

# A Study to Assess the Attitude Toward Online Learning among School - Age Children, Kanyakumari District

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**Abstract:** *The study aims to assess the attitude toward online learning among school-age children in Kanyakumari District. The sample size of the study is 30 school-age children. The descriptive research design was used. A purposive sampling technique was adopted. Data was collected using a 5-point Likert scale attitude questionnaire. Descriptive and inferential statistical tests were used for analysis. The results of the study were 7% of the students had unfavorable attitudes, 80% of the students had favorable attitudes and 13% of the students had most favorable attitudes about online learning.*

**Keywords:** Online learning, school-age children, attitude, assessment, Kanyakumari District, descriptive research

## 1. Introduction

Education plays a vital role one the all-around and inclusive development of students as well as nations. Education provides the individual with knowledge and skills and enables the individual to know his duties and rights. It expands vision and outlook to see the whole world.

The pandemic that is, COVID-19 has affected education worldwide, leading to the near total closures of schools, Universities have been shut down to break the chain of this novel virus COVID-19. COVID-19 has resulted in schools shut down all across the world. Globally over 1.2 billion children are out of the classroom. The lockdown has compelled schools, colleges, and universities to cancel their regular classes of schools, universities, periodical tests, etc. and switch to online classes.

2020 (and 2021) was a year of digital revolution in learning and virtual learning. Revolution in this case means that so many schools, educational institutions, and companies had to abandon their traditional face-to-face classroom education and replace it with online classes and digital education materials. Some had more experience while others had to start basically from scratch.

Today we are in the era of e-learning or online learning and it is very important to make the students aware of the importance and utility of online learning or e-learning. Hence, the present study will help to know the student's reach and think about online learning and what is their attitude towards it.

### Objectives:

- 1) To assess the level of attitude towards online learning among school-age children
- 2) To find out the association between the level of attitude towards online learning with selected demographic variables among school-age children

### Hypothesis:

- 1) There is a significant difference in the level of attitudes towards online learning among school-age children.
- 2) There is a significant association between the level of attitude among school-age children with selected demographic variables

## 2. Research Methodology

The descriptive research design was used. A purposive sampling technique was adopted. The sample size of the study was 30 school-age children. Data was collected using 5 points Likert scale.

### Description of the Tool

Section A: Socio-demographic data is the first part of the tool, it consists of Age, Gender, Class of studying, Religion, Type of family, Medium, Mode of online learning, Internet speed, and Mode of play.

Section B: The attitude scale consists of 20 items regarding online learning. The total maximum and minimum scores are 100 and 20 respectively. The score was interpreted as

Serial no	Interpretation	Score
1.	Unfavorable attitude	20-50
2.	Favorable attitude	51-80
3.	Most favorable attitude	81-100

After obtaining initial permission from the school principal and the parents, oral consent was obtained from school children. Data were collected from 30 school-age children for a period of one week. Assurance was given regarding the confidentiality of data collection.

Data analysis was done by using descriptive and inferential statistics.

### 3. Findings

**Table 1:** Frequency and Percentage Distribution of Demographic Variables among School-Age Students (N=30)

S. No	Socio-Demographic Variables	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
1	Age in years		
	10 years	6	20
	11 years	18	60
	12 years	6	20
2	Gender		
	Male	19	63
	Female	11	37
3	Class of studying		
	V <sup>th</sup> standard	3	10
	VI <sup>th</sup> standard	21	70
	VII <sup>th</sup> standard	6	20
4	Religion		
	Hindu	5	17
	Christian	24	80
	Muslim	1	3
5	Type of family		
	Nuclear	22	73
	Joint	8	27
	Extended	0	0
6	Medium		
	Tamil	26	87
	English	4	13
	Malayalam	0	0
7	Through which mode you are learning.		
	Laptop	5	17
	Mobile phones	25	83
8	Whether mobile phones (or) laptops are owned (or) by others		
	Own	7	22
	Father/mother	22	74
	Others	1	3
9	How is the internet speed		
	Good	11	37
	Medium	11	37
	Bad	8	26
10	Mode of play		
	Ground	21	70
	Mobile phone	9	30

Table 1, shows that 60 % of the school-age children were 12 years old, concerning 63 % were male, Most of the students 70 % belonged to the 7th standard, 80 % belonged to the Christian religion, 73 % belonged to the nuclear family, Concerning language 87 % speak the Tamil language, Related to the monthly income of the students 83% use mobile phones for online learning of which 74 % used parents mobile phones.

**Table 2:** Frequency and Percentage distribution of Level of Attitude Regarding Online Learning (N=30)

Level of attitude	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Unfavorable (20-50)	2	7
Favorable (51-70)	24	80
Most favorable (71-100)	4	13
Total	30	100

Table 2, depicts that 7% of the students had unfavorable attitudes, 80% of the students had favorable attitudes and

13% of the students had the most favorable attitudes about online learning.

It was also found that there was a significant association between the level of attitude with selected demographic variables such as age, class of studying, religion, type of family, medium, whether mobile phones (or) laptops are owned (or) by others, and internet speed.

### 4. Implication

#### Nursing practices

- 1) The findings of the study revealed that online learning can be included as a part of learning to improve the attitude of school-age children.
- 2) This study motivates school-age children about the importance of online learning during COVID-19.
- 3) An information booklet can be provided to the students to update their knowledge regarding online learning.
- 4) School-age children are in the best position to impart knowledge to the public regarding online learning.
- 5) School health programs can be conducted by community health nurses to impart knowledge to students regarding online learning.

#### Nursing Education

- 1) Nursing students should be taught about online learning.
- 2) Adequate education can be given to nursing students regarding online learning.
- 3) Nursing students can be encouraged to conduct surveys on online learning.
- 4) Proper education and training should be given regarding the impact of online learning.

#### Nursing Administration

- 1) The nurse administrators can insist on the importance of gaining attitude regarding online learning through in-service education and continuing education programs.
- 2) Nurse administrators should assume leadership role in training and providing health education programs to students regarding online learning.
- 3) Nurse administrators should utilize available resources that are technologically sound in educating students through mass education programs.

#### Nursing Research

- 1) As evaluated online learning was effective among school-age children.
- 2) The study findings can be effectively utilized by emerging researchers to expand knowledge.
- 3) Disseminate the findings of research through conferences, seminars, and publishing in nursing journals.

### 5. Recommendation

- 1) A similar study can be conducted with a large sample to generalize the study findings.
- 2) The information laid out in the study can be disseminated through mass media.
- 3) A comparative study can be carried out between online learning and other learning method among school-age

children.

## 6. Conclusion

The findings of this study indicated that student nurses generally held a positive attitude towards online learning, demonstrating their comfort and adaptability to the idea of acquiring knowledge through digital platforms. Despite this favorable outlook, the study also identified significant challenges that impacted their overall satisfaction with the online learning experience. The absence of face-to-face interaction, which can enhance engagement and collaboration, was a notable drawback. Additionally, technical issues, such as connectivity problems and difficulties with online tools, further complicate the learning process. Overall, while student nurses are open to online education, addressing these challenges is crucial for improving their learning experience and satisfaction.

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