



# IMPACT OF ONLINE EDUCATION AMONG RURAL STUDENTS OF EAST SINGBHUM DISTRICT

**ABHIRUP BHADRA**

**ENROLLMENT NUMBER -190686**

**SUPERVISOR**

**(MR.AMIT KUMAR SINGH)**

## ABSTRACT

During the outbreak of Covid-19 which caused a world wide health crisis that affected all the sectors including one of them was the education sector. The UGC and other educational boards ordered the educational institution to continue their classes through online mode. Online education in India gave the digital platform a robust boost but was proving itself a harm in rural areas where students were still deprived of basic amenities and suffering an academic loss. The people below the poverty line and residing in rural areas have faced a drastic damage in terms of education specially, where lack of network and connectivity as well as no proper gadgets due to poor economical condition created a crack between the students and academic. Thus the paper is studied with the generic objective to know the problems faced by the students of rural areas going to high schools from class 10-12 and critically examines the loop hole in the digital medium of education in East Singhbhum District of Jharkhand.

The online education system is no doubt the best alternative way to carry forward the academic process, but it's potential is still not utilized to it's fullest particularly in the rural areas. Thus this paper critically examines and tries to find out the alternative ways to prevent the loss of education in the rural areas

Key words-new media, digital media, internet, online education, digital applications

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **INTERNET AT A GLANCE**

The internet and its birth can be traced back to mid-1960's for linking military computer databases in United States of America under department of defense which established a network that allowed the flow of information between military contractors and universities which were connected to defense research.

The advent of internet can be linked with the origin of ARPANET, the network of the Pentagon's Advance Research Project Agency (ARPA) in 1975 to the National Science Foundation developed its own academic network (NSFNET) which in year 1990 later replaced ARPANET and collectively called as the INTERNET. In 1992, NERN or the National Education and Research Network provided enhanced form of internet allowing exchange of more lengthier materials, full motion video etc.

(Kumar, 2010) The invention of internet or the era of 'information age' was the most needed invention of the time to which we rely now. The network of computers and network allowed people to come together across the globe and gave more and more technical advancement possible which can be termed as 'A GLOBAL VILLAGE'

(McLuhan)

### **Internet In India**

The department of science and technology established the ERNET in India, serving the linking of institution and university of science and technology across the nation that marks the beginning of the new magical process within the country. Earlier internet was mainly utilized for entertainment rather educational purposes and for accessing sites of games, pornography. (Kumar, 2010)

Apart from all the other facilities provided by the internet, the most useful among them was the advent of NEW MEDIA. New media is any form of media that comprises of a newspaper or journal served digitally. All the media forms that are compiled in a digital mode and we can see it on screen can be comprised under new media. New media technology has been emerged in modern society and changed our living styles and also has some effect to distort out traditional culture. The emergence and use of new media tools in the communication industry has drastically changed and affected the old media tools and are now most of them are considered to be on a verge of extinction. New media technology has a greater storage capacity compared to traditional media and has a quick reach, but with a demand of good devices and internet connection. The industry of new media has proliferated into all the sectors of business now, some left hampered and some got boosted with the help of new media tools. The industry where in some sectors proved to be a challenging one, it also gave a rise to the education sector particularly where the digital media in variety of forms such as emails, videos, graphics, animation, musical podcasts etc. reach to a student who is equipped with technically advance gadget to whom new media platforms can get sync.

The education system of India has gone through a vast change from the ancient times where India was a hub of learning and attracted many scholars from the west due to its richness in spirituality and religion. The fame of Indian culture, wealth, religion as well as education practices has spread far wide. The ancient education system was encouraged by traditional practices, religious thoughts, high cultural diversity that was guide back by humanitarian approach. From the hour of Rigveda onwards, our out of date educational system progressed over the period and focused in on the widely inclusive improvement of the individual by managing both the inside and the outer self. The system focused in on the moral, physical, powerful and insightful portions of life. It highlighted on values like trustworthiness, discipline, certainty and respect for all indications. Students were told to see the worth in the amicability between human animals and nature. Educating and learning followed the standards of Vedas and Upanishads fulfilling commitments towards self, family and society, thus including all pieces of life. Educational system focused in both on learning and genuine development. With everything taken into account, the emphasis was on strong cerebrum and sound body. Genuine tutoring likewise was a huge curricular area and students participated in **krida** (games, brandishing works out), **vyayamaprakara** (works out), **dhanurvidya** (bows and bolts) for acquiring military capacities, and **yogasadhana** (setting up the mind and body) among others. The Gurus and their students worked dependably together to become skilled in all pieces of learning. To study students' learning, **shastrartha** (learned examines) were facilitated. Students at a general period of learning coordinated more young students. There moreover existed the plan of companion learning, as you have bundle/peer work. In India, both formal and casual methods of schooling system existed. Native schooling was granted at home, in sanctuaries, pathshalas, and gurukuls. There were individuals in homes, towns and sanctuaries who directed small kids in guzzling devout lifestyles. Sanctuaries were additionally focuses on learning and looked into the advancement of information on our old framework. Students went to **viharas** and colleges for higher information. Instructing was generally oral and students recalled and thought upon what was instructed in the class. During that period, the masters and their shishyas lived respective helping each other in everyday life. The primary goal was have total getting the hang of, having a trained existence and understanding one' inward potential. Students resided away from their homes for a really long time together till they accomplished their objectives. The gurukul was additionally the place where the relationship of the master and shishya reinforced, with time. While chasing after their schooling in various disciplines like history, craft of discussion, regulation, medication, and so on, the accentuation was not just on the external components of the discipline yet additionally on enhancing inward components of the character.

The characteristics of education or say the core concept can be said as the two way communication process that in return of knowledge to either side of the court is called education, which implies that there must be atleast two people required on spot who can receive (sahridayas-people having capacity to perceive messages) act in cooperation to impart knowledge on both the side. So it can clearly justified that education is not only about imparting blind knowledge but rather it's a complete whole process of communication.

## **Education in modern India**

The core concept of education to which this generation is familiar was quite different from what it was in last few decades, where the basic concept of imparting knowledge from a guru to its shisya remains the same but the format changed according to the changing needs to the society. Due to the high pace world there can be seen a lack of time sitting in front of a guru and learn for hours, rather which changed into learning multiple skills at a single point of time.

Present day schooling is altogether different from the customary training. The training which is instructed in the schools today is the cutting edge training. Current training instructs about the abilities required today that is the abilities of science and innovation, study of clinical science and so forth. As well as tuning in, the advanced instruction incorporates composing, picturing, envisioning, and thinking abilities. This sort of training likewise incorporates composed tests to look at in the event that the students are advancing appropriately or not. This is done in an extremely formal manner. The approach utilized for instructing is extremely intelligent. Current instruction is only an advancement of the conventional schooling which was granted to the students a couple of years back.

Conventional and current trainings are both connected with one another and unique in relation to one another moreover. In the early history of our country, there was a period where there were no schools. The youngsters obtained the training or information from their predecessors. Around then this information lies in just on the abilities expected for endurance. Individuals who lived in wildernesses got the schooling from their precursors who showed them how to chase creatures for their food, how to involve creature skins for various purposes, how to make instruments. They were educated about their ceremonies or the traditions they followed. They were instructed about the religions they followed.

They showed them the tales of their divine beings and lords from which they could learn great ethics. The lords used to send their children to schools which were called gurukuls in India. In these gurukuls they were shown how to utilize various weapons, how to safeguard themselves and how to go after their adversaries. They were additionally shown the fundamental rule of administering a realm. These sorts of schools were not implied for the nearby populace. It must be gotten to by the regal families. The other youngsters in the realm gained the ability which their folks had from them. As the vote based government was laid out before very long, the significance of schooling spread all through the country. Schools were opened where any sort of students could come and learn. This was the foundation of current instruction.

The situation of training which currently is entirely unexpected from the situation which was a couple of years back, around then present day schooling was not viewed as great and today customary instruction isn't viewed as enough. As the requirements of individuals are changing, the schooling system likewise needs to change. Furthermore, this change ought to be acknowledged by individuals. Prior individuals utilized show their kids how to satisfy their necessities. This was the essential point behind schooling. What's more, the point presently is as yet unchanged. The main thing which has changed is the need of individuals. With the progressing time, the things which were an extravagance around then have shaped the essential necessities

now. As the requirements developed, the schooling needed to develop. On the off chance that the training didn't advance, then it would be troublesome satisfy the requirements of today.

## **New media-usage and its applications in education**

The need for platform was definitely needed and was high in demand as the modern society required modern platform to showcase their creativity and learn education as well as co-curricular activities at the same time, so the ready answer to this question was taking the help of new media. As mentioned above new media is anything that is served digitally and has a large capacity of reach and to store information as well as visually appealing and attractive specially to students, it was now the answer was the proper use of new media and internet advancement in a proper channel in the field of education to make it suitable for the demanding society. A study done by Alison Cook Sather, students tend to be more interactive and responsive to emails and feel comfortable with the process of communication, several other studies such as a study by Jon M. Wargo and Kara Clayton, students were more comfortable when a material is presented in the form of video, because the platform is such as of itself. The fundamental advantage of digital media in schooling is that it can increase study commitment. Moreover, it assists studies with managing troublesome ideas with different assets. Advanced guidance helps show troublesome subjects that are regularly difficult to comprehend. Whenever students utilize advanced innovation in a course, every one of the students in the study hall have the valuable chance to sharpen those computerized abilities. The principle ramifications of computerized media in schooling is that, it offers educators and teachers the chance to participate in exchange in view of shared regard and correspondence. Besides, of all instructing and realizing, there is a connection between the virtual and the real in light of the essential human relationship. The course of training using advanced media can be separated into four kinds of learning exercises which are 1-passive, 2-active, 3-constructive, and 4-interactive. It is shown that students will acquire information assuming they utilize more intuitive sorts of learning exercises instead of more passive ones. Digital media in the study hall can get seriously captivating and interactive. Digital media permits individuals to exhibit their work to virtual entertainment stages like Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. Understudy's work can likewise arrive at a bigger group and get remarks and assessments through Reddit, YouTube, Vimeo. Pages like these permit public showcase of anybody's thoughts and work. Students searching for work or entry level positions to list of references additionally will find opportunity online through destinations like LinkedIn. The information that students in schooling have connected with media advances shifts in which would expect some to have help while utilizing them.

### **Applications used for digital education**

New tools are the equipment as to which we rely for the continuation of the process of education in a new form that is digital. As new media demands a certain things in return for working smoothly. Education through new media in now an integral part of the education system and is considered the most important factor for the continuation for the process. Particularly during the time of pandemic we came across the real

realization of the importance of the new media for carrying forward the education process. As per the orders from the top, the whole world was compelled to inside their house, but the life goes on and so it was. The only change was the format of communication which shifted from verbal face to face or focused group discussion to online meet where people from their comfort premises were now in touch with the whole world just using a simple gadget. Thanks to internet and new media development without whom this continuation of the process could happen.

**Wikis:** Wiki is a device that guarantees a superior type of public area cooperation and local area contribution. Wiki is assortment of website pages and is grown in order to oblige a wide cluster of content and gets to. Anyone can contribute or alter content in a wiki. Wikipedia, a web reference book is one of the most popular wikis.

**Interpersonal interaction Sites:** Social organizations are the place where clients set up a profile of themselves, make formal associations with individuals they know, impart and share inclinations and interests. It permits the people to introduce assortment of configurations including recordings and texts. Facebook, Myspace, linkedIn, etc are the notable interpersonal interaction locales among undergrads.

**Online journals:** Blogs are major intuitive instrument. An individual can make and refresh content and can likewise keep up with customary passages of editorial, occasions or news. Blog locales might be kept up with by a solitary individual, a gathering of people, corporate body, etc. In the majority of the blog locales, clients (normally alluded as bloggers) share a great deal of normal data dispersed through sound, vivified illustrations and video documents.

**You Tube:** A web-based video sharing website where recordings are transferred by clients and be seen openly. Clients can leave remarks on the recordings.

The new media apps particularly in the sector of education played an extreme vital role nurturing the future of millions of students through the systematic use of new media app such as –

**Zoom** -Zoom Meetings (generally abbreviated to Zoom, and adapted as zoom) is an exclusive video telephony programming program created by Zoom Video Communications. The free arrangement permits up to 100 simultaneous members, with a 40-minute time limitation.

**Google meet**-google meet is was formerly known as hangout meet is a video communication platform provided by google, where the two way communication without any time limit is supported as compared to zoom.

**Microsoft teams**- Microsoft Teams is an exclusive business correspondence stage created by Microsoft, as a feature of the Microsoft 365 group of items. Groups fundamentally rivals the comparable assistance Slack, offering work area visit and video conferencing, record capacity, and application mix and popular among the students.

**Cousera**-Coursera is an online education platform that provides courses in video format , created by Standford University professor Andrew NG,Daphane Koller in year 2012.

**Byju's**- Byju is an Indian educational multinational company head quartered in Bangalore which provides various courses, test series, doubt clearing classes etc. upon a minimum fee. Created by Byju Raveendran and Divya Gokulnath.

**Swayam**-it is an indigenous IT platform under massive open online courses providing quality education which is accessible to everyone using IT system.The session are uploaded are developed by best faculty and are available free of cost ,which covers video tutorials, e- content, self- assessment as well as discussion.(Madan,2020).

**Swayam Prabha**-it is a group of 32 DTH channels to telecast high quality educational programmes on a 24 hour basis, especially for higher education and school students.  
(Madan, 2020).

### **Need of digital media in education**

In 2021, India's advanced media market was esteemed at north of 300 billion Indian rupees with gauges extending it to spike to 537 billion rupees by 2024. Generally speaking, the advanced media industry in the nation was ready for a solid development in the expressed time period. This itself shows how the platform of new media is in heat of the country and its use cannot be denied.

Since 2020 after the outbreak of deadly corona virus, the upper bodies came together to a conclusion to lockdown the entire country to stop the spread of the virus that proved to be hazardous for every aspect of developing country like India. People were fired from their jobs and were forced to leave pedestal from home. Since 2020 the education centers such as school, colleges as well as other institutions were closed and a new form of education was induced to us using the help of new media and internet, that can be called as ONLINE EDUCATION.

The main moto of the educators were to by any means carry on the process of knowledge and so was the concept of online media got its name, and by the start of mid 20's students from across the country were now following the new mode. Online media apps like google meet, zoom meetings, Microsoft teams as well as conference call were all on the top of the download list. According to sensor tower's analysis report there was about 1000% increase in app downloads between Feb-March. As per a report of India today apart from these apps education business increased among-

Brainly, Vedantu, Unacademy and Byju's. As per a report of Hindustan Times -One of the steepest development patterns in downloads has been for the 'Zoom video calling application'. From a normal of 11,000 downloads each month in 2019, it expanded to around 1,000,000 month to month downloads among April and September 2020, duplicating ten times, on the 'Upto down' stage.

The Novel Covid 19 is the fifth archived pandemic after the 1918 FLU pandemic. First announced in Wuhan city in China and afterward acquiring its gigantic speed and within weeks spread to the entire world. One of

most impacted area which confronted a defeat was the area of **EDUCATION**. Due to the high gamble of transmission and expanded pace of death rates duplicating itself and gulping lives, the government requested a cross country lockdown and requested severe administration. For the initial time the wheels of rail stopped, people had to leave for their home strolling miles, were kicked from their positions left destitute with their families meandering defenselessly from even food and water. Situations were awful and the stains are never to be neglected. Schools and universities were closed down as social affair was completely denied .The disconnected in grounds life was appearing to be grabbed from the existences of students. The classroom teachings, the passage talks, the library studies, the flask rattles and every one of the exercises that was an ordinary act of students were currently bound to four dividers of their home. Thanks to innovation and web that made us and bind together not eye to eye however utilizing devices .The entire life was restricted to that little screen. Instruction is the one of the variable on which the advancement of the nation depends, was presently on an edge of inquiries that how it would continue?? Again on account of innovation and internet, which played a holy messenger job for the student, the teachers as well concerning the guardians who were all in an issue about their future. Instruction was chosen to progress forward with another mode - **THE ONLINE MODE**. Which was new for everyone from students to educators, yet that was the main conceivable way distinguished to proceed with the process. Apps like Zoom, google meet, skype were presently on top downloads for everybody. These application utilizes the web and gives a stage to instructors and students to meet up and trade knowledge. Not just the area of training yet the corporates likewise saw a precarious ascent in using these applications for leading meetings, seminars , online courses and so on.

At first the cycle and the shift of pattern from premise disconnected to profoundly progressed web based instructing took as much time as is needed for settlement inside the students and teachers. It was seen that educators who used to depend more on disconnected and had less cooperation with PCs confronted challenges understanding the mechanism, students who were not that monetarily solid confronted issues of having a decent organization and a cell phone which was a significant issue actually seen in reverse states , as the new method of training requested a decent organization connectivity, a great mobile, a great piece of headphone or earphone turning out and for keeping up with the hole of the change which eventually brought about acquiring and relating information. Yet, slowly we saw a ease among the two instructors and students from mid - 2021, were seen that now both were getting acquainted to these new method of tech progression which was used under pressure. The new method of online was only a method for completing the schedule yet the presence of study hall instruction was lagging. The online stage had its own experts like the demonstrating stage in this pandemic time, cons like organization issues which caused interruptions during the time spent training.

Instructing is supposed to be a workmanship and science culminative propensity where the educator or the information provider remains before great many students, which implies huge number of brains, thousands of various temperament and ideas. Binding them generally under one umbrella and afterward causing them to comprehend a specific example is anything but not a simple cup of tea. Lots of excitement, persistence and relational abilities are expected to be in this calling, and to effectively do the interaction it's the obligation of the students too to contribute same as the teacher. But the internet based mode accompanies part of interruption as in can confront irregular notices while going to classes, calls, SMS and so forth while going to

classes which at last redirects their psyche from the talk to another arbitrary thought. The circumstance kept no choice left except for taking assessments too in web-based mode which may be the answer for get degree yet it was not adequate to inspect what students had truly seen .Physical education were suspended due to the outbreak of corona virus from the 2020,the school were affected on the ground of education particularly the rural areas.

As per a report of The Hindu only 8% of the rural students were able to perceive education through online medium, whereas the total rural population of India according to a report of micro trends the total rural population of India according to 2020 was around **898,024,053**.

Recent studies show that most number of rural students as well as teachers of old age were struggling to cope up with the new learning technique using the software. The new platform was demanding highly efficient internet connectivity and technically advance devices, and sadly this part of India lacks these two facilities.

As per a report of Financial express not even 30% of the rural population had internet facility. States particularly Jharkhand which has an overall perception of poor state is one of the most affected in terms of education, specially in rural parts. According to census 2011 Jharkhand had **18,328,069** total literate, which is broadly divided into urban and rural part, thus the factors like digital media associated with education becomes very important part, as education is a very common factor to shape up the state in a well manner.

Online training has definitely altered the method of the education framework from actual class to online class using a portable or PC which came about an expansion in screen time usage, which consequently is giving a great deal of mental issues inside children. As per concentrates on kids who spend a ton in seeing the screen of versatile came about in-

Disinterest people need a customary consideration yet online classes brought about losing interest in genuine conversation. Most of the time students switch off the camera and approach doing their different exercises during the classes, also the strain of after schoolwork and assignment has set off an extraordinary cost for the psychological well-being and state of mind of the students.

### **Online vs offline education**

After the outbreak of pandemic the education sector saw new dimension to carry forward its process, though it was still being use but to had a limited reach ,but the digital or online mode of education got a steady rise after the lockdown process and surfaced differences between itself and offline mode.

Offline mode is more of a teacher centered process whereas online mode is a learner centered process, where the learners are given more opportunity to carry a two way conversation. The traditional mode can be said to be more of a passive kind of teaching where as the online mode is comparatively active one, where the multimedia use is mandatory, but in the offline it is not .One of the biggest factor which can be considered is the rigidity of offline education where as the online mode can of a more flexible concept. (Madan,2020)

### Negative impacts of online education

**Stress and anxiety**-The fixation level of students has dropped in the web-based mode as they cannot keep their eyes zeroed in on the screen for a more extended time of time, resulting in slacking behind, which make them feel substandard among the group. Stress, anger and uneasiness issues grows normally inside people when they overthink on a point on an everyday basis. Meditation ought to be done consistently for lessening cerebrum pressure.

**Vision problem**-expanded screen time has expanded the strain on the eyes, coming about in headaches, for the two students and teacher. Taking appropriate consideration of eyes is required for students as well as for everyone in this online era, and in the event that not the increment of vision issue can puts their life in danger

**Absence of physical exercise**-students sitting before the screen in an equivalent position or resting for a more drawn out timeframe has brought about body firmness and debilitating of bones and diminished strong wellbeing ,ordinary stretches and an outside exercises should be performed for better body portability.

**Absence of practical assignment**-because of the web-based nature of training there has been an absence of pragmatic task bringing about absence of field information.

**Introvertism**- decline pace of up close and personal discussion has brought about introvertism among the students, less certainty to talk and less capacity to blend around with individuals.



## REVIEW OF LITERATURE

A review of literature is both product and process, where the main objective is to see review previous works of the related topics and get brief notion about the area in which the research is to be done.

The online education has gave us a new way to think and progress in a different manner in life, but the difference between urban and rural is still efficiently seen on the ground of online education and perceiving it. As mentioned earlier this digital media requires a gadget with an internet connection plus having a technically advance mindset to use it properly. Thus the rural segment of the country was suffering from either lack of internet facility or lack of good devices.

Several studies were done to see how effective the online process is specially among the rural segments.

Yadav and Tiwary (2016) –digital learning have a tremendous potential but particularly in rural part it faces challenges like 1-low income of teachers, making them less caring towards the children 2-most of the schools do not have proper ICT technology, therefore deprived of online education -3 there is no access to supplementary education among the rural segment of the society.

Das, Sahoo, Pati. (2021) - Online Learning: Challenges for Education in Rural and Remote Areas Denkanal district teachers says teaching in rural schools faced tremendous problem due to no network, as compared to urban parts. The online education platform will widen the gap between rural people from in comparison to urban as well as lower income to middle class ,in terms of having better potential to buy good gadgets.

Upmanyu Das in his article (how did rural India learn during lockdown) states that only 24% of the house hold had internet connection ,moreover 80% of students in states like Jharkhand, Orissa were hard hit by this online mode, teachers detailed having the telephone numbers of a minimum portion of their class .

66% of all respondents announced that they had shared learning materials in the earlier week, while another 21% had shared materials no less than once during the lockdown. Another 86.8 percent had imparted course books to all youngsters in the chose grade.Seven out of each ten schools respondents announced getting help from an assortment of local area entertainers to reach and support kids.

As per a report on The Hindu (2021) only 8% of the students were perceiving education through online mode in rural areas. In March 2021, ASER led a review in 24 rural areas of Karnataka to gauge the learning misfortune and get current status of learning. Almost 18,000 youngsters between the age of 3 to 16 were evaluated for their study and number-crunching abilities. The SCHOOL review covered almost 1,400 oppressed kids in August this year across 15 States and UTs. The review zeroed in on kids in country villages and metropolitan 'bastis' who for the most part go to govt. schools. Around 60% of the example lived in provincial regions and near 60% had a place with Dalit and Adivasi people group. Only 28% of the rural kids were able to study and 37% didn't study at all.

As per an article in the Times of India(2022)-out of 5 only 1 student have access to smart phone ,and most of their parents were either daily wage laborers or farmers, thus around 90% of the whole population within the rural areas suffering a learning loss.

Siddharth Chaturvedi, executive vice president AISECT GROUP in his article (adopting digital education in rural area, 2020) writes that major portion of the rural portion around 21.3% have access to desktop and the rest do not, majority of the rural population are deprived of digital literacy in India.

Prabhakaran, Mahalaxmi (2019) - performance of digital media in rural India the rural students of class 1-8 were not able to read and comprehend the text and arithmetic concepts of class 2,hence creating a big trouble for the education policy makers to generalize the whole education system of India.

Anand, Saxena , Shilpi Saxena (2012)examines the problem faced by the rural parts and significant result showed that most students and teacher were unsatisfied with the online method because of lack of network issue and improper internet connection.

As per Impact of Digital Social Media on Indian Higher Education: Alternative Approaches of Online Learning during COVID-19 Pandemic Crisis (Dutta 2020)- online education has its own pros and cons, where a respondent quoted that he must fulfill all the criteria to complete his graduation in online mode but the offline teachings are much more better as collaborative learning, enhancement of critical thinking skills, improvement of social skills, building organizational skills, keeping students stimulated, development of important personality and career building skills Singhal ,(2017).

## **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

Research methodology is a way of systematically solve the research problem, or the way any researcher proceed in the process. It is done to study to understand how research is done scientifically. The study remains a descriptive type of research, under which mixed method research is used –which is the combination of both qualitative and quantitative methods to inquire the research problem (Creswell, 2009) where survey and fact finding enquiries of different kinds were asked as well as in depth interview of 30 respondents were noted and then data were examined to come to a final solution

The research was done to know the impact of online media platforms among the rural students of EAST SINGHBHUM DISTRICT, Jharkhand-to understand how the digital platforms of education are affecting the particular segment in terms of perceiving and retaining education after the outbreak of novel Covid 19, which halted the offline process.

### **Research design**

A research design is the collection of and analysis of data in order to bring out the blue print of the whole study (Kothari 2004) where it involves taking different decision in order in a proper format which makes sense. The overall decision involves design that must be used to study a topic. Informing this decision should be the worldview assumptions the researcher brings to the study; procedures of inquiry. (Creswell,

2009). The study to see the impact of online education among the rural students of EAST SINGHBHUM DISTRICT was done to know the effectiveness of the digital platform among the rural students of the backward society.

The study is been made to understand the loop hole of the online education system and to examine the challenges faced by these group of students, which is carried out within the district of EAST SINGHBHUM DISTRICT ,Jharkhand. Thus the paper critically examines the impact of online education among the rural students of high schools in the district of EAST SINGHBHUM DISTRICT (Jharkhand), with an objective to find-

- To find which education mode is preferred by the rural students
- What are the challenges faced by students because of online education
- Which online app is mostly used by the students of rural part of the district
- To compare the effectiveness between online and offline mode

After the study the paper will try to generalize the result seeing all the factors critically and then establish an overall thought with the country view.

**Research type**-the study was done on a quantitative measure as well as qualitative method.

**Universe of the study**-the universe refers to the total of the items or units in any field of inquiry (Kothari-2004), for this study students of rural area of EAST SINGHBHUM DISTRICT were considered as the universe.

**Instrument used**-survey sheet was used to enquire out the answer from the respondents, which were disseminated through offline mode and then collected then and there, in depth interview of 30 respondents selected (random sampling) out of 100 who answered the survey.

**Sample design and technique**-as mentioned earlier the study was carried out upon the rural students of EAST SINGHBHUM DISTRICT, where stratified random sampling was used to determine the respondents .At first the whole universe of rural students were bifurcated into students of high school aged mostly between 16-18(the others were left as per the convenience of the study, proximity, nature of the questions, mind level maturity) and then randomly students were picked for the survey. Out of 200 responses 100 were taken into consideration and data were analyzed according to it.

The survey was designed keeping in mind the level of maturity of the respondents and the nature of the study .data collected was then examined by the researcher and then tested.

**Interview method**-Interview method is type of data collection method where a person designated as interviewer asks question to the person designated as interviewee wither over telephone or face to face often.(Ahmad,2012).For this study unstructured interview process was followed to intentionally to give scope to respondents to keep their points are raise question from the conversation. Total of 30 respondents were taken out of 100 randomly are were asked 5 pre framed question related to objective of the study, and then decoding it and examining the data received.

## 1- Survey

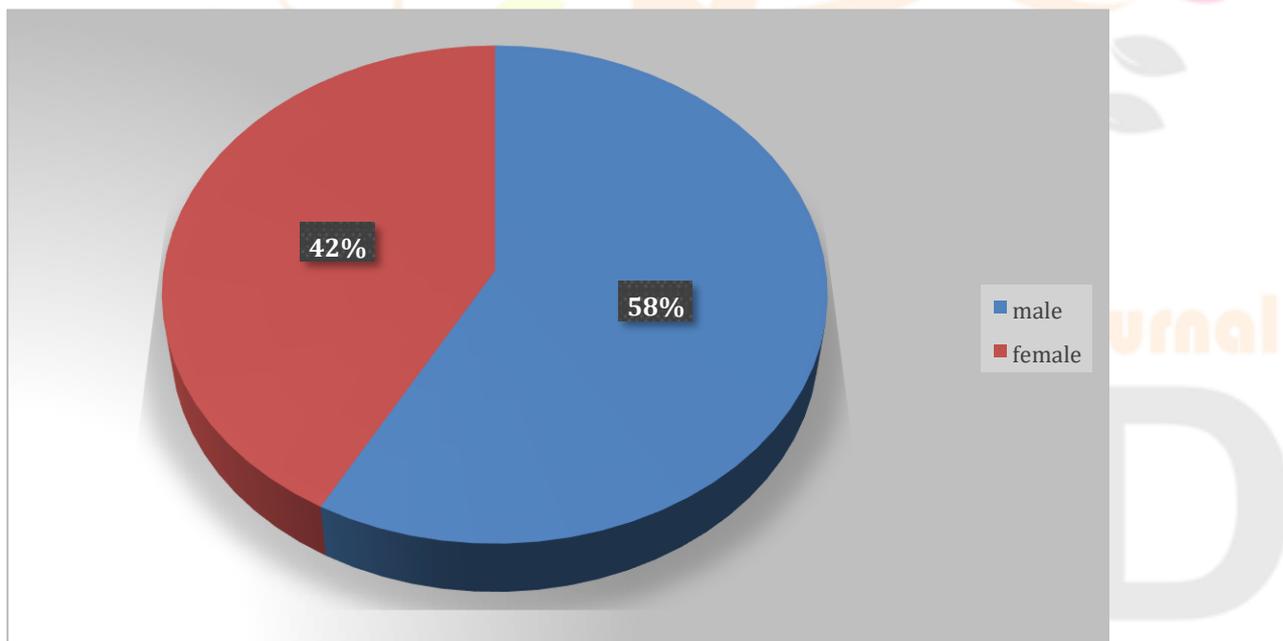
The total of 100 responses were taken into consideration out of 200 respondent, to carry out the study to see the impact of online education among rural students of EAST SINGHBHUM DISTRICT, Jharkhand.

The tabulation below will be the last and final source of the analysis.(the researcher confirms that data are true and no biased and is according to what is received by through the survey)

**Table 1.1**

Gender wise distribution of the respondents out of 100 samples who appeared in the survey.

Gender	No. of respondents	Percentage
Male	58	58%
Female	42	42%
Total	100	100%



The pictorial representation of the above pie chart or table 1 reveals the total number of respondents categorizing it with male(58%),female(42%) ranging from the age of 16-18 who enrolled themselves in rural school of EAST SINGHBHUM DISTRICT and answered the survey.

**Table 1.2****Representation of male respondents in selection of mode**

Mode	No. of male respondents	Percentage
Offline	53	91%
Online	5	9%
Total	58	100%

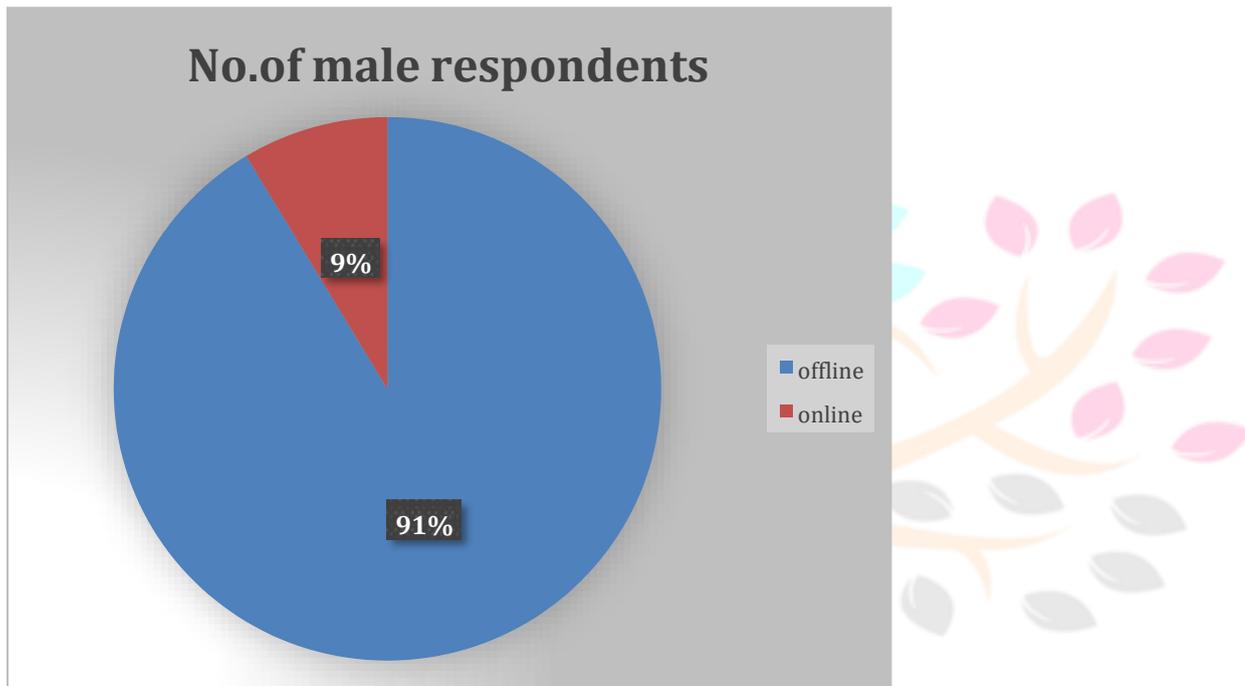


Table 1.2 reveals that out of 58 male respondents 53 of them (91%) opted offline mode followed by 5 respondents (9%) opted online mode.

**Table 1.3**

Mode	No. of female respondents	Percentage
Online	40	95%
Offline	2	5%
Total	42	100%

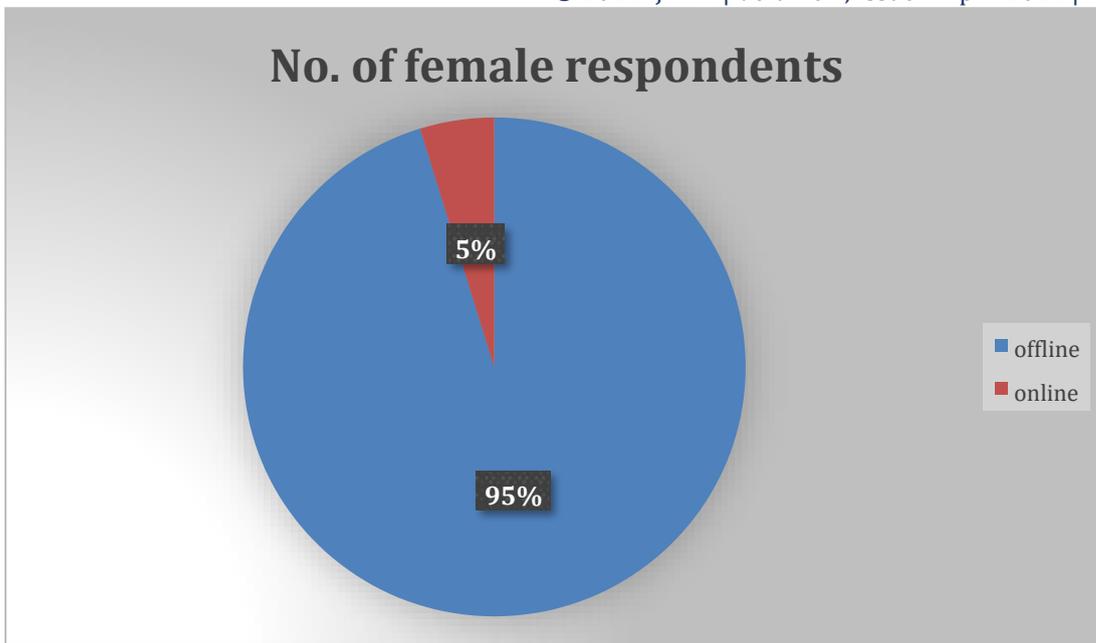


Table 1.3 shows that out of 42 female respondents 40 opted offline mode (95%) and 2 of them opted online mode (5%) **Table 1.4**

#### Over all representation of mode preference

Mode	No. of responses	percentage	Total
offline	93	93%	93
online	7	7%	7

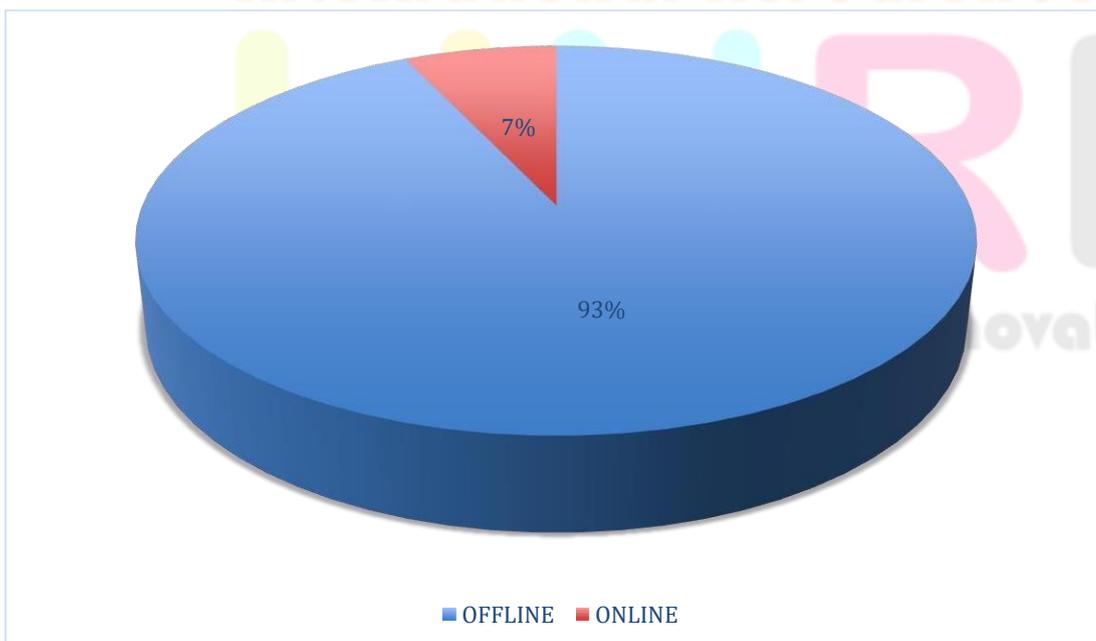


Table 1.4 shows the mode preference of the students who participated in the survey and answered the question-which mode of education do you prefer? Option-a-offline, option b-online. As per the data received 93% of the students preferred offline mode and only 7% students preferred online mode. This data clearly

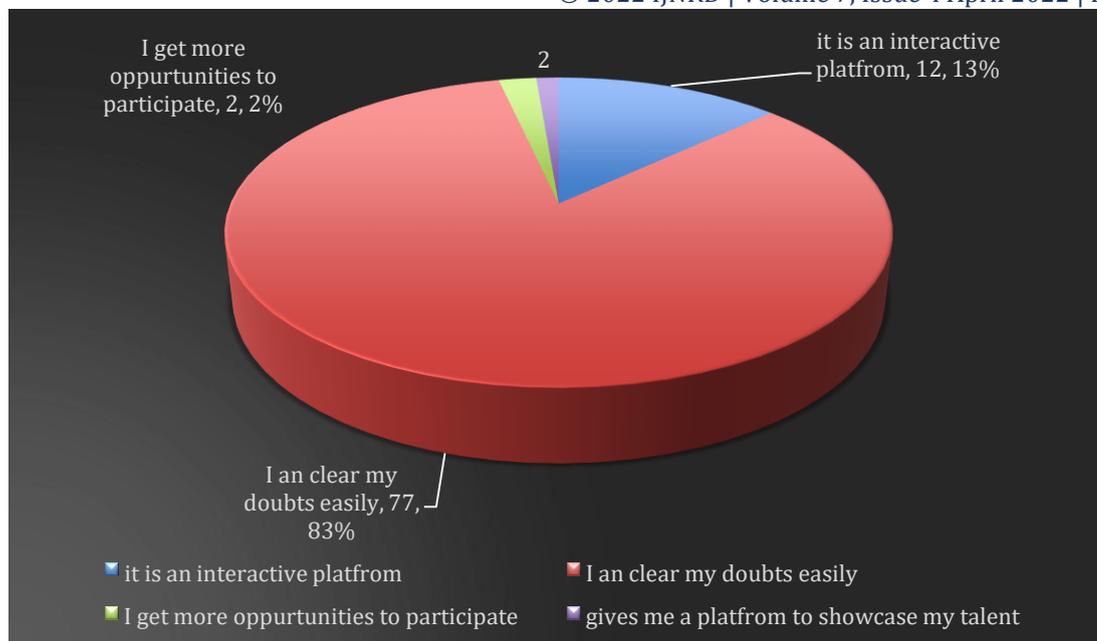
marks an overall impression of how much online mode is affecting the course of education, where more than 90% of the students are preferring offline mode for their education.

This table tries to find out the reason of the students opting for different mode of education.

**Table 1.5**

This table examines the reason why the students are opting for offline mode by answering the question-why do you prefer offline mode? Option a-it is an interactive platform of teaching, option b-I can clear my doubts easily,option c-I get more opportunities to participate ,option d-gives me a platform to showcase my talent

Reason for opting offline	No. of responses	percentage
it is an interactive platform of teaching	12	13%
I can clear my doubts easily	77	83%
I get more opportunities to participate	2	2%
gives me a platform to showcase my talent	2	2%
Total	93	100%



The above table represents the reason why 93 out of 100 respondents choose offline mode. It is clearly seen that the reason of clearing doubts (87%) leading followed by interactive teaching platform (9%) dominating the chart. The study that children are preferring offline mode because they fell more comfortable in clearing their doubt and also feels that the offline teaching or class room teaching gives a better platform to carry on the process of teaching. Clearing doubt or asking question is or can be considered as an integral part of two way communication in the field of pertaining education, clearing doubts helps in a number of way for the students as to clear the concepts and build a base, it makes a student –teacher bond between the sender and receiver.

Offline classes are no doubt a better teaching platform as teaching is considered as culmination of art and science(Madan,2020),where both the sender and the receiver needs to be under on terrace and exchange information for better understanding.

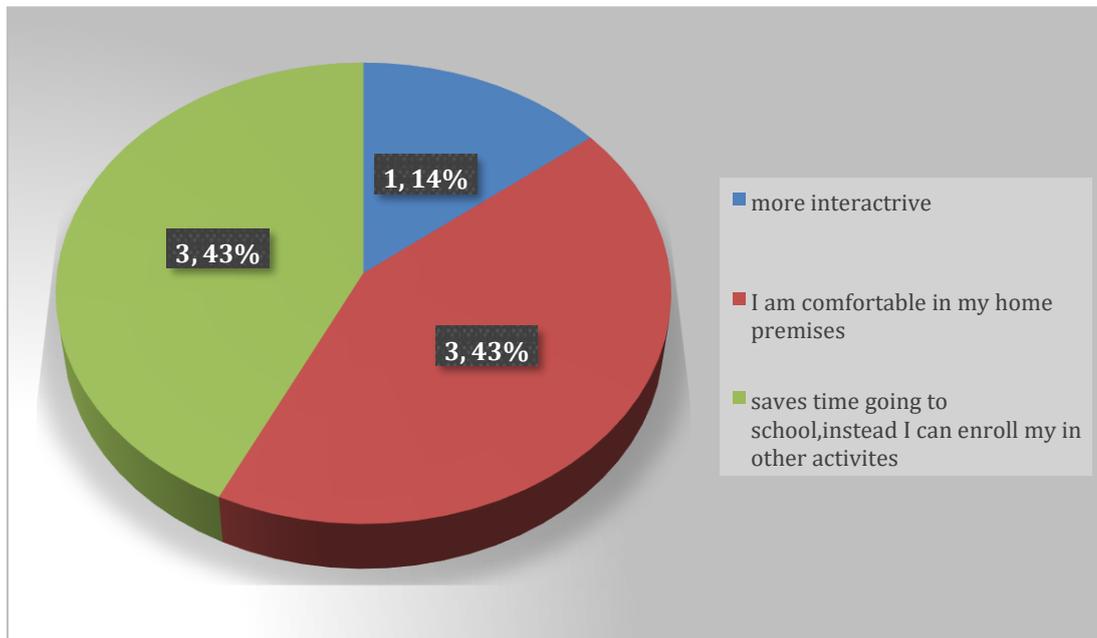
Apart from these two reason other reasons like getting more opportunities and providing platform were given 2% weightage each.

**Table 1.6**

This table will try to understand that why 7% of the population opted for online mode rejecting offline, to which the question was-why do you prefer online mode?-option a -more interactive, option b-I am comfortable in my home premises, option c-saves time going to school, instead I can engage myself in other co- curricular activities

Reason for opting online	No. of responses	Percentage
More interactive	1	14%
I am comfortable in my home premises	3	43%

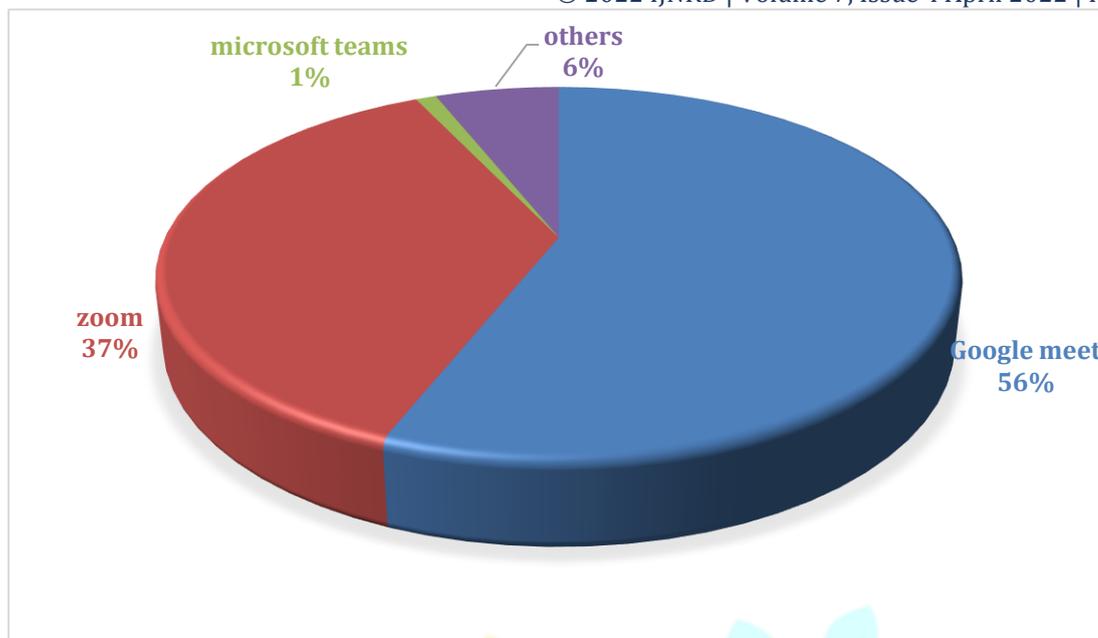
Saves time going to school, instead I can engage myself in other co-curricular activities	3	43%
Total	7	100%



The above pictorial representation shows that out of 7 responses 14% of the respondents choose that online medium is more interactive and 43% of the respondent preferred online because either they were comfortable at home or they think that they can utilize their time in other co-curricular activities rather going to school.

**Table 1.7**

Apps used	No. of responses	percentage
Google meet	56	56%
zoom	37	37%
Microsoft teams	1	1%
Others	6	6%
Total	100	100%



The following data examines and sees that among the options given google meet (56%) is mostly used by the students followed by zoom meeting (37%), Microsoft teams and other with total of 75% user. As due to the pandemic outbreak the online study procedure took a steep rise and thus an increase in the usage of online platform for the substitute teaching platform, the most prevailing among them was google meet.

**Table 1.8**

Table 1.8 examines that what are the difficulties faced by students during online classes, with gender wise distribution

Problem faced during online classes	No. of responses	percentage
Network issue	46	46%
No proper gadget(mobile ,laptop)	23	23%
Less class timing	11	11%
Distraction through notification pop ups	20	20%
Total	100	100%

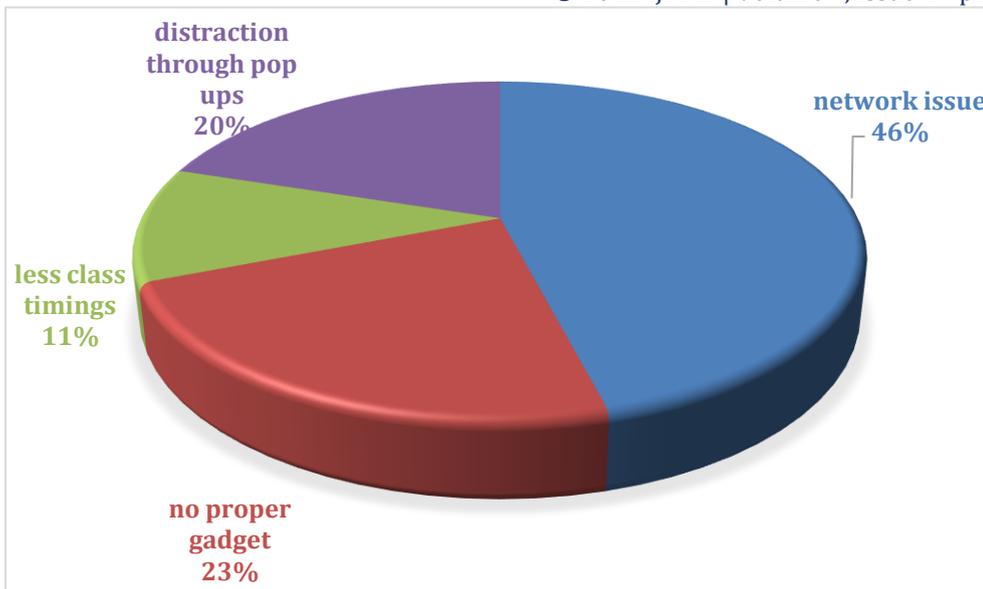


Table 1.8 examines the reasons upon what are the challenges faced during online classes, where put of 100 respondents 46% opted that due to lack of proper network, which is still a major concern to ponder upon specially among the rural parts of India more precisely its impact can be seen on backward states like Jharkhand .

23%of the respondents show that they don't have proper gadget to comply with the technically advance digital platform. The minimum requirement can be 8 gb ram and 128gb of internal space along with good internet connection for a smooth working of a digital media platform.

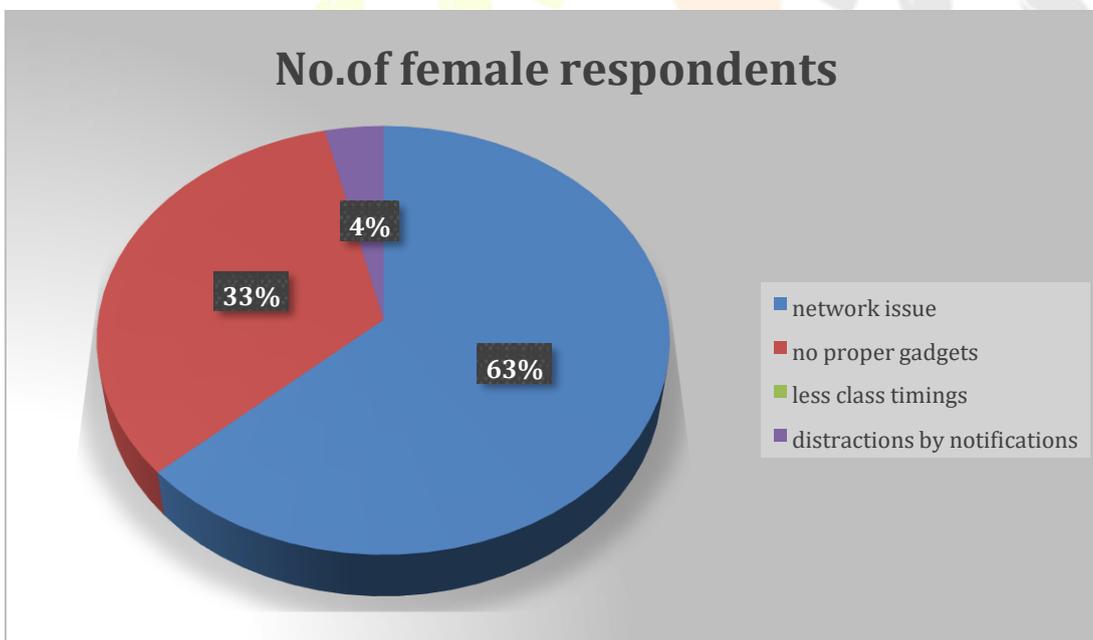
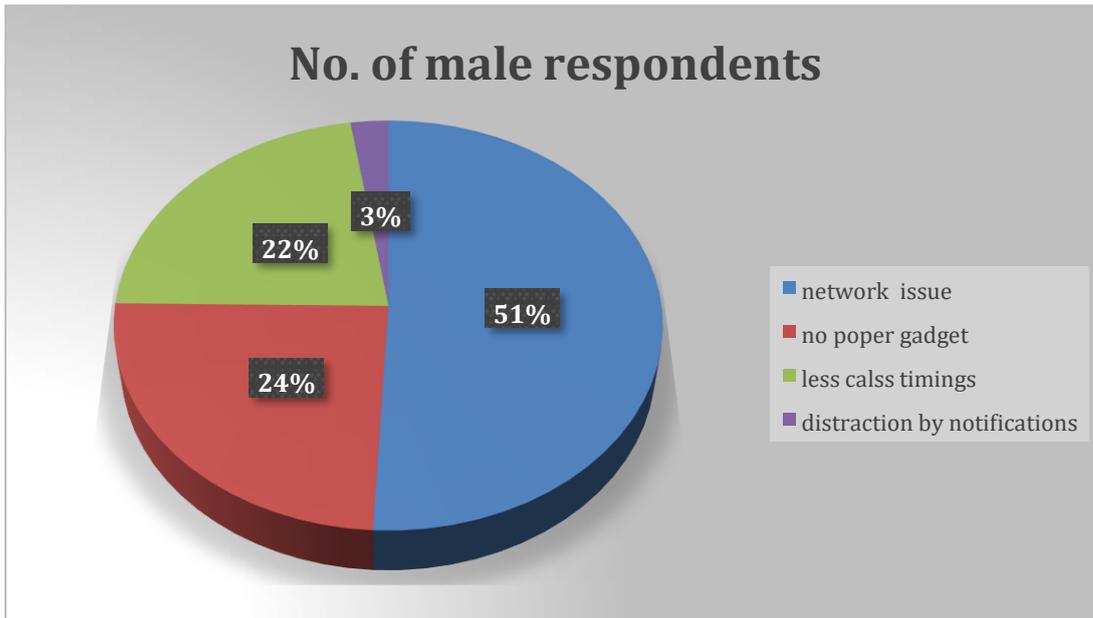
20% of the respondents told that they get distracted by the notification pop ups during the ongoing online classes. The distraction can cause a major diversion of the mindset of the student as concentration level is harmed during the process.

11% of the respondents told that the class timings are less in online mode as compared to offline classes were a minimum relaxation can be expected ,where as cut to cut time settings are there using online classes specially apps like zoom which provides a limited time period of 45 mins.

Problem faced	No. of male respondents	No. of female respondents
Network issues	25=51%	21=63%
No proper gadgets	12=24%	11=33%
Less class timings	11=22%	0

Distractions notifications	by	10=3%	10=4%
Total		58=100%	42=100%

**Table 1.9**



Out of total 100 respondents who answered the survey, the data reveals that most prevailing issue faced by the students irrespective of there is network problems especially in the rural areas.

## 2- Interview

Out of 100 respondents who answered the survey 30 were selected randomly for the interview process which consisted of pre framed generic question which the researcher wanted to discuss and evaluate without putting any barrier to the thoughts of the interviewee, so an unstructured approach was used.

**Int-Q-1-Why do you want offline classes?**

The concept of online classes gave a rise after the pandemic and lockdown process where it was seen that there was a huge demand and may be the online classes are can be an alternative way but can never replace the face to face offline teachings as per a report in Hindustan Times. Most of the students answered that offline classes give us the ambience to study, meet with friends and have some good time to spent and offline teaching give us a better participatory stage to perform and perceive .

**Int-Q-2-Do you think online education is better, you can stay in home premises comfortably?**

No,” we want to come to school as it is a place of recreation “a student commented as school is the place of recreation where diffusion of ideas of the young minds takes place. One student even told that “**ghar me rahenge to kaam karna parta hai**” which establishes that school also brings some kind of relaxation as they met, discuss ,learn and perceive knowledge together which on the other hand polishes their social as well as communication skills.

**Int-Q-3-What problem due you face in online mode?**

More than 90% of the students were at a conclusion that online mode of teaching as not affective and were mentally stressed. Parts of rural areas are deprived of general amenities that are required for a digital platform to work ,the often answer was lack of proper gadget as they were mostly from below the line category and their parents were either daily wage worker in TISCO, or constables and peons at schools and governmental organizations , so it was difficult for them to buy new updated gadgets ,second most answered pondered upon the lack of network and connectivity issue in their premises which create a communication barrier between the teacher and the students, thirdly the teacher who are not well trained was also a major factor for the lagging the process.

**Int-Q-4- What can the alternative option you think apart from online classes?**

During the peak of Covid pandemic it was not possible to make gatherings just to avoid transmission, so the online mode was opted by all the institution, but the rural part of the country was facing huge problems coping up with the new media. Asking upon the alternative way the students told the either the government should provide network connectivity and mobile phones to us ,or make us sit apart from each other following the Covid protocols of mask and sanitizers.

**Int-Q-5-How do you think online education has impacted you?**

No doubt the improvement and advancement of technology has given a robust pillar to the country but some sectors of the country still finds it difficult to cultivate knowledge out of it, majorly the people of rural parts and belonging to below the poverty line category is seen to be most affected in the process of academics.

Most of the students answered that “**kuch samajh nhi aata bhaiya**”(nothing can be understood) during the online classes and “**ek tarfa parate rahte hai sir aur class bhi jaldi khatam hojata hai**”(one way process and less class timings were their mean to say).

Thus it can be clearly stated that no matter how advance digital platform be, it is hampering the academic process of the rural students. In online classes pure network connectivity in rural areas create hindrance even in the middle of the class due to software bugs, software updates etc. (Dutta,2020)

## **FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS**

Online medium is a part of new media which is an integral part of now a day's life style especially in the field of education. After the outbreak of novel corona virus in 2020, the lockdown phase bought us a new way to perceive and gain knowledge using the online mode. The university grants commission through its advisory told all the institute to opt for online mode and mentioned that all faculties and university must inculcate ICT based technology as per feasibility ,for this universities like Guahati university used recorded lecture on platform like youtube, regular classes on google meet and zoom.(Dutta,2020).Though the rate of quality has impacted the quality of the education but looking at the condition created by the virus, the potential use of digital media was necessary .As mentioned earlier in the study, these platform demanded a proper internet network, a standard gadget which was matter of concern that was seen by researchers in rural part of India. Problem were arising as a question that how far are these platform of digital media helping the rural segment of the country specially for India who rural population stands at 833.1 million with an increase of 90.47 million as per census 2011,which becomes a matter to discuss that what is the impact odd online education among these population. Thus the statement becomes the research problem for this study.

To study the impact of online education among the rural students the researcher surveyed 100 students of the rural area and found-

- That most number of students were preferring offline mode(93%) of education over online mode(7%){table 1.2},this clearly displays that there must be some loop holes or draw backs to which the online mode is not being preferred
- The reason were collected that why a huge number of percentage is opting out for offline classes and after examining it was found that students were more comfortable in clearing their doubts and queries(approx. 83%)in offline mode where they are able to ask the respected faculty face to face which gives a add on advantage on grounds of discussion in comparison with online mode which provides limited scope as
- Most of the students think that due to lack of proper network and (46%), no proper gadgets (23%), distraction by notifications (20%) and less class timings (11%), were the major reasons why the digital platforms are still lagging behind in rural areas. □ Another study was done to see that which among the list of various digital platform is used among the rural section despite of such problems and it was seen that google meet (56%) followed by zoom meeting (37%) were mostly used.

- As per the interview data ,which revealed that poverty is directly proportional to the education received as the more income the capability of getting good phones and better network connectivity and vice versa.

## **CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Digital media is an integral part of today's education system, where on side India can be broadly divided into two parts the urban part and the rural part. The center of conflicts is created when a generalize concepts of communication is created by the policy makers, which on the ground level creates hindrances. One such decision was taken on the early stage of 2021 where the university grants commission through its advisory told all the institute to opt for online mode and mentioned that all faculties and university must inculcate ICT based technology as per feasibility ,for this universities like Guahati university used recorded lecture on platform like youtube, regular classes on google meet and zoom.( Dutta 2020),thus making it a problem for both teachers and students of rural area where as per the study above ,due to the network issue students could not avail the full potential out of the digital platform of learning. According to the study, the digital platform requires a good technical advanced gadget to comply with the digital media and as per report on Times Of India 1 out of 5 had smartphone and most their parents were either famers or daily wage laborers.

Thus the study critically examines the problem faced by the students in rural parts and show cases various problems faced during online classes, and found out that lack of network issue in rural parts is the biggest reason students are deprived from their education.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

As per study done, the researcher recommends –

- A better grass root level examination of the rural segment and then re propose the structure of online education, Government should try to widen its board band segment specially the government owns like BSNL to rural areas
- establish tower of broadband in rural areas where it is highly needed and also see the cost factor
- Special schemes should be launched to provide at least a minimum required mobile phone to all the registered students to them who will appear in boards
- Special training should be given to the teachers to make them fully equipped with the online mode

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## ANNEXURE 1

### Impact Of Online Education Among Rural Students Of East Singbhum

1. Your Gender?

Male

Female

Other

2. What is your age?

12-15

16\_18

above 18

3. Which mode of education do you prefer?

Online

Offline

Both

4. Why do you prefer online mode?(not for those who opted offline in the previous question)

due to Covid we are compelled to get education through online mode

more interactive



saves time and I be in comfort of my home

5. Why do you prefer offline mode?(not for those who opted online in the 3rd question)

interactive mode and better perception

more efficient in clearing doubts

I get more opportunities to participate

6. Which app do you use for online education?

Google meet

zoom

both

others

7. What problem do you face in online mode?

network issue

less class timings

distraction by notifications pop ups

All the above



## ANNEXURE 2

Q1-Why Do You Prefer Offline Mode?

Q2-Don't You Think Online Mode Is Better, You Can Stay At Your Home?

Q3-What Are Problem Faced By You During Online Classes?

Q4-What Can Be The Alternative Way According To You? Q5-What Is The Overall Impact Of Online Education To You?