

EFFECTS OF ONLINE EDUCATION AMONG THE COLLEGE STUDENTS - A STUDY

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ABSTRACT

Formal education can be learned in the college environments with the help of teachers and mentors in structure way in a timeline period by going to the colleges and interacting with the teachers. Informal education like online study has lot of features, which can be utilized by the learner, to learn new concept residing from their native home. This study helps in finding the effects of online education among the college students by testing different factor involved. This study find out that online education helps a lot to the students in their career advancement with flexibility in learning schedule, lower cost of new learning of their independent choice of course with self-discipline study.

KEYWORDS

Education, Online education, Online Learning, Formal education, Informal education

INTRODUCTION

Education is an endless process; new things can be learned at any time. There are lot of new things, which can be learned from time to time by passing through that particular environment or atmosphere. Formal learning happens in a structured and organized environment like in educational institutions, it is designed as education in terms of time,

objectives and resources and it is an intentional learning from the learner's perspective, leading certifications and diplomas.

Informal learning happens beyond the limitations and boundaries of colleges or universities. It has more and more options and flexibility for the learners, to get best utility of time and resource to learn new information. Some of them are as follows.

- **Career advancement** : Online education gives more flexibility, we learn while at work, while at home, during travel etc., even more so, by using these much of flexibility our career advancement become easy and less pain full.
- **Schedule flexibility**: While studying online, we can choose our own learning environment that works best for our needs: be it your bedroom, your study, the café across the street, or your local gym, listening to your instructor's lecture podcast as you run on the treadmill.
- **Lower costs**: Studying online means that we can pay the tuition fee, possibly book supplies, an online application fee, and few other items. Where as we don incur the costs of housing and transportation, which translates to lower debts and more savings.
- **Self-discipline study**: Studying online requires more self-motivation and time-management skills, because you will spend a lot of time on your own without someone physically close to keep you focused on deadlines.
- **Independent choice of course**: There are lot of choice to choice from, besides for our interest and career opportunities, where to study is also a deciding factor. Studying online at our own convenience allows us to no longer worry about class location and where about, when choosing what to learn next by next.

IMPORTANCE OF THE STUDY

Due to lack of time, more family engagements and other responsibilities, online learning is the need of the hour to learn new concepts apart from formal education. In this

study, we are going to exam what are the effects of online education among the college students, because college student concentrate on the syllabus of their institutions for clearing the examination and getting the degrees, in this process of formal college education, some new concept and new trends remain unlearned, which are useful for future education and for getting competitive job, remains out of area of education. Hence, this study was carried to know effect of online education among the college students.

NEED FOR THE STUDY

Since learning is a life long process, after being having so many information being generated from time to time, there should be a practical way to get best education from online study. Hence, the researchers are interested in taking a deep scientific study about the online education of students learning in Arts & Science Colleges in Vellore District.

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

This study covers only the Arts & Science Colleges of the Vellore district of Tamil Nadu in India. There are categories of colleges, which was not been considered for this study due to lack of resource and time.

OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

The main objectives of this study are to analyse the effects of the online education among students of Arts & Science Colleges.

- To know the purpose of online education among students.
- To knows the correlations among different factors of online education.
- To find the number of users in different categories among the respondents.
- To know the educational benefits of online study among the college students.
- To knows the maximum online education users among different of groups of student.

TOOLS USED FOR DATA COLLECTION

A structured close-ended questionnaire was developed to collect the data. Data is mainly from primary source, and 200 questionnaires were distributed to college student studying in different arts & science colleges in Vellore district of Tamil Nadu, these colleges are categorised into four groups consisting of Government College, Government Aided College and Self Finance College. Among 200 questionnaires 134 valid questionnaires were received and representing a 67 per cent response rate.

TOOL USED FOR ANALYSIS

For analysis and interpretation of the data collected, tables, diagrams and simple statistical tools such as mean, percentage and cumulative percentage are used. In addition to this, Correlations test is used.

DATA ANALYSIS & INTERPRETATION

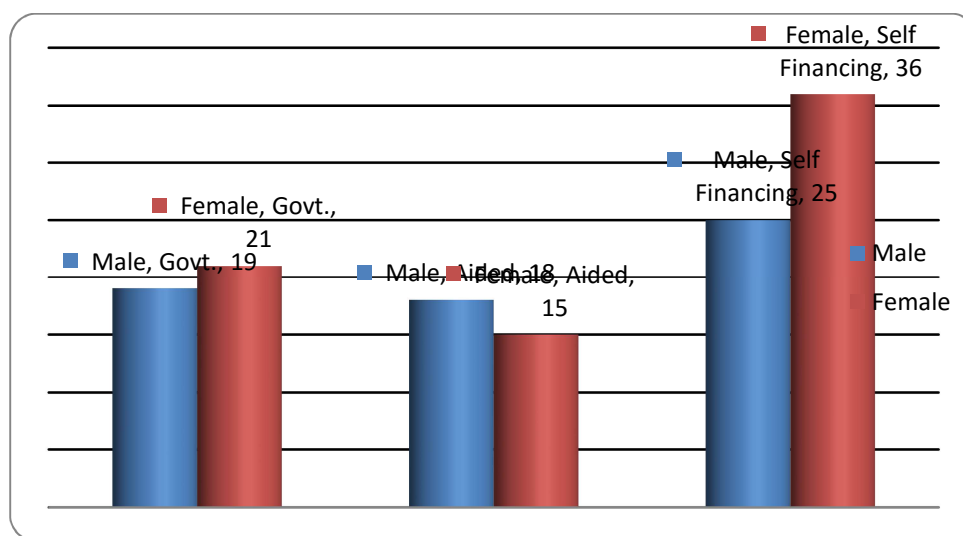
i. GENDER WISE RESPONDENTS :

Table 1 shows the gender wise respondent, from the table we come to know that about 30% of respondents are male student from the Self Financing colleges, about 50% of respondents are female student from the government colleges and 29% of respondents are male student from the government aided colleges. Graphical representation of the table is shown in the Figure 1.

Table 1 : Gender wise respondent

Description	Types of College			Total
	Govt.	Aided	Self Financing	
Male	19 30.6%	18 29%	25 40.3%	62 46.3%
Female	21 29.2%	15 20.8%	36 50%	72 53.7%
Total	40 29.9%	33 24.6%	61 45.5%	134 100%

Figure – 1 : Graphical representation of Gender wise respondent



ii. AGE WISE RESPONDENTS

Table – 2 : Age wise list of respondent

Description (Age)	Types of College			Total
	Govt.	Aided	Self Financing	
Up to 20 years	11 32.4%	10 29.4%	13 38.2%	34 25.4%
21 -25	9 26.5%	13 38.2%	12 35.3%	34 25.4%
26 -30	11 34.4%	9 28.1%	12 37.5%	32 23.9%
Above 30 years	10 29.4%	11 32.4%	13 38.2%	34 25.4%
Total	41 30.6%	43 32.1%	50 37.3%	134 100.0%

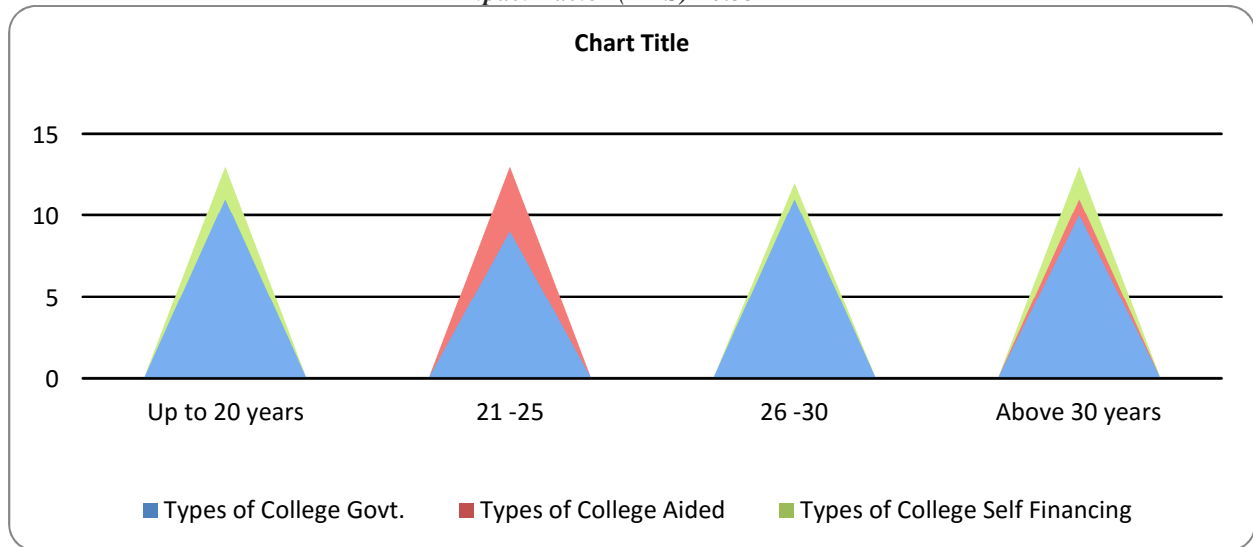


Figure – 2 : Graphical representation of age wise respondent

Table 2 clearly shows the respondents age, among all the respondents 38.2% are up to 20 years old from the Self Financing colleges. Whereas 26.5% of respondents are in group of 21-25 years old from the government colleges, 28.1% of respondents are in group of 26-30 years old from the government aided colleges and 38.2 of respondents are above the 30 years old from the self financing colleges. Graphical representation of age wise respondent is clearly shown the figure 2.

iv. EDUCATION QUALIFICATION OF RESPONDENTS

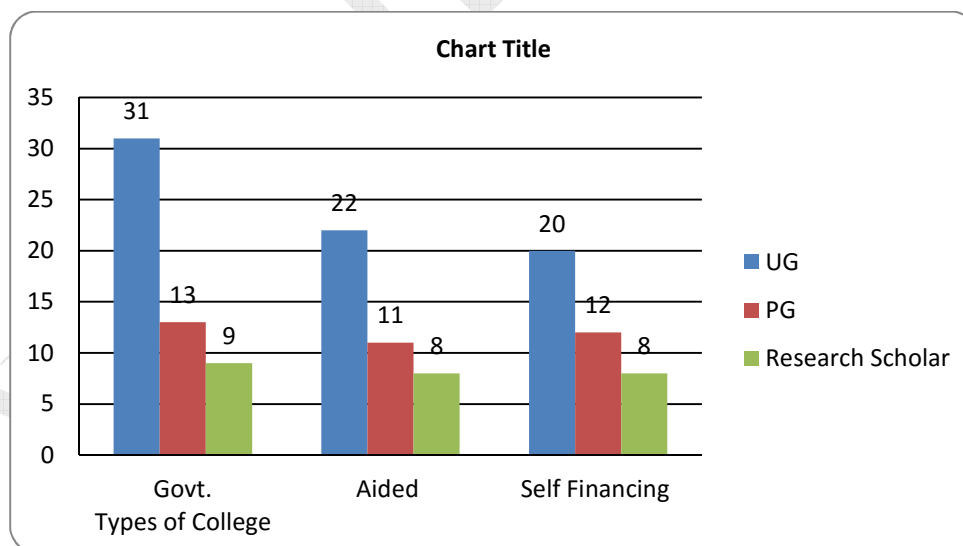
From the table-3, it can be seen that the 42.5% of respondents are under graduate students of the government colleges, 30.6% of respondents are postgraduate students of the government-aided colleges and 36% of respondents are the Research Scholar of the government colleges.

Table – 3 : Education Qualification of respondents

Description	Types of College			Total
	Govt.	Aided	Self Financing	
UG Students	31 42.5%	22 30.1%	20 27.4%	73 54.5%
PG Students	13 36.1%	11 30.6%	12 33.3%	36 26.9%
Research Scholar	9 36.0%	8 32.0%	8 32.0%	25 18.7%
Total	53 39.6%	41 30.6%	40 29.9%	134 100.0%

Following graph shows the education qualification of the respondents' diagrammatically in the figure – 3.

Figure – 3 : Graphical representation of Education Qualification of the respondents



v. CORRELATIONS AMONG DIFFERENT FACTORS OF ONLINE EDUCATION

The following six factors Age of learner, Study for Career Advancement, Independent Choice of course, Flexible Schedule of Study, Lower Costs of Study and Self discipline Study were taken into consider to check whether there is any correlation in among them. The pearson's correlation coefficient matrix was used to find out the relationship that exists between these factors, which is shown in the following table – 4, these correlation table provides an insight into the factors which correlate with each other., in this correlation table double star (**) refers to the correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed). And single star (*) refers to correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed). Individual factors' correlation information are explained below as follows.

Factor 1 - Age of learner

The factor 'Age of learner' is negatively correlated with these factors, 'Study for Career Advancement' (-0.331), 'Independent Choice of course' (-0.485), 'Lower Costs of Study' (-0.384) and 'Self discipline Study' (-0.375), all these correlations are significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed) value of 0.000 (p-value) is below 0.01.

Factor 2 - Study for Career Advancement

The factor 'Study for Career Advancement' is correlated with these factors of 'Independent Choice of course' (0.560), 'Flexible Schedule of Study' (0.294), 'Lower Costs of Study' (0.526), these correlations are significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

Factor 3 - Independent Choice of course

The factor 'Independent Choice of course' is correlated with these factors of 'Study for Career Advancement' (0.560), 'Flexible Schedule of Study' (0.597), 'Lower Costs of Study' (0.671), 'Self discipline Study' (0.631), these correlations are significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

Table – 4 : Correlations among different factors of Online Study

		Age of learner	Study for Career Advancement	Independent Choice of course	Flexible Schedule of Study	Lower Costs of Study	Self discipline Study
Age of learner	Pearson Correlation	1	-.331**	-.485**	-.218*	-.384**	-.375**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000	.000	.011	.000	.000
	N	134	134	134	134	134	134
Study for Career Advancement	Pearson Correlation	-.331**	1	.560**	.294**	.526**	.187*
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000		.000	.001	.000	.030
	N	134	134	134	134	134	134
Independent Choice of course	Pearson Correlation	-.485**	.560**	1	.597**	.671**	.631**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000		.000	.000	.000
	N	134	134	134	134	134	134
Flexible Schedule of Study	Pearson Correlation	-.218*	.294**	.597**	1	.637**	.357**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.011	.001	.000		.000	.000
	N	134	134	134	134	134	134
Lower Costs of Study	Pearson Correlation	-.384**	.526**	.671**	.637**	1	.505**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000	.000	.000		.000
	N	134	134	134	134	134	134
Self discipline Study	Pearson Correlation	-.375**	.187*	.631**	.357**	.505**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.030	.000	.000	.000	
	N	134	134	134	134	134	134

** , Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).
(2-tailed).

*. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level

Factor 4 - Flexible Schedule of Study

The factor ‘Flexible Schedule of Study’ is negatively correlated with the factors of ‘Age of learner’ (-0.218), this correlations is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Factor 5 - Lower Costs of Study

The factor ‘Lower Costs of Study’ is negatively correlated with ‘Age of learner’ with pearson’s correlation coefficient value is -0.384 (r-value), these correlations are significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

Factor 6 - Self discipline Study

The factor ‘Self discipline Study’ is correlated with these factors of ‘Independent Choice of course’ (0.631), ‘Flexible Schedule of Study’ (0.357), ‘Lower Costs of Study’ (0.505), these correlations are significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

FINDINGS

- The study shows that 46.3% of the online learners are male and 53.7% of the online learners are females are being benefited from the online education.
- About 25.4% of respondents are in the age group between 20 years and 25 years old.
- The study shows that 54.5% of undergraduate students and 18.7% of the research scholars were being benefited positively from the online education.
- About 8.7% of the research scholars are being benefited positively from the online education.
- The study show that, there is correlation between different factors of these study, except the ‘age of learner’, remaining all other factors are found to be positively correlated with one another in the process of online education.

CONCLUSION

From the study, it is perceived that the online education has attracted the students to learn new concepts informally apart from the formal college education, due to the positive effects of the online education. It is concluded with a suggestion that online learners' concentration has to be increased by implementing modern ICT techniques. This may attract more number of online learners and can create a qualitative learning environment in this informative society.

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