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IMPACT OF VIRTUAL LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

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Introduction

The demand in learning has changed and therefore the procedure has also changed. The current pandemic situation helps in understanding that if digital tools are not used in a wider way, the education system will be stagnant. Considering those matters, the study will discuss a virtual learning environment. The impact of it on the learning process is an integral part of the study. In order to understand impacts in a broader way, both primary and secondary data will be included in the overall discussion. Under the primary data analysis, charts and graphs will be presented to make the things clear and precise.

Primary data analysis

In order to analyze primary data, the following figures need to consider. These figures are based on the questions and answers found from the respondents. These are as follows.

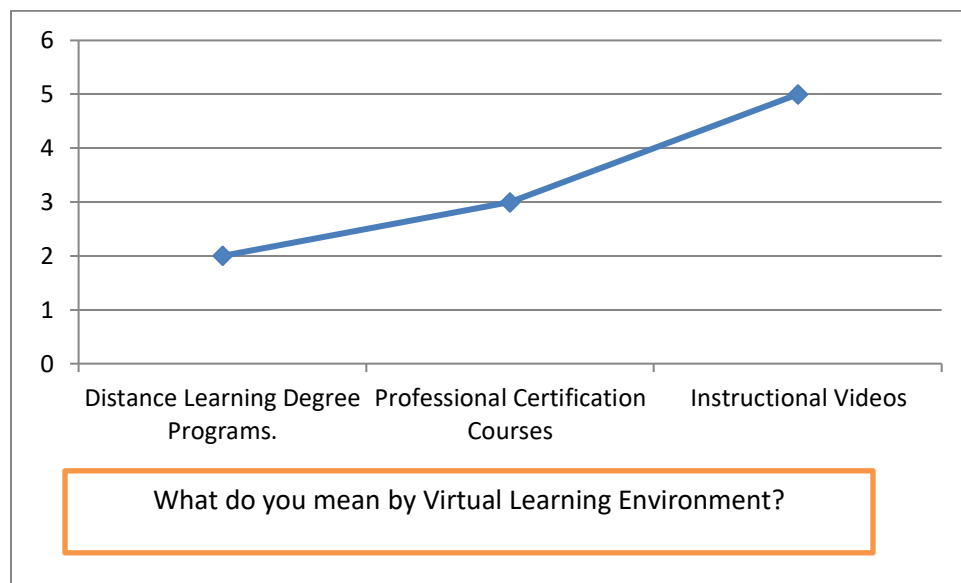


Figure 1: The concept of Virtual Learning Environment to the respondents

(Source: Self created in Excel)

The above figure is related to the conception of a virtual learning environment for the student. Considering the above figure, it can be said that there are different kinds of conceptions within learners. It can be said that under the survey, a total of three answers are got. These are Distance learning Degree Programs, instructional Videos, and Professional Certification Courses. It can be said that most of the students think that instructional Videos are considered as a virtual learning

environment. The number of videos was much less in the past times but it has increased in recent times. The importance of it could be understood during the COVID 19 situation.

As the time of conducting the survey is after the pandemic situation, this may be the cause of thinking the concept by learners in this way. The number of learners who think that a virtual learning program is a distance learning program is less in number among all. In this context, it is important to mention that there are very few learners who have the idea about it. However, the conception will be developed in the near future. The professional certification course can be conducted both from online and offline (O'Connor and Domingo, 2017, p.344). In recent times online is used most for having different kinds of benefits.

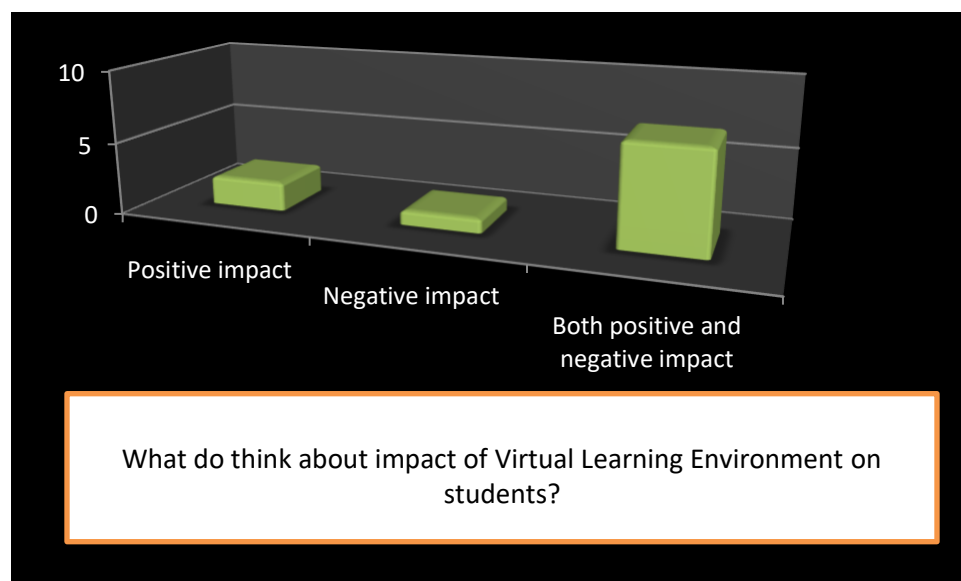


Figure 2: Conception about the impact of Virtual Learning Environment to the learners

(Source: Self-created in Excel)

This is the figure which denotes the thinking of the learners regaling impact of the virtual learning environment. Based on the above figure, it can be said that three kinds of answers are got. The majority section of the students thinks that it has both positive and negative impact on the student learning process. The students who are taken as respondents have already experienced this kind of environment and therefore the opinion of them cannot be ignored. There are a few number of students who think that it has only a positive impact. The less number of students think that it has an only a negative impact.

In order to adopt this learning environment, it is important to have some facilities. Considering the answer, it can be assumed that those learners may not get any kind of problem regarding the virtual environment. Apart from that, they did not face any kind of psychological issue in this respect. This is one of the most important aspects which came into observation during and after the pandemic situation. The situation is quite controlled now but there are some institutions that are still dependent on this. This is because they think that the positive impact is greater than the negative ones.

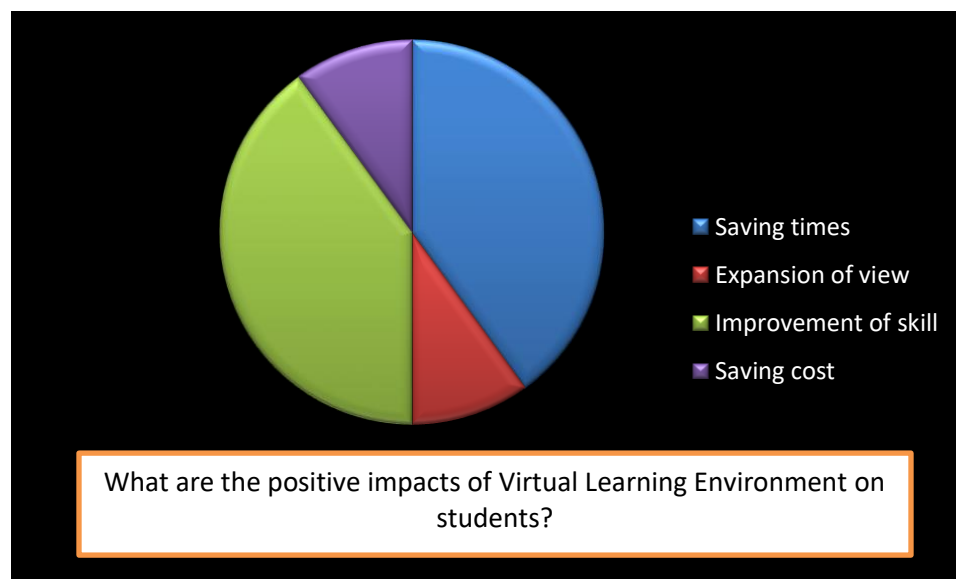


Figure 3: positive impacts of Virtual Learning Environment on students

(Source: Self-created in Excel)

The third question was related to the positive impacts of a virtual learning environment on students. Considering the above figure, it can be said that in that case four answers are got. It includes saving time, expansion of view, improvement of skill, and saving cost. The number of learners who think that it helps in saving time is equal to the number of learners who think that it helps in improving different kinds of skills under the majority section.

On the other hand, it can be said that the number of learners who think that expansion of view is the advantage is equal to the number of learners who think that saving costs is are equal. However, they are included under the minority section. Considering the improvement of skill, it can be said that a lot of skills can be improved through it. These are time management, research

skills, organization skill, and decision making skills among others (Wicaksono and Wasis, 2017, p.550). Among all of the skills, the importance of time management and research skill can be mentioned as the most significant ways. With the help of it, time can be saved a lot. Within a short span of time, much knowledge can be incorporated about any particular subject.

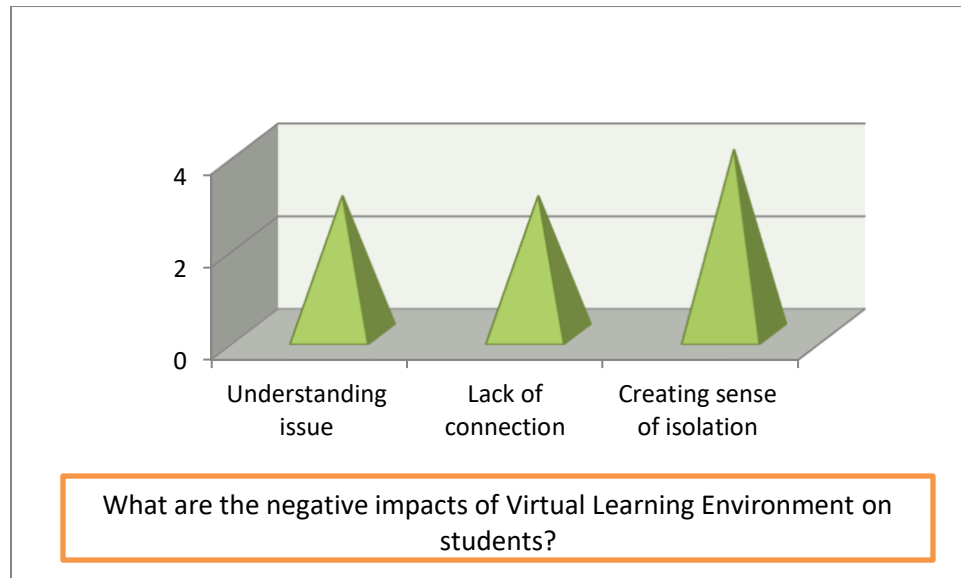


Figure 4: Negative impacts of Virtual Learning Environment on students

(Source: Self-created in Excel)

The above figure is associated with the negative impacts of a virtual learning environment on students. In this case, also a total of three kinds of answers are got. These are the understanding issue, lack of connection as well as isolation problem. Among all three answers, the majority of learners think that a virtual learning environment creates isolation which has a negative impact on the mental process of the learners. The number of students is the same whose answer was "understanding issue" and lack of connection. There are different kinds of pieces of evidence that indicate this kind of problem. In order to capture any study, it is very important to be mentally and physically fit. However, a major section of the learners became mentally unfit and therefore the learning process are interrupted.

According to them, the conventional process was more effective. Under the conventional process, a student can ask something to the teacher if it is not properly understandable. This opportunity is available but not for all the platforms. There are students who are not technically sound and therefore they feel the problem of understanding. Losing connection is another important fact that

can also be mentioned in this context. The aspect of the internet issue can also be mentioned in this regard.

Secondary data analysis

A virtual learning environment can be considered as an online-based platform which offers digital solutions to the students. The main aim of this is to enhance learning experiences. The concept of it has become much famous in recent times. The present pandemic situation has much relevance with it. Some of the most important features of this are email applications, virtual classrooms, blogs, wikis, and chat forums among others (Khlaisang and Songkram, 2019). Innovative lesson delivery is an important aspect of it. In past times, the number of applications which render this learning environment was limited number. However, it has increased at a large percentage in the recent times. In order to create a Virtual learning environment, it is important to follow several steps. These are making video-based modules, building extracurricular learning paths, encouraging students in this process, and focusing on skill development. There are different conceptions related to it. These are Professional Certification Courses and distance learning programs.

When a virtual learning environment was incorporated, it was thought that it would have only a positive impact. However, at times, it has been proved that there is both positive and negative impact of it. In order to incorporate this procedure, it is extremely important to have basic infrastructure. At the same time, several kinds of skill development can be mentioned in this context. During the pandemic situation, the demand for a virtual learning environment has increased suddenly. Within this time, it was not possible to develop skills for a lot number of students. Infrastructural development is the thing which should not be ignored (Moro et al. 2017, p.550). Therefore some learners faced the problem of this statement. The area is also required to be considered in this regard. In the rural area, it is quite difficult to implement this system. However, the situation has changed to a certain extent in the recent times.

There are different kinds of the positive impact of the virtual learning environment. It helps in saving the time of the learner. It takes a lot of time to go and back home from school. This can be considered as a great advantage. There are other advantages as well and it can be well understood from the following figure.

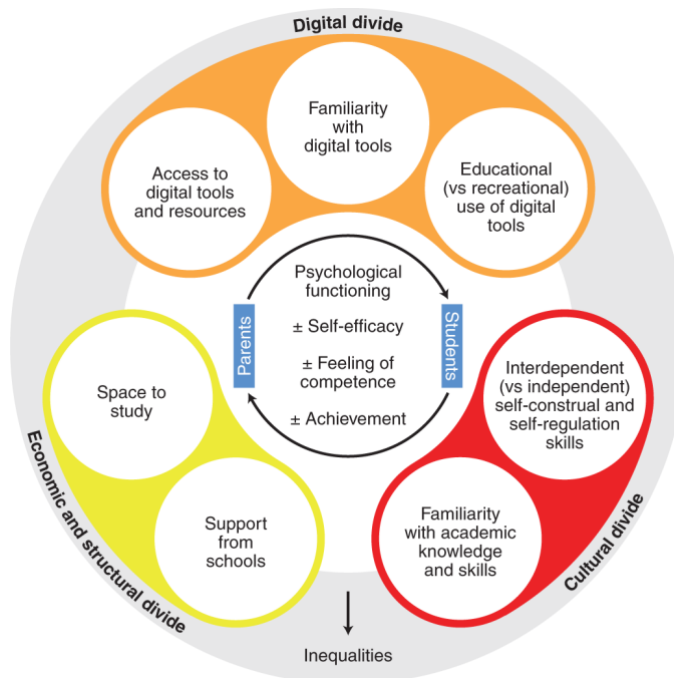


Figure 5: Positive impact of using the virtual learning environment

(Source: schooleducationgateway.eu, 2021)

Based on the above figure, it can be said that learners have become familiarized with digital tools. This is very important for learners for their future. In order to deal with various problems under the carrier path, it is important to know the effective use of it. The aspect of self-regulation skills can be understood as well from the above figure. Students can understand different kinds of digital resources (Wicaksono and Wasis, 2017, p.550). There are many sources on the internet which provide study materials free of cost. This helps in saving costs as well. This is very much important for the students who are not financially sound. There are many applications under which a learner can get the help of more than one professional. However, it may not be beneficial for the students all the time.

Apart from various positive impacts, there are negative impacts of it as well. The technical problem can be considered in this respect. A student can face during the time of teaching and in this case, destruction can reduce the quality of the study. There are many places, even in the rural areas in which there is no facility for reaching the internet (Lan et al. 2018, p.215). Therefore this virtual learning system cannot be incorporated and this is the problem which was observed during the present pandemic time. There are other problems as well and in order to understand this fact, the following figure is required to be considered.

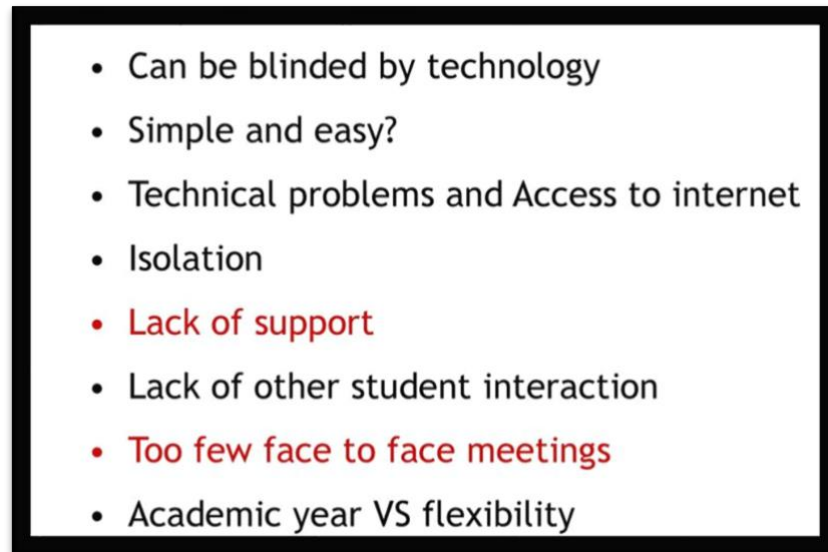
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- Can be blinded by technology
 - Simple and easy?
 - Technical problems and Access to internet
 - Isolation
 - Lack of support
 - Lack of other student interaction
 - Too few face to face meetings
 - Academic year VS flexibility

Figure 6: Negative impacts of virtual learning environment

(Source: Balon, 2021)

Considering the above figure, it can be said that the isolation problem is one of the greatest problems. Mental health is a very important factor in this respect. Students can best learn when a proper learning environment is created and it is quite difficult to create in such a way through digital media (Bogusevschi et al. 2017, p.15). Lack of support is another thing that can be mentioned in this context. It has been observed that most of the learners are not serious about studying in a virtual learning environment because attending no class is very easy under it.

Conclusion

Based on the above discussion, it can be concluded that a virtual learning environment has both positive and negative impacts. It can be understood both from primary and secondary analysis of data. It can be said that there are different kinds of concepts about virtual learning environments in the mind of learners. In the future, the demand for this learning process will be increased. Therefore the solutions are required to be finding out to solve these problems. The Government should check this particular matter so that there is internet facility in all the places of the country, especially in rural areas. Investing on digital tools is another mean which also should not be ignored.

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Appendices

Appendix 1: Questionnaire

Question 1: What do you mean by Virtual Learning Environment?

Distance Learning Degree Programs.	2
Professional Certification Courses	3
Instructional Videos	5

Question 2: What do think about impact of Virtual Learning Environment on students?

Positive impact	2
Negative impact	1
Both positive and negative impact	7

Question 3: What are the positive impacts of Virtual Learning Environment on students?

Saving times	4
Expansion of view	1
Improvement of skill	4
Saving cost	1

Question 4: What are the negative impacts of Virtual Learning Environment on students?

Understanding issue	3
Lack of connection	3
Creating sense of isolation	4