STUDENTS' OPINION ON CHANGES IN EDUCATION SYSTEM DUE TO LOCKDOWN DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC IN WEST BENGAL.

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ABSTRACT:

The term COVID-19 has become the most threatening word to the world in this 21st century for its most pandemic and deadly nature. Started from Wuhan (China) this virus has spread among more than 215 countries. It has a very huge impact on many sectors like economy, health, education, tourism etc. To arrest the transmission risk, several nations including India announced for total lockdown. The traditional educations system in schools and colleges is stopped due to the lockdown measure, examinations have been cancelled also. To secure students' safety, all educational institutions are held closed from the beginning of the lockdown; examinations had been postponed in West Bengal too. For that particular paper, a survey has been conducted based on few questions related to the changes that have come into the formal education system due to the lockdown measure opted to contain the spread of COVID-19. This survey was performed on the school students and accordingly their replies have been taken into consideration for information.

INTRODUCTION:

The traditional education and all other sectors related to education are highly affected globally by this outbreak of pandemic Corona Virus. So, the education sector needs a radical change to provide quality education until a solution is found to stop the outbreak of this virus. According to UNESCO, the nationwide closure is impacting over 60% of the world's student population. Several other countries have implemented locally closures impacting millions of additional learners. According to UNESCO, total affected learners in India are 320,713,810. And among them 133,144,371 are from secondary; 143,227,427 are from primary sections only. On the other hand 1,184,120,554 students are affected worldwide, which is 62% of total enrolled learners of approximately 142 countries. The Hindu reported that 25 crore numbers of school children in 15 lakh schools around India (as per UDISE, 2018-19) have been at home since classes stopped across the country from 16th, March of 2020. 33% of students among them from private schools have preferred to go online to maintain their regular schedule. In case of students from Government Schools, some alternative systems have been introduced there. In Delhi, teacher have started to give assignments over WhatsApp. Corporation school in Chennai are providing android phones to the student of class-X. In West Bengal, activity tasks are being distributed through 'Bangla-Sisha' portal. Online classes have also been introduced on television. On the other hand, NCERT have developed an alternative academic calendar to engage maximum number of school students during the period of lockdown. This calendar provides guidelines to teachers about how to use various technological tools in the field of education. Different modes to access such tools have been taken into account, such as Mobile, Radio, Television, SMS, Social Media etc. This calendar also contains a week wise plans that covers challenging and interesting tasks.

OBJECTIVES:

The main objective of this paper is

➢ To find out the opinion of students on changes of education system due to lockdown during COVID-19 pandemic in West Bengal.
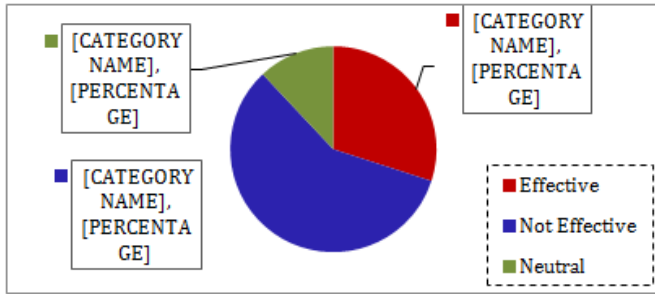
METHODOLOGY:

The coronavirus has an effect on students' learning, an issue that is mainly surveyed in this research. This survey was conducted through online with help of a bunch of questions and performed among secondary and higher secondary school students to know what their views were on the changes came into education system due to lockdown for COVID-19. Researcher done this online survey through social networking and sought their views on the impact of lockdown's periods issues on education, the results of all opinions has mentioned in results and discussion point.
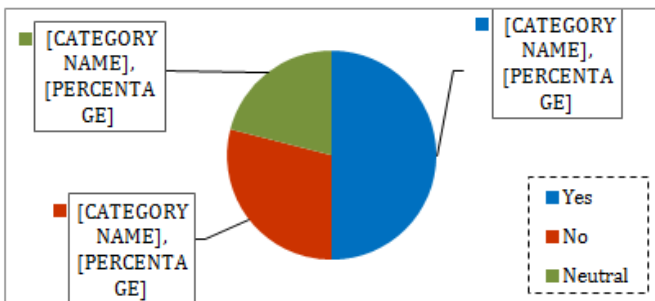
RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS:-

Following the online survey, the results came out as follows:

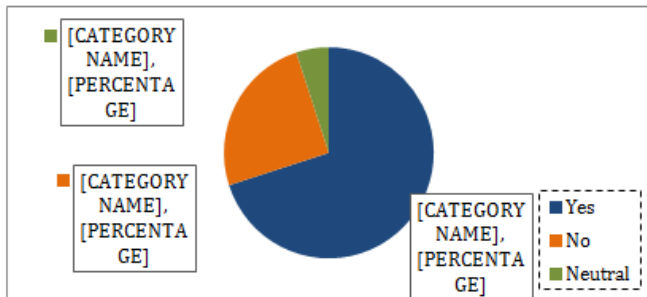**Q.1:** Do you think that online teaching classes are as effective as classroom teaching?

30 % of students think that it is as effective as classroom teaching; 58% think that it is not as effective as classroom teaching and rest liked to be neutral.

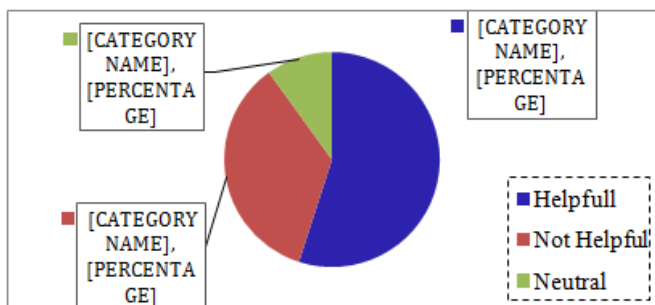**Q.2:** Do you think that Board exams should be continued?

50% think that it should be continued; 29% find the decision of cancellation of exam to be right; 21 % liked to remain neutral.
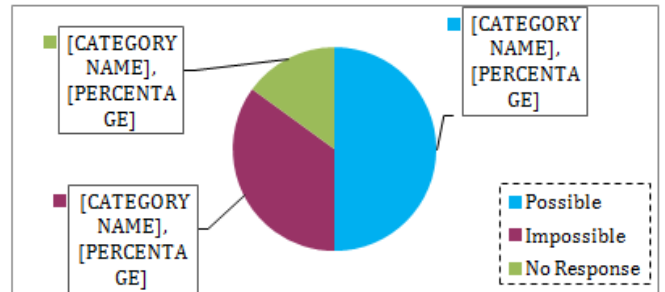
Q.3: Do you find online classes stressful?

Maximum number of students agreed. Very few remained neutral. And only 25% of students think that the online classes are not stressful.

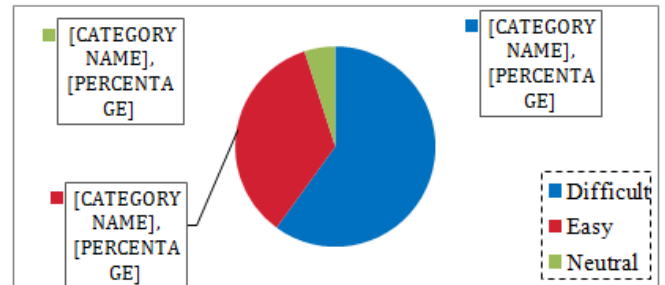**Q.4:** Do you think that the concept of anywhere and anytime class through online is helpful?

Most of the students agreed on that point. 35% of them did not agree and 10% were neutral.

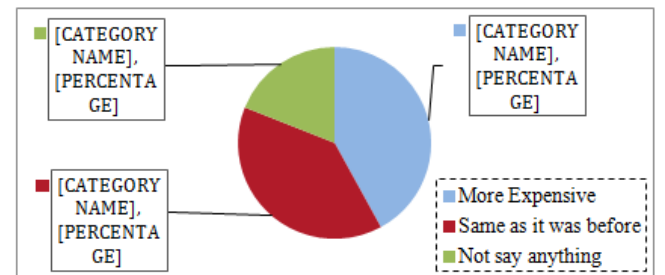**Q.5:** Do you think that proper assessment in online system is possible?

50% think that it is possible; 35% think it is impossible; remaining of students like to be neutral.

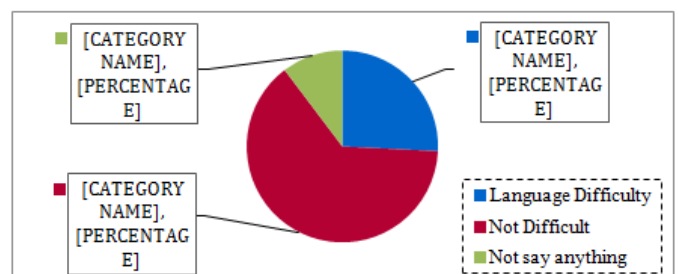**Q.6:** Is it difficult for you to participate in online education system?

Maximum number of students thinks that it is difficult to participate online. Very few students were neutral on this and according to only 35% students this is helpful.

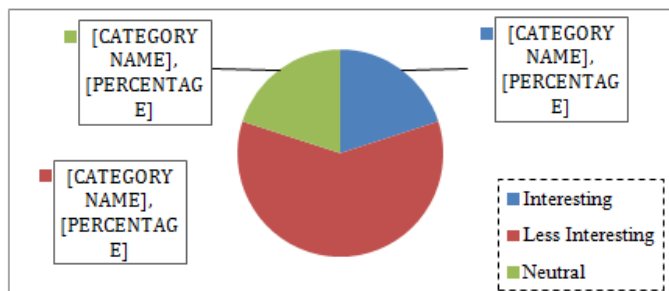**Q.7:** Has the education system become expensive during lockdown?

42 % think that due to lockdown education system has become more expensive; 39% think it is same as it was before; 19% could not say anything.

Q.8: Do you face any regional language related difficulty in online mode of education?

Very few agreed to face this difficulty. For maximum number of students it is not difficult. 10% students did not say anything.

Q.9: Do you find it interesting in online conversation?

In comparison to traditional way of conversation it is less interesting for 60% of students; interesting for 20 %; rest remained neutral.

CONCLUSION:-

As per opinions of students so received, it can be said that there is a huge impact of lockdown imposed due to COVID-19 in the field of education sector. As a result of which a large number of students are finding it difficult to concentrate in their day-to-day studies like they used to do prior to lockdown and thus having a stressful time. Although, there are certain number of students who have so far been hopeful during this period. Shutdown has given a chance for online system to set its foot in teaching learning segment. Based on the information derived from the survey, it can be agreed widely that learners are approaching towards the adoption of certain types of digital learning concepts. The traditional individual classroom learning tends to be replaced by teaching and learning anywhere, anytime.

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