

STUDY MANAGEMENT CHALLENGE HANDLED BY ENGINEERING STUDENTS IN SANGLIKOLHAPUR REGION DURING PANDEMIC AND FLOOD

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ABSTRACT

COVID 19 was challenge to every person in the world. In Maharashtra, Sangali- Kolhapur region was badly affected by high flood situation in second week on August 2019. So people from this area faced two major natural calamities right from August 2019 to January 2021. On this background researchers worked on the Engineering students' academic year and their overall situation by considering various factors. In fact every student was badly affected but researchers tried to limit the survey domain up to engineering students, as it was start of the academic year when faced first Natural calamity of high flood. And only after passing 2-3 months, pandemic was declared. Data is collected by questionnaire.

KEYWORDS: *Flood, Pandemic, Covid19, Mental Health. Ict.*

INTRODUCTION

August's flooding in Sangli and Kolhapur districts of Maharashtra have been historic. River levels washed away all past records many times over. New high flood levels were reached several times at multiple places both in Sangli and Kolhapur. These districts are the delta plains of dominant rivers of the Krishna Basin namely Krishna, Koyna, Warna, Panchaganga, Tarli, Urmodi, Dudhganga and Hiranyakeshi. ^[1] After this historic disturbance lives started to be normal after two to three months and suddenly COVID 19 outbreak emerged and Pandemic was declared. Under such uncertainty students academics were completely broken and affected a lot in many terms. For security purpose and part of bringing down overall transmission of the rapid spread of the virus, social lockdown was declared. It was testing followed by isolation to be

effective which results in reducing infections and spread cases. So along with all other things academic institutes were made vacant and a big halt was declared.

In spite of such major natural calamities, students completed their academic year and handled the challenge of studies in their way. In overall scenario, researcher find this as an interesting to study to know how they faced unexpected conditions and survived during completion towards academic year fulfilment. In the struggling period what was the condition of resources, psychological challenges, getting adjusted to the new era of virtual Education and many more to face.

So to collect all such data Questionnaire was prepared. Questions were manage in such a way as to get major view about scenario depicting struggle for learning in disastrous situation. Students from Sangli Kolhapur region enthusiastically responded to the work and that helped researcher to analyze the professional degree course student's study management skills. Post analysis of primary data collected will be useful in coming years to next generation.

To summarize the research hypothesis, this pandemic has channelized the students to prepare themselves for virtual learning platform with proper use of ICT (Information and Communication Technologies).

LITERATURE REVIEW:-

“Doing What Matters in Times of Stress: An Illustrated Guide” by World Health Organisation, is a stress management guide for coping with adversity. Effective practical tips are provided to help cope with stress. Directed self-help techniques will surely help oneself to feel healthy. The guide can be used alone or with the accompanying audio exercises. This guide is for anyone who experiences stress, wherever they live and whatever their circumstances. [2]

In one research paper authoring Priyadarshini V. they have clearly mentioned that first year students reports more stress and anxiety than final year students. To manage their stress and anxiety level and concentrate more on studies, the institutes must undertake the stress management programme for the new students to cope with. This study also put the focus on to improve physical and mental health of the engineering students, and suggested institutes should plan proper counseling strategy periodically. Students can enhance optimism, boost confidence in students and enable them to cope up with stress and anxiety.[3]

Sanjeev Kumar has authored paper “Stress level and coping strategies of college students”. It is clear from the finding of this study that girls had higher level of stress than boys as the girls have more challenges to follow. When stress affects the brain, with its many nerve connections, the rest of the body feels the impact as well. So it stands to reason that if your body feels better, so does your mind. Exercise and other physical activity produce endorphins-a chemical in the brain that act as natural painkillers-and also improves the ability to sleep, which in turn reduces stress. Meditation, acupuncture, massage therapy, even breathing deeply help students body to produce endorphins.[4]

Richelle V. Adams and Erik Blair have written in “Impact of Time management Behaviors on Undergraduate Engineering Students ‘Performance’” research work that effective time management is associated with greater academic performance and lower levels of anxiety in students. In real life many students find it hard to find a balance between their studies and their day-to-day lives. This article presents the self-reported time management behaviors of undergraduate engineering students using the Time Management Behavior Scale. Correlation

analysis, regression analysis. Attempt are done to advice students about aspects of time management. Association of it with with higher grades, and self-identified with specific time management behaviors achieved better grades in the program. Conclusively it was observed that students’ perceived control of time was the reason that correlated significantly with cumulative grade point average.[5]

Kassymova K. Gulzhaina, in the paperv” Stress management techniques for students” stated that the research deals with stress and its biological impact in modern world students. It is suggested that stress management techniques, like Japanese finger stress relief techniques and yoga pranayama improves the happiness level of people. The main objectives are to ascertain the extent to which stress affects students’ academic success and health and to suggest some techniques and practices to cope with stress for students. The focus is on method to gather and analyze the relevant data. Questionnaires about stress were randomly distributed to different student groups mostly at three Kazakhstani universities. The results obtained show that students need to be given effective techniques to cope with stress while they are studying. Stress can be minimized through the awreness of a stress management course and practicing physical and mental activities.[6]

Conceptual Framework:-

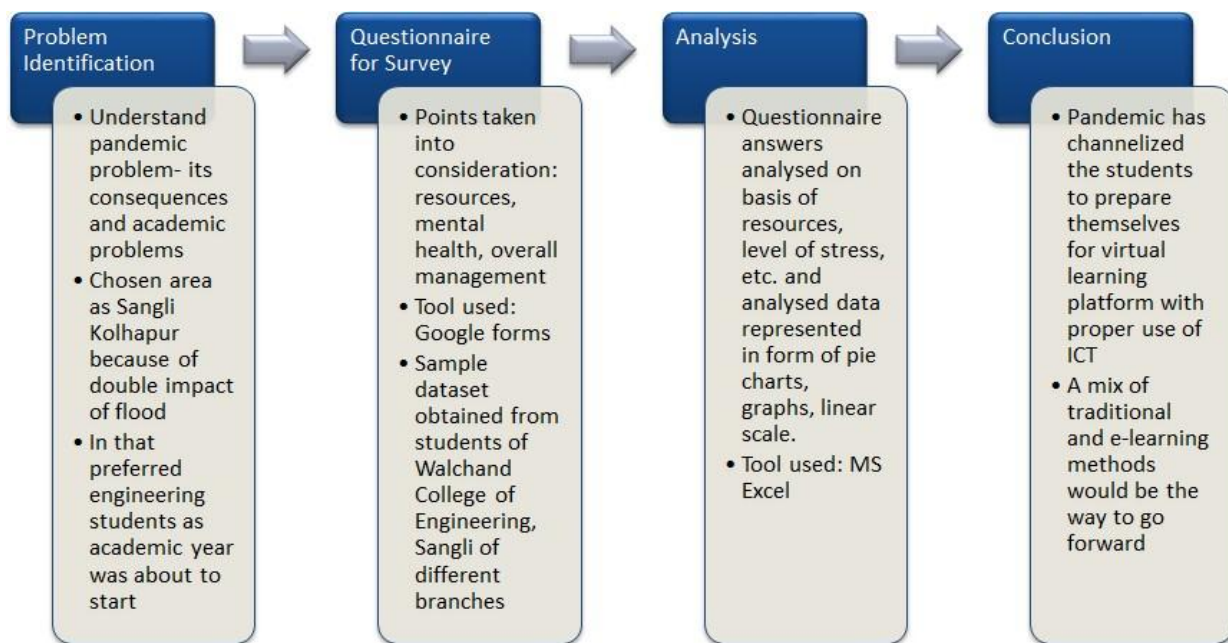


Fig 1: Work Flow

Research Methodology: - The questionnaire is the main instrument for collecting data in survey research. Basically, it is a set of standardized questions, often called items, which follow a fixed scheme in order to collect individual data about one or more specific topics. A questionnaire is a research instrument consisting of a series of questions for the purpose of gathering information from respondents. It can be thought of as a kind of written interview. They can be carried out

face to face, by telephone, Email or post. The data collected from such can be both qualitative as well as quantitative in nature.

Questionnaire was prepared in Google form. Summary of the included questions is as follows:

Academics during COVID-19 Pandemic

Note: -Hello reader, if you are a student from Sangli-Kolhapur region please fill this form. This form is designed to collect information regarding the challenges faced by students in their academics during the pandemic as well as during the brief period of floods of August 2019. This data will be used to make a comparative study and suggest ways to deal with the challenges faced by students during online courses. Your input is very valuable!.

TABLE 1: QUESTIONNAIRE DETAILS

| Q. No. | Question | Response pattern |
|--------|---|--|
| 1 | Name | Descriptive |
| 2 | College | Descriptive |
| 3 | Year Of Passing | Choice |
| 4 | Do/did you live in Hostel | Yes/No/Other |
| 5 | During the initial phase of COVID-19, the best way to describe your mental state would be: (you may select multiple options as applicable) | Afraid, Tense, Very Careful, Negligent, Tension free but careful, Apathetic |
| 6 | When online classes (and exams) started, did you have the appropriate resources and what was the condition and availability of these resources? (you may select multiple options as applicable) | Did not have appropriate resources. Mobile, Laptop, Internet, Connection issues, Power cut and backup |
| 8 | What ways did you use to relax in between online sessions? (you may select multiple options as applicable) | Social Media, Phone calls, Reading books/newspaper, Playing In house games, Internet surfing, Video games |
| 9 | What factors (other than studies) that affected your online exams were you worried about? | Electric power cut, internet connectivity, online exams website hanging due to many users using it at the same time, unavailability of resources, exam duration, unfamiliarity with exam pattern |
| 10 | On a scale of 1 to 10, 1 being not stressed at all and 10 being very stressed, how stressed were you after floods of august 2019 in terms of exams and syllabus (as it needed to be completed in a shorter amount of time)? | Stress scale ranging from 1 to 10 |
| 11 | On a scale of 1 to 10, 1 being not stressed at all and 10 being very stressed, how stressed were you when the online semester was announced for the latter half of 2020 in terms of exams and syllabus? | Stress scale ranging from 1 to 10 |

| | | |
|----|--|--|
| 12 | After the pandemic ends, what mode of learning would you prefer? * | 1. Complete Offline (in Campus) lectures and exams 2. Completely Online Lectures and Exams 3. A mix of Online and Offline Lectures and Exams Other |
|----|--|--|

Results: - Analysis of responses and presented in the form of Pie charts

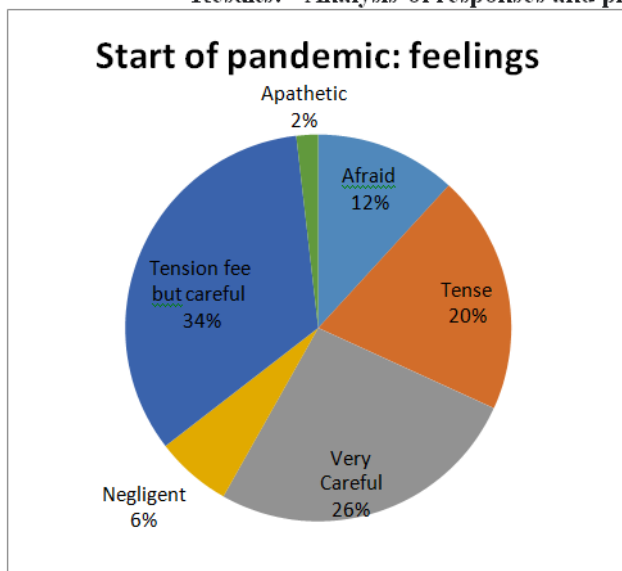


Figure 2: Start of Pandemic: Feelings

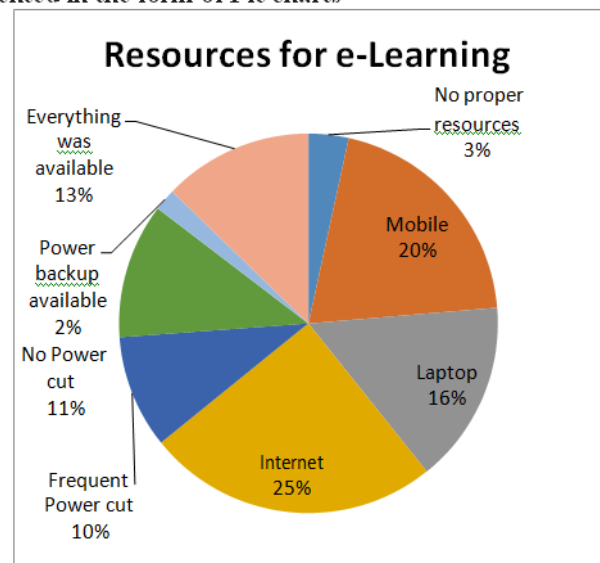


Figure 3: Resource for E-Learning

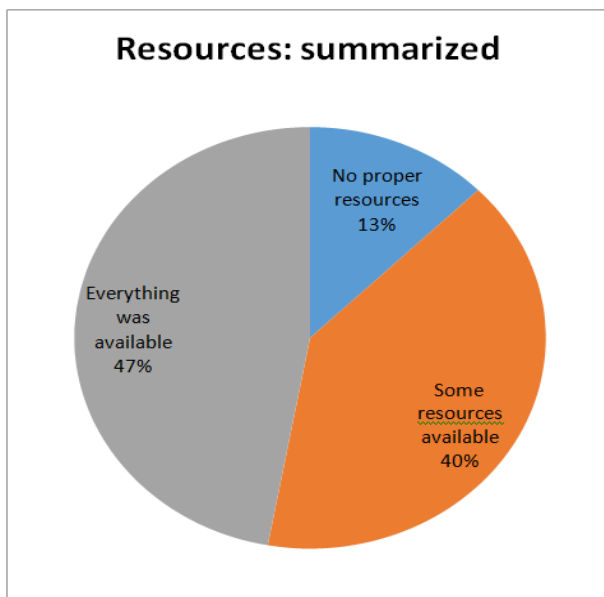


Figure 4: Summary of Resources

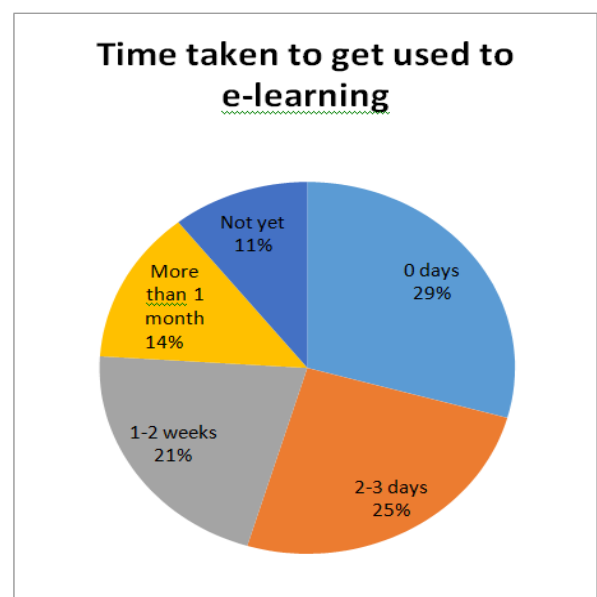


Figure 5: E-Learning Comfort

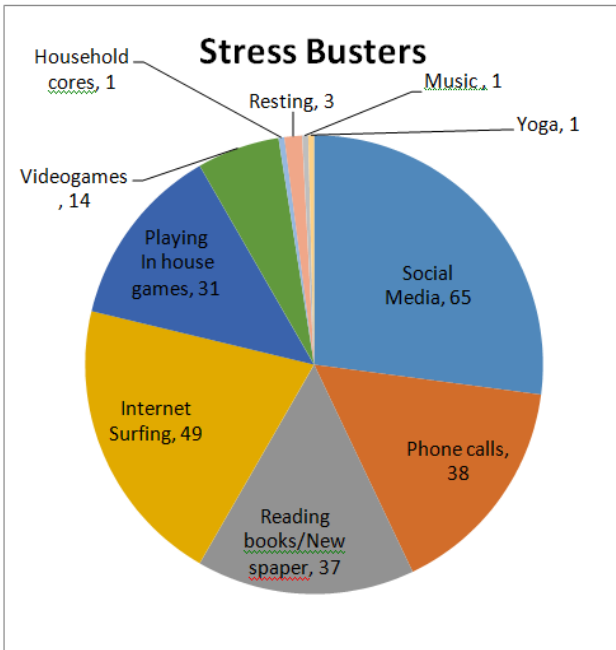


Figure 6: Stress Busters

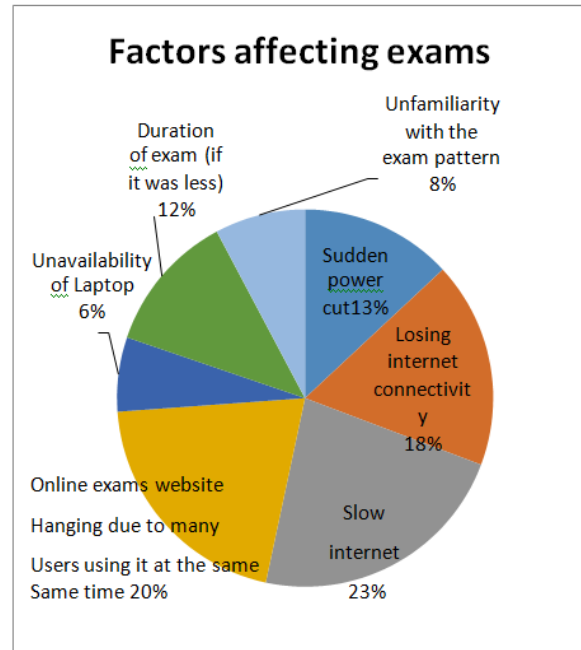


Figure 7: Factors affecting Exams

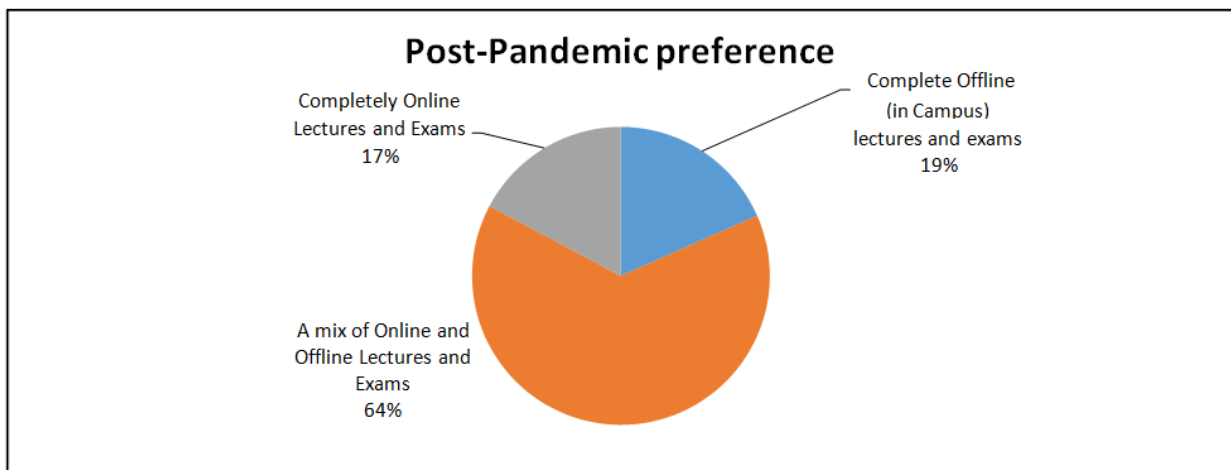


Figure 8: Post Pandemic Preferences

DISCUSSION

Questionnaire was responded by 87 students from different streams and academic year. In the beginning of pandemic majority students were tension free but careful. Many of them were having proper resources and aware about the handling for study purpose. Related to first calamity of flood students were affected only for the duration of 2 weeks, the syllabus was crashed to cover this time. After analyzing the responses, it was found that on an average the stress level experiences by students was 6 on a scale of 1 (no stress) to 10 (very high stress), whereas major number of students mentioned their stress level to be 5. During second situation of pandemic, students were not only affected by missing out time but had to attend lectures and

exams online. Majority of the students responded to have stress level 9 (high stress), but on an average stress level was calculated to be 6 (medium stress).

Comparatively, the second situation caused more stress to a number of students whereas students who had appropriate resources experienced less stress can be inferred from the data collected. Whereas in the first situation, all the students experienced medium level of stress.

After going through two major challenges, most of the students feel comfortable about a mix pattern of online and offline conduction of lecture and exams.

Limitation: - This survey was conducted in specific region which can be extended to other parts also. Likewise many institutional students may be covered but due to constraint its scope is boundary restricted. Along with this many other professional degree course students suffered with trauma need to be analyzed for other purpose.

Future Research: - As mentioned in limitation, in future researchers will try to explore more students from different category and facing different challenges. Post analysis from future work will encourage students to overcome any unexpected hurdle. Such research will definitely motivate students from any field to face any situation with a challenge and as an opportunity.

Conclusion: - This pandemic has channelized and motivated students for virtual learning and effective use of ICT (Information and Communication Technologies) in their studies. Along with the technology traditional method is also in demand as it is backbone of education and satisfaction.

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