



### HAS THE CONCEPT OF ONLINE EDUCATION SHIFTED IT'S PARADIGM FROM IMPROV COMEDY TO A STREAMLINED PROGRAM DURING THE PANDEMIC?

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#### **Abstract**

During the COVID-19 pandemic the World had adapted the technique of online education and learning. This research paper is going to talk about how technology and students have made their way out to adapt this new not so popular culture of distance/online learning and education. In addition, the surveyor is going to use a method of primary research to prove her stance over the topic. Moreover, this research paper is going to act as a timeline to explain the technicalities and technological advancements faced and adapted.

**Keywords:**-Online Learning ,Technological advancements ,Trying times, Distance learning, Improv Comedy (comic improvisations)

#### **Introduction**

While the world has grown it has brought to us several inventions one of them being 'technology'. The way it has and is evolving nothing can be said till where it can go, technology has proved this statement to be the life saver of everyone , during trying times.

Towards the end of 2019, the Chinese capital: city of Wuhan had its first ever CoronaVirus patient on the 31 of December,2019 [1]. This one case, one patient and one life had further resulted in a nationwide lockdown, after which on 30 January 2020 it was announced as an emergency, further a pandemic on 11 March 2020 by the World Health Organisation[1]. This one date was started to try everyone's patience. It completely changed the definition of education, education has become just an online meet to everyone. This concept was once improv has been improvised today to a limitless extent, but how? This research paper is going to be all about how and what technological improvements have been brought to online education during these trying times.

#### **Theory**

When at the start of this pandemic the concept of online education was new to everyone, it was an experimental phase for everyone, students, teachers, everyone.

March-April 2020, This was the time when everything was new, a worldwide lockdown, work from home, School from home everything was just new. It can also be called as an experimental phase of the entire situation.

### Adapting the change

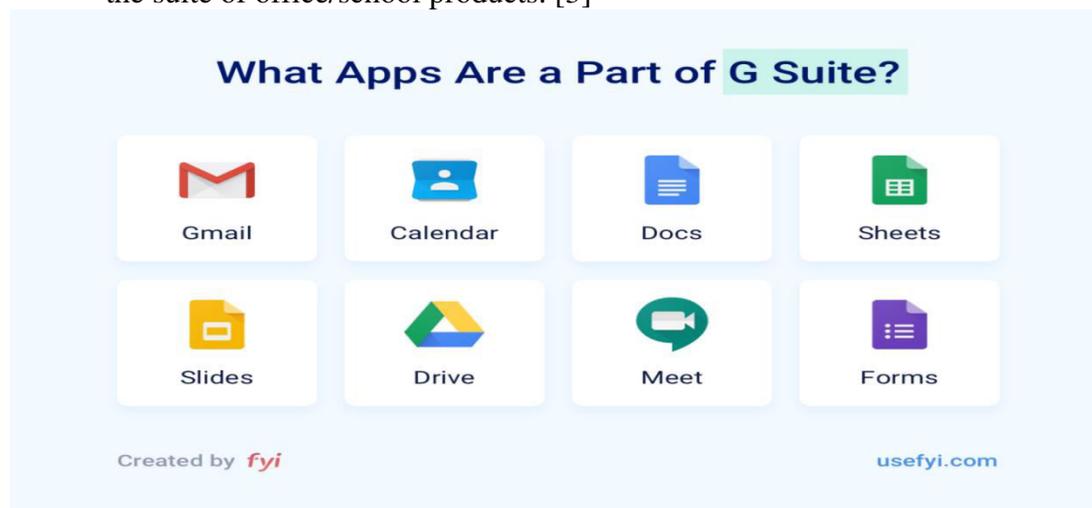
At the start, things were difficult. Finding an alternative to the traditional way of learning seemed a bit impossible once. However when technology had its hands folded in front of the world, the question of what had got its answer but how was still struggling to find its answer.

Then after video conferencing apps like Zoom & WebX came to existence, they played their magic over everyone.

But this wasn't enough, companies like Google & Microsoft came up with a compilation of softwares and apps. The following are these and software's mentioned in detail.

### Google

- Google Classroom: Google Classroom is a free application designed to help students and teachers communicate, collaborate, organize and manage assignments. [2]
- Google Meet: An app for HD video conferencing app.
- G-Suite: G Suite gives your entire company/Organisation access to Gmail accounts and the suite of office/school products. [3]



**Fig.1** Google apps inclusive in G Suite [ 3 ]

### Microsoft:-

This company had created an entire new world, it had created its software in a way that in software you can run the entire school. Whether it was calls, chats, sharing of docs etc. Microsoft teams allowed the user to do everything at one place. [4]

Nevertheless, not all the apps and softwares mentioned above were launched during the pandemic, some of them were launched long back however it has gained popularity now.

For example- Google Classroom was launched on 12 August, 2014. At first in 2015 the classroom had 10 million students and teachers using it [5] whereas, now almost all the schools are using google classroom as a platform between a student and a teacher. The popularity of this



app has increased to an extent where only in the state of Maharashtra ( A state in India) there are 23 million students using Google Classroom[6].

This wasn't enough later in the month of August-September 2021, there arose a need for much stronger apps and softwares to conduct online examinations.

For which a few schools/colleges instructed students to set up 360\* set ups using the same google and Microsoft apps. Whereas, the others opted for advanced technology.

The following are the examples of the same:-[7]

- ExamOnline
- Speed exam
- PSI Bridge
- Examity
- ExamSoft

These softwares had features like:- [7]

- Auto authorisation of students using facial recognition.
- Object trackers
- Student verification
- Set time limits
- Auto & Live proctoring
- AI-based software
- Personalised assessments
- Automated exam security
- Multi-user collaborations
- Smart onboarding

These softwares were used all across the world by institutions to conduct online examinations however these came with its own inbuilt pros and cons. These gave the ensurity to teachers that the exams were attempted without any malpractices, however some of these softwares were restricted to browsers like and so on and so forth.

Now later when around the start of 2021 there was a sense of hope between world citizens that schools and colleges would start but it was melancholy that they couldn't as the situation had worsened and even in July 2021 still online education is the apple of everyone's eye.

Over the span of these one and a half year technology has grown, it has grown like never before.

### Experimental

{ For reference to this entire section kindly refer to [10] , [11]. }

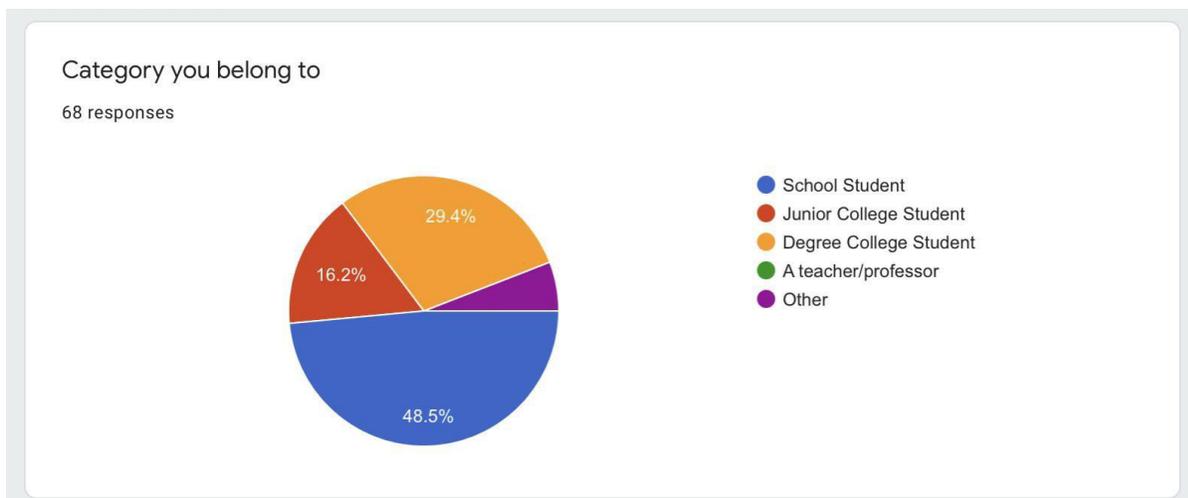
To understand the genzie religion of online education, conducting some primary research was as necessary as brushing teeth everyday.

After seeing a few pieces of evidence and understanding the genzie religion of online education better. A survey was conducted which asked questions as the following:

1. Were you at the start comfortable with online education? And if not then why.
2. What ways were adapted by your teacher in order to improve the quality of online education and if you are a teacher, what had you or your institution done for the same?

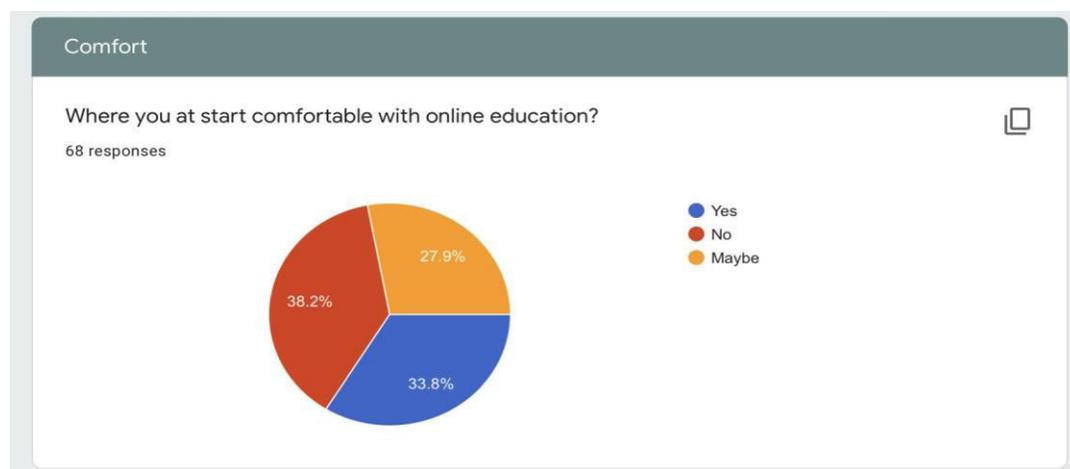
3. According to you, has online education improved the problem solving skills of an individual?
4. In your opinion, what more technology related ways can be adapted to improve online education?

These were questions asked and the set of people who participated are as the following shown in pie chart below.



**Fig.1.1** Pie chart of profession percentage.

68 people participated of different different professions and students of school, degree and junior college. Mainly school students participated more as compared to others. The college students who participated had strong and factual opinions as compared to others. However, this form wasn't in favour of collecting gender data. Though there were less adults who participated there was still a lot of reality in the data collected.



**Fig.1.2** Pie chart of comfort.



Now when the participants were asked about “why weren’t they comfortable at the start with online education. It was justified as:-

Some answers were-

”It was a bit difficult to adapt to it all of a sudden as we're used to sitting in the class and studying. The online method was way different to what we were adapted to”

One also said-

“Quality education isn't gained,that could have in physical schools surely.”

This certainly proves that the lack students were feeling was of adaptation and quality.

Further, when they were asked “What ways were adapted by your teacher in order to improve the quality of online education and if you are a teacher, what had you or your institution done for the same?”

Students said:-

- “Compulsory keeping your videos on and frequently asking questions by picking random students on related topics in progress.”
- They made use of ppts, even for math instead of using whiteboard and showing it on camera, in this was we could have a clear view of what we were being taught
- Teaching with the help of videos
- Our teachers started making creative power point presentation to teach us but it isn't that effective to be very honest.
- We were given online textbooks to begin with and gradually were asked to wear school uniform and we're slowly phased into a actual class room like environment

Whereas at first when these above mentioned ways were adapted students also had to face its cons which were

- When online classes started teachers didn't use Google Meet/Zoom for classes and they sent the lectures . But the then student complained that they started facing storage problems because of the video so after first term teachers started using apps like google meet and zoom for classes.
- Our teachers started making creative powerpoint presentations to teach us but it isn't that effective to be very honest.

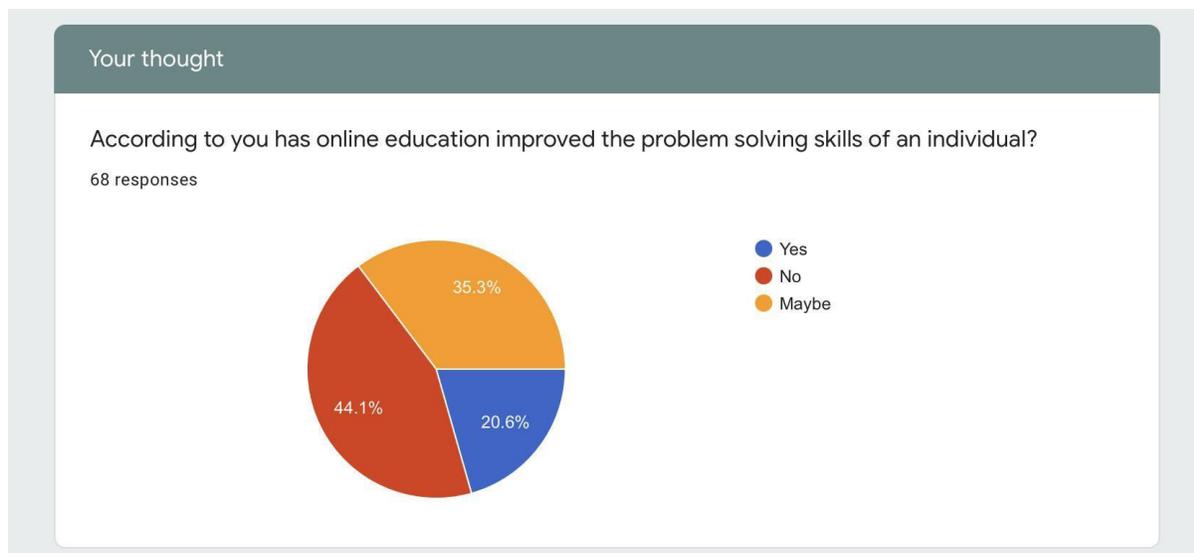
In addition students also had experiences like

- I think building a personal relationship with the teacher really helped me in improving the overall experience of online learning.
- Keeping the session interactive with students and the camera on so the students be attentive.

This part of the survey truly proved that PowerPoint Presentations and Recorded lectures helped students. Nevertheless, there were even students who found building bonds and interacting made their experience of online learning better.

Further ahead,the participants were asked that till what extent do they think “online education improved the problem solving skills of an individual?”

The poll was:-



**Fig.1.3** Pie chart of thoughts.

This question was asked following the thought “Every learning has its own teaching”. This question remained important as these technological advancements often tend to give a problem or per say you take time to understand. As everything has its learning the surveyer thought this culture had the ability to teach and improve problem solving skills of an individual henceforth, 20.6% people even agreed with her. However 44.1% didn’t and 35.3% people weren’t sure about their thought upon the same.

Moving ahead, the last structured question was “ In your opinion, what more technology related ways can be adapted to improve online education?”

Answers were as follows:-

A 2nd year B.Com student “the use of discord servers.”

A 5th year 5th architecture student said “Consolidated platform (For Eg. Microsoft Teams) instead of places like Google Meet and Zoom where the link comes on the mail, submissions are in a second place and notes are in a third place, its very complicated and scattered and unnecessary effort, basically a flexible user interface”

A partial degree college student said “More Security and surveillance in online exams”

A chartered accountant said “AR and VR technology will be more helpful in online education.”

A student of Bachelors in Accounting and Finance told “Slideshow presentation with multimedia video feedback quiz and survey corporate training can help improve online education”

A 10th grader said “Educational apps in the classroom like Kahoot can be used to review information after a lesson or unit. Teachers can create and share Kahoots with one another while students can create anonymous user names to participate in the game. This allows for whole-class participation from students who may usually be reluctant to participate in class. Teachers can determine if they want students to work independently or be assigned to teams.”

Where as students also thought that there enough technological advancements now they need:-



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A 12th grader “no more new tech is needed in my opinion if we use the prevailing tech wisely I guess it would be more effective. Teachers need to make class effective for the students then only they will show interest.”

A 10th grader “more activities and interesting ways can be introduced to make the student more interactive and also this will make their mindset more positive towards online education, which will help them understand better”

A 12th grade humanities student said “Ig , it should be more interactive, and hence must include activities that would enhance problem solving capability of students “

### Result

By this survey it can be understood that with trying times in front of students, they adjusted themselves to online learning and education whether they were happy about the fact or sad about the same. It also showed school students were better adapters than college students.

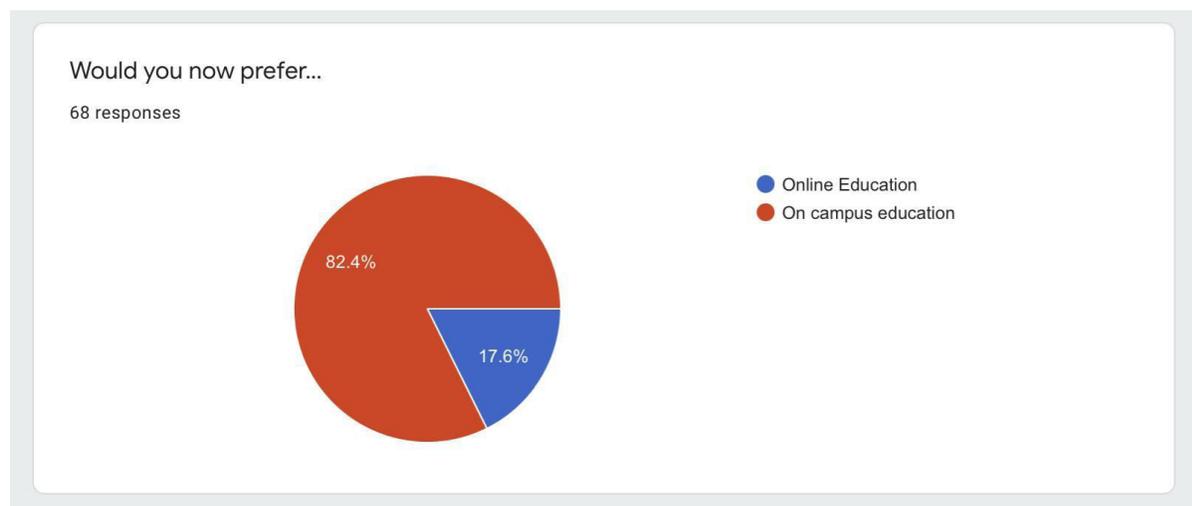
Having said that, some students were happy about the technology used but they weren't able to adapt the psychological aspect of the same.

Moreover, it can be truly said Google and Microsoft have played a very vital role in this phase. It has ensured to make online education fun for children.

Lastly, this survey has shown on a national level what students think about online learning and education.

### Discussion

The outcome had to have a preference, so for that the surveyees were asked that “Now after so long what would they prefer”



**Fig.1.4** Pie chart of preference.

82.4% of people still believed on campus education is the way. However, now 17.6% people out of 68 think online education has won their hearts.

The survey is the clear proof of how menials think and how a pandemic, made technology work it's way out and spread its magic across the globe.

### Conclusion

Education is that part of our life which is completely non-ignorable, even during these trying times. Education is the way to face the world ahead. However, on campus education was the way but now online. At the start to end it has changed, experimented and innovated with its one motive of educating students in the best possible ways.

Truly, The concept of Online education which was improv comedy at once to everyone has become an improvisation today.

As they say "It's just the beginning" now there is way more which is going in everyone's way in respect to technological advancements.

### Acknowledgments

#### Fig.2 Ms. Zinkle Dharod



Ms. Zinkle Dharod is a passionate and hard working person. With her Bachelor's degree in Psychology and Education, she has aced herself in the field of teaching social science and global perspectives. Ms. Dharod has played the role of a mentor all the while in the making of this research paper.

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