

Annual Report

(2021-22)

Due to COVID-19, physical classes could not be conducted. Hence, online classes were the main mode of instruction. Since it was the second year of COVID lockdown, teachers had acquired the basic skills of taking classes online using Zoom and Whatsapp. We abandoned the mobile app due to efficiency issues. It was easier for us to conduct classes on Zoom. Whatsapp was mainly used to share class information and send notes to students.

Mode of conducting classes

A maximum of 3 Zoom classes were conducted everyday. Classes were not held on Saturdays and Sundays. And each class was for 40 minutes.

Classes would start by sending the link on the respective Whatsapp group. Students would join via the link and attendance would be taken. Then, the classes would begin.

Mode of conducting examinations

In order to write in the examination, students had to collect answer sheets from school. On the appointed day of the examinations, question papers would be uploaded and students would write from home. The examinations were open-book examinations.

Students had to submit the answer sheets of every subject on the day immediately succeeding the examination of the last paper.

Challenges in conducting online classes and home-based examinations

Some of the challenges of the online based education are as follows:

1. **Attendance:** 100% attendance in every class was very difficult to achieve. Some students would not even bother to attend classes.
2. **Student-teacher interaction:** Despite the classes being live, the interactions between students and teachers were very low.
3. **Distractions:** Since students were attending classes from home, there were distractions all around them. Also, phones themselves were distractions for them. Hence, they found it difficult to concentrate on the classes.
4. **Proxy Classes:** Some students would join the classes, but they would leave their phones and engage in other activities.
5. **Phone Addictions:** The usage of phones among students increased considerably during the lockdown. This reduced the attention span of students considerably. Gaming and social media use were the main culprit.

6. **Home-based Examinations:** Since it was a home-based examination, students were helped by their parents or tuition teachers with the examinations. So, we could differentiate between weak and good students. In short, assessments were not effective.
7. **Accountability:** It was difficult to hold students accountable for their negligence. Some parents would respond positively when we call; some would ignore us.

Learnings

After conducting online classes for two years, we conclude that online classes cannot replace physical classes. Edtech companies like Byjus and Unacademy would like us to believe that online learning is the future. But it is not true. Yes, we need online resources and instructions to support physical classes, but they cannot replace physical classes.

We also realised the importance of physical presence of teachers in teaching-learning situations. When teachers are physically present, they can check the progress of their students, and adjust their instructions accordingly. They could also hold the students accountable for their learnings, which was difficult in an online learning environment. Above all a physical learning environment helps in building a bond between teachers and students. Mutual love and respect is essential in creating a positive learning environment.

Finally, schools don't focus only on curricular activities. Many co-curricular activities are conducted at school. Students enjoy physical education classes. They like organising school functions and performing in them. They like going for school trips. They like participating in various competitions. Most of all, they like being with their friends. School is the place where they make most of their friends. It is a place where students socialise and learn important people skills. All these are robbed of students when they are confined at their houses.

Physical Classes

Towards the end of the year physical classes for classes IX & X were permitted by the government. These few months were crucial in preparing the students for the Board Exam.

Board Examination

Despite the lockdowns, we were able to achieve great results in the Board Exam. It may be noted that the Board Exam was held in two terms. The first term was held at school. The questions were all objective type questions. The questions were set by the CBSE and sent to us on the day of the examination. It comprised 50% of the total assessment. The second term exam was a descriptive exam, and it was held at a centre assigned by the Board. It comprised the remaining 50% of the total assessment.

Year	No. of Registered Students	No. of Students Passed	Pass Percentage
2022	131	123	93.89%