



The Pandemic Benefits Reaped by Online Teaching Platforms:

A Case Study of Whitehat Junior

Alka Agnihotri * 

*Corresponding Author, Assistant Professor, Department of Management, School of Business, Galgotias University, Greater Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh, India. E-mail: alkaapoorva@gmail.com

Alka Maurya 

Professor, AIBS, Amity University – Sectorb125, Noida, Greater Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh, India. E-mail: amaurya@gmail.com

Abstract

The pandemic has brought together a new environment of working and compelled all offline educational institutions to become online educational platforms and strengthen their online resources. We need to understand online platforms such as universities, institutes, schools, colleges, or any educational institute that is working online and providing degrees, certificates, and diplomas for several courses and programs. In different research related to online education and COVID-19, investigations addressed student's or teachers' perspectives. A literature review has shown the gap in exploring the turnaround strategies inspired by the parent's perspective on online education especially about young children (Age group 8 to 12 years). Apart from the literature review and analysis of secondary data from websites and search engines, qualitative research was undertaken to know about parents' views in general about the online platforms and particularly about WHJ (White Hat Junior). The focused group discussion and the in-depth interviews revealed very useful information regarding online educational platforms and especially WHJ concerning COVID-19 time. Findings relate to awareness, acceptability, perception change, costs, safety issues, etc. It has brought out elaborately in this case-based research, how parents' expectations may impact the turnaround strategies of their wards' online educational platforms. In different research related to online education and COVID-19, investigations addressed student's or teacher's perspectives.

Keywords: Pandemic, Online, Education, Teaching, Platforms, Parents, Perspective, COVID-19

Journal of Information Technology Management, 2023, Vol. 15, Issue 3, pp. 69-84

Published by the University of Tehran, Faculty of Management

doi: <https://doi.org/10.22059/jitm.2023.93625>

Article Type: Research Paper

© Authors

Received: April 03, 2023

Received in revised form: June 13, 2023

Accepted: July 20, 2023

Published online: August 26, 2023



Introduction

An educational platform can be understood as any computer software that serves an educational purpose. In this context, “platform” refers to something that exists online. You use an educational platform to learn. In other words, an online learning platform is a space or portal filled with educational content and/or live instruction on a particular subject or many different topics. COVID-19 posed before the education sector such an unprecedented situation that was hard to address. But the way, this sector responded to tackle the pandemic challenges in a highly appreciable manner that proved that the Indian education system is as agile as any other education sector in the world. Educational institutions had to shut down offline working as a result offline classroom teaching, campus activities, project-based learning, libraries, practical labs, etc. suddenly lost relevance.

Thus, posing a serious challenge to the delivery of content, student-teacher interaction, conduction of exams and assessments, evaluations of performance, and result-making and uploading. The pandemic shattered the normal working of the offline education industry but opened new opportunities for online educational platforms. The online educational platforms were struggling in pre-pandemic time for several reasons fewer enrolments in online courses, pre-occupation with the target market segment i.e., the students, etc. The pandemic brought together a new environment of working and compelled all offline educational institutions to become online educational platforms and strengthen their online resources (Abidah et al., 2020). We need to understand online platforms such as universities, institutes, schools, colleges, or any educational institute that is working online and providing degrees, certificates, and diplomas for several courses and programs.

These platforms serve several utilities ranging from organizing the students into classes, assigning teachers to the classes, communicating schedules, calendars, timetables, notices, and orders related to exams and assessments, etc. They even allow for uploading and downloading resources like lessons, notes, and assignments. It’s a tool that allows learning to continue even after students have left the classroom and now with pandemic situations, and even are here to stay. The review of the literature was done using the Scopus database. The literature review has shown the gap in exploring the parent’s perspective on online education, especially with respect to young children (Age group 8 to 12 years). Thus, this research paper aims to investigate the parent’s perspective regarding online education during COVID-19

through a case-based approach with reference to White Hat Junior (WHJ). The parent's opinions are crucial as they are the potential buyers of online education services for their kids. Their thoughts and suggestions may go a long way in devising strategies and making online platforms more acceptable modes of learning. Thus, the following research questions have been taken up for investigation in the current research:

1. What is the impact of COVID-19 on online teaching platforms especially WHJ?
2. What do you think about online teaching platforms, especially WHJ?
3. What are your suggestions for improving online teaching platforms, especially WHJ?

Using the case study method, the qualitative method of focused group discussion was used to explore the impact and strategies of in company in the field of online education.

Methodology

The literature was explored on the Scopus database. At the paper Identification stage, the keywords used were Online Education Platforms, e-learning, electronic learning, distance education, distance learning, online class, online course, and online university were used which gave 14,063 document results. At the screening stage, the subject limit is applied to Business Management Accounting, the document type limit is applied to articles and conferences, the paper source type is limited to conference Proceedings, journals, and the Language is limited to English. This resulted in 531 papers. Which were downloaded. The eligibility of each of these articles was analyzed by exploring the titles and abstracts. After this, about 20 papers were found eligible to be included in the study. The gap brought in the literature was that mostly online education was studied in the context of higher education (Chang et al., 2022). Although information and communication technology play a vital role in the spread of knowledge, they face limitations. Students who can't adapt and understand through ICTs need a personal touch through the facilitators. (Gan & Sun, 2022). Apart from other limitations, in recent research, the parent's perspective has been ignored in online education strategies. (Bravo-Adasme & Cataldo, 2022). Thus, this paper is based on bridging the gaps mentioned.

This study was undertaken through a case study method of an exemplary online education platform-based company that experienced the ups and downs of the pandemic. During pandemic its business revived due to the strategies it adopted. WhiteHat Jr is an education tech company founded in 2018, in Mumbai. It has headquarters in Mumbai and Wilmington. WhiteHat Jr is an online education tech company. It educates its students to construct commercial-ready games, animations, and apps through coding basics. The company has its own original coding curriculum. It imparts its lessons via live, interactive online classes. Its winning strategy is based on Involve, Enable, and Be Flexible. It has devised strategies to

involve the customer by proper communication with the parents and students. The company's communication involvement has been very well projected including the daily infographics for both teachers and students. Also uses free counseling for the parents and teacher, blogs by students, forums for interaction, and feedback from parents is taken into consideration. Communication is a component that may impact the end results in an organization or otherwise, too (Agnihotri & Agnihotri, 2021). As far as promotion is concerned Whitehat Jr. doesn't promote a lot. Free trial and counseling for the parents are the most important promotion tools. It only recently that established celebrities like Sonu Sood and Farah Khan have been engaged for promotion purposes. Looking at the competitors, WHJ's main competitors are Vedantu (AR 75M), Code Monkey (AR- 1.5M), and Coding Ninjas (AR - 6.5M)

Apart from the literature review and analysis of secondary data from websites and search engines, qualitative research was undertaken to know about parents' views in general about the online platforms and particularly about why what when where how of White Hat Junior with a focus primarily on the reflections and experiences of the parents of kids enrolled into the coding classes of the Whitehat Jr. Data was collected through FGD (Lauri, 2019). Focus group discussions were used involving the parents to know their opinion regarding the research questions. FGD is a very useful way to obtain data related to any phenomenon. At initial phase the respondents may agree or disagree with each other. But as the discussion continues more clarity may come among the participants on the issue taken up (Thomas et al., 1995). Also, in-depth interviews of three parents were done using the same questions.

The four trustworthiness criteria for qualitative investigations given by Guba (1981) are credibility, dependability, confirmability, and transferability. In this research also effort was made to meet these four criteria. For ensuring credibility, participants should be randomly selected with each being free to decide to attend or refuse. Also sharing of findings was done with the participants to correct or amend them if they thought otherwise. To ensure credibility as Shenton (2004) indicates, direct excerpts were reproduced in reporting so that transparency in analysis is maintained. To ensure dependability which implies 'the stability of findings over time' (Bitsch, 2005, p.86), the researcher utilized the code-decode technique as per suggestion of Chilisa & Preece (2005). Under this method, the same data was coded twice by the researchers. A waiting period of 2 weeks was used. After that, the data was also compared. Both findings were approximately the same, so no changes were incorporated. Confirmability means confirmation of findings by other researchers or academic fraternities. This was based on the suggestion from Baxter & Eyles (1997). So, to ensure objectivity, the researcher asked an academic fraternity to go through the transcriptions and confirm the code and categories. Transferability means that the results of qualitative research can be generalized to other similar contexts (Bitsch, 2005). To achieve this the researcher clarified all the processes so that the reader was able to compare one context with the others (Guba, 1981). Also, the whole

process undertaken for research was explained in detail to ensure the transferability limitations and possibilities.

The list of parents was acquired from the Whitehat Jr office. 14 parents were randomly selected (8 mothers and 6 fathers but 1 mother and 1 father refused to attend). Using the applicability principle, the parents were selected having knowledge about the knowledge to comment and give responses. It is because these respondents had their wards attending the Whitehat Jr coding classes for the last year or more (Mainly during COVID-19) till the present. Thus, these were requested to volunteer to participate in the focus group discussion. Also, during the FGD, five fathers and 2 mothers did not connect. Thus, five parents participated in an online focused group discussion. In-depth interview with two parents was also done for data collection on the topic using the same set of questions.

The FGD method is a popular qualitative method for data collection for case research these days. As this case research was done during COVID-19, thus FGD was conducted using zoom. The Zoom was selected since it was easily available with the parents. The researcher acted as moderator and facilitator. The parents expressed their opinion in a comfortable environment. The environment of trust under FGD is a great advantage (Kitzinger, 1994).

A semi-structured questions were developed and discussed with the academicians for change and validation of these questions. After minor changes they were used for collection of the responses of the parents (Krueger, 2000). With the permission of the participants, the discussion was recorded and transcribed. Apart from the main question, the side questions were also asked to make them comfortable and keep the flow of talk. To ensure reliability the researcher re-coded the same data after two weeks. An in-depth interview of two parents was also done for the data collection on the topic using the same set of questions. The data analysis was done using qualitative content analysis. The transcriptions of FGD were analyzed for obtaining codes. The similar codes were grouped together to arrive at categories (Weber, 1990). These codes were also analyzed by two professors to ensure uniformity and suggestions were incorporated. The participants were also given codes of address to ensure their anonymity while reporting their opinions. The literature review on distance and online education brought to light that the parent's perspective was missing. Research thought that parents' view was important in relation to young students. It is they who analyzed the education system and decide for their wards. Thus, such parents were the target sample. Their opinion was extracted for the research questions undertaken for the research.

Results

The FGD revealed very useful information regarding Online educational platforms and especially WHJ in relation to COVID-19 times. Findings related to awareness, acceptability, perception, costs, safety issues, etc., are brought out elaborately in this case-based research.

Q1. Impact of COVID-19 on online teaching platforms, especially WHJ?

For this question, the findings are shown in Table. 1 under general categories and codes

Table 1.

Parents' view about impact of COVID-19 on Online Platform

General categories	codes	F
Awareness Booster	Pandemic blessing for online platforms (WHJ)	3
	Online possibility of many courses (WHJ)	3
	Online Skill development possibility (WHJ)	3
Learning Booster	Online schooling and learning system.	3
	Improvement in course structure	3
	One faculty-one child Culture Booster	2
Safety Booster	Education System accessible from home	3
	Reduction in Physical Interaction	4
Opportunity Booster	Opportunity for IT companies	2
	Introduction of numerous well-structured courses	3

Researchers determined first category as Awareness Booster based on three codes, Pandemic blessing for online platforms (WHJ)(F=3), Online possibility of many courses (WHJ)(F=3) and Online skill development possibility (WHJ)(F=3). The (P3) parents reported that pre pandemic there was less awareness about the online classes. They were more willing to send their kids to institution with offline systems of learning for schooling, hobby courses and skill development as she declared 'Pandemic is like a blessing for our kids because it has given us the online platform'. P2 declared Before pandemic there was no scope of online (WHJ) and no one knew about them'. P3 told 'Online also lot of courses like coding, dancing etc. can be done. Now whole schooling system has shifted to online.' P5 also declared that post pandemic online interaction has increased. According to P3 'Approximately 80 percent of courses were known after the pandemic'. Most of these courses related to skill development and hobby courses. Almost all schools went online to cater to the students during pandemic'. This also raised the parents and students' awareness and acceptability of online platforms in general and WHJ in particular.

Researchers determined second category as Learning Booster based on three codes, online schooling and learning system (F=3) and Improvement in course structure(F=3) and One faculty-one child Culture (F=2) Pandemic forced the whole schooling system go online to reach its students. As P3 reported ‘Now whole schooling system has shifted to online’. P4 also added ‘It has many other features like raising hand and all (other)features like normal classes. According to P4 before pandemic ‘Good Structure programs were not there’. According to P3 ‘Approximately 80 percent of courses were known after the pandemic’ Most of these courses related to skill development and hobby courses. According to P1 who has reported that ‘one advantage of online is that students can get their doubts cleared because of one student one faculty (in WHJ coding sessions)’. P3 reported ‘the students’ study because individual student gets individual teacher who is able to focus on their needs and growth.’ P2- ‘Individual attention i.e. one faculty for one child has attracted the parents towards it. Any topic on which students lack clarity may reworked upon by the faculty under one-to-one system of teaching’.

Researchers determined the third category as Safety Booster based on two codes, Education System accessible from home (WHJ)(F=3) and Reduction in Physical Interaction (WHJ)(F=4). As the pandemic situation forced the people to stay inside, there offline physical schooling system became inaccessible mainly because of safety issues and fear of COVID infection. P3 parent said ‘when my child used to go to school, there was tension in mind ...’ ‘now I am also happy that she is sitting in front of me, and her school is also going, and she is safe’. Many parents have termed it as freedom from tiring travels and pollution. P4 responded ‘children don't need to move in pollution in the cities, especially in Delhi’. Reduction in Physical Interaction (F=4) has been felt by all the parents. They reported it as one of the disadvantages, but researchers have concluded this code as a way to ensure social distancing and thus help against life threats and COVID infection.

Researchers determined the fourth category as Opportunity Booster based on two codes opportunities for IT companies (WHJ)(F=2) and Introduction of numerous well-structured courses (WHJ)(F=3). P4 put it as ‘IT industry started seeing it as a big opportunity only after COVID’ there ‘was no such culture of online courses. It became a necessity then things started flourishing for online platforms’. P3 said ‘many courses were not there before the pandemic ... most courses (about 80 %) became online after the pandemic’. P4 also added ‘Good structured programs were not there’. These flourished during pandemic. P3 said ‘online also a lot of courses like dancing, coding etc. and whole schooling system’ have become possible.

Q2. What do you think about the online teaching platform of WHJ (advantages and disadvantages)

For this question, findings are shown in Table. 2 under general categories and codes

Table 2.

Parents' View about Online Teaching Platform in general and WHJ in particular?

General categories	codes	F
Early coding skill Booster	Early Coding Skills to kids	2
	Creativity and Innovation Base	2
Comfort Booster	Time saver	4
	Savior from pollution	3
Cost Reducer	Institutional – Infrastructural cost reducer	3
	School online	3
	Travel Cost cut	2
Online Culture Booster	New opportunity for IT industry	3
	Quality education to rural regions	2
Stressful	Lowering of physical social Interaction	3
	Increase in Eye straining	3
	Mental and Physical Straining	3

Researchers determined the first category as Early coding 'Skill Booster' based on two codes, Early Coding Skills to kids (WHJ) (F=2) and Creativity and Innovation Base (WHJ)(F=2). The (P3) parents reported that WHJ is now known for popularizing coding among kids. As P-3 put it 'What I learnt after so many days (in the adult age), children are learning at the tender age ... learning coding plus concepts of java etc. Complex concepts made very interesting also enjoy'. The code Creativity and Innovation Base (F=2) was reported by parents as P1 told My child learned something new and is doing well as for now. It is his interest and is learning in a new area.'

Researchers determined the second category as Comfort Booster based on two codes, Time Saver (F=4) and Savior from Pollution (F=3). Under pandemic situation forced people to stay inside and the schooling system and other hobby classes came online. Students and parents were not required to travel or face traffic pollution. This saved time and protected them from pollution. P1 parent told children had less time. commutation used to take time. but now (in the pandemic) children's time and our time both are saved. Big advantage of the online platform is kids are learning something new (sitting at home)'. P2 even reported kids were free, ...they were busy in playing and wasting time on their mobile. So, parents enrolled in online classes. P5 told 'Post pandemic half day was consumed in going out. Online classes from home provide time for other online engagements. Post-pandemic kids have more time.

Researchers determined the third category as Cost Reducer based on three codes, Institutional – Infrastructural cost cut (F=3), School online (F=3) and Travel Cost cut (F=2). Expressing their views on Institutional – Infrastructural cost cut (F=3), parents were agreeable on online mode being cost reducer in several ways. P4 strongly believed the growth prospects were very high for online teaching because 'it (online platforms) helps in Institutions also to become online because it cuts their cost. In fact, the schooling system had to adopt to the synchronous and asynchronous systems as per the pandemic compulsions. P3 retreated the people to stay inside, and the schooling system and other hobby classes came online'. This

reduced transport costs of school-related things and persons. It resulted in overall cost reduction of the schooling and teaching-learning systems. According to P4 'IT industry giving such good platform where there is no hanging there is neither any stop gap between it will grow hundred percent very efficient way of teaching'.

Researchers determined fourth category as Online Culture Booster on the basis of two codes, new opportunity for IT industry (F=3) and Quality education to rural backward regions (F=2). For the code new opportunity for IT industry (F=2), parents agreed that many new good courses were started by online platforms after the pandemic. P4 asserted IT industry started seeing it as a big opportunity only after COVID...was no such culture of online courses (pre pandemic) (but) became a necessity then things started flourishing for online platforms (during COVID)'. For the code Quality education to rural backward regions (F=2), P5 expressed if online platform was not there (learning) would have stopped due to COVID especially in rural areas now this is a very good option because learning options are very limited and mediocre. Online has benefitted them.

Researchers determined fifth category as Stressful based on three codes, lowering of physical social Interaction (F=3) and Increase in Eye straining (F=2) and Mental and Physical Straining. For the code Lowering of physical social Interaction (F=3), many parents reported that their kid's social interaction was minimized beyond imagination during COVID. As P3 asserted the disadvantage of online the negative point is that her (kid's) interaction has become zero with kids. For the second code Increase in Eye straining (F=2), P1 told that 2-3 hours of continuous class and then project-making for another some hours puts strain on kids' eyes.' For the third code Mental and Physical Straining (F=3) as P3-Yes, the disadvantages I told long screen time less physical interaction with students and teacher, cut off the outside world so draining mentally and physically but there is no other alternative'

Q. 3. What are your suggestions on improving online teaching platform of WHJ?

For this question, findings are shown in Table. 3 under general categories and codes

Table 3.

Parents suggestions for improving online teaching platform of WHJ

General categories	codes	F
Best Fit Courses	Matching student Aptitude	3
	Matching student Requirement	3
Innovative and creative styles of education	Content Improvement	3
	More Interesting exercises	3
	Intermittent Offline Sessions	3

Researchers determined first category as Best Fit Courses based on two codes, Matching student Aptitude (WHJ) (F=3) and Matching student Requirement (WHJ) (F=3). Matching student Aptitude (WHJ) (F=3), P4 reported that, firstly coding concepts need levels and may

be developed into a broader band course based on aptitude and intelligence levels of kids. Some child for example is having some aptitude for drawing may go ahead in the same area other child may be having architectural aptitude may go for architecture related course. Robotics is based on artificial intelligence and courses in this field too should diversify in terms of aptitude of the children. Also, some more intensive coding courses may be introduced. For the second code Matching student Requirement (WHJ) (F=3), P-5 'Before pandemic there was no scope of online (WHJ) and no one knew about them P3 told Online also lot of courses like coding, dancing, yoga, etc. can be done. Now whole schooling system has shifted to online. P5 also declared that post pandemic online interaction has increased. According to P3, approximately 80 percent of courses were known after the pandemic Most of these courses related to skill development and hobby courses. Almost all schools went online to cater to the students during pandemic.

Researchers determined second category as Innovative and creative styles of lectures based on three codes, Content Improvement (F=3), More Interesting exercises (F=2) and Intermittent Offline Sessions (F=3). For the code Content Improvement (F=3), many parents advised for the Improving synchronous and asynchronous lectures. As P4 told 'Solution for all of the material that can be improved made more attractive for kids firstly coding concepts need levels and make a broader courses some child for example is having some aptitude for drawing me go ahead in the same area others are the children may be having architectural aptitude may have some I get type of courses further Robotics is one artificial intelligence in another diversify in terms of aptitude of the child also that can be one way and some more intensive coding challenging forces may be introduced'. For the code interesting exercises (F=3), many parents advised for adding of more interesting exercises to the sessions and courses with more applicative and practical aspects. As P4 'Solution for all of the material that can be improved made more attractive for kids firstly, secondly the coding concepts need levels and make a broader course. For the code Intermittent Offline Sessions (F=3) parents wished for offline courses on weekly basis for better clarity of doubts. As P1 informed 'if coaching like setup meeting like twice a week so that child may get better clarity for his / her doubts'. These findings were cross verified through in-depth interview with two parents and not much significant variation could be found in their opinion.

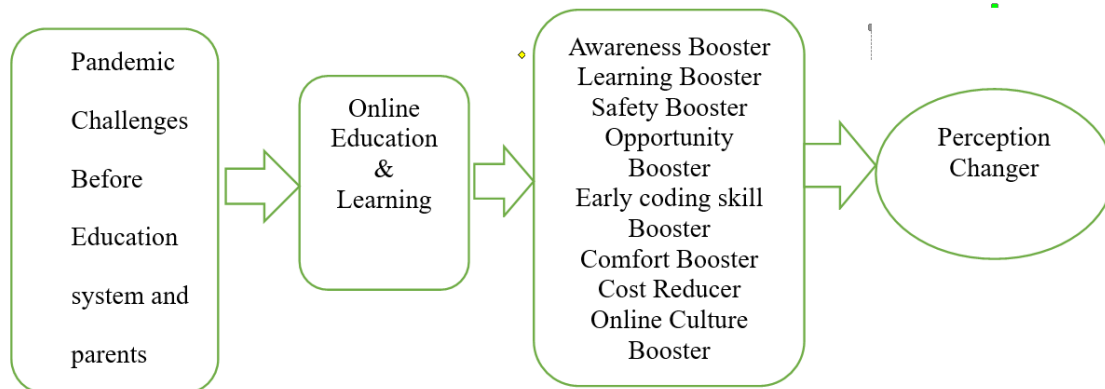
Discussion

The case study has brought to light that the pandemic enhanced the online education and learning in general and WHJ platform in particular as felt by parents and as reported in the above-mentioned categories in findings i.e., it is Awareness Booster, Learning Booster, Safety Booster, Opportunity Booster, Early coding skill Booster, Comfort Booster, Cost Reducer, Online Culture Booster. Apart from few disadvantages it has been felt as mostly an aide during the pandemic time in the context of learning and education. In fact, pandemic has changed the perception of parents for online education and learning for their kids as reported

in Figure 1. under Emergent Theoretical Model of Online education during Pandemic. Due to this now online learning and education is being seen as dependable safe and credible system of learning and it has several other advantages. It has been taken as savior of education system which would have stopped in such challenging times.

Figure 1.

Emergent Theoretical Model of Online Education in Pandemic



Conclusion

The study has brought to light that in the pre-pandemic time, there were fewer enrolments in online courses because they were seen as less prestigious. Also, the preoccupation of target students with normal study and activity routines did not allow them to engage in online educational activities. Thus, many were not getting enrolments due to target participants being busy with school, sports, hobbies, commutation, tuition, friends, and outdoor games. Due to the pandemic, all this time was saved as these came to a halt in the context of social distancing. Due to social and friends' networks being disabled people seemed to be spending a lot of time on onscreen viewing to keep themselves entertained and informed. The children need to be provided with fruitful online engagement. The situation in pre-pandemic when parents showed less interest in searching for online educational options/alternatives. Now the situation had changed. The parents got worried and explored alternatives to keep children busy with better learning courses and alternatives. In this backdrop Whitehat Jr has shown very phenomenal growth with Annual Recurring Revenue growing to 115 m in Dec 2020, Group Classes Scheduled Daily 40 k, the number of its schools rising to 100, and the teacher's strength rising from 5k in August 2020 to 11k into Dec 2020 not just in India but also overseas (Refer appendix 1,2,3). Recently it has been acquired by Byju's which has further expanded its consumer base. WHJ was able to reap the benefits because it provided the answers to the problem challenges posed by the pandemic before the educational institutes in its context. It capitalized on the need created for positive engagements of the kids who were compelled to stay home.

According to WHJ ex-CEO Karan Bajaj by 2030 about 800 million jobs will relate to Artificial Intelligence and Robotics. This may divide the population into two groups. One group shall be of creators and the other group shall be of consumers. WHJ has come up with such a structured coding curriculum which is the first of its kind. Thus, Whitehat Jr's mission is to make kids creators in the new world with the first structured coding curriculum in the world for early childhood. This would in turn improve kids' critical thinking, logic, reasoning, and so on.

Summarizing the findings of this research based on FGD results, it can be established that there is no doubt that online education in general and WHJ in particular, under the pandemic created and expanded an accessible education system with many new structured course options, skill enhancer and is looked at as entertainment option and time utilizer option. It has become more acceptable and respectable after the pandemic for the following reasons:

1. Making education accessible to students,
2. Setting up a flexible system of education to enable learning and surviving the disease,
3. Enabling customization as per need of the students,
4. Reducing education cost burden in the wake of no work and no business scenario,
5. Utilizing the free time of kids which parents needed and searched for as strategy for growth of kids,
6. Alternative for fighting boredom,
7. Fruitful engagement alternative,
8. One to one teacher-student ratio biggest advantage in WHJ,
9. Interactive lectures/ lecturing style,
10. Instructors encouraging communication,
11. Tech-savvy instructors/instructors' style,
12. Clear assessment criteria,
13. Interesting coding assignments/assessment style, and
14. Fame for good projects.

Before pandemic, Whitehat Jr was trying to make inroads into market as a provider of online coding classes with the purpose of making the kids more confident in fundamental coding, JAVA and App development, game development, etc. Thus, kids find them interesting and enjoying learning. Also, during in-depth interviews parents reported that they felt intensely about the following benefits from WHJ:

Whitehat Jr. provides for accessible educational platform. Now has started to diversify in music, yoga etc.

Its online platform is a flexible system which not only enable learning of fundamentals of coding and but simultaneously it is a positive engagement for children struck inside house thus helping them survive in the pandemic times.

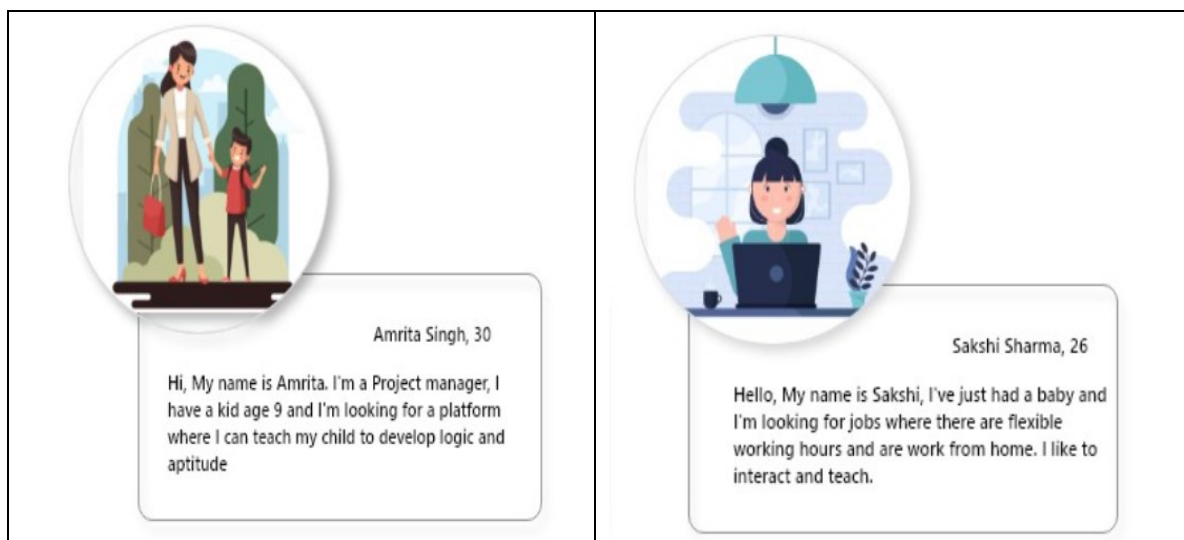
It is enabling customization as per the need of the students and parents concerning scheduling of classes and financial processes. (Refer Figure 2)

It has also worked on reducing education cost burden in the wake of no work and no business scenario for parents. Is providing many offers and programs to respond to this dimension.

As employers they opened opportunity for flexible working (Refer Figure. 2)

Figure 2.

Parent and teacher view for flexibility offered



Source:

https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/26413SESSION_6_Jonathan_Wong.pdf)

As a limitation of this paper, the research case uses data collected through online focused group with 5 parents and in-depth interview with 2 parents. Although the discussion was extremely useful and many practical implications could be derived from it, still there is a need to investigate this phenomenon through larger samples of parents with quantitative methods of study as it is believed that analysis based on small sample cannot be generalized Shenton (2004). Secondly, the parents are of kids enrolled in coding classes of WHJ. Thus, the opinions of parents of kids in other courses may be different. Future research needs to investigate this phenomenon through larger samples and with quantitative methods. Also, an

application regarding wholistic view of all stakeholders regarding the pandemic may be initiated. Researchers also feels the need of research at all levels of education and learning with regard to the issue undertaken in this paper.

Acknowledgements

The researchers are thankful to the staff and parents of the kids enrolled in Whitehat jr who took the pain to join in the discussion and contributed to the study.

Conflict of interest

The authors declare no potential conflict of interest regarding the publication of this work. In addition, the ethical issues including plagiarism, informed consent, misconduct, data fabrication and, or falsification, double publication and, or submission, and redundancy have been completely witnessed by the authors.

Funding

The author(s) received no financial support for the research, authorship, and/or publication of this article.

References

- Abidah, A., Hidaayatullaah, H.NSimamora, R., M., Fehabutar,D., & Mutakinati, L. (2020). The impact of COVID-19 to Indonesian education and its relation to the philosophy of “Merdeka Belajar.” *Studies in Philosophy of Science and Education (SiPoSE)* ,1, 38 – 49.
- Agnihotri, A., & Agnihotri A., (2020). Systemic- Processual shared leadership model with reference to team variables in IT industry in India .*Turkish journal of Computer and Mathematics Education (TURCOMAT)* ,12(7), 608-618
- Agnihotri, A., & Kapoor S., (2018). Implications of Super Leadership and Self Leadership for Production Processes in Indian Sector, *International Journal of Mechanical and Production Engineering Research and Development (IJMPERD)*,8(3),875-886
- Angelova, M. (2020). Students’ attitudes to the online university course of management in the context of COVID-19. *International Journal of Technology in Education and Science (IJTES)*, 4(4), 283-292
- Atreya, A. & Acharya, J. (2020). Distant virtual medical education during COVID-19: Half a loaf of bread. *The Clinical Teacher*, 17, 1-2
- Bacos, C., & Grove, K. (2019). Using online education to improve traditional classroom instruction: A blended learning approach. *Society for Information Technology & Teacher Education International Conference* (374-379). Association for the Advancement of Computing in Education (AACE)
- Baxter, J., & Eyles, J. (1997). Evaluating qualitative research in social geography: Establishing ‘rigour’ in interview analysis. *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers*, 22(4), 505-525
- Bitsch, V. (2005). Qualitative research: A grounded theory example and evaluation criteria. *Journal of Agribusiness*, 23(1), 75-91

- Bravo-Adasme N., Cataldo A., Understanding techno-distress and its influence on educational communities: A two-wave study with multiple data samples 2022 *Technology in Society* 70
- Chang V., Liu M., Xu Q.A., Xiong C. (2022), Factors affecting student satisfaction in e-learning, *International Journal of Business and Systems Research*, 16 (4),401-422
- Duraku, Z. H. , & Hoxha , L. (2020).The impact of COVID-19 on education and the well-being of teachers ,parents, and students: Challenges related to remote (online) learning and opportunities for advancing the qua... <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/341297812>
- Gan I., Sun R. (2022), Digital barriers and individual coping behaviors in distance education during COVID-19, *International Journal of Knowledge Management*, 18, 1
- Guba, E. G. (1981). Criteria for assessing the trustworthiness of naturalistic inquiries. *Educational Communication and Technology Journal*, 29, 75-91.
- Hebebe, M. T., Bertiz, Y., & Alan, S. (2020). Investigation of views of students and teachers on distance education practices during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic. *International Journal of Technology in Education and Science (IJTES)*, 4(4), 267-282
- Kamdar , D., A UX Case Study- WhiteHat Jr. Redesigning the User Experience &User,UX-Diaries https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/26413SESSION_6_Jonathan_Wong.pdf
- Kitzinger, J. (1994). The methodology of focus groups: the importance of interactions between research participants. *Sociology of Health and Illness* 16, 103–121
- Korkmaz, G. & Toraman, Ç. (2020). Are we ready for the post-COVID-19 educational practice? An investigation into what educators think as to online learning. *International Journal of Technology in Education and Science (IJTES)*, 4(4), 293-309.
- Krueger, R. A., & Casey, M. A. (2000). *Focus groups: A practical guide for applied research*. 3rd ed. Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE Publications
- Lauri, M.N. (2019). WASP (Write a scientific paper): Collecting qualitative data using focus groups. *Early Human Development*, 133, 65-68
- Offir, B., Lev, Y. & Bezalel, R. (2008). Surface and deep learning processes in distance education: Synchronous versus asynchronous systems. *Computes & Education*, 51, 1172-1183
- Serhan, D. (2020). Transitioning from face-to-face to remote learning: Students' attitudes and perceptions of using Zoom during COVID-19 pandemic. *International Journal of Technology in Education and Science (IJTES)*, 4(4), 335-342
- Shenton, A. K. (2004). Strategies for ensuring trustworthiness in qualitative research projects. *Education for Information*, 22, 63-75
- Thomas, L., MacMillan, J., McColl, E., Hale, C., & Bond, S. (1995). Comparison of focus group and individual interview methodology in examining patient satisfaction with nursing care. *Social Sciences in Health* 1, 206–219
- Tümen Akyıldız, S. (2020). College students' views on the pandemic distance education: A focus group discussion. *International Journal of Technology in Education and Science (IJTES)*, 4(4), 322-334.
- UNESCO (2020). COVID-19 impact on education data. COVID-19 education disruption and response. *The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, UNESCO*. Paris, France.

Unger, S., & Meiran, W. R. (2020). Student attitudes towards online education during the COVID-19 viral outbreak of 2020: Distance learning in a time of social distance. *International Journal of Technology in Education and Science (IJTES)*, 4(4), 256-266

UNO (2020 August). Education during COVID-19 and beyond. *The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, UNESCO*. Paris, France

WhiteHat Jr was created to solve the #1 gap in our school system today , Retrieved March7 from [https:// www.whitehatjr.com/teacher/about?msclkid=bd26de15ba2a11ec99e23aa560c5aa56](https://www.whitehatjr.com/teacher/about?msclkid=bd26de15ba2a11ec99e23aa560c5aa56)

Bibliographic information of this paper for citing:

Agnihotri, Alka & Maurya, Alka (2023). The Pandemic Benefits Reaped by Online Teaching Platforms: A Case study of Whitehat Junior. *Journal of Information Technology Management*, 15 (3), 69-84. [https://doi.org/ 10.22059/jitm.2023.93625](https://doi.org/10.22059/jitm.2023.93625)

Copyright © 2023, Alka Agnihotri and Alka Maurya