A possible game-changer: E-learning an achievable dream of quality education Post Covid

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Abstract: The trends in education are ever-transforming and gaining importance with the acquisition of skills and applying the learnings to real-life situations. There is a dire to need to change from learning in the classroom to expanding horizons in learning. Technology dependency is the main foresight to rethink, innovate or visualize solutions to bring a positive change in the process. Active interest in offline has taken a U-turn in compelling to learn through electronic resources and become self-empowered, and digitally literate. Being technologically involved in learning is crucial for well-round development. Adaptability, Problem-solving, team collaboration, communication, time management, creativity, and innovation are basic skills expected in the current scenario. The inclusion of technology is a redesigned learning experience that not only should be a replica of offline class but a virtual class with digital experience for cognitive skill enhancement. Though online education was an introduction during the pandemic, gradual growth is seen exponentially not leaving education at a standstill. Inclusion of lectures by global experts, conferences and webinars, and other online material has been a need of the hour in the Covid times. This paper mainly focuses on the e-learning strategies, upskilling, and reliability of the online sources that helped during the pandemic for career development.

Keywords: Acquisition of skills, Digitally literate, Problem-solving, Team collaboration, Communication, Time management, Creativity, Innovation, and Cognitive skill enhancement

1. INTRODUCTION

Knowledge dissemination is a continuous process and it gained a lot more important with the widespread of the pandemic in 2019. Then the emergence of online education dominated the sphere and was compelled to get accustomed to the online environment. That was the time when there was an opportunity to explore the full potential in academics and update my skills. E-learning is the new normal in the education process. The world was at a standstill during the pandemic where no road for education was clear. Students, teachers, and other learners were able to fill the gap despite the utter disappointment of the Covid spread. The online classes were conducted and students were on track through electronic devices like laptops, desktops, smartphones, etc. Redesigning the learning experience with the inclusion of technology created a greater impact in understanding and mastering the skills. In the knowledge age of education, mastering various skills is the need of the hour. It is a time for a learner or an individual to get transformed digitally with the learning process in a modern era of learning. It is important to gain skills that are applied in relation to the context and the know-how of the skills. New skills such as process-oriented skills, communication skills, problem-solving skills, and critical thinking skills are essential in the current learning system. The learning environment has taken a new step in extending beyond the four walls along with virtual learning. It also gained importance in attending various technologies that support the learning by redefining the boundaries for teaching and learning to get equipped with Global standards.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

This study is based on the analysis of skills that are dominant in the current learning trend and the implementation of the scales and standards either in education or in the profession. The basic skill set for achieving quality education is a combination of Digital literacy, Cross-cultural diversity, Critical Thinking, Teamwork and Leadership, Problem-solving ability, Creativity and innovation, Reading comprehension ability, and Self-Regulation. Students need a new set of skills to make their way in a complex and constantly evolving future (Craig 2012). Apart from this digital learning and developing self-confidence in conveying a message, critical thinking capability, and cognitive ability have become part and parcel in the transformed learning process. Learning is a combination of skill development and application of the subject in a real-time situation. This involves the combination of facts and ideas, implementation of concepts by analyzing for a particular outcome is involved with critical thinking. The literature on online learning skills is based on the assumption that the new century requires different skills for individuals to function effectively in every walk of life (Ananiadou & Claro 2009). Careful observation of the problem and enhancing the capability to analyze by executing the solution with different approaches as a "feather in a cap" for any learner in the independent learning environment

Online learning during the pandemic speeded its wings to a greater extent such that the upskilling of an individual is a value addition not only in education but also at the workplace. Online courses have been found to be conducive to students who favor self-regulated learning (You & Kang, 2014) A thorough understanding of the content influences the learner to cognition for better Learning outcomes. There is a multitude of options for students to work collaboratively and cooperatively with other learners and/or the instructor in live debates, reflective journal entries, peer reviews, discussion boards, and video or audio teleconferencing (Savenye, 2005). ICT literacy is significantly crucial to many learners in the digital era.

3. NEED FOR THE STUDY

The need for the study is to identify the avenues in online learning for achieving the quality education that is essential in the current learning scenario which makes a learner become self-equipped and self-reliant in various digital tools and technologies. Digital skill acquisition is the most crucial aspect in the current scenario that contributes for long-term success.

4. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To identify the opportunities that are essential in online education for enhancing the performance
- To analyze the new skills and knowledge domains that are necessary for the present learning process in the digital era

5. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

A structured questionnaire was used in gathering relevant data from the Under Graduates, Post Graduates respectively. Questionnaires were collected that were filled by the respondents for the study.

6. DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

1. I am able to learn better in the electronic mode of communication.
Table 1. Electronic mode of communication

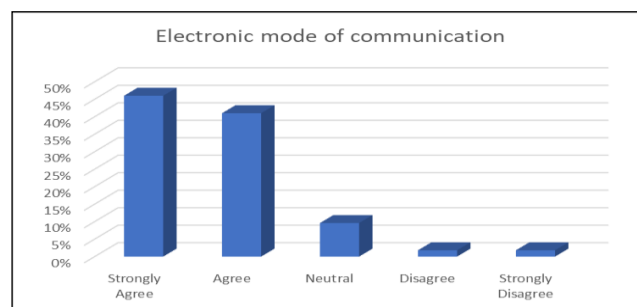| Option	Electronic mode of communication
Strongly Agree	46%
Agree	41%
Neutral	9.60%
Disagree	1.80%
Strongly Disagree	1.80%

Fig 2: Electronic mode of communication

Interpretation:
From the above representation, 87% responded that they are comfortable with the electronic mode of communication. The skills help to accelarate the progress in their career.

2. I am interested in working with groups online if any task is assigned with internet associated activities.
Table 3. Working in groups

Option	Working in groups
Strongly Agree	31%

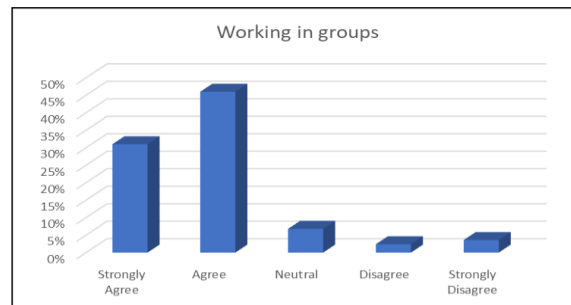| Agree	46%
Neutral	6.80%
Disagree	2.40%
Strongly Disagree	3.60%

Fig.4. Working in groups

Interpretation:
Majority of the respondents expressed that they are interested to work online with internet associated tasks. This makes them to be more perfect with the digital mode in learning.

3.   I am enthusiastic to learn new online courses/trending technologies/web applications in computers to make my study easy and stay competitive.

Table 5. New technologies

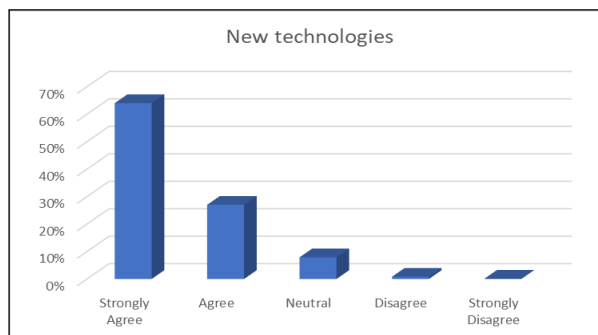| Option	New technologies
Strongly Agree	64%
Agree	27%
Neutral	7.90%
Disagree	0.80%
Strongly Disagree	0.10%

Fig.6. New technologies

Interpretation:
From the above graph, it can be observed that 91% of the respondents expressed that they are flexible enough to learn new online courses/trending technologies/web applications in computers. This shows that they are enthusiastic about acquiring new skills for enhancing their performance.

4.   I support for team performance as it is enhanced with openness and transparency for better productivity studied/worked online.

Table.7. Team performance

Option	Team performance
Strongly Agree	48%

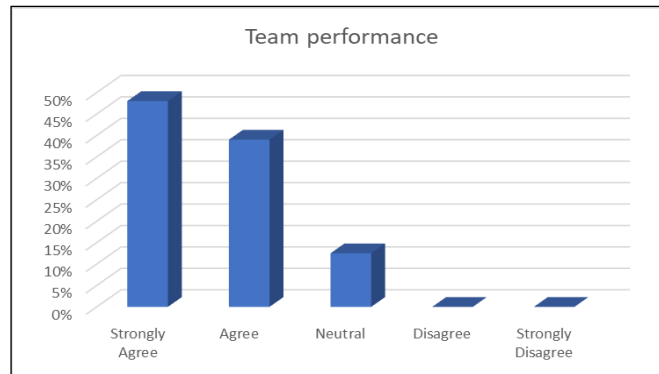| Agree	39%
Neutral	12.50%
Disagree	0.00%
Strongly Disagree	0.00%

Fig7. Team performance

Interpretation:

From the above representation, it can be observed that 87% of the respondents expressed that team performance is enhanced with openness and transparency for better productivity online. This also helps them to learn new concepts and share their views with oneness among the team members.

5. **I am interested to undergo various forms of online training in my course work to keep my skills updated.**

Table.8. Updating of skills

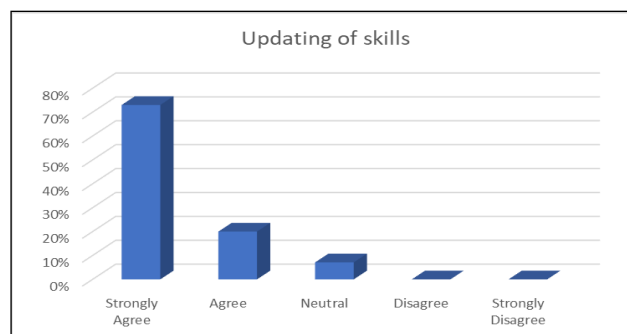| Option	Updating of skills
Strongly Agree	73%
Agree	20%
Neutral	7.10%
Disagree	0.00%
Strongly Disagree	0.00%

Fig.9. Updating of skills

Interpretation:

From the above representation, it can be inferred that 93% of the respondents are interested to undergo online training programs for updating their online skills. Skill development creates a greater advantage for a learner both in personal and professional careers.

6. **I believe that team members appreciate each other's unique capabilities for better motivation.**

Table 10. Team Appreciation

Option	Team Appreciation

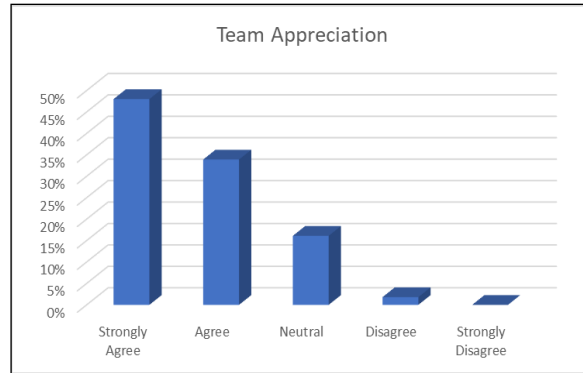|	
Strongly Agree	48%
Agree	33.90%
Neutral	16.10%
Disagree	1.80%
Strongly Disagree	0.00%

Fig.11. Team Appreciation

Interpretation

81% of the respondents shared their view that recognizing the effort of every member in the team inspires them and motivates them to perform better in learning and can yield good results at the workplace if worked in teams or as an individual.

7.   I believe that team members should be flexible enough and adaptable to the digital environment according to their needs.

Table.12. Adaptability

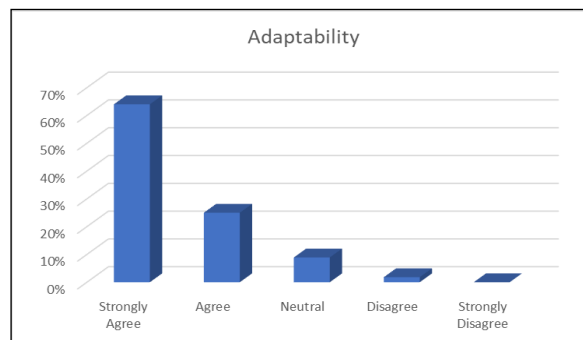| Option	Adaptability
Strongly Agree	64%
Agree	25.00%
Neutral	8.90%
Disagree	1.80%
Strongly Disagree	0.00%

Fig.13 Adaptability

Interpretation:

From the above graph, it can be observed that 89% of the respondents have expressed that they are adaptable to the situation to get accustomed to the digital-learning environment in the organization.

8.   I believe that online reading also helps to improve general awareness and helps to develop confidence.

Table 14. Reading as a habit

Option	Reading as a habit

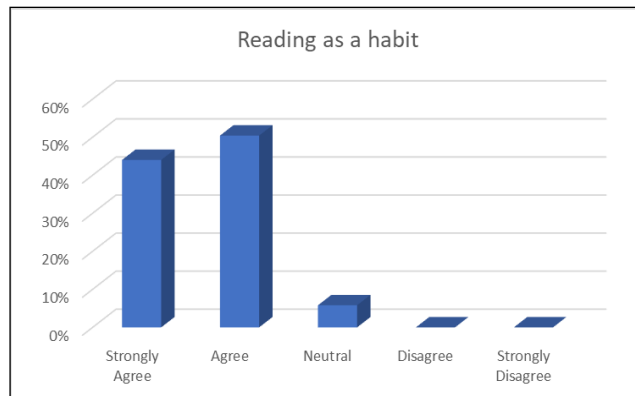| Strongly Agree	44%
Agree	50.40%
Neutral	5.80%
Disagree	0.00%
Strongly Disagree	0.00%

Fig. 15. Reading as a habit

Interpretation:
From the above graphical representation, it can be observed that above 90% of the respondents agree that online reading also helps to improve general awareness and helps to develop confidence as cultivating reading as a habit increases memory, attention, and vocabulary.

9. **I can make my own notes after reading the content from the digital and other web resources available for my subjects.**
Table.16. Self-preparation

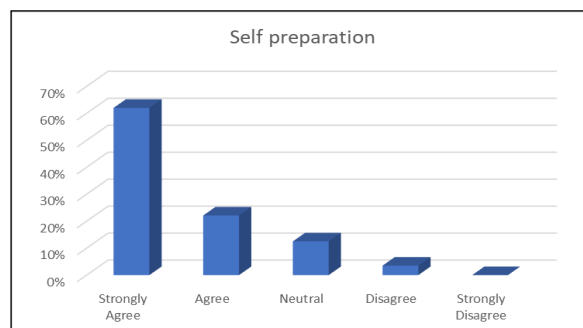| Option	Self-preparation
Strongly Agree	62%
Agree	22.10%
Neutral	12.50%
Disagree	3.50%
Strongly Disagree	0.00%

Fig 17. Self-preparation

Interpretation:
The majority of the respondents agree that they are capable of making their own study material after reading the content from the digital and other web resources available for the subjects.

10. **Online learning transformed me to think of different ways to interact respectfully and fluently with individuals and groups.**
Table 18. Communication in groups

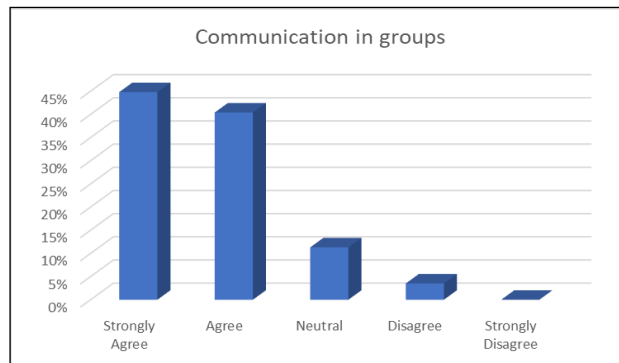| Option	Communication in groups
Strongly Agree	45%
Agree	40.40%
Neutral	11.30%
Disagree	3.50%
Strongly Disagree	0.00%

Fig.19. Communication in groups

Interpretation:
From the above graphical representation, it can be observed that the majority of the respondents agree that they are interested in communicating with other individuals fluently and respectfully learning online as it creates an everlasting impression on the receiver.

11.   I am actively involved in initiatives that promote online interaction and understanding among members of diverse groups.
Table .20 Diverse Communication

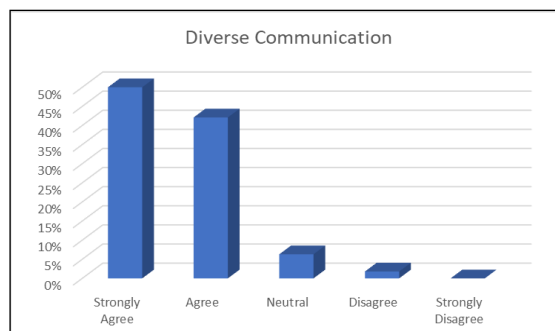| Option	Diverse Communication
Strongly Agree	50%
Agree	42.10%
Neutral	6.30%
Disagree	1.80%
Strongly Disagree	0.00%

Fig 21. Diverse Communication

Interpretation:
The majority of the respondents agree that they are actively involved in initiatives that promote online interaction and understanding among members of diverse groups. This shows that the respondents are interested to communicate with others either in groups or as an individual.

12.   I continue to develop my capacity for learning where there are gaps in my knowledge.
Table 22. Self-interest in Learning

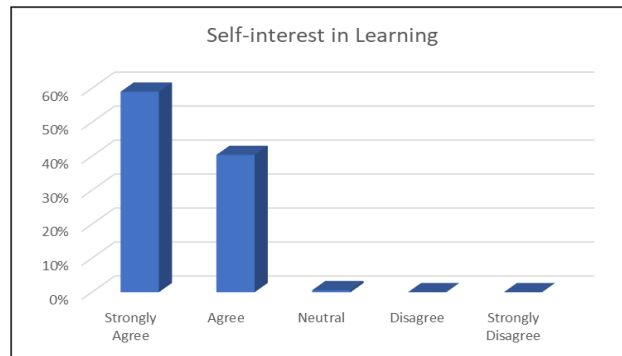| Option	Self-interest in Learning
Strongly Agree	59%
Agree	40.40%
Neutral	0.60%
Disagree	0.00%
Strongly Disagree	0.00%

Fig.23. Self-interest in Learning

13.	I believe online communication is also effective and conveys most of my message to another person.
Table 24. Level of Interaction with others

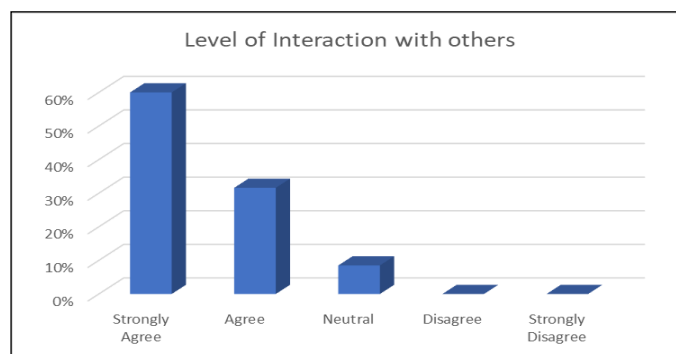| Option	Level of Interaction with others
Strongly Agree	60%
Agree	31.60%
Neutral	8.50%
Disagree	0.00%
Strongly Disagree	0.00%

Fig.25 Level of Interaction with others

Interpretation:
From the above graphical representation, it can be observed that 91% of the respondents believe the words that they choose in online communication with another person convey most of the message. This shows that they are well acquainted with digital communication skills.

7.   FINDINGS AND OBSERVATIONS

• Majority of the respondents are enthusiastic about gaining problem-solving skills that make the learners develop out-of-the-box thinking and enhance their intelligence.

• From the survey, it is observed that 80% of the respondents are good at online reading as it helps to increase general awareness and confidence.

• From the survey, it is observed that digital literacy influences a person and creates a better image of an individual. The vocabulary, context, and style of online etiquette in communication play a significant role in conveying the message to the receiver.

• Self-regulation and interest in learning makes a learner develop problem-solving skills and be adaptable to the online environment by developing new insights into the situation or the environment

8.   RECOMMENDATIONS

• In view of the findings of the study, the learners should be able to overcome a few of the challenges, especially in the area of the latest skillset to be acquired based on the situation demanded

• In summarizing, it is the need of the hour to get accustomed in the technologically transformed era along with digital skills and ICT literate to have a sustainable competitive advantage and a positive growth in one's future endeavours.

CONCLUSION

As per findings and observations an online skill ran an extra mile in education and is an excellent opportunity for the learners during the Covid-19. It created a positive impression to supersede the traditional learning methods. The learning process is on the horizon these days as the knowledge, ability, and skills of the learner are the main consideration. If utilized to the fuller extent available, it is a boon in the pandemic. The virtual learning environment is the new trend and spread to the extremes. To become a competitive learner, digital education is the necessary step to be taken for future opportunities and become adaptable as it is available at every step. So, it is high time to get accustomed to all the possible means of the latest tools and techniques to modernize in the aspect that makes our personal and digital life convenient and comfortable.

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