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VALUE OF ONLINE EVALUATION IN ARTS FACULTY: INNOVATION AND SOCIAL

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Abstract:

This research paper examines the strength and weakness of online evaluation conducted through arts faculty for graduate students in South Mumbai. To study this, the central focus is on the online evaluation as an advanced device in Information Technology. For this research, the online evaluation is used as an innovative program for arts faculty teachers and specially students and the social utility of such programs for them. For data collection 50 arts faculty graduate students as respondents are selected from South Mumbai's five functional colleges, using the qualitative and quantitative as mixed methods for collecting the scientific information as per the requirements of the designed objectives.

KEYWORDS:

Information technology, innovation, social utility, online evaluation,

INTRODUCTION:

Information technology referred as IT is the application of computers and telecommunication equipments to store, retrieve, transmit and manipulate the data. In the business context, the Information Technology Association of America has defined information technology as, "the study, design, development, application, implementation, support or management of computer-based information."1 As per the definition of the International Foundation for Information Technology:

The technology used for the study, understanding, planning, design, construction, testing, distribution, support and operation of software, computers and computer related systems that exist for the purpose of data, information and knowledge.2

In short, the combination of telecommunication and computer science for the capture, storage and transmission of information to every nook and corner of the World is said to be IT. In this sense the Information technology plays a crucial role of media in education. The integration of IT in teaching is a central matter in ensuring quality in the educational system. There are two important reasons for integrating information technology in teaching. One is that, students become familiar with the use of IT, since all recruitments in the society of the future will be dependent on it and the other is, IT being used in teaching in order to improve its quality and effect while saving time and efforts.

In this research paper, the researcher has focused on online evaluation conducted in arts faculty of graduate students in South Mumbai under the obedience of Mumbai University's guidelines for internal assessment evaluation for twenty marks as a device of Information Technology. Here, online evaluation for arts faculty students of graduate level is itself an ideal innovation. The researcher wants to check and study the advantages and disadvantages of the online evaluation including the social utility of such advanced

programs.

Online Evaluation, Innovation and Social Utility: Clarifying Concepts

Online evaluation, sometimes referred as e-evaluation, is the evaluation conducted through the internet or installed software or the browsing users. In this evaluation each candidate is given a fixed time to answer the questions and after the time expires, the answer paper is disabled automatically and the answer sheet is sent to the examiner. The examiner will evaluate answers, either through automated process or manually and the results will be sent to the candidate through email or made available in the web site immediately. Online evaluation is an internet formatted download of questionnaire. The questions can be categorized according to the topic and type etc. The test is compiled with questions from different libraries with specific syllabus. Test evaluation is created on a random basis per students with a particular time limit during which they are to be tested. Online evaluation's mission is to offer a quick and easy way to conduct the exam with the minimum required staff. It also provides the results and security immediately after the exam. The user can enter to write the exam only through their valid user names and passwords. This evaluation includes multiple choice questions and contains appropriate number of options. The users can see their results after completing the exam. It provides time limit with the conscious value of time. In short, conducting the internal assessment evaluation of arts faculty with e-evaluations becomes an innovation in itself.

Innovation involves purposeful and applied information; this is availed through imagination and initiative in deriving greater amongst different values from resources; this includes all processes by which new ideas are generated and converted into useful outputs. In social context, innovation helps create new methods of creation in alliance, joint venturing, flexible work hours, and creation of users' powers. National innovation system offers the definition of innovation-“the network of institutions in the public and private sectors, whose activities and interactions initiate, import, modify and diffuse new technologies” (Freeman, 1987)³

“The element and relationship which interact in the production, diffusion and use of new, and economically useful, knowledge and are either located within or rooted inside the border of a nation state.”(Lundvall, 1992)

Credit based Semester and Grading System (CBSGS) for the program under the faculty of Arts, Commerce and Science with effect from the academic year 2011-12 in the University of Mumbai. Under this system the performance, the learners are evaluated in two components; one is the internal assessment with forty percent (40%) marks by way of continuous observation of presentations, field visit, overall behavior and attendance in class room and evaluation of objective type questions –answers, etc. In this test, they still have multiple choice questions, fill in the blanks, true or false, short answers, match A and B types and easy-mark questions etc. The next is of semester-end evaluation with sixty percent (60%) marks by conducting the theory papers in evaluation.

Here, the researcher has focused on the internal assessment objective test of graduate students only in arts faculty. As per the statement of Dr, Aditya Sood, Founder and CEO, “Innovation is about bringing newness into the World, seeing the World anew, or in a new way. But this can only happen through intentional and organized socio-technical change.”⁴ This evaluation is conducted with the help of Information Technology's device like online mechanism which brings newness into the patterns of educational system, in an innovative way, hence is called as innovation device for arts students; Social utility means the advantages and disadvantages of online evaluation for students in their career, as well as teachers and educational institution and society in general.

OBJECTIVES AND RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

I. Objectives:

1. To examine the strengths and weaknesses of innovation system as the online evaluation for graduate arts faculty students.

Theoretical Perspective:

The constructive sociology is a new approach is used for this research paper. Here, the Impact of on-the-spot online evaluation through IT is provided for promoting liberty, integrity, efficiency, new identity and rational and control of socio-economic and cultural life of the students.

II. Research Design:

This includes all the strategies or decisions taken to conduct the field study after formulating a research problem which is called research design. Following decisions or strategies are to be included under the design of research.

III. Dimensions or paradigms of research:

Mixed methods (qualitative and quantitative) of social research and in-depth interview, methods of having a set of questions are used as effective tools of data collection. In addition, observation method is used whenever required.

IV. Sample Design:

Universe of the study or Geographical area of the study: The universe of the study is conducted among the Senior Colleges in South Mumbai.

Sources of data collection: The sources used for data collection are primary as well as secondary ones. The primary sources include students from arts faculty only the under graduate level from South Mumbai colleges. The secondary sources include observations from the periodicals and magazines, articles from various research journals, internet and web-articles' etc.

Sample size: Total population of arts faculty students from South Mumbai is fifty.

Sampling Technique: Simple random method used for selecting respondent for avoiding bias in observations and assumptions.

Sampling frame: For random sampling, researcher has collected valid, updated and complete list of colleges from South Mumbai.

Sample Unit: Only arts faculty students from South Mumbai are respondents of this research.

METHODS OF DATA COLLECTION:

Observation and interviews, schedules used for collecting the data.

Tools for the Data collection: Questionnaire and in-depth observations used for

The data collection.

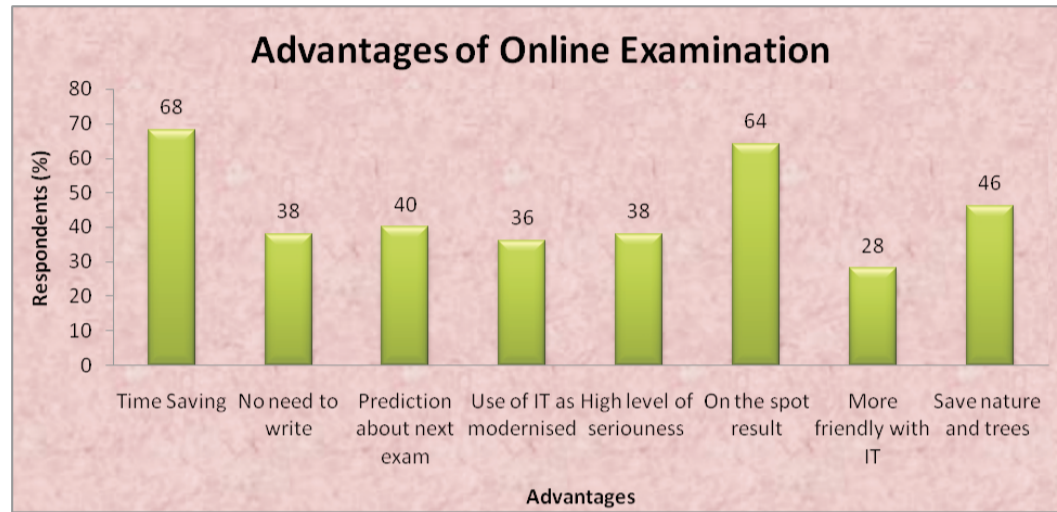
Tools Design: For preparing tools design, operational design, variables and the levels of measurements are used.

Statistically Analysis: In this design, researcher has to decide where and how to use correlation test, and to relate with the bar charts or any such charts. In this research, the researcher has used statistical-analysis software SPSS.

DISCUSSION:

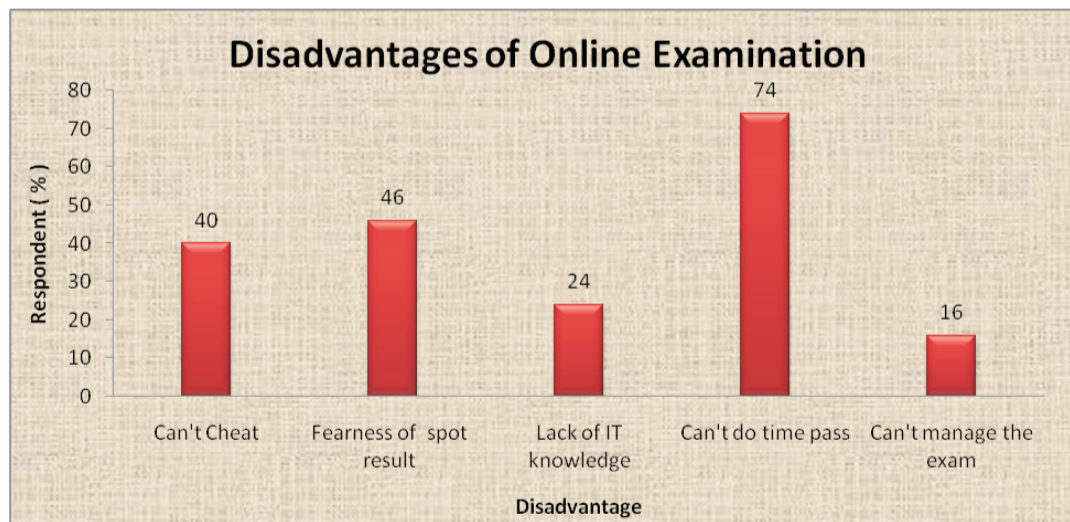
Online evaluation is web based application for learners' performance evaluation through an internet based questionnaire. It helps students and its mission is to offer a quick and easy way to appear for the exam. Online evaluation helps exploring the strength of students' attendance and passing percentages. In this research, the researcher selected five colleges like Sophia, St.Xaviers, Wilson and K.C. College from South Mumbai and the SNTD College as a coverage area for study. Fifty respondents are selected from these colleges as a unit of analysis. Questionnaire and in-depth observation, which is a mixed method, is used for collecting the data from the respondents. Here, the scientific information regarding strengths and weaknesses of online evaluation is collected through the teachers and students opinion, experience and knowledge etc.

Table no.1: Advantages of online evaluation



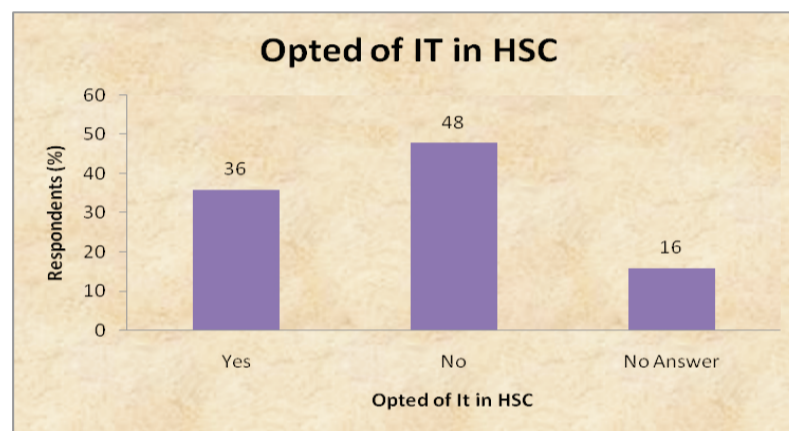
Online evaluation's social utility regarding the arts faculty students from South Mumbai's college's are as follow. The students opinion about online evaluation have been studied was found that sixty eight percent (68%) students believe that it is time saving exam and sixty four (64%) percent students feel that online evaluation device declared on the spot result hence it is the merit of this exam. Majority students believe as the advantage of online evaluation is time saving and on the spot result is more crucial for students as well as their career. Thirty eight (38%) percent students said that, under this evaluation no need to write and high level of seriousness in exam period is the advantage of online evaluation. The researcher has noticed that only twenty eight (28%) percent of respondents consider the advantage of online exam as increasing the confidence and interest with technological device and becoming more friendly through Information Technology. Near about fifty percent means forty six (46%) respondents conscious about global warming, nature and relationship of tree and paper, so in their opinion we can save nature and trees with the help of online evaluation as an ecological advantage of exam. Nowadays respondents are very socialized and habituated with IT and handling different devices like laptop, iPod, mobiles, tablets etc. so they rarely feel that online exam has a modernized device for them. Nonetheless, respondents have agreed that online evaluation has so many advantages for students, teachers, educational institutions and the educational systems and its discipline etc.

Table no.2: Disadvantages of online evaluation



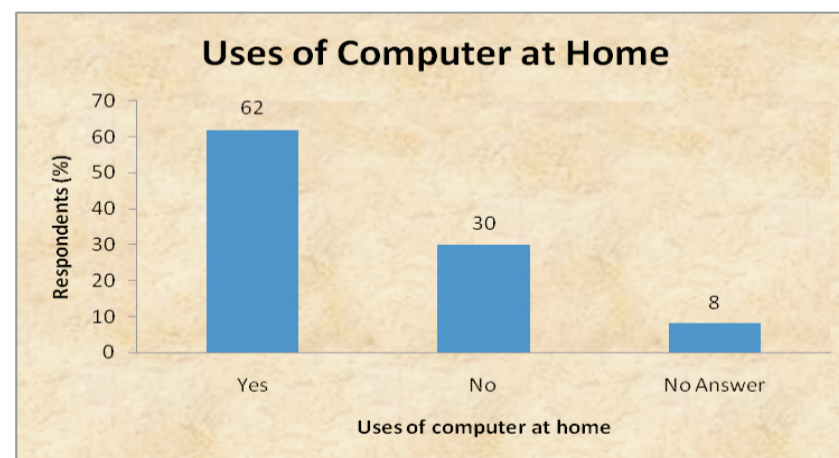
Under the online evaluation's disadvantages, mostly respondents are very conscious about the precious time and its value in life although they pass time in their educational career and not serious in exams and about their career. Hence seventy percent (74%) respondents have agreed that, we cant pass time in online evaluation. It is a demerit of its own kind in the opinion of these respondents but in reality we prohibited such partices in exam so it is the merit of educational system or institutions. In modern era, very few respondents believe in managing the exam and examiner but under this exam such manipulating practices have stopped totally so they realized that they cant manage the exam and it proves to be an advantage of such an exam. In addition it has been noticed as forty percent (40%) respondents consider that we cant cheat in exam, forty six (46%) respondents consider the fear of on-the-spot result and only twenty four (24%) respondents consider the lack of IT as the disadvantage of online evaluation. Broadly speaking, with the help of online evaluation there is no possibility for cheating, without basic computer knowledge respondents are afraid hence it is a type of disadvantage but using regularly such IT practices of online evaluation, students develop confidence, increase their knowledge and grow in the skills in an IT device as an online evaluation.

Table no.3: Opted for IT subjects in HSC Board Exam



Online evaluation is an innovation for arts faculty students because almost fifty percent (48%) respondents are not famlier with Information Technology as well as such types of online evaluations. As they didn't select the optional subject in their Higher Secondary School (HSC Board Exam), they didn't have the basic knowledge of online evaluations and such IT practices in the current context. Thirty six (36%) percent responents are famlier with basic knowledge of computers because they opted IT subject in their HSC Evaluation. It has been noticed that sixteen (16%) percent respondents are not aware about optional choice of IT as a subject so they didn't give any answer for optional subject of IT.

Table No.4: Uses of computer at home



In global society, we can't think of living without computers and internet. But in this research, the researcher has noticed that, thirty (30%) percent respondents aren't using the computers at home due to the lack of having their own computers. It means that, so many respondents are not aware about the importance and value of IT in education and their academic careers. The researcher has noticed that sixty two (62%) percent respondents use computers at home hence they are simply familiar with computers and internet etc. which means that most of the respondents are very conscious about their academic careers, education and future etc.

CONCLUSION:

There are many similarities and differences between online testing and classroom testing. Online tests typically do not require any arts work. You will not be asked to draw anything. On graphic questions, you are generally already given the graphs or you may have a multiple choice question with graphs already drawn out so that we can mark the answer that is the correct one. We will probably be taking the test alone, rather than in the presence of a group of people. We will also be unsupervised while taking the test. In exam time, suppose our computer could crash, we might be interrupted while taking the assessment, or we might accidentally click wrong button and get booted out of the test. In this research, researcher has found the following strengths and weaknesses of online evaluation.

Online evaluation is a time saving advantage for lots of learners in a short span of time. It provides learners more seriousness in their test or exam. In this way of exam, there is no need to use a single piece of paper means indirectly we save papers and sustain environment. Online exam is a modernized device for the new generation on the globe. In this research, the teacher noticed that, this exam provide enhancement of IT knowledge, upgrade IT knowledge to meet global challenges, makes work easier than classroom test and save the time of correction of papers. On the contrary, the online exam has so many weaknesses like, the lack of proper server connections, unable to evaluate the real talent or ability of students in absence of theoretical writing skills and examiner may face so many difficulties to frame objective-type questions or their alternatives etc. In this research, the Learner has suggested that, online evaluation creates so many weaknesses for them like; learners can't cheat, can't pass time, and can't manage the examiner or results. But in reality, these weaknesses suggested by the learners are the basic advantages of educational system and can be easily solved by the Information technological device like using online evaluation in arts faculty.

In this way, disadvantages suggested by the learners are the crucial purpose of education as fulfilled by the online evaluation under a constructive approach. Advantages suggested by the teacher and learner are the basic justified and worth-sanction strengths of online evaluation.

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