

## Perception of Teachers for Professional Empowerment Through Online Sessions: A Survey Study-Covid-19

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### **Abstract:**

*Covid-19 has shut everyone in home from the last three to four months, people from all over the world have been locked down at their home. Educational institutions and many other domains have been physical isolated from each other's. Face to face interactions have been become very rare now-a-days. A teacher who is always known for her all-time learning nature, how can he/she have stopped him/herself from learning or updating professional skills during this lock down. Globally, all of us are facing this problem of COVID-19, and there is no doubt it will take a long time to follow the normal life as we enjoyed during the pre-COVID 19 phase. During this COVID-19 phase different educational organization are working very hard to update professional skills of teachers and research scholar in a very fruitful way. So that everyone can utilize this time in a judicial manner. There are number of online platforms which are working on it. Keeping the present situation in mind an online survey in the form of questionnaire created on google form was circulated among participants through email, WhatsApp, telegram group. The result revealed that people have positive perception regarding the attending of such online platform to update their professional skills.*

**Keywords:** professional development, online platform

### **INTRODUCTION**

Now a- days teachers as well as students are globally engaged to update their online skills of teaching and learning. They are handling virtual classrooms, interactive with their scholars over different online platforms. To avoid students' academic loss teachers have adapted themselves to learn new platforms. They have understood that this pandemic is not for short period. Rather than to wait for this opening of educational bodies to teach the students with traditional methods it's better to learn new techniques. So that students don't face academic loss during this pandemic.

Globally, different bodies like UNESCO on 27 March, devoted its 2<sup>nd</sup> Covid-19 education response webinar to those on the frontlines of ensuring learning continuity: where participants from different parts of the countries participated to bring people together from all provinces. Such webinars highlighted or discussed a wide series of issues, which a learner and teacher may face.

In the coming period, its difficult for a learner as well as teacher to teach their students without the knowledge of various platform which may assist them in their classrooms during teaching-learning process. As some of states are not implementing lockdown now a days, but still government has been not given order to open the educational institutions as per previous records. No doubt if educational bodies will be opened but still you will not see your classes in the traditional mode as it was earlier, as need of hour is not giving permission for it.

So, this is the time to learn online platforms so that teacher and learner can enjoy their classes in online mode with much more confidence. And confidence can be built through attending such events which impart skills, practice, knowledge among teacher and learner how to use online platform for teaching-learning platforms.

### **Opportunity for educators to expand**

No doubt this opportunity gives the impression as anchance to thescholarsas well as educators (to expand). As it is having of time and delivery.

**Transmission of information through online mode:** Such online platforms engaged students and learners. Both teacher and learner enjoy their teaching learning experiences due to the information constituent is more ordinary to distribute in online platform. **Technological development** leads to professional development through online training programs.

#### **Professional Development.**

Professional development delivers a extensive variety of collaborative activities designed to expand educators' expert information, services, and instruction practices, and to underwrite their own, societal, and emotive growth (Avidav, 2000).

Darling-Hammond (1998), stated that professional development courses supported educators to face several challenges.

Such online platforms provide them in-depth understanding of the academic and learning materials. As such programs that focus on specific challenges and situations that demand special training of teachers.

Online training courses bring significant improvement in the achievements of participating teachers' students (Gerard et al., 2011).

Use of online learning platforms for coaching purposes is increasing day by day (Cole et al., 2017; Tynan, Ryan, & Lamont-Mills, 2015; Halverson & Smith, 2010; Kontos, 2015; Sela, 2005). And further guided to develop online courses (Anderson & Dron, 2011). courses allow a large audience of learners to receive high quality education on a wide variety of subjects. Brought communication (Fraj-Hussein, Barak, & Dori, 2012; Sela, 2005). In addition, online learning offers a differential approach to categories of learners who have specific training and individual needs (Paisi-Lazarescu, & Tudor, Stan, 2015). Such platforms help individual to work in collaborative way and streamlining social communication in a education setting (Kumi-Yeboah, Dogbey, Beldarian, 2006; & Yuan, 2017; Simpson, 2006). Now a day's various platforms of online teaching learning of are growing rapidly. National survey report showed the percentage of learners to join online courses have grown from last 12 years (Allen & Seaman, 2014, Hill, Poulin, & Straut, 2016). COVID-19 has created a threat globally in our lives. Learning through online platforms are the best measure to keep ourselves busy constructively during this lockdown.

However, COVID-19 is stimulating the necessity to discover online teaching and learning prospects.

#### **Online education**

There is need to organise such informative session during this pandemic where learner can get better opportunity to learn and teacher may get an opportunity to enhance professional skills. So, keeping the need of present situation, a survey of google form in the form of questionnaire was circulated among participants to check their awareness, perceptions, interest towards the attending the webinars to enhance professional skills

#### **OBJECTIVES:**

- To study attitude of teachers, research scholars to attend online teaching-learning platforms to enhance professional skills.
- To study attitude of male and female participants to attend online teaching-learning platforms to enhance professional skills.

#### **METHODS:**

The participants for the present study are teachers and students who are actively participating in teaching learning through online mode for their professional development. A google form was distributed among participants through various mode of social media via WhatsApp, telegram, email. To measure demographic profile of the respondents such as sex and age, of participants are covered in the first section. The next section examines the attitude of teachers towards e-learning. Google forms was shared (both educators and Ph D scholars) through mail and WhatsApp messenger, and finally 106 responses were collected from different sections. Hatma (2020) said he had been training lecturers to use the Webex online learning application provided by the university, but lecturers are allowed to use other applications such as Skype, Google Hangouts, Webinar and Zoom meetings.

**ANALYSIS OF SURVEY DATA:**

The quantitative results of the surveys were analysed based on demographic and perceptions. The result has been extracted on the basis of number of responses in the form of percentages.

**Table 1: Demographic Data of Participants:**

Gender	Responses	Percentage
Male	70	66.04%
Female	36	33.96%
Total	106	

Among total 106 respondents 70 (66.04%) were male and 36 (33.96%) were female. This indicates that male participants more than female.

**Table 2: Participants from different age groups:**

Answer Choices	Responses	Percentage
18-24	2	1.89%
25-34	28	26.41%
35-44	50	47.17%
45-54	22	20.75%
55-64	4	3.77%
TOTAL	106	100%

The different age groups people participate in the survey, age group was an open ended questions and from the analysis it has been came to know that only 2(1.89%) participants were belonging to age between 18-24 years, following by 28 (26.41%) between the age group 25-34, 50( 47.17%) between 35-44 years, 22 (20.75%) 45-54 years and 5 (3.77%) between 55-64 age groups. This indicates that the maximum participants belonged to age group between 35-44 who take actively participation in online teaching learning platforms.

**Table 3. Are getting timely updating information of online webinars/seminars/conferences/fdps/courses? (No. of responses: 106)**

ANSWER CHOICES		Percentage
Yes	102	96.23%
No	4	3.77%
TOTAL	106	100%

Among total 106 respondents, 102 (96.23%) participants replied that they are getting information of various online webinars/seminars/conferences/fdps /other courses. While only 4(3.77%) replied they are not getting information for the same.

**Table 4: Do you feel happy while attending the different online courses during this lock down period?(No. of responses: 106)**

ANSWER CHOICES	Numbers	Percentage
Yes	66	62.26%
No	40	37.73%
TOTAL	106	106

Among the total 106 participants, 66 (62.26%) participants said they feel very happy while attending the different online courses during this lock down period. On the other hand, 40 (37.73%) replied by click on” No “option.

**Table 5:As a participant you attended webinars/events through.....(online mode). (No. of responses: 106)**

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Skype	4	37.73%
Zoom	68	64.15%
Google Hangout	10	9.43%
Other	18	16.98
TOTAL	106	

The result reveals that 4 (37.73%) people attended events by skype, zoom 68 (64.15%), google hangouts 10 (9.43%) and 18 (16.98%) in other modes. The results explored that zoom is that platform which is maximum used by people.

**Table 6:Select the event youattended through online mode (No. of responses: 106)**

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Webinar	60	56.60
e-conference	4	3.77%
Workshop	20	18.87%
Other	18	16.98%
TOTAL	100%	

The analysis depicts that 60 (56.60%) webinars, e-conference 4(3.77%), workshops 20(18.87%), while 18 (16.98%) in the form of others online mode are used by respondents. The table clearly depicts that participants attended webinar at the highest level.

**Table 7:Do you feel you get benefits( in the form of knowledge) after completion of those course/courses?(No. of responses: 106)**

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	102	96.22%
No	4	3.77%
TOTAL	106	

To check the perception of participants whether they feel that they are getting benefits of acquiring knowledge after attending such events the 100 (96.22%) participants reply in yes and only 4 (3.77%) replied no. Again, which is good sign that people enhancing their knowledge through such events.

**Table 8: Do you believe such programmes enhance your professional development/skills?(No. of responses: 106)**

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	102	96.22%
No	4	3.77%
TOTAL	106	

Out of 106 respondents, replied such programmes enhance their professional skills 102 (96.22%) chose yes while 4 (3.77%) chose no option. This indicates positive perception of respondents towards online mode.

**Table 9: Are you satisfied with the online platform used there? (No. of responses: 106)**

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	94	88.68%
No	12	11.32%
TOTAL	106	

In case of satisfaction towards online platform events 94 (88.68%) replied yes while 12 (11.32%) chose no option.

**Table 10: If there was an interruption in the whole process due to internet connectivity?(No. of responses: 106)**

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	54	50.94%
No	52	49.06%
TOTAL	106	

In case to check technological issue as an interruption in the whole process due to internet connectivity, the response was 54 (50.94%) yes and 52 (49.06%) no option. Means technological issue stands at 50-50%.

**Table 11: Are they more beneficial than offline courses?(No. of responses: 106)**

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	64	60.38%
No	42	39.62%
TOTAL	106	

People feel that online mode 64(60.38%) they get more benefit while 42 (39.62%) reply they don't get more benefit through online mode.

**Table 12: Do you want to attend such online platforms in future also? (No. of responses: 106)**

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	102	96.23%
No	4	3.77%
TOTAL	106	

To check the interest of participants, attend such events in future 102 (96.23%) replied to yes option while only 4 (3.77%) chose no option. This means that during this COVID-19 lockdown people have utilize their time in the best way and even they are interested to attend such programmes in future too.

**Table 13: Do you feel that you get an exposure through interaction session while attending such events? (No. of responses: 106)**

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	92	86.79
No	14	13.21%
TOTAL	106	

To study the collaboration and communication among different participants from all over the country through communication groups which are supposed by organizers a question was asked in the form of yes or no. Most of respondents replied in yes (92/86.79%) while 14 (13.21%) chose the option of no.

**Table 14: Do you feel that your professional links become widen through various communication groups? (No. of responses: 106)**

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	100	94.34%
No	6	5.66%
TOTAL	106	

The 100 (94.34%) people accepted that their professional links have been widen through such platforms while 6 (5.66%) chose the option no. Means respondents get a platform to interact each other by ignoring physical distances.

**Table 16: Do you believe that during COVID-19 lockdown you have utilised your time properly by attending programmes through online platforms? (No. of responses: 106)**

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	102	96.22%
No	4	3.77%
TOTAL	106	

Out of 106 respondents, 102 (96.22%) believed that during COVID-19 lockdown they have utilised their time properly by attending programmes through online platforms while 4 (3.77%) chose no option. This indicates positive perception of respondents towards online mode.

## CONCLUSION:

In the nut shell, based on analysis it is concluded that overall all the participants showed positive perception towards learning through online platforms. Respondents added that by in future education will be totally technology oriented, so there is need to train both learner and teacher to accept the challenge of teaching-learning processes through online mode. Most of respondents shared their experiences like they enjoy learning through these platforms, feeling of professional enrichment, exposure to their knowledge, collaboration, feeling of positivity during COVID-19 by joining such platform to learn. Online courses develop communications (Fraj Friend, Hussein et al., 2012; Sela, 2005; Tudor et al. 2015) such as communication between the lecturer and the learner (Fedynich, Bradley, & Bradley, 2015) and between the learner and others in the learning group. Other researchers note the importance of the lecturer's presence (Kelly, 2012; Sheridan & Kelly, 2010) and ability to the ability to voice opinions in an online forum rather than face-to-face (Tudor et al., 2015). In addition, there is a significant contribution of cooperation in the learning process (Mabrito, 2004).

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