The Advantages and Disadvantages of having Online Classes among Grade 12 Students

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Abstract

This study aimed to determine the advantages and disadvantages of taking online classes among Grade 12 students. COVID 19 pandemic has prompted alternative approaches to education. To continue educating students, educational institutions are turning to online learning platforms. Designed as a descriptive quantitative study, a self-made survey questionnaire was used to gather data from 40 SH students (HUMSS). To strictly observed health protocols, the link of the survey was sent to each respondent's FB messenger account.

Results showed that 57% of respondents indicated that *"online class is readily accessible anywhere, anytime on any device,"* and 22.5% also indicated that *"it is cost-effective."* As to its disadvantages, 45% of respondents indicated that *"it is easier for students to procrastinate in online class,"* 20% claimed *"there is less social interaction,"* and 10% also indicated that *"online class creates a sense of isolation," "tempts students to cheat,"* and *"gives additional expenses for students."* This study concludes that, because of its apparent advantages and disadvantages, online class may affect the mental health of students. It is highly recommended that in handling online classes, teachers shall take extra time and effort to reach out their students.

Keywords: *advantages and disadvantages of online class, pandemic, online learning platforms, social interaction*

Introduction

*T*he COVID-19 has forced the closure of schools all over the world. As a result, education has undergone significant transformations with the rise of e-learning, in which teaching is done remotely and via digital platforms. Some are wondering if the adoption of online learning will continue in post-pandemic, and how such a shift would affect the global education industry, given the abrupt shift from physical to virtual learning environment. Students are experiencing a new mode of learning

because of the pandemic, one of which is online classes. An online class is one that is held over the internet. Using a learning management system, students can view their course syllabus and academic progress, as well as communicate with their classmates and course instructor. Online classes are self-paced, allowing for greater flexibility in completing coursework. Online classes typically include a combination of video recordings or live lectures, as well as readings and assessments that students can complete at their time. However, nothing about education in 2020 is typical, as the coronavirus has forced a sudden shift to online learning with little time to prepare (Friedman & Moody, 2020). COVID-19 is a serious problem that affects the lives of many people. Some people, particularly parents, lost their jobs because of the virus, others became ill because of the virus, poverty increased, and an alternative method of learning for students and teachers was implemented. Today, some people are suffering, while others are embracing the pandemic's effects.

The researchers in this study are determined to learn the benefits and drawbacks of online classes for Grade 12 students at St. Paul University Dumaguete. During this time of crisis, students are gradually adjusting to the alternative method of learning that they have chosen. Although students are living at home full-time, there are numerous factors that can improve or degrade their performance during online classes. Online classes may offer greater flexibility for instructor-led or self-study courses among students, as well as the ability to learn at any time and place, but they can also cause an overload of stress that affects students' mental and emotional stability. As a result, the researchers want to learn about and compare the advantages and disadvantages of online classes, as well as students' coping strategies.

By presenting theories that aim the same goal, it will help the effectiveness

of this study to be shown. According to the theory of Sadeghi (2019) about the shift of classroom to online learning, if technology improves, there is a greater need for new approaches to deliver curriculum, which has resulted in improvements in learning and teaching practices. Distance education, which differs from formal education in that students and teachers are geographically apart, consists of studying from home where students and teachers are physically separated, while classroom learning is a form of education system in which learners and teachers live together under one roof. Distance learning services use electronic means to keep students in contact with teachers, provide access to correspondence between students, close the divide, and deliver instructional content. Both learning mechanisms have their own set of benefits and drawbacks. The choice between these two learning strategies is heavily dependent on the needs of the students. The researcher's goal in this paper is to explore the history and hypotheses of distance learning, review literature on the subject, state the benefits and drawbacks of distance learning, discuss the study's consequences for learners and teachers, and finally provide suggestions for enhancing distance learning.

In the same way as no single learning theory has emerged for teaching in general, no single learning theory has emerged for online education. A variety of hypotheses have emerged, the majority of which are derived from the major learning theories previously discussed (Piccia, 2017). Anderson (2011) viewed this project from the viewpoint of distance education, having spent most of his career at Athabasca University, Canada's largest higher education distance education provider. Though he noted that many scholars and educators regard online learning as "a branch of learning in general," he also mentioned that online learning has always been concerned with

providing access to educational experiences that are, at the very least, more accessible in time and space than campus-based education (Anderson, 2011). Anderson looked at a variety of hypotheses and models, but chose to concentrate on Bransford Brown and Cocking (1999), who proposed that positive learning environments are described by the integration of four simultaneous lenses: community-centeredness, knowledge-centeredness, learner-centeredness, and assessment-centeredness. These lenses served as the basis for Anderson's approach to developing an online education philosophy, as he explored the features and capabilities of the Internet in relation to each of the four lenses in great depth. Second, he pointed out that the Internet has progressed from a textbased world to one that supports and makes all types of media readily accessible. He also correctly stated that the Internet's hyperlink ability is best used for storing and accessing human information. In this respect, he cited the work of Jonassen (1992) and Shank (1993), who linked constructivism and hyperlinking. Finally, Anderson looked at the role of engagement in all ways of learning, citing a number of mainly distance education scholars including Holmberg (1989), Moore (1989), Moore and Kearsley (1996), and Garrison and Shale (1998). The importance of interaction between students, teachers, and material is well known and cited in many educational theories, especially constructivism (Piccia, 2017).

Statement of the Problem

Since the pandemic, the word "new normal" has become one of the most common. Increased use of online learning resources has become the modern standard in education. The pandemic of COVID-19 has prompted

alternative approaches to education. To continue educating students, educational institutions all over the world are turning to online learning platforms. As this research aims to identify both pros and cons of Online Classes during pandemic, it sought to answer the following questions:

1. What are the advantages of online classes to the students?

2. What are the disadvantages of online classes to the students?

3. What are the students' coping strategies in dealing with problems in online classes?

Methodology

To see the general picture of the advantages and disadvantages of online classes during pandemic as perceived by the Grade 12 Students (HUMSS) of Saint Paul University Dumaguete, a self-made survey questionnaire was used. There were 40 respondents who willingly answered the survey. Because health protocols shall be strictly observed, the dissemination of the online survey was sent through the FB messenger of the respondents. Individual responses of respondents were electronically recorded and were retrieved in Excel format.

Seating, light, noise, and even color can all impact learning ability. Students who study in a positive learning environment are more motivated, engaged, and have greater overall learning ability. Online learning is a reimagining of the educational process that uses available virtual classroom software to fully engage geographically dispersed students.

In treating data, simple frequency count or frequency distribution was used.
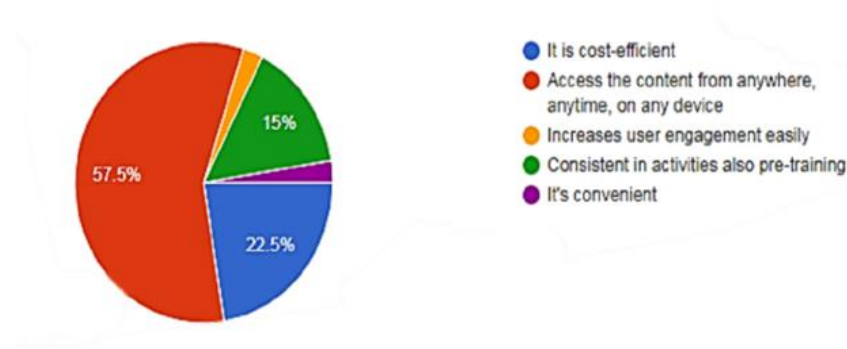
Results

Figure 1. *Advantages of Online Class to Students*

Figure 1 shows that the most important benefit of online classes is the ability to access them at any time and from any place. The second reason is that online classes are more cost-effective than face-to-face classes, because they entail less expenditure. The third one is the consistency of activities that allow the students to be well prepared for the next level.

In *figure 2*, the most significant advantage that has an effect on students' academic success is that it encourages them to engage further. The second benefit is that students are eager to understand more, and the third benefit is that students are motivated to learn. Next, these advantages will allow the student to complete the assignments in the most efficient manner possible, and the last is when students are able to manage their schedules with adequate flexibility.
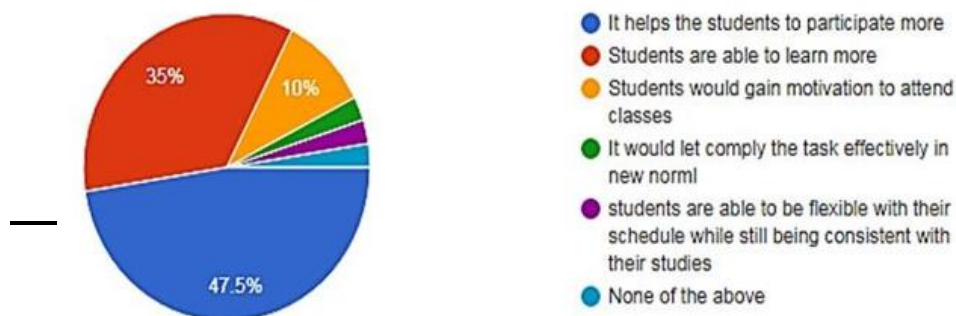

Figure 2. *Effects to Students' Academic Performance*
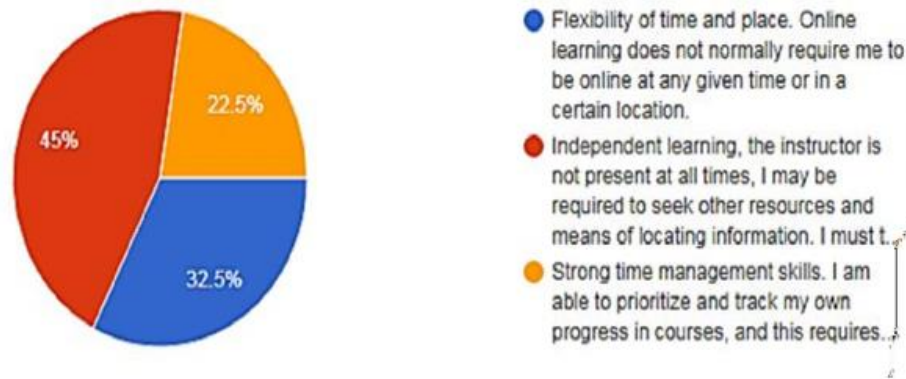
Figure 3. *Best Aspects of Online Class*

Figure 3 explains that the most important factor of online classes that benefits students is that online classes make students more independent, according to the respondents. The second is time and location versatility, and the third is improved time control so students should learn.
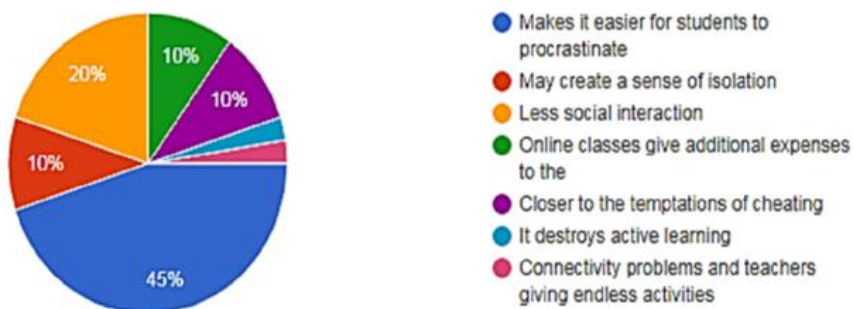

Figure 4. *Disadvantages of Online Class*

In *Figure 4*, the number one disadvantage of online classes is that procrastination is made easier for students. The second reason is that students and teachers have less social interaction. The third reason, in no

particular order, is that online classes may create a sense of isolation, that online classes incur additional costs for students, and that online classes increase the temptation to cheat.

Figure 5. *Do these advantages contribute to mental health problems?*

Figure 5 shows that 97.5% of the respondents agreed on the disadvantages mentioned by the researchers that contributed to the students' mental health problems, while only 2.5% disagreed.
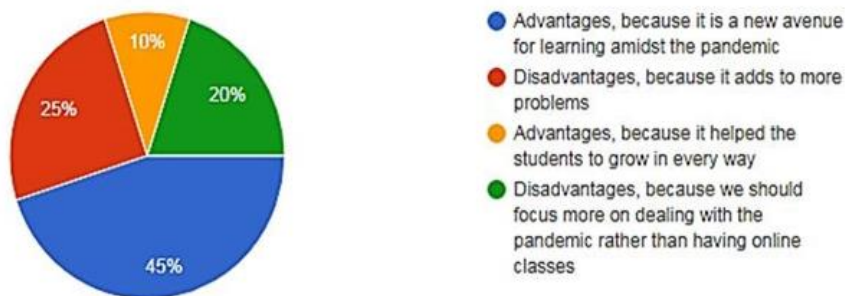

Figure 6. *Benefits or Drawbacks of taking Online Class*

F _____ t is the advantages, because it is a new avenue for learning amid the pandemic. Based on the respondents, they answered advantages because online

learning gives them a certain impact towards online learning. The second to the highest result is the disadvantages, because online classes add to more problems.
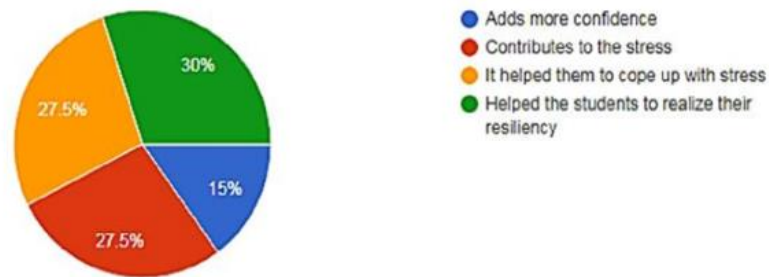

Figure 7. *Coping Mechanisms of Students in dealing with problems encountered during online classes*

Figure 7 shows that the most frequently mentioned impact of coping strategies is that it helped the students to realize their resiliency. The second option, which received an equal percentage of answers, is that it helped them to cope with stress.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Overall, the survey results show that the most important benefit of online classes is the convenience they provide to students. Students in online classrooms are also more likely to participate because they have access to all of the resources and can easily hunt for clues and solutions. The component of online classes that has had the best impact is the sense of students being more independent as a result of online learning; it causes students not to rely on others as much as before, but to stand on their own two feet. On the other side, according to the survey results, one of the disadvantages of online classes for students is that it makes it easier for students to procrastinate since they lose interest in completing their assignments. It has been established that students like their learning better in face-to-face classes. There are several drawbacks to online learning, and these drawbacks have taken a toll on students' mental health. However, the question number six tells that advantages of online classes has more impact to the students' lives compared to disadvantages because it became a new avenue for learning amidst the pandemic and it tells how resilient students can be. Students have discovered different coping mechanisms in order to survive the online learning, and these coping strategies have impacted the stress of the online students.

Based on results, this study recommends the following:

1. To future researchers who wish to do a similar, always be mindful of the several factors that affect your research. Don't be indecisive in decision making thus, think very carefully before putting anything on your paper.

2. To future researchers who will choose a topic similar to this, you

have to be sure that you have a 100% interest in this concerned issue.

3. To future researchers to have a much more detailed study to understand the conduct of this study.

4. To future researchers who wish to ask advice to inquire the researchers of this study freely.

5. To students, always remember that resiliency is our key in order to survive at all times.

6. To students, always seek the silver-lining in circumstances you are in.

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