



# A Comparative Study on Academic Achievements of Offline and Online Examinations among Undergraduate level Students from North Lakhimpur area of Lakhimpur District, Assam.

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## ABSTRACT:

The study is designed to investigate the relationship between undergraduate students' performance on online and offline tests. The main objective of this research is to review which exam administration method—online or offline—is more efficient. A random selection of 150 undergraduate students from various educational institutions in the Lakhimpur district's North Lakhimpur area was made. A questionnaire is used to collect data for the study. According to the study's findings, students are happier with the offline exam system than the online one. The data show that pupils profit more from offline exams than online exams.

**KEY WORDS:** Education, online examination, offline examination, NEP, 2020, student, achievements.

## I. INTRODUCTION:

Education is the preparation for the full life of human civilisation. In other words, we can describe education as an integral part of human life. It is a lifelong and continuous process through which people can acquire new knowledge, experiences, skills, etc., at every moment of life, from birth to death. It cannot be determined by any specific place, time, and vessel. People are able to gain many experiences by facing different situations in life. From the moment of birth, children acquire new experiences at every moment of life, and the sum of these experiences of human life is called education. Education is a process of dispelling the darkness of ignorance from a person's mind and spreading the light of knowledge. It also equips people with knowledge, skills, values, ethics, beliefs and personal growth. Education originated as the transmission of cultural heritage from one generation to another.

Academic achievements is one of the terms that are frequently connected with the word education these days. In fact, academic achievement represents performance outcomes, indicating the

extent to which a person has achieved specific goals. In other words, academic achievement in the simplest sense is the measure of the extent to which a student determines the outcome of the learning content learned over a given period of time. Therefore, examinations are conducted among students based on specific curricula to measure academic achievement, and these tests can be conducted in a variety of methods.

In general, there are two main methods widely used in the current education system to conduct examinations. They are online testing method and offline testing method. When we talk about online exams, we mean e-Exams, where various exams are conducted using the Internet as the main medium. For example, online tests require various devices such as computers or smartphones with access to the Internet. These exams can be used as a distance learning system, allowing candidates to sit for exams from home without commuting to centers. A mobile phone and webcam are sufficient for this test. There are some advantages and disadvantages of this education system.

The advantages of online education are as follows:

- Students can make good use of their precious time.
- This education system can be easily accessed at home without going to school.
- Students can gather information from the teacher on subjects they are unable to study or comprehend as well as answers to queries they are unable to respond.

The disadvantages of online education are as follows:

- This education does not provide students with adequate qualitative development.
- This system of education is quite expensive, low-income students are unable to pursue it.
- The aspects that covered by online education system are limited.



- Students may suffer from eye diseases as a result of taking this education for a long time.

Again, offline examinations conducted in the classroom under the supervision of the examiner are somewhat different from online examinations. Students are required to sit for the examination formally at the scheduled time in the presence of the teacher. That is, such tests are conducted at different types of test centres. Offline testing has several advantages and disadvantages.

The advantages of offline examinations are:

- This test can be used to determine the true qualifications of the students.
- Offline tests help learners gain knowledge on the subject matter.
- The aspects of education covered by this education are wide ranging.

The disadvantages of offline examinations are as follows:

- It may take too much time.
- Students may be unable to arrive at the examination centre on time for specific reasons.

Therefore, it can be seen that there are various advantages and disadvantages in both offline and online examinations. The academic achievement of the students is determined based on the marks they receive. Therefore, we can say that exams results have varying effects on the academic achievements of pupils. So, this study was conducted to compare the academic achievement of undergraduate students in online and offline examinations in the North area of Lakhimpur district.

## II. Background of the Study:

The contemporary term 'education' is a much discussed topic. Education is a process where only rays of light shine. As a result, the history of oppression and exploitation in the name of caste, religion, and gender inequality in contemporary society is unimaginable. The present era is the era of science and technology. The tremendous advancement of science has given human civilization a new direction. In parallel, Westernization and modernization led to a variety of issues.

To make the present education system more effective, many new methods have been invented in the field of education to provide new information to

the students on a daily basis. Among these methods, we can mainly mention online and offline methods and these two methods play a significant role in education today. Therefore, in view of such a background, the topic was selected for the study.

## III. Description of Lakhimpur District:

The study was conducted in the North Lakhimpur area of Lakhimpur district in Assam. Lakhimpur district was formed from Lakhimpur and Dibrugarh sub-divisions during the Indian Independence Movement. It was bounded by the Brahmaputra River on the east, the Hawajan River on the west, the Nepha River on the north and the Red Stream on the south. It was later divided into Lakhimpur and Dibrugarh districts. The district has three sub-divisions: North Lakhimpur, Dhakuakhana, and Narayanpur. The district's headquarters is North Lakhimpur, and legend suggests that after the death of King Arimatta, his minister Samudra became ruler, followed by his granddaughter Lakshmi.

Total area of the district: 2,277 sq. km,

Total population: 10,40,644

Number of men: 5,29,484

Number of women: 5,11,160

Literacy rate: 78.39% {male literacy rate is 84.66% and female literacy rate is 71.91% }

## IV. Goals and Objectives:

- To assess the academic achievement of undergraduate students in online examinations across different semesters.
- To evaluate the academic achievement of undergraduate students in offline examinations.
- Compare the academic results of students in online and offline examinations to identify significant differences.
- Investigate the educational facilities and support required by the undergraduate students for effective online and offline examinations.

### Assumptions:

Some assumptions about the selected topic are given below:

- The outcomes of offline exams are more beneficial to students than those of online exams.
- The actual qualifications of the pupils can be ascertained by looking at the outcomes of the offline exam.
- Students face many difficulties including technical problems during online examinations.



## V. Methodology:

The purpose of this study is to conduct a descriptive survey method based on the above mentioned aims and objectives.

### 5.1 Population sample:

A total of 150 undergraduate students from different semesters have been selected from the region for the study. These students are studying in several historical colleges in the North Lakhimpur area.

For the convenience of this study, the students of the region studying in the educational institutions are classified in the following table:

Table No-1:

Serial Number	Classification	Numbers of students
1	Total students	150
2	Number of boys	68
3	Number of girls	82

The above table gives the total number of these students in the area we are going to study.

Table No-2

Educational qualifications of the sample group

Serial number	Educational qualification	Total number of students
1	First semester of graduation	48
2	Second semester of graduation	63
3	Third semester of graduation	39

The above list provides detailed information about the studies of the students in the area under study.

### 5.2 Tools and technique:

A questionnaire consisting of about 16 questions has been prepared along with some ordinary paper, pen, pencil etc. for collecting the necessary information for the above subject. All the answers to the questions are given below the questions as yes/no, true/false etc. These tools are used to complete the field study.

### 5.3 Data Collection:

The data have been collected by local survey method for field studies on the above topics. To determine the academic achievement at the undergraduate level, students studying in different educational institutions were given a questionnaire and asked to complete it manually and submit it to the researchers. The data was also collected through a monitoring process.

### 5.4 Use of Statistical Methods:

Various statistical methods were used to study the issue. The collected data have been classified and listed for analysis. When studying the academic achievement of students, the results of their undergraduate examinations in different semesters are listed and the percentages of the data are determined.

### Limitations of the Study:

A study must always be representative to be effective. This is because if the scope of the study is large, it is difficult to draw a stable, accurate and clear conclusion. Therefore, an attempt has been made to conduct the study within a certain limitation for the study of this subject. The limitations of the selected topic are:

- A comparative study of the academic achievement of offline and online examinations of undergraduate students in North Lakhimpur area under Lakhimpur district has been conducted.
- The results of any semester examination or academic achievement of undergraduate students studying in only three colleges in the region have been selected as the subject of study.

## VI. Analysis and Discussion:

The study was conducted from about 150 students in North Lakhimpur area of Lakhimpur district. Through the attribution of these findings, the results of the study have been confirmed. A few questions focus on the above mentioned goals and objectives. Therefore, it is important to consider the impact of the examination system in the contemporary education system in recent times and whether the students have succeeded academically and their perceptions and the results achieved through this education. Based on that data, the



current problems in the education system have been studied. The study was conducted to find out how satisfied and dissatisfied students were with the results of online and offline examinations. The results of the study are based on the interpretation of the data obtained from the respondents during the study.

**Table No-3**

Percentage of students who sat the examination by various methods

Method of examination	Number of student	Percentage
Online method	92	69.33%
Offline method	58	38.67%

Through the above list, we have also been able to get the responses of the students from different parts of North Lakhimpur area of Lakhimpur district. The results table shows that the majority of undergraduate students studying in various institutions in the region sat the monthly examinations online. However, the main reason for this is the COVID-19 pandemic. More than half of the respondent, 69.33% sat the examination online and 38.67%, sat in the offline examination.

Result No-2

**Table No.-4**

Students' reactions	Number of respondents	Percentage
Online mode	37	24.67%
Offline mode	113	75.33%

The table above shows that only 24.67% of the students support online examination, while more than half of the students i.e. 75.33% support offline examination and consider it more useful. This is because the online examination system is a new method for students and students are about to face various problems in taking this examination. Furthermore, online tests do not provide an insight into the true performance of students. This is because in this examination method, students do not pass the examination entirely with their own acquired knowledge and experience, but they use various sources during the examination at their convenience. However, in contrast, offline examinations can reveal the true performance of students.

Result No-1

The academic achievement of undergraduate students in online and offline examinations in the designated area was studied. Therefore, to achieve this objective, the schedule first included which of the offline and online methods they used to sit for the examination. This is analyzed in detail with the following list:

In many developed countries, the medium of education has recently become online. But this is a new trend in our country India. Therefore, how the students have embraced this subject is an important issue.

A study was conducted on which testing methods are considered beneficial for online and offline learning by students in North Lakhimpur region:

The questionnaire for the study asked, "Which mode of the online and offline examinations do you prefer?" Students' responses were sought through the questions titled and a list is prepared below based on the responses

Result No-3:

Since examinations are more necessary to know about the success and failure of education, through which the future needs of the students can be known. A student's academic achievement can only be measured when he sits an examination. We were able to infer from the specific data of "Result No. 1" mentioned earlier that out of 150 students in the said area, about 92 sat the examination through online mode and 58 passed through offline. In this regard, a list of students who sat and passed the examination both offline and online in this study is presented based on the results obtained in the previous semester examinations of the undergraduate level:

**Table No. 5**

subject	Serial no	Grade point	Results of online examination		Results of offline examination	
			No	of percentage	No	of percentage



			students		students	
Marks obtained in previous semester examinations	1	<5	0	0	0	0
	2	6	0	0	13	22.42
	3	7	13	14.13	8	13.79
	4	8	21	22.83	8	31.03
	5	9	38	41.30	18	27.59
	6	10	20	21.74	3	5.17

The above table shows that out of the total 150 students, about 92 took the online examination while 58 sat the offline examination and when the grade points of the students in online examinations were collected from the data form, a maximum of 20 students scored 10 points. The students' marks were limited to 7, 8, 9 and 10 ie between 10 and 7 and were not lower than that. Similarly, the results of the offline examination show that only three students scored a maximum of 10 points and the rest scored grade points of 9, 8, 7 and 6 respectively. In this case, it can be seen that the results of the online test were significantly better than the results of the offline test. However, 99% of the students did not take the examination from their own minds. Since we know that people are convenience lovers,

perhaps most of the students took advantage of the physical absence of the examiners during the examination and used various sources even though they did not have in-depth knowledge of the subject matter for the examination. As a result, their marks were better than those of the offline candidates. However, although the students who sat the examination offline were of lower quality than the online candidates, these students were the ones who actually acquired practical knowledge.

**Result No- 4**

The questionnaire asked, "Are you satisfied with the results of the examination?" – Against this question, the following list is prepared based on the views of the students in the area:

**Table no. 6**

Total students	response	No of respondents	percentage
150	yes	69	46%
	no	81	54%

Based on the above table, 46% of the total students are satisfied with the results of their previous examinations and the remaining 54% are not satisfied with these results and the reasons for this can be various. That is because they are not satisfied with the online education system or many of them were not able to get the education they thought they would.

**Result No-5**

New Education Policy, 2020 is one of the most talked-about new topics pertaining to the current

educational system. According to the new education policy, the Indian education system is reformed to replace the previous 10+2 model with a 5+3+3+4 model in terms of school structure and examination structure. Therefore, to find out how aware the current students are of this major initiative in education, a few questions in the questionnaire were mentioned for the students studying both online and offline and a table was prepared based on the responses of the students.

Question	feedback	No of respondent	Percentage
Are they aware of the NEP,2020?	aware	72	48%
	Not aware	78	52%

From the above table, it can be seen that about 48% of the students are aware of the new Education Policy, The remaining 52% of the students were

completely unaware of this and most of these students were involved in online learning. In other words, we can say that students have not been able



to acquire a sufficient knowledge of the real world through online education. Pupils are only chasing the outcomes.

#### Result No-6

The educational system requires a variety of facilities to function well. In other words, a healthy educational environment cannot be established

without adequate facilities. Therefore, two of the most important educational systems that have been established to suit the current modern circumstances are whether there were any problems while learning through online and offline education or when appearing for assessments at the end of lessons. Feedback was taken from the students. Based on that information, the following table is prepared:

Table No – 8

subject	Mode of examinations	Students reactions	Number of questions	percentage
Whether they received adequate facilities during the online and offline examinations?	online	yes	18	12%
		no	53	35.33%
	offline	yes	72	48%
		no	7	4.67%

An analysis of the above table shows that out of the 150 undergraduate students in the region, some appeared online and the rest offline. About 35.33% of the students who were taking online classes at the time of appearing in these examinations or during the previous classes were not getting proper facilities. Though the house sites of the students were of advanced level, most of the houses were in backward areas, where the network was not available at any time of the day. On the other hand, some students have said that they have some advantages. Of the remaining students who appeared for the offline examination, 48% students got the benefits, while 4.67% students did not get the benefit in some areas. This indicates that the online method compared to the offline test students are facing more problems during examinations.

#### VII. Conclusion:

The peace, harmony, and progress of a society and country depend on the health, education, behavior, and healthy thinking of every individual. Education plays an important role in shaping good citizens. In fact, education is the basis for the creation of real human resources in society. In short, education is essential for the progress of a society.

Online education is gaining popularity in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, as it is an effective method of digital world application. Assam has adopted this system to ensure students' education during the coronavirus pandemic. However, it has not reached all levels of students, leading to academic outcomes that are not comparable to offline education. The examination system conducted in classrooms allows students to showcase their skills, but online systems may face many difficulties like network problems

and lack of suitable seating arrangements. The online education system has not been successful in preparing students to adapt to the current situation and develop them academically. This education system has led the students to pass the examinations with higher marks, even if they are passed with the help of the books. As a result, students failed to gain the real experiences of life. The higher education sectors in Assam are not yet fully online, and the government should take necessary steps in this regard.

#### VIII. Recommendations:

In the field of education, those type of studies are quite important. Based on this research the following suggestions are made in the context of the outcomes:

- 1) The impact of online education is increasing rapidly nowadays. So teachers should pay close attention to the development of holistic aspects of students through online education.
2. Teachers should focus on solving the problems related to education of students.
3. Whereas, the concept of online education is new for our State. Therefore, trained teachers must be provided to help students.
4. In the offline examination system, students can improve their mental abilities and gain knowledge in a variety of areas even if they get low marks. Therefore, the government should take appropriate steps to ensure that students are able to acquire sufficient knowledge through online examinations.



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