**Abstract**

The purpose of this study was to conduct an online survey regarding Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) student's perception and experience related to online classes. Online survey method was used for the purpose of data collection due to lockdown. With the sample space consisting of students of IUB, the study reveals that amid the worldwide lockdown and transition to online learning students were more satisfied with the support provided by teaching staff and their universities’ relations. Although, in the first phase deficient computer skills and the perception of a higher workload prevented them from perceiving their own improved performance in the new teaching environment, students have gradually grown into this new system of education. The findings show that students with certain socio-demographic characteristics (male, female, urban, rural, internet accessibility) Key factors influencing students’ satisfaction with the role of the university are also identified. Those key factors determine the Impact of Online Education during this covid-19 pandemic. Policymakers and higher education institutions around the country may benefit from these findings while formulating policy recommendations and strategies to support students during this and any future pandemics.

**Overview/ Background**

Online learning and classes are increasingly becoming part of the education system worldwide. Online platforms have made education convenient and easily accessible by everyone. Education sector in Bangladesh has been an ever-growing entity. Though online and distance courses have been there from a long time in the form of online courses from platforms such as Coursera, Udemy. Introduction of the online mode of taking classes in comparison to the traditional face to face classroom approach in universities has been revolutionary in this time of lockdown. When it comes to the educational system, face to face classroom approach has always been the norm. Familiarity and ease of using offline methods and lack of requirement for online channels of teaching has been the major barriers for adoption of online channels of education. However, in the wake of current COVID-19 pandemic situation conduction of online classes at Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) has been made mandatory by the boards after the UCG approval. IUB started doing online class from summer 2020. IUB student’s perception regarding online classes Covid-19 has brought out a drastic change in the educational system not only in Bangladesh but rather the entire world. Universities across Bangladesh as well as around the globe have moved to the virtual classes suspending physical classrooms. While this transition has been a mixture of both positives and negatives for IUB, the government universities are still adapting. While technology makes things accessible and easier, it can also be limiting, especially in Bangladesh, where many students face a challenge in terms of access to the internet. This in turn leads to issues with attendance and participation in online sessions, thereby making the adaptation of online channels of education a challenge.

**Methodology**

For this study, we conducted a survey due to some limitations caused by lockdown. The survey mainly focused on the adaptation of online courses by the students which gave us an approximation as to if online classes are enough for a student to learn and if they prefer it over offline classes or not. The survey questions assessed the general perception and experience of the students about online classes. The students survey consisted of 23 questions regarding student’s perception about online classes. Two open ended questions regarding the positive and negative aspects about online classes were kept. Response choices consisted of pre-defined options of agree, disagree and neutral. The purpose of the survey was not to collect psychometric data and thus the survey did not make use of validated psychometric tools. Due to the current COVID-19 situation, the survey was conducted online using google forms. The form was made available online on DATE for a week. A total of 76 students participated in the survey. 76 students completed the entire survey which is the 100% of the total sample. Hence the data of only 76 students were considered for the analysis. No incentives were offered for responding to the survey. Completion of the survey was taken as a form of consent to participate.

**Data analysis**

The main purpose of the study was to gather evaluative feedback from IUB students on their experience about online mode of teaching. A descriptive approach for data analysis was considered. Responses to the open-ended questions were transcribed, coded, and categorized within each question to determine similar answers. Repetitive content of responses was identified.