

**REPORT OF THE STUDY ON ‘MULTIPLE IMPACT OF COVID-19 AMONG
STUDENTS OF NMSM GOVERNMENT COLLEGE, KALPETTA’**

**This study was conducted by Internal Quality Assurance Cell, NMSM Government
College Kalpetta, Wayanad.**

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SARS-CoV-2 aka COVID 19 virus has affected the lives of people all over the world. Identified as flu initially, it has been declared as a pandemic by World Health Organisation approximately within a month of its outbreak. Most of the countries have been affected by the virus. People across the world have succumbed to the onslaught of the malevolent virus as the nature of the contagion had not been properly recognised by the researchers initially. To safeguard people from infection of the virus, which has a fatality rate of 2 percentage, and spreading rate many multiples than its fatality, most of the countries have opted for a lockdown. India, being one of the most populated countries in the world, also followed the suit. The first nation-wide lockdown of our country extended for 21 days - from 24th March 2020. Kerala, the state which had reported a higher number of cases by then, implemented a lockdown in the state a day before, i.e. on 23rd March 2020 to 31st March 2020 which was extended because of the nationwide lockdown. When it comes to educational institutions the lockdown has been extended for more than a year due to the fear of massive spread of the virus among students. Though higher education institutions became partially opened for some months in the beginning of 2021, on account of the second wave of COVID 19, which has mutated into many different variants namely alpha to delta, all of them were forced to close their gates. In such a situation, in order to continue the process of learning without a break, educational institutions have to follow only one option – online learning. But in a country like India, which has a huge digital divide, the success rate of online education is still under question. The situation in Kerala, despite being a state that has high literacy rate in the country, is also not different. Many students fail to get access to online learning even today. According to some recent studies it is found that students from marginalized communities suffered the most. In such a situation the Internal Quality Assurance Cell of NMSM government college has decided to conduct a study among the students to understand how COVID has impacted their lives in different dimensions.

The main reason to conduct such a study is the geographic peculiarities of Wayanad that limit the internet accessibility to certain special zones in the district. Members of tribal

communities and other marginalized sections make the major part of the student population. So the study has been carried out with a view to understand the difficulties the students face during the online learning phase. But the study was not limited to academic dimension alone. Economic and health aspects of students during this phase have also been investigated.

About the College

NMSM College, a premier institution in Wayanad under the direct control of Government of Kerala was established in the year 1981. The college was started in a rented building at Kalpetta. In the year 1983, the College moved to its permanent building at Vellaramkunnu. The College is committed to serving the economically and socially marginalized sections of society and provides university education for students, especially those belonging to Wayanad and nearby districts. The college currently has 6 Bachelor Degree programmes and 4 Master Degree programmes. The college has been striving towards excellence by periodically offering more courses and other academic and extra-curricular activities since its inception.

Background of the study

The study was conducted among both undergraduate and postgraduate students of the college. The approximate number of the students in the college is 800, in which 512 students have responded to the survey. Among the respondents 389 are female students and 123 are male. While 442 graduate students participated in the survey, 70 are from post graduate programmes. The respondents belong to 18-24 age groups. Most of the respondents are from Wayanad, District. But there are students from other districts too, mostly from Calicut, Malappuram and Kannur. The duration of the study spans from the last week of July to the first two weeks of August 2021. Due to the pandemic condition, the study was conducted through online mode. A questionnaire containing 37 questions, which was further divided into 4 sub-sections, in order to study the impact of COVID 19 in different dimensions, were circulated among the students. The dimensions studied are Academic, Economic and Health. First part of the questionnaire contained demographic details of the

respondents; second part was about their academics which mainly focused on understanding digital divide and efficacy of online mode of teaching. The third part covers the Economic aspects of students with regard to their family's current economic situation and impact of COVID on their family's economic status. The fourth section deals with health related questions including both physical and psychological issues of students during the pandemic situation.

Analysis

The study was conducted to analyse the impact of COVID 19 in various dimensions of the life of college students. Analysis of the study is as follows:

3.1. Impact of COVID 19 in academic and overall learning experience

A total of 512 students responded to the study. All of them are attending online classes. Most of them (506) are using mobile phones to attend online classes. However, there are some students who use Laptop (4), Personal Computer (1) and Tab (1). Chart 3.1.1 shows the percentage of devices chosen to be used by students. It can be seen that compared to the percentage of mobile phones (99%), percentage of all other devices (less than 1%) are negligible.

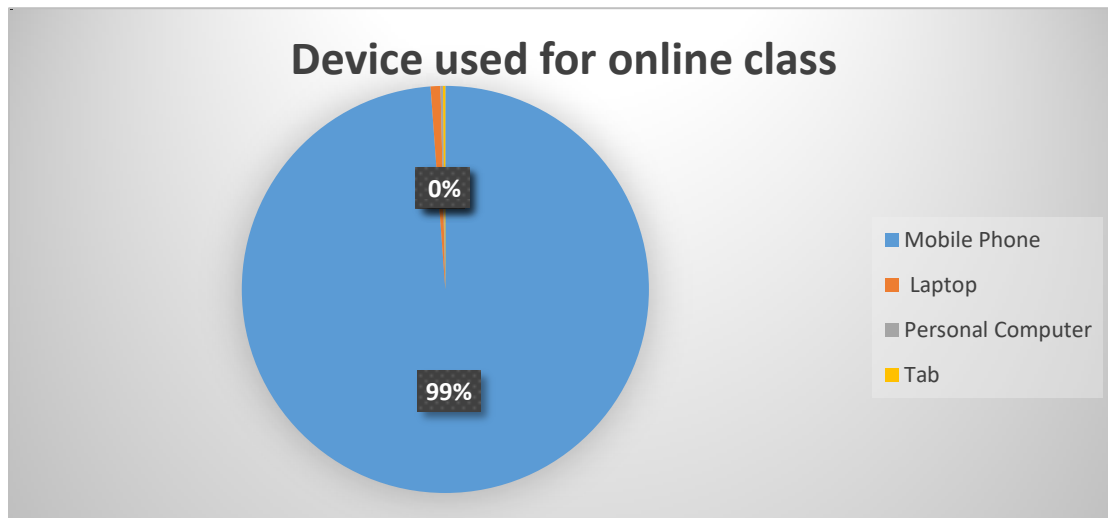


Chart 3.1.1. Device used for online class

463 respondents are using their own device for attending online lessons but 49 responded that they are not using their own device. Among the 49 students who do not have their own device, 38 are sharing it with one of their family members and 11 are sharing with two of their family members. It is understood from the response that all the respondents who are sharing their device either share it with their mother or with their siblings who are also students.

393 responded that they face difficulties in attending online classes and 119 responded they face no issues. The issues faced by 393 respondents include network connectivity issues (332), financial issues (27), issues related to gadgets (12). 22 respondents face all the issues mentioned in the options. The percentage analysis of the same is depicted in the pie-diagram 3.1.2.

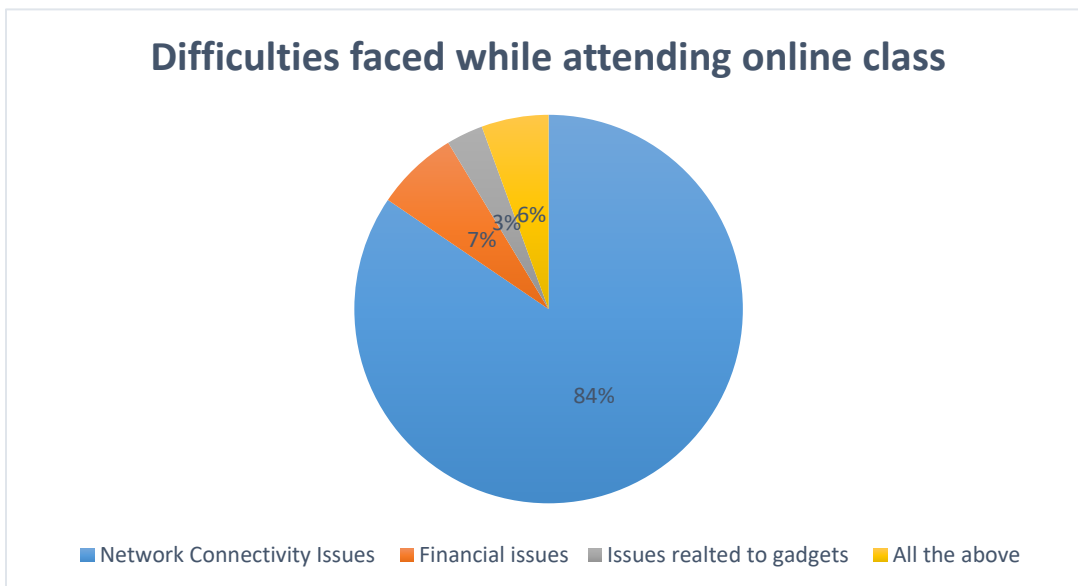


Chart 3.1.2. Difficulties faced while attending online class

315 students responded that they are not satisfied with the online class. However, 197 responded that they are satisfied. According to percentage analysis 68% are satisfied and 32% are not satisfied (Chart 3.1.3.).

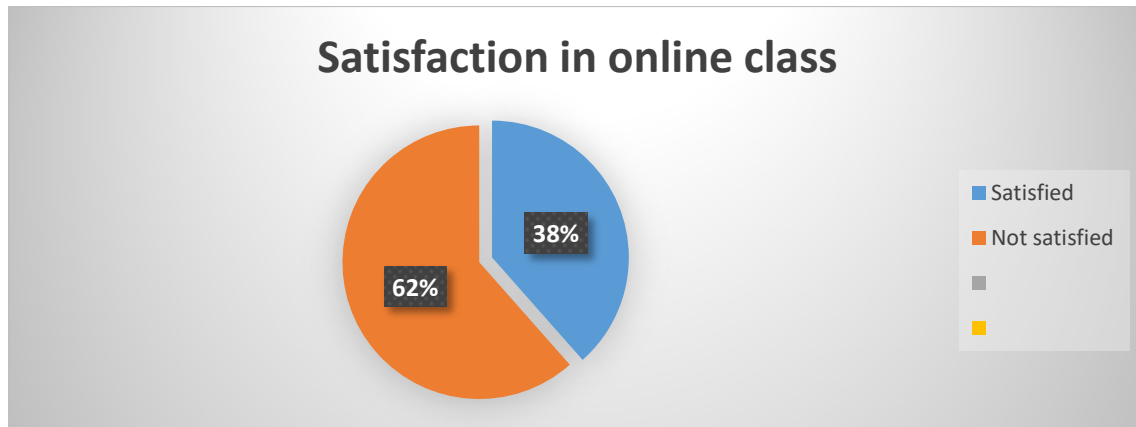


Chart 3.1.3. Satisfaction in online class

Some statements have been given to the respondents to elicit their responses based on 5 point scale about their experience of online education and the state of education as a whole during the pandemic time. Recorded responses are listed below

Statement 3.1.1. – Online classes are as engaging as classroom sessions.

| Response | No. of respondents | Percentage (%) |
|-------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| Strongly agree | 31 | 6.05 |
| Agree | 135 | 26.36 |
| Neutral | 165 | 32.22 |
| Disagree | 61 | 11.91 |
| Strongly disagree | 120 | 23.43 |
| Total | 512 | 100 |

Table 3.1.1. Online class Vs. Classroom sessions

Table 3.1.1 shows that 120 (23.43%) students strongly disagree to the statement provided, 61(11.91%) disagree, 31 (6.05%) strongly agree and 135 (26.36%) agree. 165(32.22%) students stay neutral to the statement.

Statement 3.1.2. - COVID 19 has a negative impact on your learning experience.

| Response | No. of respondents | Percentage (%) |
|-------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| Strongly agree | 197 | 38.47 |
| Agree | 196 | 38.28 |
| Neutral | 81 | 15.82 |
| Disagree | 27 | 5.27 |
| Strongly disagree | 11 | 2.1 |
| Total | 512 | 100 |

Table 3.1.2.Impact of COVID 19 in learning experience

Table 3.1.2 shows that 197 (38.47%) students strongly agree to the statement provided, 196 (38.28%) agree, 11 (2.1%) strongly disagree and 27 (5.27%) disagree. 81(15.82%) students stay neutral to the statement.

Statement 3.1.3. - I always think about going back to college

| Response | No. of respondents | Percentage (%) |
|-------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| Strongly agree | 305 | 59.57 |
| Agree | 139 | 27.14 |
| Neutral | 53 | 10.35 |
| Disagree | 9 | 1.75 |
| Strongly disagree | 6 | 1.17 |
| Total | 512 | 100 |

Table 3.1.3.Returning to college

Table 3.1.3 shows that 305 (59.57%) students strongly agree to the statement provided, 139 (27.14%) agree, 6 (1.17%) strongly disagree and 9 (1.75%) disagree. 53(10.35%) students stay neutral to the statement.

Statement 3.1.4. - Postponement of exams make me anxious

| Response | No. of respondents | Percentage |
|-------------------|--------------------|------------|
| Strongly agree | 177 | 34.57 |
| Agree | 222 | 43.35 |
| Neutral | 77 | 15.03 |
| Disagree | 30 | 5.85 |
| Strongly disagree | 6 | 1.17 |
| Total | 512 | 100 |

Table 3.1.4.Exams and Anxiety

Table 3.1.4 shows that 177 (34.57%) students strongly agree to the statement provided, 222 (43.35%) agree, 6 (1.17%) strongly disagree and 30 (5.85%) disagree. 77(15.03%) students stay neutral to the statement

Statement 3.1.5. - I am anxious about lack of job opportunities because of the pandemic

| Response | No. of respondents | Percentage |
|-------------------|--------------------|------------|
| Strongly agree | 217 | 42.38 |
| Agree | 190 | 37.10 |
| Neutral | 84 | 16.40 |
| Disagree | 18 | 3.51 |
| Strongly disagree | 3 | 0.5 |
| Total | 512 | 100 |

Table 3.1.5.Lack of job opportunities

Table 3.1.5 shows that 217 (42.38%) students strongly agree to the statement provided, 190 (37.10%) agree, 3 (0.5%) strongly disagree and 18 (3.51%) disagree. 84 (16.40%) students stay neutral to the statement.

3.2. Impact of COVID 19 on overall finances of the family

Out of 512 respondents, 262 responded that at least one member of their family have lost their job during the pandemic period. However 250 responded that no one in their family have lost job. This indicates 51% (Chart 3.2.1) of the respondents have a family member who lost his/her job because of the pandemic.

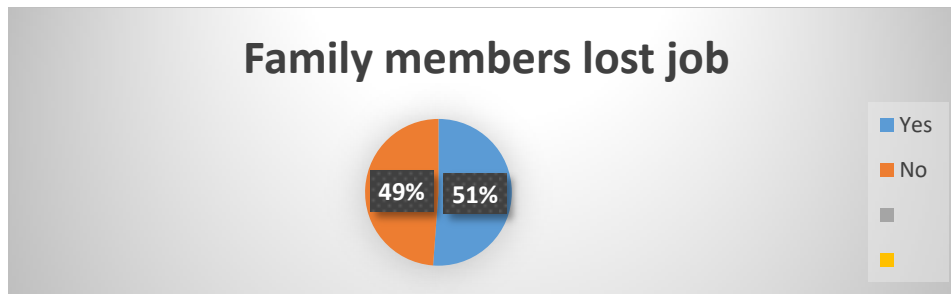


Chart 3.2.1.Family members lost job

283 students have responded that their family faces difficulty in meeting day to day expenses. However, 229 students said that their family has no difficulty in meeting day to day expenses. Percentage analysis shows (Chart 3.2.2) that 55% has difficulty in meeting day to day expenses and 45 % has no difficulty.



Chart 3.2.2.Difficulty in meeting day to day expenses

In order to support their family, 105 students are doing part time jobs such as tuitions, ornamental fish farming, online data entry jobs, salespersons, driving and many more whereas 407 are not doing any part time work.

Families of 137 respondents (26.75%) receive one or other kind of financial support from government agencies. But 375 families (73.24 %) do not receive any financial support from government sources. The major sources of financial support are welfare pension (56),

scholarships (73) and grants (72). Chart 3.2.3 shows 10% are availing welfare pension, 13 % are availing scholarships and 12% are availing grants (Chart 3.2.3.) from Government sources.

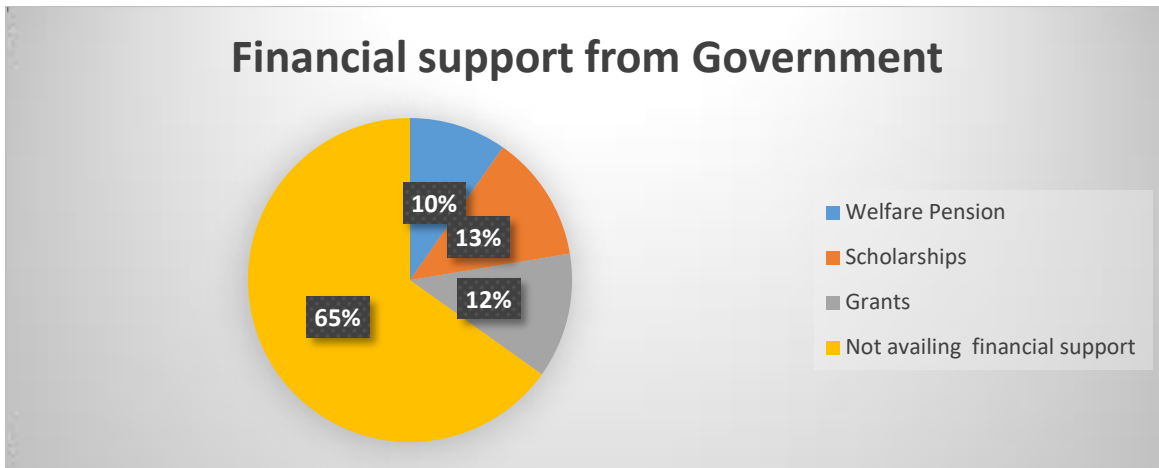


Chart 3.2.3.Financial support from Government

A statement using 5-point scale is given to respondents to understand whether they are anxious about the lack of job opportunities in this ongoing pandemic time. The result is as follows.

Statement 3.2.1. – Parents are anxious about lack of job opportunities

| Response | No. of respondents | Percentage |
|-------------------|--------------------|------------|
| Strongly agree | 192 | 37.5 |
| Agree | 187 | 36.52 |
| Neutral | 98 | 19.14 |
| Disagree | 31 | 6.05 |
| Strongly disagree | 4 | 0.78 |
| Total | 512 | 100 |

Table – 3.2.1. Lack of job opportunities (parents)

Table 3.2.1 shows that 192 (37.5%) students strongly agree to the statement provided, 187 (36.52%) agree, 4 (0.78%) strongly disagree and 31 (6.05%) disagree. 84 (16.40%) students stay neutral to the statement.

3.3. Impact of COVID 19 in physical health and mental health

169 (33.01%) has responded that someone in their family got affected with COVID -19 whereas for 343(66.99%) respondents not a single family member has been affected by COVID 19 so far. 332 respondents are anxious about getting affected by COVID 19. This indicates that 65% are anxious about getting affected by the virus, whereas 35 % are not at all worried (Chart 3.3.1).

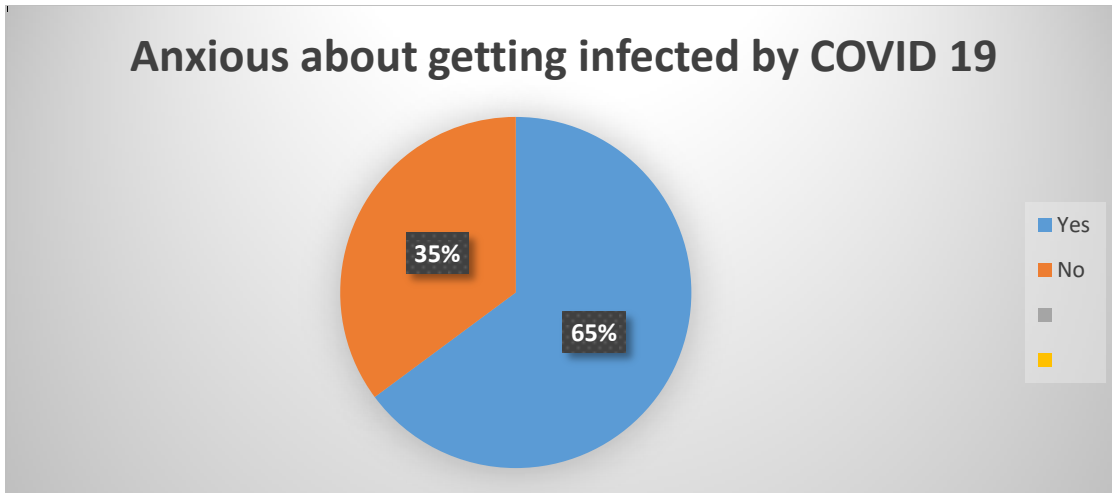


Chart 3.3.1. Anxious about getting infected by COVID 19

262 (51.17%) respondents have their family members got affected by diseases other than COVID during this time while 250 respondents (49%) have no family members got affected by any other diseases. Out of 262, 170 has responded that they or their family members got timely treatment but 92 has responded that they didn't get treatment in time. Chart 3.3.2 shows the percentage analysis.

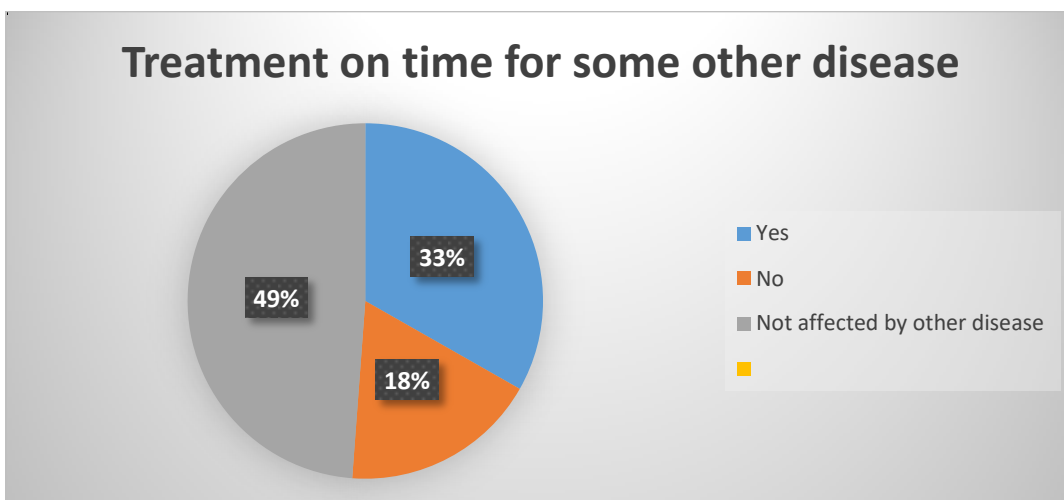


Chart 3.3.2. Received treatment on time for some other disease

Some statements using 5 point scale are used to access the psychological wellbeing of students. The result is as follows:

Statement 3.3.1. - I feel stressed and worried about issues (financial or other) at home

| Response | No. of respondents | Percentage |
|-------------------|--------------------|------------|
| Strongly agree | 174 | 33.98 |
| Agree | 192 | 37.5 |
| Neutral | 103 | 20.11 |
| Disagree | 35 | 6.83 |
| Strongly disagree | 8 | 1.56 |
| Total | 512 | 100 |

Table 3.3.1. Stress about issues

Table 3.3.1 shows that 174 (33.98%) students strongly agree to the statement provided, 192 (37.5%) agree, 8 (1.56%) strongly disagree and 35 (6.83%) disagree. 103 (20.11%) students stay neutral to the statement.

Statement 3.3.2. I lose my temper and get irritated very easily during these days

| Response | No. of respondents | Percentage |
|-------------------|--------------------|------------|
| Strongly agree | 114 | 22.26 |
| Agree | 167 | 32.61 |
| Neutral | 143 | 27.92 |
| Disagree | 79 | 15.42 |
| Strongly disagree | 9 | 1.75 |
| Total | 512 | 100 |

Table 3.3.2.Losing temper and irritation

Table 3.3.2 shows that 114 (22.26%) students strongly agree to the statement provided, 167 (32.61%) agree, 9 (1.75%) strongly disagree and 79 (15.42%) disagree. 143 (27.92%) students stay neutral to the statement.

Statement 3.3.3 - I cry without any reason these days

| Response | No. of respondents | Percentage |
|-------------------|--------------------|------------|
| Strongly agree | 65 | 12.69 |
| Agree | 84 | 16.40 |
| Neutral | 117 | 22.85 |
| Disagree | 197 | 38.47 |
| Strongly disagree | 49 | 9.57 |
| Total | 512 | 100 |

Table 3.3.3.Overflow of emotions

Table 3.3.2 shows that 65 (12.69%) students strongly agree to the statement provided, 84 (16.40%) agree, 49 (9.57%) strongly disagree and 197 (38.47%) disagree. 117 (22.85%) students stay neutral to the statement.

Statement 3.3.4. - I am sleep deprived

| Response | No. of respondents | Percentage |
|-------------------|--------------------|------------|
| Strongly agree | 55 | 10.74 |
| Agree | 122 | 23.82 |
| Neutral | 152 | 29.68 |
| Disagree | 147 | 28.71 |
| Strongly disagree | 36 | 7.03 |
| Total | 512 | 100 |

Table 3.3.4.Sleep deprivation

Table 3.3.2 shows that 55 (10.74%) students strongly agree to the statement provided, 122 (23.82%) agree, 36 (7.03%) strongly disagree and 147 (28.71%) disagree. 152 (29.68%) students stay neutral to the statement.

Statement 3.3.5. - I suffer from different kinds of pain these days

| Response | No. of respondents | Percentage |
|----------------|--------------------|------------|
| Strongly agree | 57 | 11.13 |
| Agree | 137 | 26.75 |
| Neutral | 123 | 24.02 |
| Disagree | 161 | 31.44 |

| | | |
|-------------------|-----|------|
| Strongly disagree | 34 | 6.64 |
| Total | 512 | 100 |

Table 3.3.5.Enduring pain

Table 3.3.2 shows that 55 (10.74%) students strongly agree to the statement provided, 122 (23.82%) agree, 36 (7.03%) strongly disagree and 147 (28.71%) disagree. 152 (29.68%) students stay neutral to the statement.

Statement 3.3.6. - I am eagerly waiting for this pandemic to get over

| Response | No. of respondents | Percentage |
|-------------------|--------------------|------------|
| Strongly agree | 296 | 57.81 |
| Agree | 136 | 26.56 |
| Neutral | 49 | 9.57 |
| Disagree | 27 | 5.27 |
| Strongly disagree | 4 | 0.78 |
| Total | 512 | 100 |

Table 3.3.6.Waiting for pandemic to be over

Table 3.3.2 shows that 296 (57.81%) students strongly agree to the statement provided, 136 (26.56%) agree, 4 (0.78%) strongly disagree and 27 (5.27%) disagree. 49 (9.57%) students stay neutral to the statement.

It is understood that most of them receive one or other form of help from government agencies. This includes Financial (65), Health (108), Emotional (10), and all (65) which makes a total of 248 respondents availing one or other kind of support from government

institutions. However 264 students have responded otherwise. Percentage analysis of the same is depicted in Chart 3.3.3.

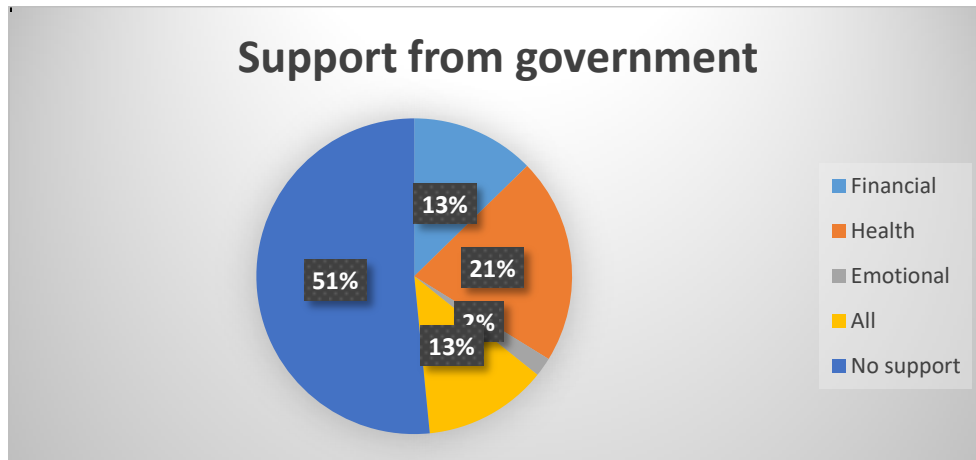


Chart 3.3.3.Support from government

The respondents were asked whether they received any help from friends, local self-government institutions and friends. Most of them received help from friends (153), Local Self Government Institutions (93), Teachers (18) and others (160). There is an option provided to the respondents to specify the 'Other' category but none of the respondents who have opted for it specified who or what the others were. 88 respondents received no help from any of the sources mentioned above.

Major Findings

Academic

1. All respondents attend classes through online mode.
2. Most of the students (99%) are using mobile phones to attend online classes.
3. Most of the students in the college have their own device i.e. mobile phones for attending classes but a few students do not have their own device. So they are sharing the available device with their siblings who are also studying or with parents, especially mothers.
4. Most of the students face issues in attending online classes. Majority of them have network issues followed by financial issues and issues related to gadgets. A few of the students face all the issues provided in the option.
5. Majority of students are not satisfied with online classes.
6. Equal percentage of students (30-33%) agree, disagree and stays neutral to the statement 'Online classes are as engaging as classroom sessions.
7. Majority of students responded that COVID 19 has a negative impact on their learning experience.
8. Major chunk of the respondents wishes to return to college
9. Majority of students are anxious about postponement of exams due to the pandemic.

Economic

10. Half of the respondents have at least one family member who lost his/her job during this period.

11. More than half of the students' families face difficulty in meeting day to day expenses.
12. Some students are doing part- time works to support their family financially.
13. Around 30% of students are receiving one or another kind of financial support from government sources. The sources are scholarships, grants and welfare pensions.
14. Majority of the respondents opine that their parents are anxious about the lack of job opportunities.

Health

15. Around 30% of students have family member/s affected by COVID 19.
16. Majority of students are anxious about COVID -19 infection
17. Majority of the respondents (51.17%) have family members affected with some other diseases during this time. However, more than half among them has received timely treatment amidst the pandemic.
18. Majority of students are stressed due to one or other issues at home.
19. Majority responded that they experienced short temper and got irritated easily these days. But cases of uneven outburst of emotions like crying without a reason were not reported.
20. Majority of the students disagree with the statement they are sleep deprived.
21. Majority of the students disagree that they suffer from different kinds of pain.
22. Around 80% of students are eagerly waiting for the pandemic to be over.
23. Less than half of the respondents are availing financial, health and emotional help from government sources.

24. Friends helped the students most during this period, followed by Local Self Government Institutions and teachers. However, some responded they are receiving help from other sources, which they have not specified even though a slot was provided in the option.

Conclusion

COVID -19 has affected human race adversely in many ways. The losses and damages it has incurred will be reflected in all dimensions of life. Findings of this study also point to the same direction. The adverse impact of the pandemic on education is yet to be recognized. It will take years to fully understand the magnitude of devastation it has caused in the field of education. To circumvent the prolonged lockdown and the consequent closure of educational institutions, governments largely resorted to online platforms to enable virtual learning. But it has been understood that even in a state like Kerala, which is considered to have high mobile penetration, there exists a massive digital divide. So in the current scenario, until each and every one has accessibility to internet, online education can only be used to compliment the offline mode of education- not as a substitute. Financial crisis is obviously the major challenge that most of the people face due to the extended lockdowns as reflected in the answers given by the respondents. It is also learnt from the study that mental health and physical health of the students should be given equal importance, especially during this pandemic period. As per the responses received only a less number of people seek emotional help through government sources compared to health and financial help. So, creating awareness about the psychological wellbeing programmes of the government is highly required.

Recommendations

Study can be extended to the whole of Wayanad District.

If there is no time constraint, each dimension can be studied more deeply.