# THE EFFECT OF ONLINE EDUCATION ON THE ACADEMIC SUCCESS OF SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS DURING THE PANDEMIC PERIOD

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**SUMMARY**

The effect of online education during the pandemic period on the academic success of secondary school students (receiving both teachers' and students' opinions).

While receiving distance education at home using the possibilities of internet technology provides equal service to many people, it has achieved an important success in the education sector. Although those who cannot go to schools with formal education for various reasons can be trained in the same field with video lessons and live lessons, we can say that this advantage provided by technology allows the person to achieve great efficiency. Considering the success rate of distance education, it can be said that lecture videos are extremely high due to their easy visual memory retention. In this case, we can say that distance education gives a very high success rate according to the scores obtained in the diploma, the exam results and the participation rates of the students.

**Keywords:** pandemic, online, internet, education, student

## Introductıon

Education is the biggest share in the development of society. Education has also caused nations to live their glorious days and be erased from history. Education, which has been affected by the development of technology, the increase in knowledge and the fragmentation of social structures over time, has continued to work on programs and systems that will continuously maximize learning (Kürtüncü, 2020). The rapid developments and inventions in technology have fundamentally affected education and have led to the emergence of new concepts, outperforming their predecessors each time. Societies need to develop a successful and pioneering approach in order to maintain their existence in every field. Military, political, cultural or economic development alone is not enough. These elements must grow together, mature and be reflected in the production process. In this sense, the people most likely to be successful are societies capable of producing knowledge. There is a direct relationship between the capacity of a society to produce knowledge and the education level of the individuals who compose it. Individuals can contribute to the production of social knowledge only if they constantly improve their knowledge level and keep it up to date. Here, too, the concept of lifelong learning emerges and continuous personal development, which starts with basic education, is encouraged in this way (Sarıabdullahoğlu, 2008).

The burden of lifelong education on the individual is based on the problems encountered.

Because a person working in a full-time job cannot find enough time to help his education and service personal development. Such an individual needs a different approach from the traditional education model dominated by the student-teacher trio sharing the same space and the education model we can call formal education. It is possible to determine a teaching model that will meet this need in the form of distance education. As a matter of fact, when we look at the development history of distance education, it has played an important role in the development of distance education because it is easy to print from written sources, to be reproduced, to be disseminated and to be easily accessible at any time (Ağır, 2008).

Distance education is used in addition to formal education today and is also accepted as a self-directed education method. The reasons for this situation arise from the integration of computer programs with distance education, access to the desired information on the internet in an easy, fast and cheap way, the use of tools and techniques, and user interaction with multimedia and developing technologies (Kılınç, 2015). In the development of distance education, besides written sources, correspondence, radio and television have been used, and systems have been created to discuss the quality and methods of teaching (Gökmen, et al 2016).

Achieving the desired teaching quality in distance education by providing sufficient interaction between a sufficient number of students, teachers and teaching materials has been possible with the emergence of the internet and its use as an education platform. This new distance education program is in use today, with the widespread use of the internet, internet-based distance education has emerged, and the internet has become a suitable platform for distance with the decrease in costs and increase in network usage.
was accepted (Durak, 2020).

## Literature Review
### 1. Pandemic
Pandemic was formed by combining the words pan (all) and demo (everyone) in Ancient Greek. The word pandemic is used as the general name of epidemic diseases that spread over a wide area of a continent or the whole world. For an epidemic to be considered a pandemic, the World Health Organization (WHO) seeks three basic criteria; The causative agent is a new or mutated virus that can be easily transmitted to humans and is also easily passed from person to person. The fact that pathogens (viruses, microbes, agents) threaten all countries, spread easily and quickly from person to person, is accepted as a reason for declaring a pandemic (Durak, 2020).

### 2. Education
Education is the development of emotional, physical and mental capacities in accordance with the determined goals. All measures taken to gain knowledge and improve behavior are included in the training. Intentional change is defined as a part of education (Tekin, 2019).

### 3. Online education
It is a system where teachers and students are not in the same place, anyone with internet access can receive education in any environment they want, with devices such as smart phones, tablets, computers or smart TVs, without physical space and time limitations (Tekin, 2019).

### 4. Student
A person who receives education by attending classes in a school or course. Basic education is compulsory in most of the world's countries. Therefore, most of the people legally spend part of their lives as students in the formal education system.

### 5. Academic
In the case of a forename (education), it means that which relates to the Academy.

### 6. Academic success
Academic achievement, in general, refers to behavioral changes in all areas of the curriculum, except for the psychological and emotional development of students (Julian et al., 1972).

## Aim Of The Study
The aim of this study is to determine the effect of online education during the pandemic period on the academic success of secondary school students. In order to make this determination, the efficiency of the students in secondary education when they receive online education is asked. And as a result of this efficiency, how academic success is affected is analyzed.
The purpose of this research is to identify the following situations:
1. Has the online education time of the young people in secondary education been productive?
2. How is the academic success in online education according to the efficiency analysis?

In order to analyze the research, we sought answers to the following questions.

1. What are the opinions of secondary school students during online education?
2. Does online education have an effect on academic success during the pandemic period?

## Importance Of Research
By 2020, the Covid19 pandemic, which caused worldwide fear and deeply affected all systems, also affected the education system, and many countries turned to education from different levels in teaching materials. The translation of this work was not yet finished, and both the rapid pace of technological development and the ability to replicate extraordinary events are unpredictable in our time, requiring research to optimize distance education practices. Because of this need, studies evaluating the effectiveness of existing practices and revealing verification have gained importance.

Distance education is considered as one of the important applications to keep up with today's world where digitalization is experienced rapidly. Distance education can be defined as an effective method that supports the progress of individuals at their own pace, in their own practices by eliminating time and space limitations, and presents education, training materials and resources to the participants in electronic environment. One of the purposes of distance education is to ensure the continuation of educational activities in unforeseen situations.

The aim of this study is to determine the views of secondary school students about basic education/classroom education regarding distance education application during the pandemic (covid19) period.

**Research Method And Model**

Qualitative research approach was used in this study. Qualitative research is a type of research created by data collection methods such as observation and document analysis. It represents the process of holistic examination of events and phenomena in a realistic environment. It examines human and social behavior. Qualitative research; It is used to find answers to questions such as why, how, how. The aim of qualitative research is to understand how people create their own social life and to interpret how they perceive the world they live in. (Aull Davies, 1999)

One of the most basic techniques used to collect data about the social world in qualitative research is the interview. It is done by asking the interviewees questions about their lives and listening to their answers and what they have to say. In this respect, interview is a specific form of communication and conversation. All interviews, from structured interviews to unstructured interviews, involve interaction between the researcher and the participant. Interviewing can also be defined as a meaningful process in which the researcher and the participant are actively involved (Holstein & Gubrium, 2004).

**The Unıverse And Sample Of The Research**

The universe of this study was formed on the basis of the research problem and the sample represented. Our sample is 90 students studying at Canbulat Freedom Secondary School, which is affiliated to the General Secondary Education Department of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

**Data Collectıon Tool**

In this study, an interview form was created depending on the research problem. The interview form consists of two parts. In the first part, personal information (age, gender) is given. In the second part, research questions are included.

Research Questions:

1. Are you satisfied with online education?
2. Has the online training period been fruitful for you?
3. What do you think was the effect of academic success according to online education efficiency?

**Fındıngs And Comment**

Demographic information of the participants is given in the table below:

Table 1: demographic information of participants

| SEX | NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS | | AGE | NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS |
|-----|------------------------|---|-----|------------------------|
| FEMALE | 40 | | 12 | 54 (%60) |
| MALE | 50 | | 13 | 36 (%40) |

According to the demographic information of the participants given in Table 1, the total of the students participating in the research is 90. The participants in the study consisted of 40 female students and 50 male students. The average age group of the students participating in the research is 54 (60%) aged 12 and 36 (40%) aged 13.

Table 2: 'What are your opinions on the online education process?'question distribution analysis.

| CATEGORY | THEME | Female | Male | FREQUENCY(F) | PERCENTAGE (%) |
|----------|-------|--------|------|--------------|----------------|
| WHAT ARE YOUR OPINIONS ON THE ONLINE EDUCATION | Health problems may occur due to long stay in front of the computer. | 17 | 8 | 25 | 27.77 |
| | Problems in terms of internet access occur. | 10 | 14 | 24 | 26.66 |

| PROCESS? | It prevents socializing. | 13 | 6 | 19 | 21.11 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Provides a teaching and learning process with a lower cost. | 6 | 8 | 14 | 15.55 |
| | Provides opportunity equality in education. | 4 | 4 | 8 | 8.88 |
| TOTAL | | 50 | 40 | 90 | %100 |

According to the data given in Table 2, the answers to the question "What are your views on the online education process?" and the analysis distribution according to these answers are given. According to this, the frequency distribution is 25 27.77% of the people who answered that a health problem may occur due to being in front of the computer for a long time. There are problems in terms of internet access, 10 women and 14 men answering this, the frequency distribution is 24 26.66%. 13 of the people who gave the answer that there is an obstacle to socialization are female and 6 are male, according to this, the frequency is 19 21.11%. According to this, the frequency distribution is 14 15.55% of the people who gave the answer that it provides a teaching and learning process at a lower cost, 6 female and 8 male. 6 of the people who gave the answer that it provides equal opportunity in education are female and 6 are male, according to this frequency 8 is 8.88%. According to the distribution given in the table, what are your views on the online education process? It is observed that women are more interested in education than men, in which more women answer the question. In general, it has been observed that students are more interested in questions such as internet and social environment. The new generation tends to focus on areas of interest such as technology and social media. What are your views on the online education process in general? It is observed that the answer given by the students to the question is according to the new age and the generations are answered in accordance with the technology generation.

Table 3: Question distribution analysis about "How is the effect of online education on academic success in the pandemic period?

| CATEGORY | THEME | Female | Male | FREQUENCY (F) | PERCENTAGE (%) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| HOW IS THE EFFECT OF ONLINE EDUCATION | Being able to access information easily through online education has increased the academic success rate. | 16 | 9 | 25 | 27.77 |
| ON ACADEMIC SUCCESS DURING THE PANDEMIC PERIOD? | Being able to attend classes in the comfort of the home environment without being exposed to external factors (traffic and weather conditions, etc.) increased the participation of the students in the lessons, which increased their success. | 15 | 10 | 25 | 27.77 |
| | Academic success is better in face-to-face education than online education. | 11 | 6 | 17 | 18.88 |
| | It has been observed that students have difficulty in concentrating on the lessons because they attend and participate in the lessons at home in online education and because there are too many stimulants in this environment. | 4 | 8 | 12 | 13.33 |
| | The lack of reliability of the exams in online education reduces academic success. | 4 | 7 | 11 | 12.22 |
| TOTAL | | 50 | 40 | 90 | %100 |

According to the data given in Table 3, the answers to the question "How is the effect of online education on academic success in the pandemic period?" and the analysis distribution according to these answers are given. Being able to easily access information through online education has increased the academic success rate. Frequency distribution of 16 female and 9 male respondents is 25 (27.77%). Being able to attend classes in the comfort of their home environment without being exposed to external factors (traffic and weather conditions,

etc.) has increased students' participation in the lessons and this has increased their success. 15 of the people who gave the answer are female, 10 are male. Frequency distribution 25 is 27.77%. Academic success is better in face-to-face education than in online education. Frequency distribution of 11 females and 6 males is 18.88%. It has been observed that students have difficulty in concentrating on the lessons because they attend and attend classes at home in online education and because there are too many stimulants in this environment. The fact that there is a problem in the reliability of the exams in online education reduces academic success. The frequency distribution of 4 women and 7 men is 11% 12.22. In general, academicians say that online education is more comfortable and more efficient. They argue that this situation is more prone to the age of technology and this situation is advantageous for them.

## Conclusıon

The aim of this study is to determine the effect of online education during the pandemic period on the academic success of secondary school students. In order to make this determination, the efficiency of the students in secondary education when they receive online education is asked. As a result of this efficiency, how academic success is affected is analyzed. In this context, 90 students who continue their education at Canbulat Freedom Secondary School affiliated to the Ministry of National Education of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus were interviewed. As a result of the research, as seen in Table 1, the total of the students participating in the research is 90. The participants in the study consisted of 40 female students and 50 male students. The average age group of the students participating in the research is 54 (60%) aged 12 and 36 (40%) aged 13.

As can be seen in Table 2 in the research, it was determined that the majority of the participants were girls and they were almost one and a half times more than boys compared to boys. It is seen that while female students are aware of the situation and act rationally among these conditions, the boys are still unaware of the event and continue as if it is a normal situation.

As seen in Table 3 in the research, how is the effect of online education on academic success during the pandemic period of academicians? Searching for answers to the question, it has been determined that academicians have gone to easier online education during the pandemic period and they are satisfied with this situation. They think that they can teach in a time and place that is comfortable and suitable for climatic conditions.

## Research And Results On The Effect Of Onlıne Educatıon Done Durıng The Pandemıc Perıod On The Academıc Success Of Secondary School Students

1: According to the findings of the study titled Teaching Leadership Behaviors of School Principals in the Covid 19 Pandemic Process, in which 21 school principals participated, it is understood that school principals' being open to communication with students, teachers and parents, especially being easily accessible and "visible" during the pandemic process, is effective in the success of the education process (Keleş, Atay and Karanfil, 2020).

2: The images and perceptions of primary school students towards distance education during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, in which 77 primary school students participated: The theme of immediacy and affective proximity, which is included in the communication category, is also an indication that reflecting the theoretical experiences of distance education into existing practices can solve many problems. It is interpreted as (Bozkurt, 2020).

3: In the study called "Determining the opinions of secondary school teachers about distance education during the epidemic period in which 12 teachers participated, it was seen that the vast majority of teachers stated that the inequality of opportunity should be eliminated (Bakırcı, Özcan, & Kara, 2021).

## Suggestions

In a world where we are constantly intertwined with technology, education will inevitably be reshaped on the axis of technology. Considering that distance education is a part of the new world order, it is important to first give correct information about this form of education.

Due to the crowded home environment, family interventions should be given in the lesson and parents should be informed in advance.

Classroom students and teachers may lose their attention because they cannot focus on studying with their families.

Equal opportunities should be provided for regions with low socio-economic level.

Textbook activities in distance education can be applied in face-to-face lessons.
level should be adjusted. At the same time, universities should follow the distance education process.

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