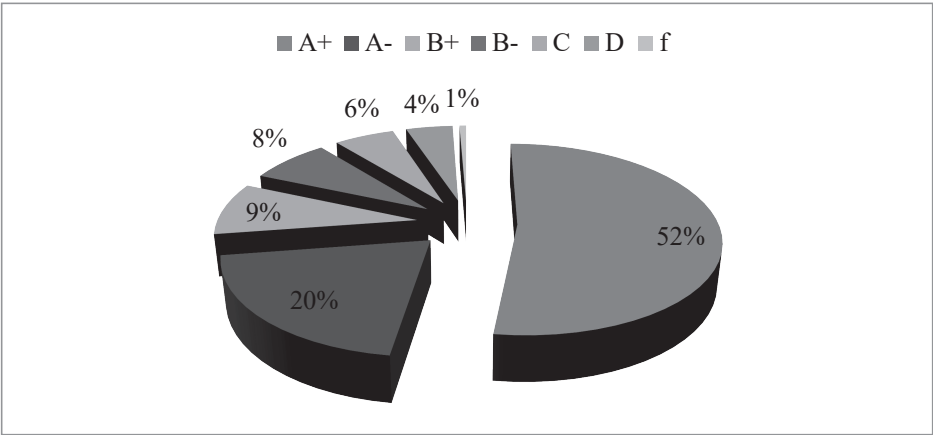
The six main questions were there in the survey instrument:

- **Q1:** Do you think online schooling can enhance the learning experience as well as communication skills? A: Yes, B: No, C: Partially
- **Q2:** Do you believe that online schooling gives the opportunity to acquire new knowledge? A: Yes, B: No, C: Partially
- **Q3:** Online schooling is efficient as offline schooling method, A: Yes, B: No, C: Partially
- **Q4:** Do you think online schooling is better for achieving a good result in the exam? A: Yes, B: No, C: Partially
- **Q5:** Do you think online schooling is better for speaking and listening skills? A: Yes, B: No, C: Partially
- **Q6:** Overall do you feel positive towards online schooling? A: Yes, B: No, C: Partially

RESULTS AND FINDINGS

Students’ Performance Test

The results and findings of both the performance test of the students and the questionnaire survey are discussed in this section. Figure 1 shows the results of the performance test conducted on the online schooling group while figure 2 shows the results of the performance test conducted on the offline schooling group.



***Figure 1:** Results of Online Schooling Group*

It is seen that students performed slightly better in the online schooling system. About 52% of students got A+. Besides 20% of students got A-. Only 1% of students couldn't pass the exam. As we said earlier online schooling system is a result-based schooling system. Students prefer this system.

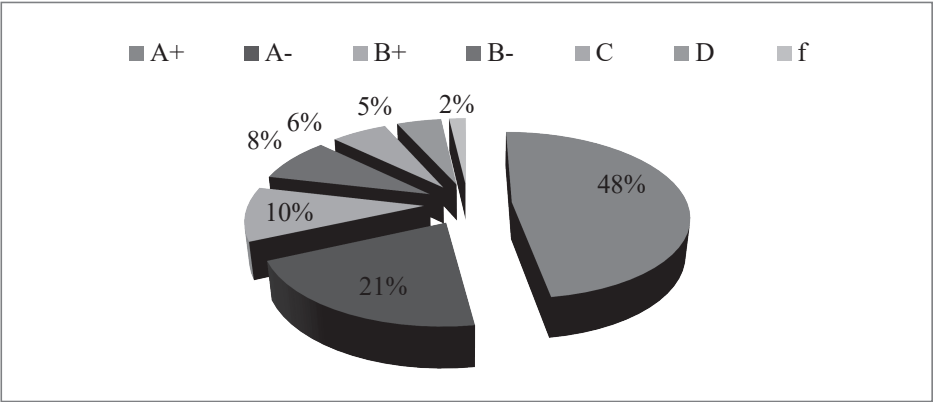


Figure 2: Results of Offline Schooling Group

On the other hand, in the offline schooling system, 48% of students got A+, and 21% of students got A-. And 2% couldn't pass the exam. The offline schooling system is known as the traditional schooling system. If we compare the result of the traditional schooling system to the online schooling system, the result is just marginally better in the online schooling system. We cannot conclude saying that online schooling is more effective than offline schooling based on this result as there is no guard or fixed guidelines to follow in the online schooling system.

Students' Opinion

Here we can see the evaluation results of how the students think about the online schooling system compared to the offline schooling system. In figure 3 students prefer the online schooling system. They feel comfortable online and they also think that online schooling can enhance their learning system as well as speaking and reading skills. Besides they feel less pressure in the online schooling system. Students feel good at online schooling because no fixed time schedule and it is a more relaxed schooling system.

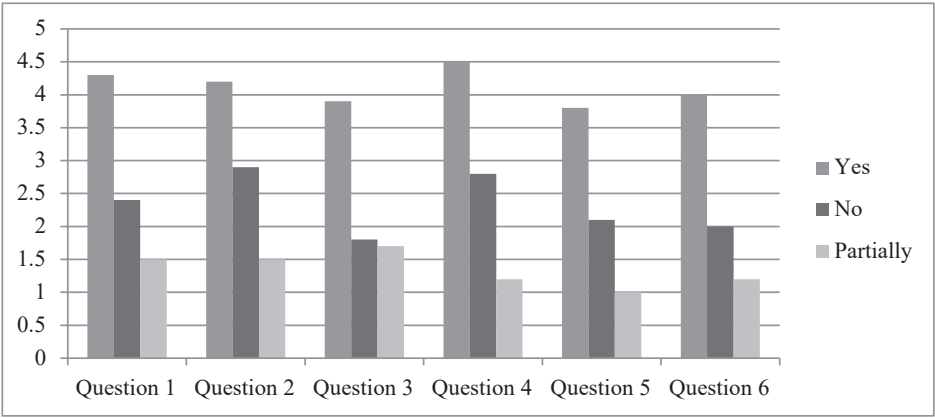


Figure 3: *Students' Opinions Regarding Online and Offline Schooling*
Guardians' Opinion

On the other hand guardians of the student do not feel so good about the online schooling system. They conclude that students should go to school. They believe that school is not all about passing the exam but a machine of being a good person. Online schooling lacks social interaction. Guardians think that offline schooling is more effective. They also think that as offline schooling offers direct interactions, students can improve their speaking and learning skills more through offline schooling.

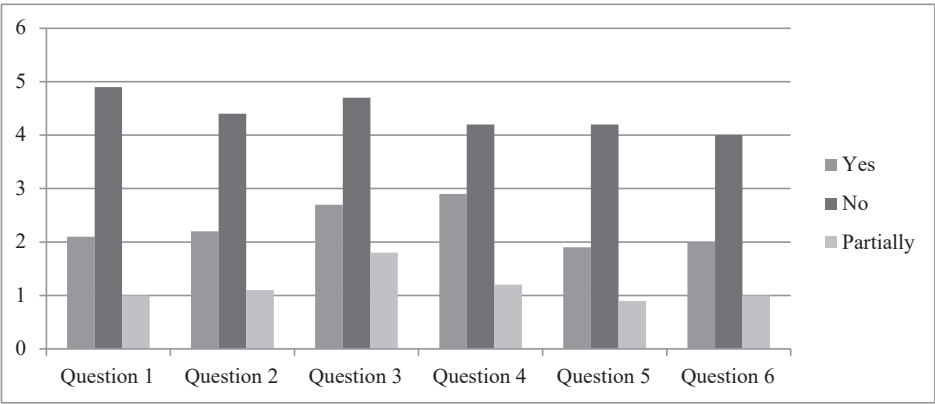


Figure 4: *Guardians' Opinions Regarding Online and Offline Schooling*

Teachers’ Opinion

Teachers also think that offline schooling is better than online schooling system. They believe that students pass sedentary life at home. If they come to school, the interaction between teachers and students will improve. There is a lot of chance of improving integrity in the offline schooling system. Teachers think that offline schooling is more effective in the learning system. Besides offline schooling can enhance their knowledge more than online schooling. Teachers can effectively give lessons to students through online learning. Teachers can use all of the resources available for online learning, including podcasts, PDFs, and videos, as part of their lesson preparations. Another advantage of online education is that it allows students to attend classes from any location of their choosing. Additionally, it allows schools to connect with a larger network of students and releases them from the restrictions imposed by regional boundaries. Online education also has the advantage of lower prices. Compared to traditional schooling, online education is far less expensive. Due to the flexibility of attending online classes from home or any other location, there are fewer chances that students will miss lectures.

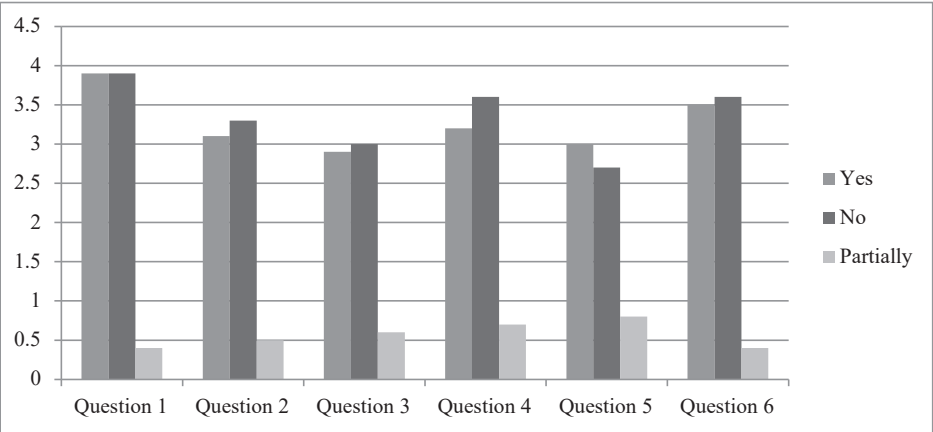


Figure 5: Teachers’ Opinions Regarding Online and Offline Schooling

One of the primary ways that typical campus life can improve a student's college experience is through contact with professors and instructors. There aren't many possibilities for online education. On campus, students can schedule in-person sessions with their professors to talk about a project, the class, or their performance. Students are continually

collaborating, researching, and conducting research for papers and projects in the university's campus library.

DISCUSSION

From the results, it is seen that students feel better about online schooling. There are several reasons behind it. The supervision procedure is more relaxed in online schooling. If a student loses his/her concentration during schooling, it is difficult to find him/her. Time management is very much easy in online schooling. Besides less physical work and due to health safety online schooling has become popular with students. Online schooling is convenient and also more flexible. Online schooling has financial benefits and it is self-disciplined. Anyone can take classes online may be from abroad too so that the students can share thoughts globally. Online schooling improves technical skills and enhances critical thinking skills. Thus students choose online schooling over offline schooling.

On the contrary guardians and teachers prefer offline schooling. Because they think the relationship between teacher and students is very necessary. Face-to-face interaction during class is essential. Besides school is not about learning bookish knowledge, socialization and integrity improvement are proven to be more effective during offline schooling. Students have a chance to lead a sedentary lifestyle in offline schooling. Some guardians also suggest moderate offline schooling. The educational outcomes may be enhanced with effective and appropriate utilization, but traditional classrooms cannot be replaced. This live-streamed lesson motivated teachers. In general, they thought that promoting online education was a worthwhile endeavour.

In the assessment of effectiveness between online and offline schooling methods, it has been found that the effectiveness of either of the schooling methods is subjective to many other aspects and it varies significantly in different situations. For example, online schooling has been very effective during the COVID-19 pandemic to avoid a complete disruption of the education system. It has contributed immensely across the globe to continue education-related activities. The offline schooling method was not working during this period. But in a normal situation, the offline schooling method is very effective when it comes to socialization, communication skills, interaction with teachers and students and many

more. Thus, it is absolutely impossible to say which method is more effective rather an appropriate combination of both will be more effective.

CONCLUSION

During the COVID-19 period, our educational system almost broke down. Students could not go to school physically due to health and safety issues. That is why the online schooling system came into discussion. Besides, at the age of 4th IR, we have to cope with technology. The whole world has taken the online schooling system as a blessing. In Bangladesh online schooling system is becoming more popular day by day. But online schooling system has some drawbacks. The government needs to provide training facilities to the teacher for the online schooling system. Students should follow the proper rules and regulations. In the online schooling system, online exam is the most challenging. When question paper is provided students can fill up the answer with the help of the internet facility as there is no guard. So as we cannot deny the online schooling system, we need to establish some strict rules and regulations. We need to provide technical support to ensure online education for all.

This paper has been discussed according to a study of secondary school. But in the case of higher secondary or graduation levels, online schooling is more effective. Besides in the case of primary education, it is very difficult to conduct classes online. One of the major reasons behind this is that children are not usually used to it. It is also difficult to retain their concentration in an online session. Besides, it is not suitable for them as they need socialization more than any other student group. So, the online schooling system may vary for different age groups. The online schooling system can be more effective if proper training can be arranged by the government for the teacher and students also. Besides, the government must provide technical support to all students as well as teachers. Online schooling lacks face-to-face interactions. This examination system can be revised. Some marks should be given for the integrity of students which will be given by teachers. Students must provide a hard copy of the assignment and exam paper to the teacher. The presence of students must be ensured by providing an online attendance sheet. Besides sports, the cultural program should be arranged physically. An optimal combination of both offline and online schooling methods will be very effective by simultaneously incorporating all the positive sides of the two schooling

methods and nullifying the drawbacks. Further studies are required to identify the appropriate combination of the two methods for developing an efficient, effective and forward-looking schooling method.

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There is no conflict of interest.

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