



Parent's View on Importance of Regular School during Covid-19 Pandemic

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ABSTRACT

An attempt has been made to analyze the effect of COVID-19 on the feeling of parents of school students studying in higher secondary classes of district Amritsar. The work was accomplished with the help of google forms and data were collected from the parents (n=33) on the pros and cons of online teaching system especially undertaken during lock down and curfew period. These google forms were sent to the parents of high school students of Disciplined Disciple Senior Secondary School, Amritsar. A total of 14 statements were formed having each with 4 options *i.e.*, strongly agree, agree, neutral and disagree and numerical values allotted were 4, 3, 2 and 1, respectively. Based on the answers, mean score was calculated and ranking was done. The findings revealed that regular school was an important means for teaching the value of discipline in students and considered must by most of the parents (63.3%), similarly it was opined that children study better when they attend the school (60.6%). It was revealed that students study better in the schools than the online teaching system however, their eating habits were found to be improved after quarantine period. The data further revealed that tuition and online teaching was not a substitute for regular schooling system. In this time of crisis, for the overall progress of school going students, an effective educational practice for the capacity-building of young minds is required. It will develop skills that will drive their emotional stability, productivity, health, and overall well-being.

Key Words: Covid-19, Pandemic, Parents, School, Teaching system.

INTRODUCTION

Education is a fundamental right of children. The primary mode and means of formal education has been via school system since time immemorial. With passage of time the education sector turned into industry and schools got established as government, public or private. Whatever the type of school may be, there had been and will be questions on school system, its importance and impact on the life of students. The concept of formal school, home school, distant school and virtual school was finding hold and ground with pertinent hold of formal schools on the system. The last 50 years have seen huge growth worldwide in the provision

of education at all levels. COVID-19 is the greatest challenge that these expanded national education systems have ever faced. Many governments have ordered institutions to cease face-to-face instruction for most of their students, requiring them to switch, almost overnight, to online teaching and virtual education. What preparations should institutions make in the short time available and how do they address students' needs by level and field of study? Reassuring students and parents is a vital element of institutional response. In ramping up capacity to teach remotely, schools and colleges should take advantage of asynchronous learning, which works best in digital formats. (Daniel, 2020).

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Table 1. Data elicited from parents on the effect of online teaching system during quarantine.

Sr. No.	Parameter	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Neutral	Mean score	Rank
1.	Is a regular school an important means for teaching the value of discipline in students?	72.7	24.2	3.0	0	122	I
2.	Is regular school a must for children?	63.6	33.3	0	3.0	118	II
3.	Do children study better when they attend regular school?	60.6	33.3	6.1	0	117	III
4.	Is the behavior of students better when they go to School?	54.5	45.5	0	0	117	III
5.	Do children eat better and on time when they go to school	48.5	51.5	0	0	115	IV
6.	Do children use their time in multiple things when they go to school regularly?	39.4	60.6	0	0	112	V
7.	Should all children below age of 18 attend regular school?	51.5	27.3	9.1	12.1	105	VI
8.	Do parents find it convenient to teach if books are provided to them?	21.2	45.5	18.2	15.2	96	VII
9.	Are tuition and online teaching for additional help for the students?	9.1	57.6	15.2	18.2	85	VIII
10.	Can children spend time more on their hobbies if there is no regular school?	9.1	39.4	36.4	15.2	80	IX
11.	Are tuition and online teaching a substitute for regular school?	3.0	27.3	51.5	18.2	71	X
12.	Can parents replace teachers?	0	3.0	90.9	6.1	71	X
13.	Do parents feel happy if there are no schools?	3.0	0	97.0	0	68	XI
14.	Can parents teach better than teachers in regular schools?	6.1	9.1	66.7	18.2	67	XII

Outbreak of pandemic Covid 19 posed a serious question on dwindling thoughts of parents, educationists and society on how important are regular schools?. Are they essential for right up bringing of children?. Is it justifiable to follow school norms, timetable, operational procedures like classroom settings, assemblies, teachers, books, tests, activities whereas education can be achieved by any of other means too. Attitude and mindset of society are the strongest predictor of a child educational drive to motivate him or her to learn, attend school for language, life skills and other benefits. Family involvement in education has been identified as a beneficial factor in young children's

learning. Higher levels of parent involvement in their children's educational experiences at home *e.g.*, supervision and monitoring, daily conversations about school have been associated with children's higher achievement scores in reading and writing as well as higher report card grades (Epstein, 1991). The COVID-19 pandemic has pretentious effect on the global education led to complete lockdown of schools, colleges and universities. Even when school closures are temporary, it carries high social and economic costs. The disruptions thus caused touch the lives of people across communities, but their impact is more severe for disadvantaged children and their families including interrupted learning,

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compromised nutrition, childcare problems and consequent economic cost to families who cannot work. Keeping this in mind, an attempt has been made to analyze the importance of regular school during Covid-19 pandemic in the life of students and parents. This study will narrate the feeling of parents of students about regular school over disruptive education modes in current scenario.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

A small piece of work was framed with the help of google forms and data were collected from the parents (n=33) on the pros and cons of online teaching system. These google forms were sent to the parents of high school students of Disciplined Disciple Senior Secondary School, Amritsar. A total of 14 statements were formed having each with 4 options i.e. strongly agree, agree, neutral and disagree and numerical values allotted were 4, 3, 2 and 1, respectively. Based on the answers, mean score was calculated and ranking was done. The study was conducted in the second week of May, 2020.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The data (Table 1) indicated that regular school was an important means for teaching the value of discipline in students because during lock down period, most of the children do not wake up early in the morning as there was no pressure of attending school. Therefore, regular school was considered must by most of the parents (63.3%). Similarly it was opined that children study better when they attend the school (60.6%). The statistical analysis of collected data showed that students study better in the schools than the online teaching system however, their eating habits were found to be improved after quarantine period (Table 1). The data further revealed that tuition and online teaching was not a substitute for regular schooling system. In this time of crisis, for the overall progress

of school going students, an effective educational practice for the capacity-building of young minds is required. It will develop skills that will drive their emotional stability, productivity, health, and overall well-being.

CONCLUSION

There are numerous complaints about the education system being followed by the private and other schools yet the parents realized that regular schools are must in students' life for his or her holistic growth. As the regular school does not only cater to academic skill building but also hones the mental, social and emotional skills which are termed as life skills. Now a day when there was a complete shutdown followed by curfew in the city. Parents were worried about the study of their wards but most of the schools took initiative to go for online system through internet. It was a blended approach. Thus, study was undertaken to know the status of children and their parents when their ward remained completely inside the home. The study made it clear that there was no substitute of a school and parents cannot handle their wards to the desired level due to no stress on the young minds about routine to be followed. Schools are thus, training institutes for body, mind and soul of students to make them learned individuals with competent skills to lead a life worth living as well as being beneficial to society, nation and universe.

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