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The effect of COVID-19 on the cognition of MA Iraqi EFL students' achievement

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Abstract

The closing of all educational institutions and the isolation of people to prevent the spread of corona virus, this greatly affected the performance of all Students specifically postgraduate students. The large number number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 and the declining performance of the students' achievement in Iraq specifically at Thi Qar University result from the shortage of technological resources indicate a very difficult time for the third world countries. Corona virus disease may affect student performance due to its impact on cognitive performance and related health consequences that may reduce students' academic level. The aim of this study is to find out whether the performance of postgraduate students in the last year 2019 is different from the performance of postgraduate students for the year 2020 under the conditions of the Corona pandemic at Thi-Qar University, Department of English Language. Differences between groups were assessed by appropriate statistical analysis.

Those institutions replace the normal way in teaching by electronic lectures. This process affects teaching and evaluation as well as the validity of tests. The question which is raised as a result of this crisis is the ability of universities to make the teaching process a valid one.

The study aims at the following

1. Showing the outcome of corona virus on the act of MA students and making a comparison between the deed of MA students for two years, before and after Corona to indicate the increase or decrease in the cognition level of students in these two academic years.
2. Investigating the possible results of COVID-19 on learning in the Thi-Qar provenance.
3. Highlighting the ability of Thi-Qar government to response to COVID-19 by closing universities as one of the tools to protect students from the danger of astrigent and spreading COVID-19.
4. Studying how this disease affects the national examination results of the academic year2020 in comparison to the previous year.

The study hypothesizes the following

1. COVID-19 would negatively impact on the performance of M A students in the 2020 examination of psycholinguistics topic.
2. The performance of postgraduate students for the academic year 2020 is less than that of students for the academic year 2019 under the conditions of the spread of Corona virus.

As a result, there is a fall in the pass percentage of MA students in 2020 year's national tests in comparison of the achievement of 2019.If the corona virus will not finish early, taking into account the university calendar of the university, this leads to a significant decrease in the academic level of students in all universities in the country.

The consequences of this study all point to the fact that this disease will affect on teaching and learning in Thi-Qar because there is no direct connection between teachers and students and inability of students to provide what is need for e-learning. Their performance will be affected by the short period to prepare for the examinations. It has also been clearly explained in this study that there is a permanent drop in learner's performance while this disease still found. This fluctuation in the academic level is due to the deterioration of the psychological state of students due to the epidemic, which led to a decrease in their academic achievement.

Keywords: COVID-19, M A subjects, psycholinguistics education, Thi-Qar

1. Introduction

The corona virus sickness (COVID-19) is an infectious sickness resulting from a newly located corona virus. Instances of COVID-19 first appeared in overdue December 2019, whilst an odd infection become pronounced in Wuhan, China. The reason of the disorder turned into quickly showed as a unique corona virus, and the contamination has seeing that unfold to many nations global and has turn out to be an endemic ailment (<https://www.newscientist.com/time period/covid-19/>). It is previously obvious that the straight and oblique mental and social results of the corona virus ailment 2019) COVID-19) pandemic are persistent and will have an effect on intellectual fitness now and within side

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the destiny as nicely because it affects the scholars' achievements. The pandemic is taking place in opposition to the backdrop of extended occurrence of intellectual fitness problems with inside the UK in current years in a few corporations.^{1, 2} In addition, extreme acute breathing syndrome corona virus 2 (SARS-CoV-2), the germ that reasons COVID-19, would possibly taint the mind or cause impervious responses which have extra unfavorable results on mind characteristic and intellectual fitness in sufferers with COVID-19 (McManus *et al.*, 2016:22).

Researchers should install assets to recognize the mental, societal, and neuroscientific consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic which impact on college students' educational overall performance. Mobilization now will permit us to use the studying won to any destiny durations of multiplied contamination and lockdown, a good way to be mainly crucial for front-line people and for susceptible corporations, and to destiny pandemics. We use the time period intellectual fitness sciences to mirror the numerous unique disciplines, including, however now no longer constrained to, psychology, psychiatry, scientific remedy, behavioral and social sciences, and neuroscience, to be able to want to paintings collectively in a multidisciplinary style collectively with humans with lived revel in of intellectual fitness problems or COVID-19 to cope with those studies priorities (Ford *et al.*, 2020: 54)^[7].

1.1 Definition of University Act

In this analysis, educational overall performance is used widely to explain various elements which can have an impact on pupil achievement in college. Academic overall performance of college learners is a key function in schooling. It is taken into consideration to be the base round which the entire schooling device revolves. Narad and Abdullah (2016) opined that the instructional overall performance of college learners decides the achievement or breakdown of any instructional group. Additionally, they emphasized that the pinnacle maximum precedence of all educators is instructional overall performance of college students (Anthony Abaidoo, 2018:5)^[2].

1.2 These elements are classified into three regions

1.2.1 Cognitive abilities and Approaches

Cognitive abilities and approaches consist of each simple cognitive abilities, inclusive of government functioning, interest, recall, spoken comprehension, and records processing, in addition to approaches and ideals that affect educational overall performance, consisting of inspiration, self-concept, approval, and college connectedness. Studies used various procedures to outline and explain those constructs (Taras, 2005:214)^[16].

1.2.2 Academic Behaviors

Academic behaviors encompass various behaviors which could have an effect on college students' instructional overall performance. Common signs encompass on-project behavior, association, scheduling, attendance, arrangements, and impulse manage. Studies used a number of procedures to outline and explain those constructs (ibid).

1.3 Academic Accomplishment

Academic fulfillment consists of identical check rankings in issue regions which include reading, math, and language arts; GPAs; study room check ratings; and different formal assessments (ibid).

1.3.1 Factors influencing educational fulfillment

1.3.1.1 Non-cognitive elements

Non-cognitive elements or abilities, are a fixed of "attitudes, behaviors, and strategies" that promotes educational and expert fulfillment, (Leslie & Ingrid, 2013:59)^[11] including instructional self-value, self-discipline, inspiration, expectancy and purpose placing theories, emotional intelligence, and strength of mind. To create interest on elements apart from the ones measured through cognitive check ratings sociologists Bowles and Gintis coined the time period during the 1970s. The time period provides as a difference of cognitive elements, that are calculated via way of means of instructors via checks and quizzes. Non-cognitive abilities are more and more gaining reputation due to the fact they offer a higher reason behind educational and expert outcomes (James *et al.*, 2006:45)^[10].

1.3.2 Self-value

Self-value is one of the fine predictors of educational fulfillment. Self-value is the perception of being capable of performing something. Stajković *et al.* checked out the Big Five developments on instructional achievement as nicely and noticed that conscientiousness and sensitive balance have been predictors of self-efficacy in over 1/2 of in their investigation. On the other hand, self-value become greater suggestive of educational overall performance than character in all the analyses. This shows that dad and mom who need their kids to have educational fulfillment can appearance to boom their kid's experience of self-value at faculty (Alexander *et al.*, 2018:238–245)^[3].

1.3.3 Motivation

Motivation is the reasoning at the back of an character's actions. Research has determined that scholars with better educational overall performance, motivation and patience use intrinsic dreams in preference to extrinsic ones (Leslie & Ingrid, 2013:59)^[11]. Furthermore, college students who're stimulated to enhance upon their preceding or upcoming overall performance have a tendency to carry out higher mentally than friends with decrease motivation. In different words, college students with better want for fulfillment have more educational overall performance (Friedman & Mandel, 2011:15)^[6].

1.3.4 Self-manage

Self-manage, within the instructional placing, is associated self-control, self-regulation, put off of satisfaction and impulse manage. Baumeister, Vohs, and Tice described strength of mind as "the capability for changing one's very own replies, in particular to carry them into line with requirements inclusive of standards, values, ethical, and social expectations, and to assist the achievements of long-time period dreams." (Baumeister *et al.*, 2007:351-355)^[4], in different words, strength of mind is the capacity to prioritize long-time period desires over the attraction of short-time period impulses.

Self-manage is commonly measured thru self finished questionnaires. Researchers frequently use the Self-Control range evolved with the aid of using Tangney, Baumeister, & Boone in 2004. Through a longitudinal take a look at of the marshmallow take a look at, researchers determined a courting among the time spent expecting the second one marshmallow and better instructional success. Yet, this locating best carried out for individuals who had the

marshmallow in undeniable sight and had been located with none distraction strategies. High situation of manage, wherein a person attributes achievement to private choice making and high quality behaviors consisting of discipline, is a selection of strength of mind. High locus of manage has been determined to have a high-quality predictive dating with excessive collegiate (Hannon, 2014:46-58)^[8].

1.3.5 About COVID-19

There is presently very little information on COVID-19 in terms of instructional research. The most effective literature to be had is without delay associated with clinical research (Chinazzi *et al.*, 2020; Hopman, Allegranzi, & Mehtar, 2020; Kraemer *et al.*, 2020; Wu & McGoogan, 2020; Zu *et al.*, 2020). This isn't always appropriate to the fact training isn't always immediately stricken by the impact of the COVID-19 epidemic however alternatively due to the fact research in schooling not often contain outcomes of ailment at the powerful provision of schooling to beginners throughout the world. The fee at which COVID-19 has swiftly been expanding has made each region of human lifestyles to straight away sense its effect.

Druges are within the laboratories searching for a scientific way to this plague. Economists are operating on methods of coping with the financial impact of this plague on economies due to the fact corporations are last down each day and there are regulations on human mobility inside and throughout boarders (Kraemer *et al.*, 2020). A ailment which seemed inside the Chinese location of Wuhan exceedingly unfold so rapid throughout China and different components of the arena (Wickramasinghe *et al.*, 2020).

With information of accelerated quantity of instances of COVID-19 round the arena it become legitimately affordable for the authorities of Zambia to begin disturbing and placing procedures in location that might save you any shape of COVID-19 outbreak inside country. The authorities abrupt closure of all colleges and universities on twentieth March 2020. It has thus far controlled to comprise the unfold of COVID-19 with well timed intrusion procedures that protected confined influx of flights from outside, national sensitization packages and every day updates through Ministry of Health officials.

1.4 Result of COVID-19 on chance of tension, misery, and different outcomes, including self-damage and suicide

While a upward thrust in signs of tension and coping replies to pressure are anticipated at some stage in those first-rate conditions, there's a threat that incidence of clinically applicable numbers of humans with anxiety, misery, and tasty in dangerous behaviours (consisting of suicide and self-damage) will growth. Of note, however, is that a upward push in suicide isn't always unavoidable, specially with country wide mitigation efforts.¹⁷

1.5 The effects of COVID-19 on getting to know: Dimensions and scale

Just learning the global closure of faculties has no ancient precedent. 188 nations have imposed national closures, affecting extra than 1.5 billion college students and youth. In comparison to preceding disorder outbreaks, faculty closures were imposed pre-emptively: in 27 international locations closures have been brought earlier than instances of the virus have been recorded. The capacity losses which

can accrue in getting to know for today's younger generation, and for the improvement in their human capital, are difficult to fathom .

To reduce those losses, many universities are imparting distance studying to their college students. However, this feature is handiest to be had to a few. While extra than two-thirds of nations have delivered a countrywide distance studying platform, simplest 30 percentage of low-earnings international locations have achieved so.10 Girls have much less get right of entry to virtual generation than boys, which may also lessen their get admission to and participation in on line gaining knowledge of. Students dwelling in casual settlements' camps with constrained infrastructure and no get entry to net are specifically impacted. Confinement and motion regulations can be incentives for events to struggle to occupy, loot or wreck faculties centers and hospitals; at the same time as empty faculties can be centered for navy use. Students with disabilities and unique wishes are specifically difficult to serve via distance programmes. The pleasant and accessibility of distance studying may be anticipated to differ significantly each throughout and inside nations. Only 15 nations are providing distance training in multiple language. Those losses can be finest for college kids who, caused with the aid of using the pandemic, drop out of college altogether. Mental fitness helps and offerings below pandemic situations, and the impact of COVID-19 at the intellectual fitness of own circle of relatives members, in particular college students and older human beings. Both studies are suggested online four. These conclusions, mixed with the posted clinical literature, knowledgeable the improvement of our studies priorities. The studies constitute a image of the contemporary situation, however they'll want to be repeated greater carefully over the path of the plague, and the studies priorities reviewed.

2. Methodology

2.1 Participants

To confirm what's hypothesized, the look at is constructed on a take a look at given to 18 of MA Iraqi EFL Students on the Department of English, College of Education, University of Thi-Qar. The pattern is of homogeneous populace of being taught the equal textbooks and the identical teacher and below the identical situations for two years, earlier than corona virus and after it. The records turned into accumulated in 2019 and 2020 examinations of these college students. Following the check that is constructed up, nine MA Students from 2019 and nine Students from 2020 had been purposefully decided on to take part within the look at. Then an evaluation become made to degree the overall performance of each corporations.

2.2 The Test

To degree the fulfillment of the pattern subjects, the researcher has built a success check. The researcher carried out 5 questions in the concern of psychology and they're changed within the mild of the jury members' notes (exam committee). The check pursuits at verifying the speculation which states that "There are statistically good sized variations among the success of the scholars in 2019 year (earlier than Covid19 crisis) and the fulfillment of the scholars in 2020 year (after Covid 19 crisis).

2.3 Data Discussion and Analysis

The imply rankings of the two groups are compared at the

post – test t and the t – value has been designed with a view to discover if there are any statistically trivial variations among the mean rankings of the two corporations.

The evaluated t – value is (84.8) while the table t – value is (56.2) that is decrease than the calculated one. This shows that there are statistically massive version among the two groups. This approach that the primary businesses' fulfillment (earlier than Covid 19 crisis) is higher than the

second one group (after Covid 19 crisis). Accordingly, the hypothesis which states that “there are tremendous variations among the fulfillment of the primary group ((earlier than Covid 19 crisis) and the fulfillment of the second one group (after Covid 19 crisis) is proved. This shows that within the post – test, there are statistically good sized variations among the fulfillment of the primary group and the fulfillment of the second one group.

Table 1: Tendencies analysis of act of M A learners in 2019 and 2020 at Thi-Qar University in Iraq: results analysis report for 2019 and 2020

No.	Questions	Performance (%) in 2019	Performance (%) in 2020	Percentage rise/drop
1.	To what extent have linguistics and psycholinguistics converged or diverged?	89%	54%	35%
2.	Piaget (1923-1955) went on to distinguish three different types of early egocentric speech. Explain them.	90%	62%	28%
3.	Q3.What is the relationship between language and thought? What is the most famous hypothesis about the relation and what does the hypothesis state?	67%	40%	27%
4.	K.C. sustained brain damage in a motorcycle accident. What type of memories was he unable to access? What memories were intact? Then explain the types of memories according to Baddeley-Hitch model?	89%	70%	19%
5.	Explain the following terms:Epiphenomenalism, the Language Bio program Hypothesis, The Wernicke-Gesch wind model	89%	55%	34%
		Total: 84.8	Total: 56.2	28.6

A look at the tests results for the 2019 and 2020 academic years shows that there is a drop in the students' performance in 2020 year in comparison with the students' performance in 2019 academic year. Question and two documented significant drop in performance levels with 35% and 28% rise in pass rate correspondingly while question three maintained a 100% pass rate over a two-year period. However, question three and four recorded 27% and 19% a small percentage drop in performance while question five 34%posting quite a significant drop. Covid19 has appeared to be a problem and raises fears that the university may experience a drop in overall performance this academic year .The statistical analysis of the results indicates that the students' achievement in the first group (2019 academic year) is well again than the achievement of the students in the second one (2020 academic year) attempt to benefit from the material. The results of the present study stress the beneficial effect of Covid19 crisis on the performance of MA students.

2.4 Results

The results indicate that there will be a likely drop in the performance of students of 2020 academic year. This study refers to the fact that Covid19 will have adverse effects on the education in the higher studies examinations. The cause for this anticipated trend is largely to the loss of contact hours for MA students and shortage of e-learning facilities that students could have been using to interact with their teachers. Thus, the short time within which students are supposed to learn and prepare for examinations will possibly affect their performance.It has also been clearly explained in this study that the students will be negatively affected in terms of learner performance in the national tests and it is expected a drop in the act of the students in this academic year if the COVID-19 plague continues to cause an increase in the number of cases.

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