

High School Students' Perceptions about Distance Learning

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The Problem

During the outbreak of the COVID pandemic, students had to shift their learning from in person to distance learning. "More than 1.5 billion students and youth across the planet are or have been affected by school and university closures due to the COVID-19 pandemic" (UNESCO, 2021). To improve teaching in an online environment, teachers need to know student's feedback. Both teachers and students are trying to adapt to a new teaching style and new technology.

Results

- *Fifteen students took the survey.
- *Ten out of fifteen students prefer distance learning.
- *Twelve say they like Google Classroom.
- *The top three tools they like using are: Kahoot, Quizziz and Pear Deck.
- *Some students like learning from home and doing things at their own pace.
- *For some, it is hard to focus, not having motivation and classes moving too fast.
- *Less homework, classes starting later, tutoring, fun activities can help. Also, teachers being there to listen to their needs.
- *What students miss the most is social interaction with their friends.

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this research is to discover high school students' perceptions towards the strategies and programs teachers use to motivate and support successful outcomes during distance learning. Likewise, uncovering the benefits, challenges, and recommendations associated with distance learning will provide important insights for learning and teaching.



Methodology

This research study uses a mixed-methods approach with a phenomenological design. The instruments used to collect data in the study include an online Qualtrics survey and a focus group interview using Zoom. The participants were given twenty questions to answer. Five questions were open-ended and eleven questions were close-ended (checklists). Some of the questions included: What do you like about distance learning? What can make distance learning better? Data will be analyzed using inductive reasoning. It works by collecting and synthesizing information to produce generalization (Mertler 2019, p. 79). Then, both types of data will be analyzed using Triangulation.

Implications

- *Teachers should use this feedback and take it in consideration.
- *The main goal for teachers should be to use interactive games during class to keep students engaged.
- *Besides trying to keep students engaged, teachers need to pay attention to student's emotional well being.
- *Students seem to appreciate when teachers do that.
- *Social interaction with friends is important for students at this age.
- *Some students are having a hard time with distance learning, while others like it more than face-to-face classes.