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### RESEARCH ARTICLE

#### PERCEPTION OF CLASS 7 ESL LEARNERS TOWARDS VIRTUAL LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

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#### Abstract

The present study is an attempt to find out the Perception of Class 7 ESL Learners Towards Virtual Learning Environment, based on a set of independent variable of Class 7 ESL Learners. To achieve this aim, the researcher has adopted the survey method. The tool used for data collection was-Self Constructed and Validated Questionnaire (2021) with the help of supervisor. The tool was administered on 60 Class 7 ESL Learners of Patna. The findings indicated that majority of the learners were comfortable using computers or mobile phones for online classes. Also, many of them found online exams convenient and easier. Furthermore, the results show that the respondents preferred attending face to face classes. Another major finding was that virtual learning has made them more technologically friendly. This information is quite useful to the teachers, as by understanding the perception of Class 7 ESL Learners for VLE, they would align their course of classroom with different methods of teaching.

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#### Introduction:-

Education is the act of learning things around us. It helps us easily to understand and deal with any problem and makes balance throughout the whole life in every aspect. Education is the first and foremost rights of every human being. Without education we are incomplete and our lives are useless. Education helps us to set a goal and go ahead by working on that throughout the life. It improves our knowledge, skill, confidence level and personality. The use of technology in education has become a critical part of teaching in our ever-changing world where technology has found a way to infiltrate our everyday lives. The use of 21st century teaching methods has become a vessel to help schools strive towards moulding and shaping our children to become informed and responsible citizens in a global community.

Virtual learning is a learning experience enhanced through the use of computers and internet in an educational set up. A VLE provides components in which learners and tutors participate in several on-line interactions, including on-line learning (Silva, Costa, Rogerson, & Prior, 2007). Users are able to explore social situations and “try out” different behaviour responses for a variety of simulated social interactions (Kerr, Neale, & Cobb, 2002). Technology of media is an important part of student's life in this 21<sup>st</sup> century. It plays a vital role in creating awareness related various aspects of life and personality.

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### Significance of the Study

The outbreak of the pandemic Corona Virus has forced educational institutions across India and the world to suspend physical classrooms and shift to online classes. Online learning is a form of education or learning process that takes place over the internet. Here, the instructors create virtual classroom and deliver their content digitally. This form of learning is a catalyzing pedagogical shift in how we teach and learn. Further processes and technological know-how required for online learning is done through English language only. Nowadays English is one of most spoken languages among the masses, despite being a foreign language. Further rapid developments in science and technology has made the world a small village. In fact most of the developments taken place in this field has happened using this language only. Hence, many schools are giving extra emphasis on learning of this language and also to make proficient in it. Technology of media is an important part of student's life in this 21st century. It plays a vital role in creating awareness related to various aspects of life and personality.

### Statement Of The Problem:

Perception of Class 7 ESL Learners Towards Virtual Learning Environment.

### Operational Definitions

**1.Perception:** The ability to see, hear, or become aware of something through the senses.

**2. ESL Learner:** A student whose primary language or languages of the home, is other than English would require additional English language support to develop reading, writing, listening and speaking skills.

**3. Virtual learning:** Is a learning experience that is enhanced through utilizing computers and the internet both outside and inside the facilities of the educational organization. The instruction most commonly takes place in an online environment.

### Research Objectives:-

1. To evaluate the students' attitude towards virtual learning environment
2. To find out the students' interest towards virtual learning environment .
3. To find out the students' perception on benefits of virtual learning environment.
4. To find out the students' perception on disadvantages of virtual learning environment.

### Tool Used

Self-Constructed and validated Questionnaire (2021).

### Method Used

The invigilator has used survey method for the present study.

### Population of the Study

Class 7 students who are studying English as Second Language .

### Sample

The sample consists of 60 Class 7 students by using simple random sampling technique.

### Delimitations

- i. The study is restricted to only Patna District.
- ii. The study is restricted only to class 7 students.
- iii. The study is restricted only to 60 students.

### Data Analysis

**Table No. 1:-** Students' Attitude towards Virtual Learning Environment (N = 60).

SR.NO.	Research Questions	FEMALE		MALE	
		YES	NO	YES	NO
	<b>I am not comfortable in using computers or mobile</b>				

1.	phones for online classes.	8 (23%)	27(77%)	9(36%)	16(64%)
2.	I am able to express my views comfortably in online classes.	23(66%)	12(34%)	16(64%)	9(36%)
3.	I enjoy taking online classes.	27(77%)	8(23%)	16(64%)	9(36%)
4.	I need assistance of someone for taking online classes.	3(9%)	32(91%)	2(8%)	23(92%)
5.	I find online exams and assessment more easy and convenient.	27(77%)	8(23%)	21(84%)	4(16%)

There is not much difference between male and female students towards Virtual Learning Environment. Also, there is not much difference in the mean scores of the students. Most of the students are comfortable in using computers or mobile phones for online classes. This suggests that the students have the computers and mobile phone facilities in their homes. Also, they might have parents who use this facility and hence guide their children for that. In ability to express their views comfortably in online classes, majority of the students have shown discomfort. It could suggest that they may have teachers who do not allow students to speak or unmute themselves while using online classes to clarify their doubts. The survey further highlights that majority of the students do not enjoy taking online classes, since they may find it monotonous in a virtual set up. Whereas, in school the atmosphere is quite different and lively. The study shows that majority of the students do not require assistance of someone for taking online classes. This suggests that the children are well versed with modern day technology.

It is also to be noted here that students do not find online exams and assessment easy and convenient. The probable reasons could be the auto-correction, which makes the right answer wrong even if punctuation marks are missed. Also, they fear that they may lose marks, if there is delay in submitting online answer form due to weak network connections.

**Table No. 2:-** Students' Interest towards Virtual Learning Environment (N = 60).

SR.NO.	Research Questions	FEMALE		MALE	
		YES	NO	YES	NO
1.	I prefer attending face to face classes.	23 (66%)	12(34%)	17(68%)	8(32%)
2.	Online classes do not motivate me, so I do not learn well.	9(26%)	26(74%)	6(24%)	19(76%)
3.	I am not happy about the punctuality of information received in virtual learning.	8(23%)	27(77%)	6(24%)	19(76%)
4.	I think I learn more while attending face to face classes.	23(66%)	12(34%)	13(52%)	12(48%)
5.	I am more punctual and regular with online classes.	23(66%)	12(34%)	17(68%)	8(32%)

There is not much significant difference between the male and female students' interest towards Virtual Learning Environment. Majority of the students prefer attending face to face classes in school because they consider school to be a place for more interaction and enjoyable learning takes place. The study suggests that though students do not like to attend classes on online platform, yet the quality of teaching given by the teachers are quite well, hence they feel motivated and learn the concepts well. The students are satisfied that they are punctually receiving information about their courses in virtual learning environment. This shows the teaching style and sincerity of the teachers.

Majority of the students feel that they learn more while they attend face to face classes, since it is not only about text book knowledge but also the values they learn and catch while observing their peers and teachers in school. Most of the students portrayed less punctuality and regularity with online classes, may be there are not having the facility of mobile phones and computers at their homes or due to weak network connections in their area which make them miss their classes.

**Table No. 3:-** Students' Perception on benefits of Virtual Learning Environment (N = 60).

SR.NO.	Research Questions	FEMALE		MALE	
		YES	NO	YES	NO
1.	Virtual learning is eco-friendly mode of learning.	24 (69%)	11(31%)	17(68%)	8(32%)
2.	Virtual learning has made me more technologically friendly.	35(100%)	0(0%)	25(100%)	0(0%)
3.	Online learning gives me more opportunity to learn, since I can explore more knowledgeable contents.	30(86%)	5(14%)	19(76%)	6(24%)
4.	I can collaborate well with other students during online classes.	16(46%)	19(54%)	15(60%)	10(40%)
5.	I believe learning on the internet is more motivating than a regular classroom.	17(49%)	18(51%)	8(32%)	17(68%)
6.	Online learning has kept me safe during this COVID-19.	35(100%)	0(0%)	25(100%)	0(0%)

There is no significant difference in students' perception on benefits of virtual learning environment. Majority of the students consider virtual learning environment as eco-friendly mode of learning, since it requires less paper for writing, hence reduced deforestation. All students feel that virtual learning has made them more technologically friendly. The probable reasons could be that those who were hesitant to use computers or mobile phones, now have to use them as compulsion because of online classes. Hence, they have learnt more about this. The students feels that online learning gives them more opportunity to learn, because apart from studying their coursebook, they can explore more knowledgeable contents on the internet. Students feel that they collaborated well with other students during online classes, may be they use other messaging apps to connect or discuss their doubts with peers during the online class.

The students believe that learning on the internet is more motivating than regular classes. This could be due to more number of pictures or videos shown to them by their teachers while teaching to clarify their concepts. This would not have been possible in a traditional set up, due to less availability of smart classes in school. All the students feel that online learning has kept them safe during this COVID-19, since they do not have to go out or travel to school.

**Table No. 4:-** Students' Perception on Disadvantages of Virtual Learning Environment. (N = 60).

Sr. No.	Research Questions	FEMALE		MALE	
		YES	NO	YES	NO
1.	I think in virtual learning, more time is required for classes.	9(26%)	26(74%)	6(24%)	19(76%)
	I am worried that online classes may, at				

2.	times interfere with my personal life and routine.	18(51%)	17(49%)	15(60%)	10(40%)
3.	I consider that in virtual learning my interaction with teachers decreases.	15(43%)	20(57%)	9(36%)	16(64%)
4.	I do not have the confidence on the reliability of the materials and the knowledge attained in online classes.	11(31%)	24(69%)	8(32%)	17(68%)
5.	I feel that face to face interaction with my teachers are necessary while learning, which I do not get in online classes.	21(60%)	14(40%)	14(56%)	11(44%)
6.	The technology involved in virtual learning confuses me.	7(20%)	28(80%)	7(28%)	18(72%)
7.	Online classes has adverse impact on my health.	19(54%)	16(46%)	15(60%)	10(40%)
8.	Online classes do not contribute for my physical growth.	25(71%)	10(29%)	11(44%)	14(56%)

There is not much significant differences in students' perception on disadvantages of virtual learning environment. Most of them think that more time is required for virtual learning environment, since five to minutes of the classes are gone in adjusting the meeting and admitting the students for online classes. Students do not worry that online classes will interfere with their personal life and routine. This highlights that the school has prescribed a specific time-table which they have to follow. Hence, they do not have the tension of surprise classes, which they may miss. The students interaction with teachers have not decreased in online classes. This shows the continuous co-operation between them and sincerity of the teachers. They have the confidence on the reliability of the materials and knowledge attained in online classes. This highlights their faith on teachers and on their knowledge. Also, the technology involved like – Zoom Meeting app, Google Meet, etc; in virtual learning environment do not confuses them. This can suggest that they have got enough practice or demo classes with their teachers to use that technology.

Most of the students feel that online classes have adverse impact on their health and do not contribute for their physical growth. This could be due to the absence of games or P.T. classes in online classes.

### Conclusion:-

It has been noted that not all students know what e-learning is; therefore, as part of the computer literacy programme, students should be also be provided with training with regard to the available tools. This will ensure that all students are comfortable with the learning management system. Schools should create ways to build students' confidence in the system so that they will participate in e-learning. Teachers should continue to play a key role in influencing students' perceptions about e-learning.

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