



Adapting To Online Education: Microsoft Powerpoint As A Teaching Aid In A Global Crisis

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Abstract

The global outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic brought unprecedented disruptions to all sectors, with education being among the most affected. As traditional classroom learning became impossible during lockdowns, educational institutions rapidly transitioned to online platforms to ensure continuity in learning. This study explores the role and effectiveness of **Microsoft PowerPoint** as a teaching aid during this transition, focusing specifically on **students of Class VII** in an **English medium SSC school in Mumbai**.

The research aimed to assess how PowerPoint presentations impacted students' understanding and engagement in online classes and to identify challenges encountered during their use. Adopting a **descriptive research design** and using a **questionnaire as the primary data collection tool**, the study gathered insights from students through **convenience sampling**. Findings indicated that the majority of students found PowerPoint presentations helpful in enhancing their learning experience due to their interactive and visually engaging format. However, a small number of students faced issues such as difficulty concentrating and screen fatigue.

The study concludes that Microsoft PowerPoint served as an effective ICT tool in online education, although its success depended on students' adaptability and access to digital resources. The research underscores the importance of integrating varied digital tools in the curriculum and recommends further exploration of ICT effectiveness across different educational boards and inclusive settings.

Keywords: Online Education, Microsoft PowerPoint, ICT Tools, COVID-19, E-Learning, Descriptive Research, Secondary Education

Introduction

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world”.

- Nelson Mandela.

The spread of the pandemic Covid-19 had a detrimental effect on the entire world. The lockdown that came after brought everything to a standstill. The field of education had also been a victim of it. There was, however, a need to find a temporary solution to the challenge at hand. The advancements in technology brought a ray of hope to the educational institutions which had been shut for a long period of time. Internet became a catalyst to move teaching and learning forward. Online learning was adopted by most of the schools, colleges and other educational institutions to continue learning even through the pandemic.

The teachers had to adapt themselves to the various tools involved in online teaching such as preparing Microsoft PowerPoint Presentations, Microsoft Word Documents, etc. The students and parents had to be trained to make use of their electronic devices for the purpose of learning. Online learning was a new concept for most of the schools and colleges in India where education is imparted for the most part in a live offline classroom. Nevertheless, everyone quickly got used to this new mode of learning.

The method of online learning had its own advantages and disadvantages. It saved time and travel expenses, but on the other hand, it became taxing to the teachers and students to be continuously looking at the screen and working for long hours. It broke the regular chalk and talk method of teaching and opened a plethora of options to conduct online classes. But it also led to the loss of learning in an actual offline classroom.

Nonetheless, it was not an easy task to equip everyone to the online mode of learning. With the pandemic at hand, learning had to be continued online. Several apps and websites were introduced to the teachers and students to enhance the teaching-learning process. Google forms, Gmail, Google Classroom, Google Meet, Zoom, etc. along with several websites to play online quizzes such as Word wall, kahoot, Quizizz,, Educandy, etc. were used to strengthen the online mode of teaching and assessment.

Every individual had their own set of experiences in online mode of learning. Some adapted well to this mode whereas some found it difficult to cope up with this mode of learning. Everyone could not afford the use of technology which caused them to lag behind in studies. Loss of connectivity became a major issue at times, especially during important lectures or examinations.

However, through the tough times, the teachers and the students managed to sail through the online mode of education. This study aims to understand the impact of Microsoft PowerPoint on the learning of children. For some, it became easier to study because of the use of PowerPoint whereas for some, it became a task to get through the online class looking at the PowerPoint all the while.

STATEMENT OF PROBLEM

A study of the effectiveness of Microsoft PowerPoint during online learning.

VARIABLES OF STUDY

1. Microsoft PowerPoint
2. Students of Class VII

CONCEPTUAL DEFINITION

It is the use of Microsoft PowerPoint application to make a presentation of slides displaying the content necessary for teaching.

OPERATIONAL DEFINITION

Effectiveness: the degree to which something is successful in producing the desired results.

Online learning: the education that takes place online or over the internet.

NEED FOR STUDY

After the pandemic of Covid-19 hit the world, all the educational systems began functioning online over the internet. Every student willing to attend school/college had to take part in online learning as there was no other option available.

During the process of online learning, several applications and websites came to be in use to make learning as interesting as possible. Since it was a virtual platform, no teacher could be cent percent sure if the learning is taking place effectively. Therefore, the teachers adapted themselves to make use of the several applications to interest the students in the class.

One such application which was most commonly used was the Microsoft PowerPoint. One can make a number of slides containing texts using various fonts, pictures, videos, GIFs, animations, transitions, etc. The PowerPoint can be presented to the class online with the content appearing as and when needed with a single click. Thus, in order to understand how effective the use of PowerPoint has been in the class, the researcher felt the need to conduct a survey in the class of Std. VII. There were ten questions asked covering a variety of aspects of online class and the effectiveness of the use of Microsoft PowerPoint.

AIM OF THE STUDY

To understand the effectiveness of the use of Microsoft PowerPoint in online learning among the students of std VII.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To assess the effectiveness of Microsoft PowerPoint among the students of Std. VII during online learning.
2. To analyze the problems faced by students of Std. VII in studying with the use of Microsoft PowerPoint.

SCOPE AND DELIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

1. The study is conducted in Mumbai.
2. The sample consisted of students of Secondary Section from Std. VII.
3. The sample included students of SSC board only.
4. The sample included students of an English medium school only.
5. The study is restricted to the students of Std. VII and does not include any other secondary or primary sections.
6. The study included only the students of Secondary School Students.
7. The study was conducted only on students and no other teachers, parents or staff were included.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

This study aims at understanding the effectiveness of the use of PPT in online learning. It will be beneficial to the following stakeholders:

- It will help the Principal of the school where the research for the study was conducted. The Principal will be able to understand the degree to which the use of online tools is effective in teaching.
- It will also help the teachers gain an understanding about how effective their method of teaching is. They can make further efforts to improve the areas wherein the students face difficulty in studying online through PPT.
- It will help the parents of the students who were a part of the research study. The parents will gain a perspective of how they can improve their children's learning by trying to focus on their children's study needs.
- It will also be helpful to the curriculum framers to design the curriculum in a way which will take into consideration the online mode of learning. The various tools used in online learning can be taken into consideration while framing the curriculum so as to maximize the learning outcomes.

TYPE OF RESEARCH DESIGN

Descriptive Research Design

This type of research design is concerned with describing a problem and its solution. It caters to questions such as who, what, where, when and how. It is a more specific and purposive study. Before beginning with the research and data collection, a well-defined problem must be at hand. Descriptive research can have 1 or more hypotheses.

For the purpose of the current study, the researcher used the descriptive research design where a questionnaire was used to collect data.

METHODOLOGY OF THE PRESENT STUDY

Descriptive Research Design

Descriptive research is a research method which describes the features or characteristics of a population or a phenomenon that is under study. This research method pays more focus to the 'what' of the subject rather than 'why' of the subject of research. Its primary focus is on describing the nature of the subject rather than focusing on why the certain phenomenon occurs. It describes the research subject and not the reason behind why it happens.

Descriptive research uses a wide range of qualitative and quantitative methods to investigate the variables.

Descriptive research is best used when the research aims at identifying the characteristics, trends, correlations, categories and frequencies. It is beneficial when much is unknown about the problem of study. Before studying about why a phenomenon occurs, the researcher needs to understand how it happened.

The researcher followed the following steps while conducting the research:

- i) The researcher determines the participants of the survey.
- ii) A questionnaire layout is designed and prepared.
- iii) The questionnaire is circulated to collect data.
- iv) The subjects are instructed regarding filling the questionnaire.
- v) Responses are gathered, tabulated and analyzed.

SAMPLING

In the present study, convenience sampling is used. Convenience Sample: This type of sample is taken from a group that you can easily access. By studying this sample, you can apply the results to the entire population. By taking a convenient size of sample, you can say that it represents the large population.

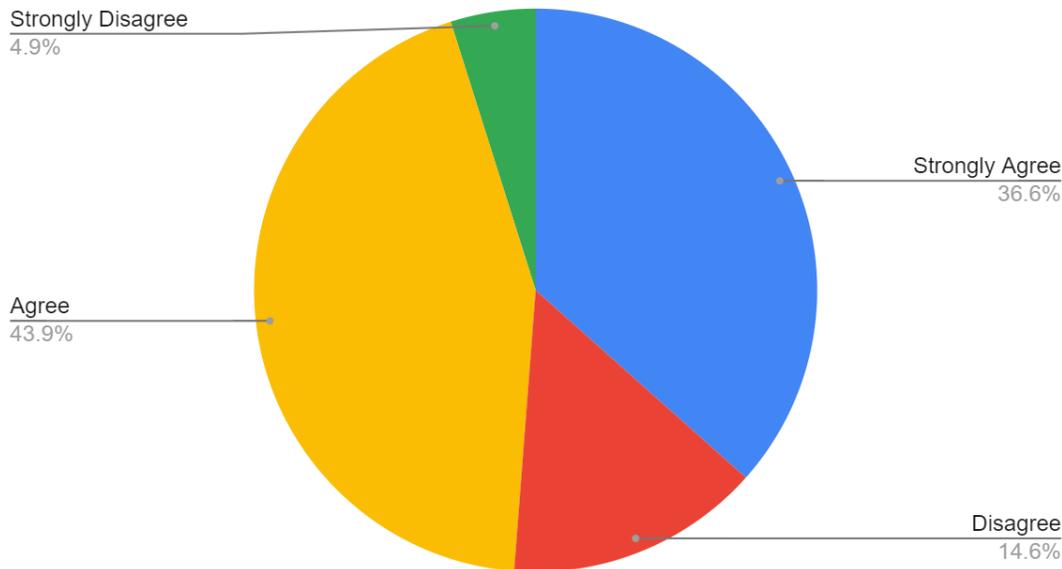
TOOL OF RESEARCH

In the present study, questionnaire has been used by the researcher to gather data. A questionnaire is a form consisting of a set of questions related to a topic which is addressed to the subjects in order to gather information or data for the research. It is a convenient and easy method of data collection. It is a device which the respondents fill by themselves by answering the questions. It is systematic in nature. It makes data collection easy when the data is to be collected from a wide sample.

DATA INTERPRETATION

EFFECTIVENESS OF MICROSOFT POWERPOINT IN E-LEARNING DATA

Effectiveness of using Microsoft PowerPoint in Online Learning



Interpretation: Through the above pie chart, we can say that the use of Microsoft PowerPoint in learning has been fairly effective. Maximum number of students were able to learn well because of the use of Microsoft PowerPoint. A few students found it difficult to adapt to the new technology. Due to the use of the various features of Microsoft PowerPoint, a teacher can make the lesson engaging and interesting and grab the attention of the students. Maximum students found it beneficial to study with the help of Microsoft PowerPoint.

FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

The objectives set for the study were:

1. To study the effectiveness of ICT tools in E-learning.
2. To analyse the problems faced by students in studying with the use of Microsoft PowerPoint.

Objective 1 - Findings

With respect to the first objective, it was found that the majority of the students thought e-learning to be effective. Through the research, the researcher could conclude that the students could understand and study well with the e-learning. The effectiveness was fairly high.

Objective 2 - Findings

With respect to the second objective, it was found that the majority of the students were comfortable studying with the use of Microsoft PowerPoint and did not face any difficulties. A marginal number of students had certain difficulties in concentration and attentiveness in the class but other than that, they did participate in the class.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER STUDIES

- 1) A study to examine the effectiveness of ICT tools among the primary section students.
- 2) A study to examine the effectiveness of ICT in other ICSE, CBSE, IGCSE and IB boards of education.
- 3) A study of the effectiveness of using online methods of examination.
- 4) A study to measure the effectiveness of ICT tools in an inclusive school.
- 5) A study to examine the effectiveness of Assessment Tools in ICT.

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