



To assess the impact of online learning on academic life of nursing students during COVID-19 pandemic

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Abstract

Introduction: The Covid-19 pandemic has stricken the life of students as well as common people. It was impossible to have a normal regular class during the pandemic period. Thus, online learning was one of the remedy. Online learning is a novel experience for students.

Especially, for the medical students to whom practical's are very much important. Online learning has both merits and demerits.

Objectives: To assess the impact of online classes on academic life of nursing students during Covid-19 pandemic. To determine the association between impacts of online learning on academic life of nursing students with selected online learning characteristics.

Methodology: A quantitative research approach was used for this study. Descriptive research design was adopted for the study. 60, 4th year B.Sc. nursing students were selected using simple random sampling method from a selected college of nursing, Mangalore. Checklist was the tool used and the data was analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics.

Results: The result of the study showed that, the majority students resided at home (98.3%) and (1.7%) with others during this pandemic period. Majority of students used mobile phones (91.7%) and (3.3%) used tablets and (5%) used laptops for online learning. Most of the students used Google Meet (80%), (13.3%) used Zoom and (6.7%) used Google Classroom. More than half of the students (86%) used mobile data. In terms of basic computer skills, (78.3%) have basic skills and (21.7%) have no skill. Almost all the students have no previous knowledge (98.3%) and (6.7%) have some experience. Most of the students (60%) spent 4-7 hours, (30%) spent more than 7 hours and (10%) have spent 1-3 hours.

Conclusion: The findings of the study concluded that there are both positive and negative impacts of online learning during Covid-19 pandemic on nursing students. There is a significant association between basic computer skills before Covid-19, duration of time spent for online learning and impact of online learning on academic life of nursing students at 0.05 level of significance.

Keywords: Assess, impact, online learning, academic life, nursing students, Covid-19 pandemic

Introduction

Corona virus disease (COVID-19) is an infectious disease caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus. It was firstly identified in Wuhan city, Hubei province, China in December 2019 as pneumonia of unknown origin. Covid-19 outbreak spread rapidly not only in China but also worldwide, therefore, the World Health Organization (WHO) has announced it as a pandemic on March 12th 2020. The total numbers of confirmed cases are 4.29 crores and death rate is 5.14 Lakh in India. Covid-19 pandemic has affected all levels of educational system. Educational institutions around the world have either temporarily closed or implemented localized closures affecting about 1.7 billion of student population worldwide ^[1].

Higher education institutions have shifted from traditional face-to-face to online teaching due to Corona virus pandemic which has forced both teachers and students to be put in a compulsory lockdown. The advent of online education has made it possible for students with busy lives and limited flexibility to obtain a quality education. As opposed to traditional classroom teaching, web-based instructions has made it possible to offer classes worldwide through a single internet connection. Although it boasts several advantages over traditional education, online

instruction still has its drawbacks, including limited communal synergies. Still, online education seems to be the path many students are taking to secure a degree. Computer-assisted instruction is changing the pedagogical landscape as an increasing number of students are seeking online education. Colleges and Universities are now touting the efficiencies of web-based education and are rapidly implementing online classes to meet student needs worldwide ^[2].

Online platform have different tools to facilitate conducting online interactive classes to reduce students' loss. Online education platforms are designed to share information and co-ordinate class activities. Online learning works as an alternative for face-to-face education during Covid- 19. Online education is convenient for students, where they can assess online materials for 24 hours ^[3]. However; it has got both merits and demerits.

Objectives

1. To assess the impact of online classes on academic life of nursing students during Covid- 19 pandemic.
2. To determine the association between impacts of online learning on academic life of nursing students with selected online learning characteristics.

Methodology

A quantitative descriptive research approach and descriptive research design was used in this study. This study was conducted among 60 students studying in 4th year B.Sc. nursing in a selected nursing college at Mangalore. The sample was selected by simple random sampling technique. Demographic proforma and checklist were used for data collection. Demographic proforma consisted of 7 items and checklist consisted of 22 items. Checklist consisted of both positive and negative impact items. Permission was obtained from the concerned management of the college of nursing to conduct the study. Informed consent was obtained from the nursing students for data collection. Data was collected on 19-03-2022 and analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics.

Results

1. Description of baseline variables

Majority of students resided at home (98.3%) and (1.7%) with others during this pandemic period. Majority of students used mobile phones (91.7%) and (3.3%) used tablets and (5%) used laptops for online learning. Most of the students used Google Meet (80%), (13.3%) used Zoom and (6.7%) used Google Classroom. More than half of the students (86%) used mobile data. In terms of basic computer skills, (78.3%) have basic skills and (21.7%) have no skill. Almost all the students have no previous knowledge (98.3%) and (6.7%) have some experience. Most of the students (60%) spent 4-7 hours, (30%) spent more than 7 hours and (10%) have spent 1-3 hours.

Table 1: Item-wise analysis of online learning impacts N=60

S. No.	Items	Yes		No	
1(a)	Positive Impacts	(f)	(%)	(f)	(%)
1	I found online learning more enjoyable than classroom learning.	48	80	12	20
2	I found online learning more convenient than physical classes.	41	68.3	19	31.7
3	Learning through online classes made me save more time.	51	85	9	15
4	I felt that interaction between me and my instructors were well established.	46	76.7	14	23.3
5	I improved my skills in using electronic devices.	56	94.3	4	5.7
6	I felt that time management during e-	58	96.7	2	3.3
	learning sessions were manageable.				
2 (b)	Negative Impacts				
1	I faced difficulty in using e-learning platforms due to lack of proper training.	59	98.3	1	1.7
2	I faced reduced learning flow due to lack of study materials.	59	98.3	1	1.7
3	I have developed more dependency towards electronic devices during online classes.	58	96.7	2	3.3
4	I have missed my clinical interactions with patients badly as there was no clinical posting.	59	98.3	1	1.7
5	I felt that there were poor e- demonstration sessions during online classes.	58	96.7	2	3.3
6	Online classes were poorly understood by me.	57	95	3	5.0
7	I found clarification of doubts difficult during online classes.	53	88.3	7	11.7
8	I felt that online classes have reduced my interpersonal relationship	48	80	12	20
9	I missed my college life where I used to enjoy a lot with my friends.	54	90	6	10.0
10	I missed the extracurricular activities in college during Covid-19 pandemic.	57	95	3	5.0
11	I had no sufficient time for entertainment	48	80	12	20
12	I felt difficulty concentrating on continuous learning.	50	83.3	10	16.7
13	I have frequently experienced some symptoms like headache, eye pain due	60	100	0	0
	to the use of e-devices for online classes.				
14	I felt that online classes were more stressful.	60	100	0	0
15	I had experienced insufficient sleep due to continuous use of e-devices during online classes.	60	100	0	0
16	I faced technological and environmental disturbances during e- learning sessions.	60	100	0	0

Association between online learning characteristics and baseline variables

The chi-square value was computed to find association between online learning characteristics and baseline variables such as place of residing during Covid-19, gadgets used, digital platform used, source of internet, basic computer skill before Covid-19, previous experience of online learning and duration of time spent on online learning per day. The calculated chi-square value was less than the table value (3.84) at 0.05 level of significance. Hence it was inferred that there was significant association between online learning characteristics and basic computer skills before Covid-19, duration of time spent for online learning

and impact of online learning on academic life of nursing students at 0.05 level of significance.

Discussion

Majority of students resided at home (98.3%) and (1.7%) with others during this pandemic period. Majority of students used mobile phones (91.7%) and (3.3%) used tablets and (5%) used laptops for online learning. Most of the students used Google Meet (80%), (13.3%) used Zoom and (6.7%) used Google Classroom. More than half of the students (86%) used mobile data. In terms of basic computer skills, (78.3%) have basic skills and (21.7%) have no skill. Almost all the students have no previous knowledge

(98.3%) and (6.7%) have some experience. Most of the students (60%) spent 4-7 hours, (30%) spent more than 7 hours and (10%) have spent 1-3 hours.

In this present study the impact of online learning on academic life of nursing students was assessed. It was found that there was both positive and negative impact on the academic life of nursing students. The findings of the study consisted with other study which showed that nearly half of the participants (47.5) were greatly affected whereas (19.9) were considerably affected. (23.3%) moderately affected and (6%) were slightly affected whereas (3.3%) reported they weren't affected [4].

There was a significant association between impact of online learning on academic life of nursing students with selected online learning characteristics except basic computer skill before online learning and duration of time spent for online learning. In contrast to our study, a study conducted among undergraduate nursing and medical students of a medical college Bokhara in Nepal reported that the academic life during Covid-19 had a significant association with gender [5].

Conclusion

Covid-19 has introduced an entirely new world of learning to the students. Online classes have both positive and negative impacts. It helped students to become independent learners. Students got opportunities to explore new learning applications and platform during the classes.

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