

# Traditional Vs. Digital Education System: A study on perceptions of rural students of Coastal Karnataka.

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## **Abstract:**

Education sector in India has witnessed many stages in its evolution right from Guru –Shishya system to now Digital Education system. Instant Whatsapp messages also play a pivotal role in education system in recent times as Academicians and Students consider whatsapp as an authentic formal means of communication among them. Business of Photocopy outlets is seeing a set back as their businesses are taken off by screen shots. With the rapid growth of Digital media, the role of IT education has become extremely important. Classrooms are changing; methods of teaching are changing more and more each day due to the adoption of digital learning tools and technologies. Instead of using papers in the class room, tablets are being used in the class rooms. Elaborate software programmes have been used by the students instead of using pens.

This paper is an attempt made to understand the perceptions of rural students of coastal Karnataka about transition of education system from traditional to digitized approach. As smart phones are very common now a days everywhere, whether rural students prefer digital learning to traditional learning, what are the challenges faced by them, whether digital mode of education will best serve their interest or not are focal points of study in this paper. The study is empirical in nature. Both primary and secondary data is used for the purpose of study. Primary data is collected by conducting a survey among 125 students of rural villages of coastal Karnataka by using a structured questionnaire. Data is collected by directly interviewing a few rural students. Secondary data is incorporated from journals, newspapers and internet.

**Key words:** Traditional learning, Digital learning, Transition in education system, Perceptions of rural students.

**INTRODUCTION:**

Education sector in India has witnessed many stages in its evolution right from Guru –Shishya system to now Digital Education system. Instant Whatsapp messages also play a pivotal role in education system in recent times as Academicians and Students consider whatsapp as an authentic formal means of communication among them. Business of Photocopy outlets is seeing a set back as their businesses are taken off by screen shots. With the rapid growth of Digital media, the role of IT education has become extremely important. Classrooms are changing; methods of teaching are changing more and more each day due to the adoption of digital learning tools and technologies. Instead of using papers in the class room, tablets are being used in the class rooms. Elaborate software programmes have been used by the students instead of using pens. Digital education system is widely accepted by urban students who are technology savvy. Rural students of coastal Karnataka, though are not technologically highly advanced, they too are affected by the transition in the education system from traditional to digitized approach. Usage of smart phones with internet facility by students enables them to shift their preferences from class room lectures to video lectures. They are also used to browse vast study materials from different sources on the internet to gain more knowledge relating to the subject.

**OBJECTIVES OF STUDY:**

1. To study the perceptions of rural students of coastal Karnataka regarding transition in education system from traditional learning to digital learning.
2. To know the challenges faced by them in digital education system.
3. To analyse whether digital mode of education will best serve the interest of rural students of coastal Karnataka.

**SIGNIFICANCE OF STUDY:**

Technological advancements have brought massive changes in every sector of the economy, including the education sector. Approximately 60% of Indian population represents youth, who play a dominant role in building up the nation. Proper education system embedded with wide opportunities to showcase their talents will help them to face the challenges in the economic sector of the economy, most importantly in the employment sector. Keeping in mind the employment opportunities available in different sectors of the economy, digitalisation of education system is inevitable and the need of the day in India. No doubt education

system in India has witnessed several stages of transition over the years and now digitalisation of education system is the talk of the day. This paper focus on Perceptions of rural students coastal Karnataka regarding traditional and digital education system, which is paramount while making policy documents relating to rural education system.

## LITERATURE REVIEW:

- J.M. del Campo and V. Negro<sup>1</sup>, M. Nunez (2012) in their article titled “Traditional education Vs Modern education. What is the impact of teaching techniques' evolution on students' learning process?” Focused on evolution of education system from using chalks in traditional classes to the electronic board, video and network sources in the present system. They concluded stating uncertainty about the future of undergraduate students, as they are at crossroads and techniques of teaching and reasoning teachers try to use are changing every day. According to them, only time will decide which one is best, today we can only strive to find what is best for today.
- Ghanshyam and Inder Singh Thakur (2013) in their research article titled “IT Enabled Teaching over Traditional Classroom Teaching” tried to explain the advantages of usage of innovative technology over traditional teaching methods in higher education and concluded that the happy blend of both ie, traditional learning and self learning facilitated by innovative technology will produce better results.
- Ruth Lapsley et al.(2008) in their article on “Comparison of an On-line and Traditional Course: Is Identical Really Identical ? An Investigation of Equivalency Theory and Online Learning” investigated the validity of equivalency theory by comparing two human resource management courses one taught in class room and another taught online and found that Online learning is superior in its overall effect on the performance of students.

Several research studies were carried out by eminent scholars comparing Traditional and Modern education system in different parts of the world, but no specific study considering the perceptions of rural students of coastal Karnataka on Traditional Vs. Digital Education system is carried out so far. Hence this study is undertaken.

**RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:**

**Primary data:** Direct face to face interview with a few students and by conducting a survey among 125 rural students of coastal Karnataka studying in Dakshina kannada Udupi , and Uttara Kannada districts of Karnataka State.

**Secondary data:** Relevant information is incorporated from newspapers, journals and internet.

**HYPOTHESES OF STUDY:****I. Perceptions of students regarding the superiority of Education system**

H0: Rural Students of coastal Karnataka perceive that Modern Digital Education system is not superior to Traditional education system

H1: Rural Students of coastal Karnataka perceive that Modern Digital Education system is superior to Traditional education system

**II. Challenges and problems of Digital education system**

H0: There is no significant difference between male and female students as regards their opinions regarding the challenges in Digital education system

H1: There is a significant difference between male and female students as regards their opinions regarding the challenges in Digital education system

**LIMITATION:**

Main limitation of the study is time and resource constraints, due to which small sample of 125 students is chosen for study. Larger sample would give more appropriate information.

**DATA ANALYSIS:**

The data has been collected through a survey conducted by using a questionnaire among 125 students of rural villages of Dakshina Kannada, Udupi and Uttara Kannada Districts which are the important parts of coastal Karnataka. Convenience sampling method is used for choosing the sample. SPSS (20 version) is used for statistical purpose. Statistical techniques used for analysis are Percentage analysis, Mean, Standard Deviation, %Mean, weighted sum, and Chi-square test.

**Table 1: Demographic profile of Respondents**

Demographic factors	Classification	Number of Respondents	Percent
<b>Gender</b>	Male	65	52
	Female	60	48
	Less than 18	15	12

<b>Age group</b>	18 to 20years	52	42
	20 to 22 years	44	35
	22 years to 26 years	14	11
<b>Monthly income of the family</b>	Less than Rs. 15,000	26	21
	Rs.15,000-20,000	34	27
	Rs. 20,000-25,000	38	30
	25,000 &above	27	22

Source: Primary data

Table: 1 reveals that 52 percent of students covered under survey were male students and 48 percent were female students. That means more or less equal importance is given to both male and female students while choosing the sample. 42 percent of respondents belong to the age group of 18-20 years, 35 percent of respondents belong to the age group of 20-22 years. 11 percent of respondents belong to the age group of 22 to 26 years. It means that majority, 88 percent of respondents are majors and are matured enough to assess the system of education and quality of education. Table 1 also reveals that 30 percent of respondents families have Rs.20,000 to Rs.25,000 monthly income. 79 percent of respondents' families have more than Rs.15,000 monthly income. That means respondents surveyed belong to middle income class group.

**Table 2: Distribution of respondents on the basis of their perception regarding the education system**

<b>Modern digital education system is superior to traditional classroom education system</b>	<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Neither agree nor disagree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Strongly Agree</b>	<b>Mean/SD</b>	<b>%Mean</b>
	00 (0%)	00 (0%)	00 (0%)	85 (68%)	40 (32%)	4.32±.46883	86.4%

Source: primary data

Table 2 clearly reveals that, none of the respondents disagree or strongly disagree, 68 percent of respondents agree and 32 percent of respondents strongly agree that Modern education system is superior to traditional education system.

### Testing of Hypothesis:

#### I. Perceptions of students regarding the superiority of Education system

H0: Rural Students of coastal Karnataka perceive that Modern Digital Education system is not superior to Traditional education system

H1: Rural Students of coastal Karnataka perceive that Modern Digital Education system is superior to Traditional education system

The percentage mean shows that 86.4% ( $4.32 \pm .46883$  Mean and Standard Deviation) respondents strongly opine that Modern Digital Education system is superior to Traditional education system. Hence null hypothesis is rejected and alternative hypothesis is accepted. I therefore conclude that modern digital education system is considered superior by the rural students of coastal Karnataka.

**Table 3: Perceptions of respondents regarding their expectations from Present day education system**

Sl No	Expectations of Respondents from the present day education system
1	Giving class room lectures as in traditional class room system should not be blindly followed in today's education, particularly in higher education.
2	Students' sitting quietly in class rooms and teachers and professors giving lectures in class rooms, using chalk and talk method leads to boredom, distraction and chatting in the class rooms. Classes should be made interactive and interesting by using digital technologies. Notes and references should be sent to students through electronic media. Nobody has the patience and time to sit and write everything on papers or in notebooks in the class room.
3	Educators need to understand that modern youth are technology savvy. Instead of asking for hard copy submission of assignments and project reports, online submission of assignments and project reports should be encouraged.
4	Academic curriculum should include topics relating to electronic systems, latest gadgets etc which is better for students.
5	Insisting for 75% attendance of students in the class room is one of the stupid things. Students should be permitted to learn by their own. Their creativity and innovative ideas should be encouraged.
6	Teachers and professors should meet students' needs by integrating digital tools such as tablet, computer & smart phones etc.

**Source : Primary data**

From table 3, it is very clear rural students of coastal Karnataka are also influenced greatly by technological advancements. They expect changes in the education system, prefer to go out of the box from traditional learning to digital learning.

**Table 4: Respondents' consent level regarding some of the challenges of Modern Digital Education system**

Sl. no.	Challenges	Total Number of Respondents	Weighted Sum	Average Level of consent
1	Lack of Individual attention and motivation from teachers	125	483	3.864
2	Physical, emotional and disciplinary values are hardly seen in modern digital education system	125	491	3.928
3	Lack of electric supply, non-availability of internet facility, poor quality of hardware, software or e-content, and insufficient time to integrate ICT with the knowledge dissemination framework.	125	476	3.808
4	Problems relating to language, particularly difficulty in understanding English language and lack of computer knowledge	125	489	3.912
5	Lack of requisite infrastructure for ICT-enabled education: in rural areas	125	488	3.904
6	Inefficiency and lack of willingness of teachers to integrate ICT in existing curriculum	125	493	3.944

Source: primary data

The above Table-4 indicates that the average level of consent of the respondents was more than neutral state which is denoted by 3 with respect to all the challenges of Digital education system. It means that respondents' agree that they face certain challenges and problems in the modern digital education system.

**Table 5: Gender wise distribution of respondents regarding their perceptions about Challenges of Modern Digital education system:**

Statement	Gender	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree	Pearson Chi- square value
Modern digital education system poses certain challenges for rural students	Male	00	28	37	
	Female	00	60	00	
					38.875

Source: Primary data

## Testing of Hypothesis:

### II. Challenges and problems of Digital education system

H0: There is no significant difference between male and female students as regards their opinions regarding the challenges in Digital education system for rural students

H1: There is a significant difference between male and female students as regards their opinions regarding the challenges in Digital education system for rural students

Table 5 reveals that the calculated value of chi square is 38.875 which is greater than the table value, that is 13.816 in the 0.001 level of significance in the chi-square table, so I reject null hypothesis and accept the alternative hypothesis. Table 5 also reveals that, majority (37) male respondents and no (0) female respondents strongly agree, while only 28 male respondents, but all 60 female respondents agree that Modern digital education system poses certain challenges for rural students. Male respondents strongly agree, while female students just agree that Modern digital education system poses certain challenges for rural students. **I therefore conclude that there is significant difference in the opinion of male and female respondents regarding their opinions regarding the challenges in Digital education system for rural students.**

### FINDINGS:

- Rural students of coastal Karnataka perceive that Modern education system is superior to traditional education system.
- Rural students of coastal Karnataka are influenced greatly by technological advancements. They expect changes in the education system, prefer to go out of the box from traditional learning to digital learning.
- Physical, emotional and disciplinary values are hardly seen in modern digital education system
- Lack of requisite infrastructure for ICT-enabled education: in rural areas is a biggest challenge for digital education.
- Respondents' agree that they face certain challenges and problems in the modern digital education system.
- There is significant difference in the opinion of male and female respondents regarding their opinions regarding the challenges in Digital education system for rural students

### SUGGESTIONS:

- Teaching staff must be updated with latest technologies and innovations taking place in the field of education.

- Curriculum should be shaped around innovation and reinvention. Latest trends must be incorporated in curriculum to facilitate inner change in every student.
- Rural students' should adapt themselves to the changes taking place in the education system. They need to take more initiative towards digital learning
- There is a need to create adequate IT infrastructure in rural areas.
- Computer Software must be designed in both English as well as local language.
- Rural students should change their mindset towards learning process. They should use their tablets, smart phones etc to gain more academic knowledge rather than using them for chatting with friends.

## CONCLUSION:

Both traditional and modern digital education systems have their own limitations. There is no such thing as “Traditional Vs Modern digital education system”, it is a path that any one can reach destination by understanding the concept that matters. To quote Sri Swami Vivekananda, “Education is the manifestation of the perfection already in man” Learning is a social activity and hence teaching technologies should be used keeping in mind the interest of the society and the nation.

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