



“EXPLORING THE STATUS AND AWARENESS OF ONLINE CLASSES IN THE SCHOOLS OF KANDHAMAL DISTRICT DUE TO CORONA VIRUS LOCKDOWN”

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Abstract:-

Kids don't understand half of our activities even in the real classroom a teacher on a computer screen would hardly make sense to them, a teacher teaching the nursery children in Delhi said. The researcher had taken 10-self-made interview (by mobile phone) questions to six school teachers in Kandhamal district as his sample and the data were collected and recorded and found almost all teachers of Kandhamal district of Odisha (India) feel the children who had no money to purchase an android mobile phone how can they sit for online classes if most of the area had no mobile network.

Introduction:-

Staying at home and studying as if you are sitting in the actual classroom was a dream but now it became reality. About ten years ago when it was heard that one day is coming children will surprise hearing that students had to come to a building, called school, to study. All become possible due to COVID-19 lockdown that took a time when the term-end exams were about to be conducted. Principals must have asked teachers ensuring there must be communications with the children. That must have forced the teachers to download an app called “ZOOM” and interactions must have started.

Need and justification of the study:-

The researcher himself was fortune and privileged enough to sit in front of an android mobile phone with an APP to attend the PhD course work classes till end. So, the researcher was privileged to stay at Bhubaneswar, the state capital of Odisha. Children attended in the metro cities like Delhi and Mumbai can be understood; but what about students and the teachers who have very limited mobile network access or sometimes that don't have an android mobile phone in the schools like tribal region like in Kandhamal district? This raised enthusiasm to the researcher to explore their status of further communication once the district shutdown/ lockdown was declared and also about the promotion procedures of the children etc.

Objectives:-

- To find out and measure the level of awareness on online classes in Kandhamal district.
- To explore the status of online classes in the schools of Kandhamal district.

Methodology:-

For the current studies the researcher has surveyed and chosen six different schools located elsewhere in Kandhamal district as the sample.

Tool:-

Interview was made by the help of mobile phone and recorded for transcription. The researcher developed self-made interview questions of ten numbers and data were collected.

Data analysis and interpretations:-

In the tabulation A,B,C,D,E and F represent the six teachers respectively of Srirampur school, of Barakhama school, of Kotagarhschool, of Tikabali school, of G.Udaygiri school and of Phulbani school.

Item wise analysis :

1-Awareness of online mobile phone classroom(Awareness)	A	B	C	D	E	F			
2-Notice of the higher authority (Awareness)	v	v	v	v	v	v			
3-mobile network (Status)	x	v	v	v	v	v			
4-Internet facility (Status)	x	v	v	x	v	v			
5-No of students studied (More then 10) (Status)	x	x	v	x	x	v			
6-parent's access to mobile network (status)	x	x	x	x	x	x			
7-parent's access to internet facilities (Status)	x	v	x	x	v	v			
8-School being shut down (reason)(Status)	x	x	x	x	x	v			
9-School Reopening (status)	x	x	x	v	x	v			
10-student's promotion (Criteria) (Awareness)	x	v	v	x	x	v			

Table-2:-

Teacher-wise analysis between awareness and status of online classes in Kandhamal district.

TEACHERS' NAME	AWARENESS (%)	STATUS (%)
A	30	0
B	100	29
C	100	29
D	100	29
E	67	43
F	100	72

INTERPRETATION :(Table-1 and table-2):-

From table -1 and table-2 it was evident that most of the schools of Kandhamal district and their teachers were aware about the online classes; but their status to be involved in online classes was less than 50% except a teacher from Phulbani may be because of the district head quarter and the internet facility there. That means there was a partial status of online classes in Kandhamal district because of the fact that:

- 1-absence of mobile phone of the parents.
- 2-absence of mobile network of the interior parts of the district.
- 3-absence of internet facility of the parts of district.

Major findings:-

Objective-1

To find out and measure the level of awareness on online classes in Kandhamal district.

The researcher found that the teachers found difficulties in arranging online classes, almost all schools of Kandhamal district due to thesevere lack of awareness in remote area. This happened due to the fact that the interior areas are yet to be communicated.

Objective-2

To explore the status of online classes in Kandhamal district.

The researcher found that most of the interior area are yet to get mobile networks and if in few places network is present, teachers revealed that, there is no internet facilities even 2G/3G broadbands.

Unless it was 4G network and an android mobile set how an online class was possible, they questioned.

Discussion:-

Sometimes in the past, Kandhamal district was known for the people (poor) die after eating the mango seeds as food. It was exceptional to expect mobile sets to see online classes from them.

Second, it was hard to expect mobile network with internet from the parent point of view. Due to lockdown all children who were in govt hostels (tribalboys/girls hostels) sent back to their interior area. School might have been in the network area but the locations of the children are not. So online classes are dream for them.

Conclusion:-

Worldwide the online classes are not common. Even Maharashtra govt. Education Minister says that online classes are for the children who are near the network of mobile connection. What about them who do not access to internet or poor people from Vidarbha, the Minister asked the reporter. The minister stressed that for these poor children school classroom is absolute necessary.

So, a day should come children all over India should be learning staying at home by the use of online system in the digital mode.

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