

A Comparative Analysis of Education System in Pakistani Schools During Pandemic

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Abstract

COVID-19 pandemic ran swiftly and smoothly from country to country and covered the whole globe without any hurdle. It reached and disturbed pupils without discrimination of age, colour, race, gender or nationality, and affected all aspects of life, whether it is health, job, domestic responsibilities or education. This was a challenging time not only for the institutions but also for students. The students of high standard schools like Beacon House School system and that belong to well settled families, with the help of parents could manage to learn even during lock down. Those from humble background and studying at schools that have low resources and less technology trained teachers are mostly not able to learn remained during lock down. This study is a survey and aimed to find out the challenges faced by students studying at high and low standard Pakistani schools during Pandemic and the opportunities to cope with the difficulties in this disruptive Era. It also explores the strategies adapted to minimise the damage to education system. This study will be helpful for the educationists in devising or editing curriculum to cope with these kinds of natural disasters. The suggestion concluded will make the paved path of education 'straight'. This survey study is quantitative. Hundred students of BEACON House school, and govt. school of Pakistan filled a questionnaire. Fifteen teachers of both schools filled another questionnaire. This survey is statistically analysed and took the Theory of Ragin (1987) for quantitative comparative analysis (QCA). The qualitative survey analysis done by SPSS described the challenges, problems, outcome and strategies to cope with educational issues in Pandemic. A Quantitative Comparative Analysis (QCA) concluded the difference of educational policies and reliance to deal during this disrupted era.

Keywords: Pandemic; challenges; problems; digital education; Quantitative Comparative Analysis; SPSS

Introduction

Pandemic created much problem for the whole world. Around the globe, almost every aspect of life is affected. All fields of jobs and works passed through very tough situation, life felt to be jammed and people could not find any way out. Scientists were working on the symptoms of this disease by observing patients in the whole world. The main problem was to find out the remedy for the affected ones. Unfortunately, this pandemic wrapped people from all ages irrespective of the area, race, and gender etc. the worse part of this complicated situation was that the lungs were permanently damaged and the causality rate everywhere on earth was increasing rapidly. Where the health issues were increasing day-by-day, life in all aspects jammed with the need of lock down because to stay home was a key to stay safe.

During 2019 information Technology was not that much common in different fields of life. There was a need to work from home. Many efforts put forward to make workers to get familiar with the online system. Many firms and fields started workshops for their employees to learn working online from home. This problem was not an easy one to tackle in simple terms. Mobile Networks and Wi-Fi systems underwent revision and improvement. A professional life started moving in a crawling and creeping form, which was obviously better than jammed position.

The Education system in the whole world was also among more effected areas during Pandemic-19. There was a need to provide faculty development programmes for the teachers, which was done quickly or slowly according to the facilities of that area. This institute is the one where it was not an easy task to keep classes work smoothly without break. The reason behind the problem was a fact that Education is not a single sided task. It involves active participation of teachers as well as students. The facilities and courses could be done for the faculty but it was not possible to make students learn

these platforms. Moreover, the financial condition at every home is not same. Many parents were able to provide their kids gadgets to attend classes. The children from elite background were able to take online classes but the children from humble families were not able to do that. There were many factors that were involved in this matter and were providing hurdles in the way.

Background

Covid -19 created such kind of environment that there was no other choice other than switching to e-learning left to continue the Education system. The age and time of a student is very important for the learning system according to the content. Educational institutes accepted this challenge and tried to face it with their own capacities. There were many researches done to see the problems and the solutions to fix them.

M. Mohammad (2020) in Tiayaba university, Madina, performed a study on 184 universities to find out the sorts of problems they were facing and how they tried to find solutions to these challenges. He observed with the survey that students widely accepted this switch to online teaching and learning system and found to be helpful in exploring different doors to study online.

In Turkey M.Ismail (2020) observed and, a study is conducted to find the difference of outcome on leaving face to face education system and starting online study system. This study was mainly focusing on the challenges students are particularly facing because of abandoning face to face education system. This emergency distant education system was also studied at a Chinese university by Yin,Y., Siang,W. Mohammad,M. (2021). This particular study focussed specially on the language learning regarding Speaking skills.

As we know that Covid-19 started in 2019 and still we are fighting against it in all fields of life. It started from China and many researches regarding its effect in different fields was also broadly studied in China. During learning a language a face to face class environment is always found suitable to effective learning and during pandemic it was not that much found. The anxiety that students feel while learning a foreign language (FLLA) and listening anxiety (FLCA) became a focus of study by Y.Ying (2021) in a Public university at China

In the same year (April 2021) challenges faced by Arabic language learners is done by A.B. Dan et.al in Indonesia. The focus of study was to find the difference between the planning (curriculum) and the practical implementation during covid-19 to achieve the goals. It was a library research that was in favour of the benefits of face-to-face learning system

Many other researches are still on the way that the trying to find out different effects of covid_19 on education system and how to fix them. the present research is a comparative survey study of two institutes one from the public sector and other from the private sector in Pakistan to see that how much these both institutes could meet the challenges in Education system due to fatal Covid-19. The focus of present study is not explored yet and this research will be a help for the institutes to device such kind of system which can be helpful to cope with education during the emergency and disasters like Covid-19 in future also

Method

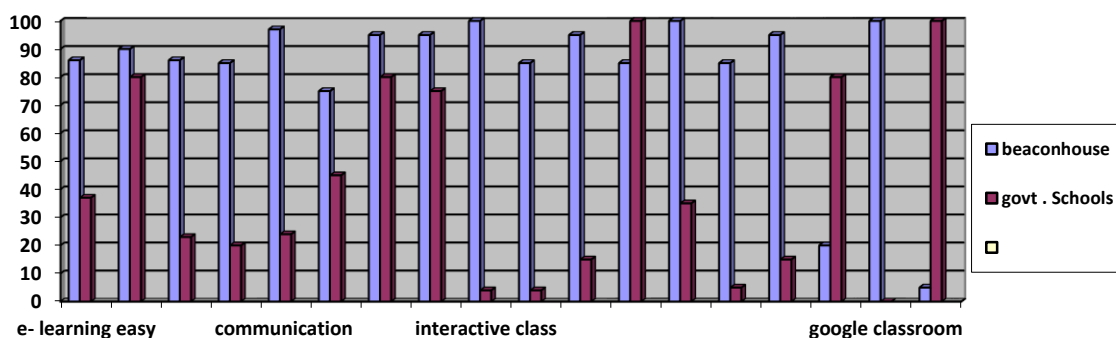
The present research is a quantitative research. A survey was done to gather data from two Pakistani institutes. One institute is from private sector Beacon house School System and other is from Govt. sector. A number of Hundred students from each institute is selected by random sampling with Likert scale. A number of Fifteen teachers were selected again randomly and another questionnaire was given to both institutes to be filled out.

The data from both are then a comparative quantitative comparative analysis (QCA) is analysed statically using software SPSS. The questionnaires included questions related to the challenges faced during Covid-19, regarding teaching learning system. This study also focused on the teaching and learning strategies especially for all language skills. Another goal of study was to observe the comprehension during e-learning. There are other problems like availability of online system, signals, electricity that was a continues challenge during e-learning, they were also focused in the questionnaire. The questionnaires also included some possible solutions to cope with these problem during these natural disasters.

Results

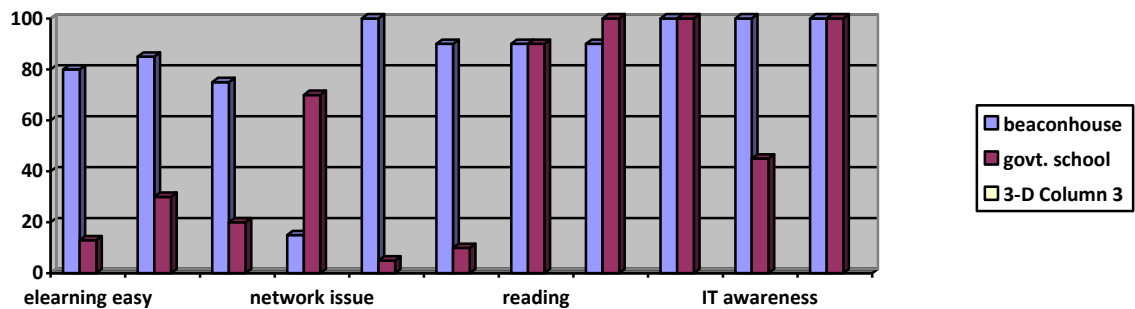
A questionnaire as given to hundred students of beacon house school and of govt. schools. This questionnaire was comprised of thirteen questions the given table shows the percentages of data of beacon house school in blue coloured bar and of govt. school in purple bar. The data shows that the outcome achieved by e learning is good as compared to the students of govt. schools. The students of Beacon house learnt much as compared to the students of govet. School.

Fig:1
 QSA (Quantitative Survey Analysis) of students of Pakistani institutes (Beacon House and Govt. schools).



Another questionnaire was given to fifteen teachers of both schools regarding their teaching strategies. This questionnaire was comprised of ten questions to observe the challenges teachers were facing during Covid-19 and the possible solutions that can help in future. Blue bar shows data of teachers of beacon house and purple shows the data of govt. schoolteachers of Pakistan.

Fig 2:
 QSA (Quantitative Survey Analysis) of teachers of Pakistani institutes (Beacon House and Govt. schools).



Discussion

The QSA (Qualitative survey analysis) of the students show that the students of govt schools has much difficulty of comprehension, understanding of content as they were not given chance to speak, as the mode of teaching was not face to face using any teaching platform like google but instructions and written tasks were assigned through whatsapp. There was no chance to improve speaking skills. Teachers used to record instructions and share. They also faced connectivity as well as electricity problems. The critical zero percentage was of using no awareness of google classroom and less than twenty percent in understanding skills, comprehension level and no interaction with teacher. They didn't find this mode of learning as good as face to face.

The QSA of the students of Beacon house shows that the school quickly accepted the challenges of education system during Covid-19 and tried their level best to cope with the situation. Their students had better comprehension. All four language skills were focus and improved during E learning. They got quick response from teachers and they found this system of education also interesting and enjoyable. They didn't feel problem of understanding due to google classroom and they did not face much connectivity or electricity problems as they were living at better places with all facilities of life.

The QSA of teachers of govt school gave us the idea that the schools could not give them proper awareness of information technology and they faced problems in tackling the situation. They were not provided with wi fi from the school and their electricity connectivity issues were also present. They switched to e learning but could not avail e learning as many of students on the other end were unable to receive lessons. They sent only instructions as voice note and tasks. Interaction with students or focus on language skills were almost none.

The QSA of teachers of Beacon house were fully satisfied with the e learning as the administration quickly understood the situation and made them learn google class and other IT helpful for the effective e teaching. They engaged the students very well and made the lessons interesting. The comprehension level of students was increased as the focus was on give them maximum knowledge.

Conclusion

Covid-19 is a great natural disaster and it effected the whole aspects of human life to a great extent. Education this the institute that was effected to the greatest extent. The study shows that the institutes of Pakistan also tried their level best to cope with the situation and face the challenges of education. The private institutes were already using IT to some extent in schools. They coped with the better way according to the world knowledge guessed the situation. They tried to fight with the situation like other institutes of the world but the govt. schools despite their wish could not cope with the situation very well but used whatsapp to engage the students by giving them tasks and to share photos on same mode. It was suggested that awareness to IT is very necessary

in this era and there is a need to bring some changes in the curriculum to cope with the natural disastrous situation like Covid-19.

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