

# Impact of Covid-19 Pandemic on Academic Planning of College and University Teachers in S.R.T.M. University, Nanded: An Online Survey Based Study

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## I. INTRODUCTION:

The Corona virus spread from Wuhan, China has split the entire world into two parts i.e. pre Covid-19 pandemic world and post Covid-19 pandemic world. The brutality of the present pandemic has put sudden breaks on the bullet train of world economy. Almost every country in the world is facing severe health crisis as well as economic crisis at the same time. The experts are forecasting long term impact of this pandemic on the entire human race. This situation has posed many questions to the stability and resistance of almost all major economies in the world. Education is no exception to this case. It is the prime duty of the education sector to bring forward capable human resource who can participate in economy building once again. The rapidly changing global scenario has influenced the education sector also. India, being the country of largest population of youth in the world, is going through the phase of multiple opportunities as well as serious challenges. The higher education in particular carries the burden of providing productive human resource to the economy. Thus, it is very important to address the impact of Covid-19 pandemic on higher education in general and the academic planning of college and university teachers in particular.

The Covid-19 pandemic has posed a scenario of uncertainties and un-clarity amongst the teachers and the students of higher education throughout the country. Almost all the universities in India conduct their summer examinations during the months of March to May. However, the outbreak of corona virus in India forced the Government to postpone all examinations to an uncertain period. Obviously, this situation created a dilemma in the mindset of both, teachers and the students regarding their future. Keeping this in mind, the researcher has prepared an online questionnaire regarding the impact of Covid-19

pandemic on the academic planning of college and university teachers across India. The basic objective of this survey was to understand the impact of Covid-19 pandemic on teachers teaching, learning, evaluation, and research and extension activities during the lockdown period. At the same time, it was aimed at understanding the teacher's opinions regarding academic planning for the upcoming academic years. The present research paper is based on the online survey of college and university teachers as a part of work from home guidelines of the Government.

### Objectives of the paper:

- 1) To study the nature of work from home of college and university teachers during the lockdown period.
- 2) To study the willingness of teachers to use ICT tools for their teaching and research activities.
- 3) To study the academic planning of teachers during lockdown period.
- 4) To study the overall impact of lockdown on academic planning of teachers for next academic year.

## II. METHODOLOGY OF RESEARCH:

The researcher has used survey method for this research paper. The researcher has designed a questionnaire containing 21 questions regarding teaching, learning, evaluation, research and extension activities of the teachers. The researcher has used social media application of WhatsApp to deliver the questionnaire to the targeted teachers and receive responses. Random sampling method is used to collect the data. 125 teachers from different institutions across Maharashtra State have responded to the questionnaire. The results are analyzed and presented in the forms of pie charts and other tables to draw inferences and conclusions.

**Profile of the respondents:**

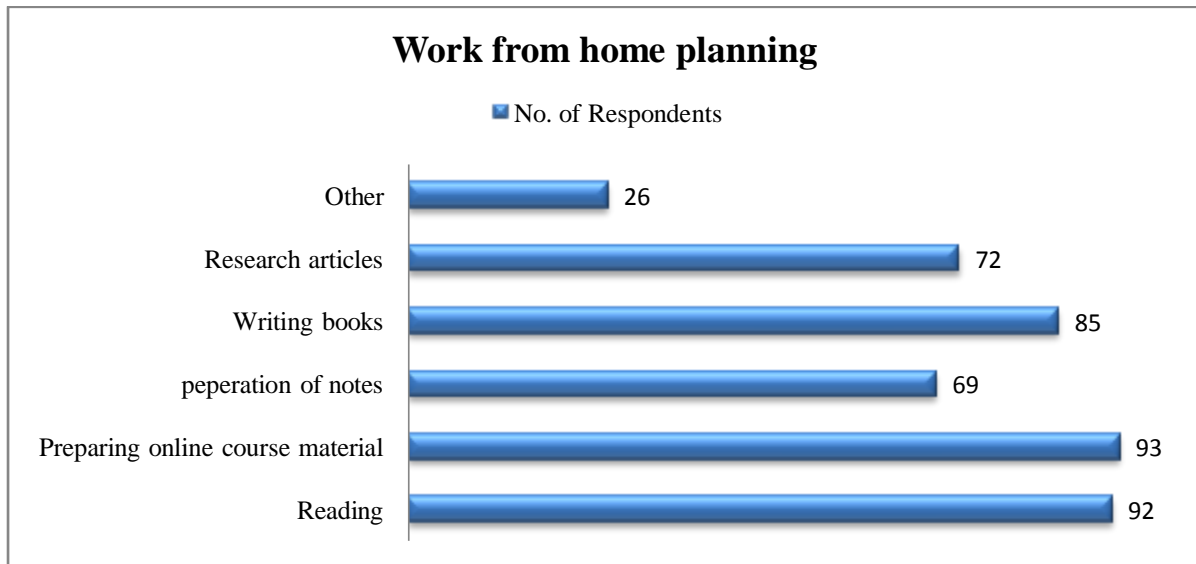
Nearly 71% of the respondents are assistant professors in different colleges and universities, 12% respondents are associate professors and nearly 7% respondents are professors in colleges and universities. Nearly 10% respondents are research scholars and teachers on contract basis. Geographical location is also a key factor in the survey. Nearly 41% respondents are working in the semi urban areas which are mostly taluka places. 34% respondents are working in urban areas like district places and 21.5% respondents are working in colleges situated in rural area. Only 3 % respondents are from metro cities.

Out of the total respondents, nearly 82% teachers are working on regular basis in different colleges and universities. Nearly 10% teachers are working on clock hour basis. Remaining respondents are working on either ad-hoc basis or contract basis. The Mean of the teaching experience of the respondents is 15 years. Nearly 52% respondents are taking 20 lectures per week

while 22% respondents take 18 lectures per week. 8% respondents have a weekly workload of 14 lectures while 11% respondents are having a weekly workload of 16 lectures. Remaining respondents are having a workload of less than 10 lectures per week.

**Nature of work from home:**

Keeping in view the seriousness of Covid-19 pandemic, the UGC had issued guidelines of work from home to all university and college teachers across the country. It was aimed at keeping the teaching fraternity engaged in all academic works in the pandemic period. The academic session is disturbed in the middle of March 2020, which is the peak period of internal and external evaluation in every university. Thus keeping this in mind, UGC had laid major guidelines regarding work from home. The respondents of the survey conducted by us have provided the information regarding their profile of work from home planning. Following chart reflects the different academic activities adopted by the teachers for their work from home.



large number of teachers prefer to prepare notes for the students in the lockdown period. 93 out of 125 respondents say that they would prepare online course materials for students for current as well as upcoming academic session. 92 respondents say that they would like to gain or update their knowledge by reading different books in the lockdown period. 69 respondents say that preparing notes would be their focus during the lockdown period. Teachers are also seen interested in writing academic books and research articles to utilize the period of lockdown. Almost 2/3 teachers feel that

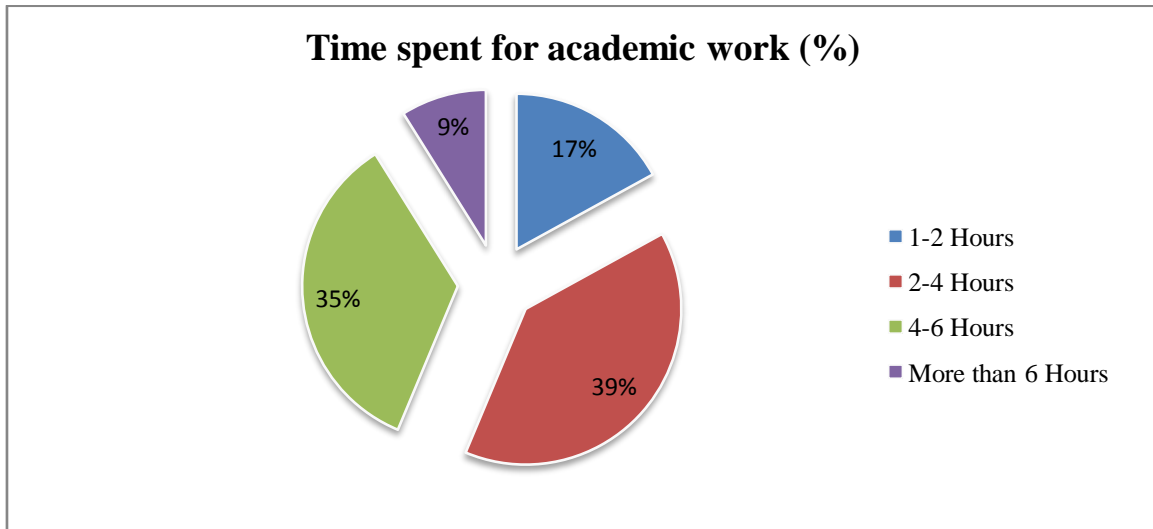
they will utilize the lockdown period to enhance their research skills through writing books and research articles. A very few teachers are interested in attending online courses, webinars, discussion forums and other activities during lockdown period.

**Time spent for academic work**

The teachers are desirous to spend quality time for their academic work during the lockdown period. The teachers showed their interest in different activities like reading, writing and

preparing online study materials etc. for this purpose they need to spend the time according to a

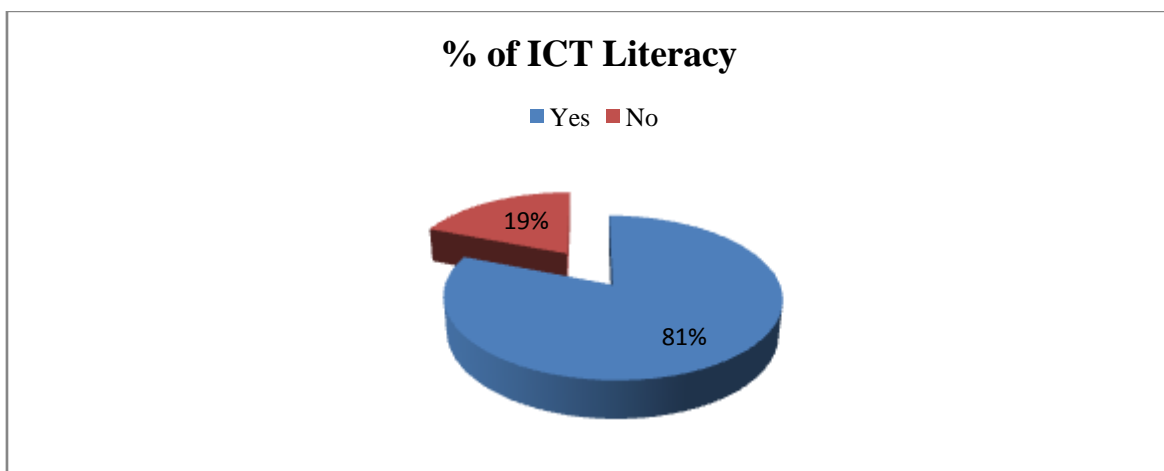
well defined planning. Following pie chart shows the time spent by teachers for academic activities.



Out of the total respondents 17% respondents say that they will spend daily 2 hours for all academic works during the lockdown period. 39% respondents are willing to spend 2-4 hours daily for their academic work while 35% respondents are ready to work 4-6 hours daily for their academic activities as work from home. 9% teachers are ready to work for more than 6 hours a day to improve their academic skills.

**ICT literacy:**

The modern world is technology driven. Therefore to seek the challenges of the future, one has to bear ICT skills. The college and university teachers are aspirant academic soldiers who are ready to accept the changing teaching and learning scenarios. In our survey we found that majority of the teachers are techno-savvy. They can use different types of ICT tools for teaching and learning.



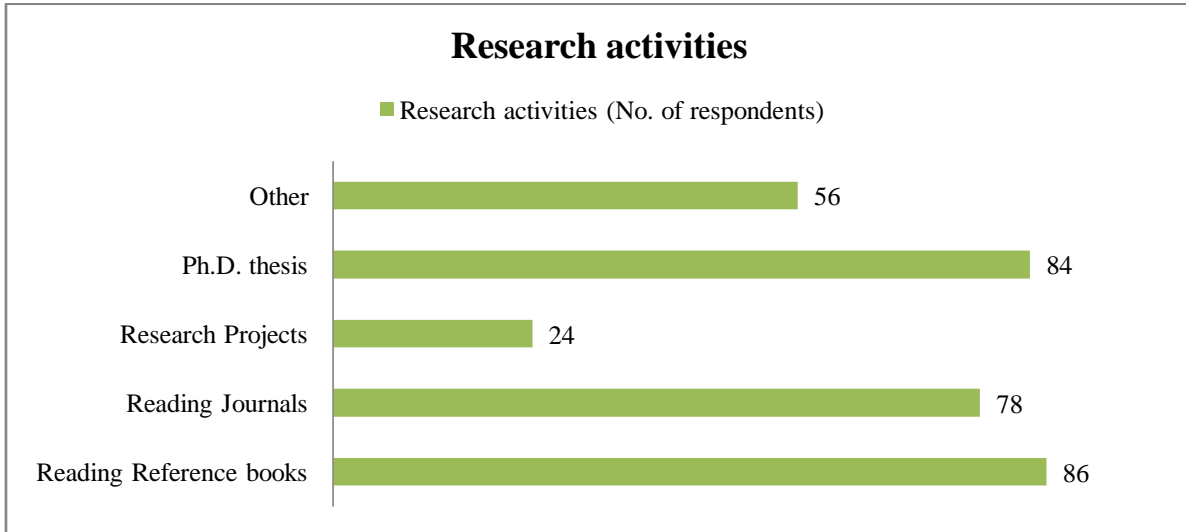
81 % of the total respondents say that they are ICT literate and ready to use technology for effective teaching and learning, while 19 % of the respondents are not so efficient about using the technology. The increased number of ICT literate teachers shows an aspiring picture of availability of

teachers with ICT proficiencies in this kind of pandemic situations.

**Research activities:**

Research is an integral part of the academic activities. A teacher must be able to teach proficiently but at the same time he should be a

good researcher. The survey aimed at understanding the research abilities and dedication of teachers for effective and productive research.

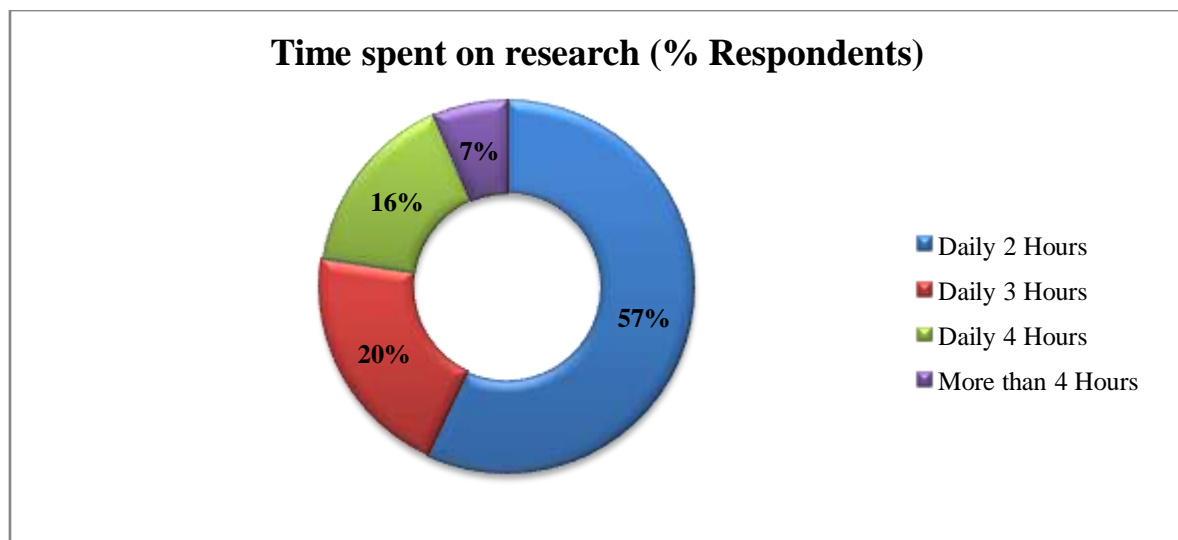


The research and research related activities boost the research knowledge and skills of the teachers. 86 teachers responded that reading reference books is the best option in the lockdown period. 78 teachers opted to study different research journals to update their research knowledge. 24 teachers are working on their research projects. 84 teachers are utilizing their time for completing their doctoral work. 56 teachers responded to participate in online seminar, conference, workshops, faculty

development programs etc. to enhance their research skills.

**Time spent for research and research related activities:**

Time is a crucial factor in doing research. The teachers spent time for their research in a range of 1 hour to 6 hours a day. The following diagram elaborates the time spent by the teachers for their research work.



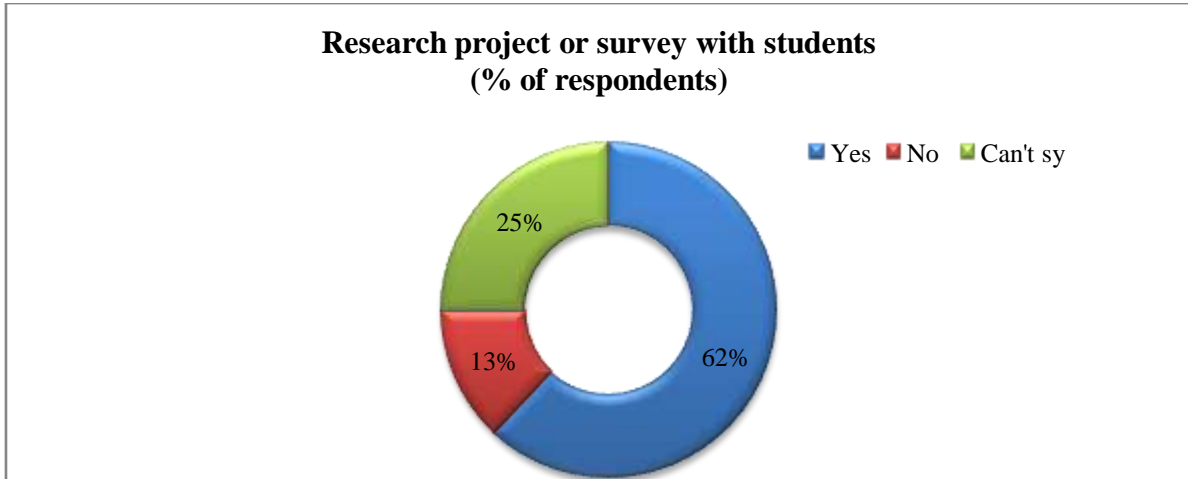
Out of the total respondents, 57% teachers spend daily 2 hours for their research activities. 20% teachers spend daily 3 hours for research while 20% teachers spend daily 4 hours for research activities. Only 7 % of the total

respondents say that they spend more than 4 hours for research during the lockdown period.

**Research project or survey with students:**

The teachers were also asked whether they will conduct a research project or a survey regarding Covid-19 pandemic during the lockdown

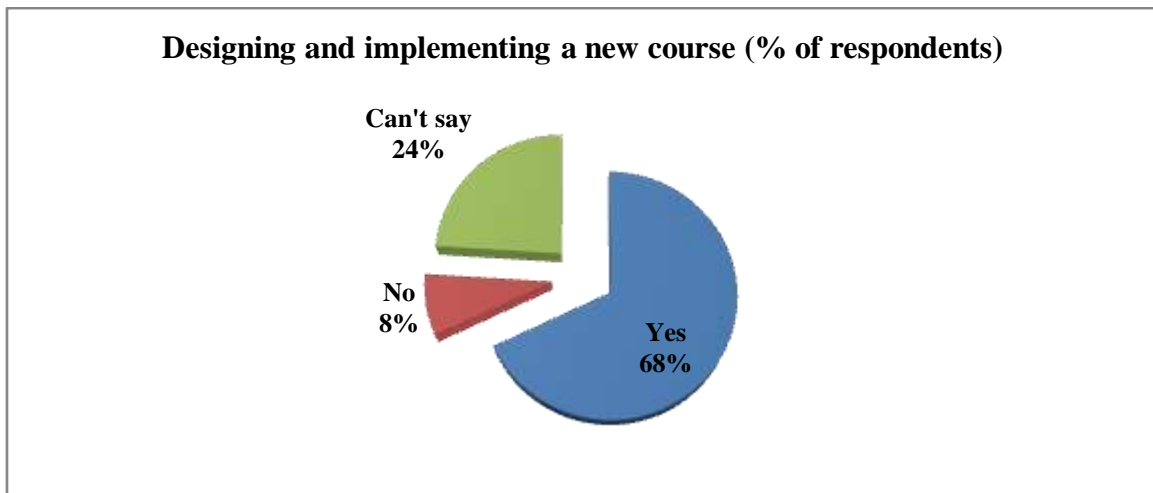
or after lockdown. Many teachers have agreed that they are planning to conduct the research project of survey during or after the lockdown period.



The college and university teachers are also planning to conduct some sort of research projects or surveys with the help of their students. Out of the total respondents 62% teachers say that they are ready to conduct online as well as offline surveys with their students regarding various issues. Only 13% of the total respondents are not willing to conduct any kind of research projects or surveys. 25% teachers have not decided about conducting the research projects or surveys.

**Plan for designing courses for students:**

The teachers were asked about planning for designing any specific course for their students in the lockdown period. Many teachers have shown positive response in framing new courses and implementing the same from the upcoming academic year.



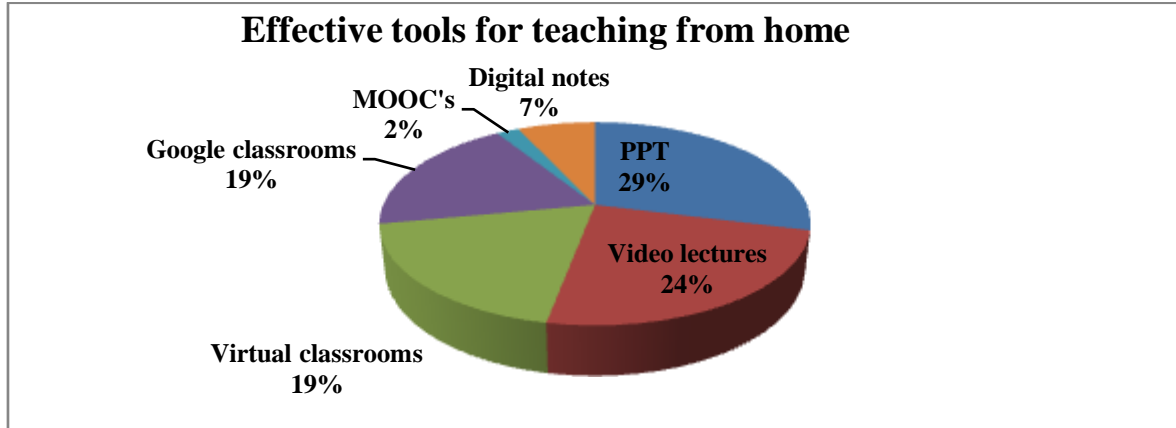
68% respondents have replied that they wish to design and implement a new course for their students from the next academic year. These courses are bridge course, online course, skill based course, interactive course, personality development course, communication skills course etc. 8%

respondents are not interested to start any new course while 24% respondents have not decided upon this question.

**Effective tools for teaching from home:**

As a part of work from home, the college and university teachers are being directed to use different tools for teaching from home. Now days, many effective tools are available for teachers to

teach from home. If the pandemic period extends for uncertain period, the teachers will have to be prepared for teaching from home. The teachers have responded in the following manner.

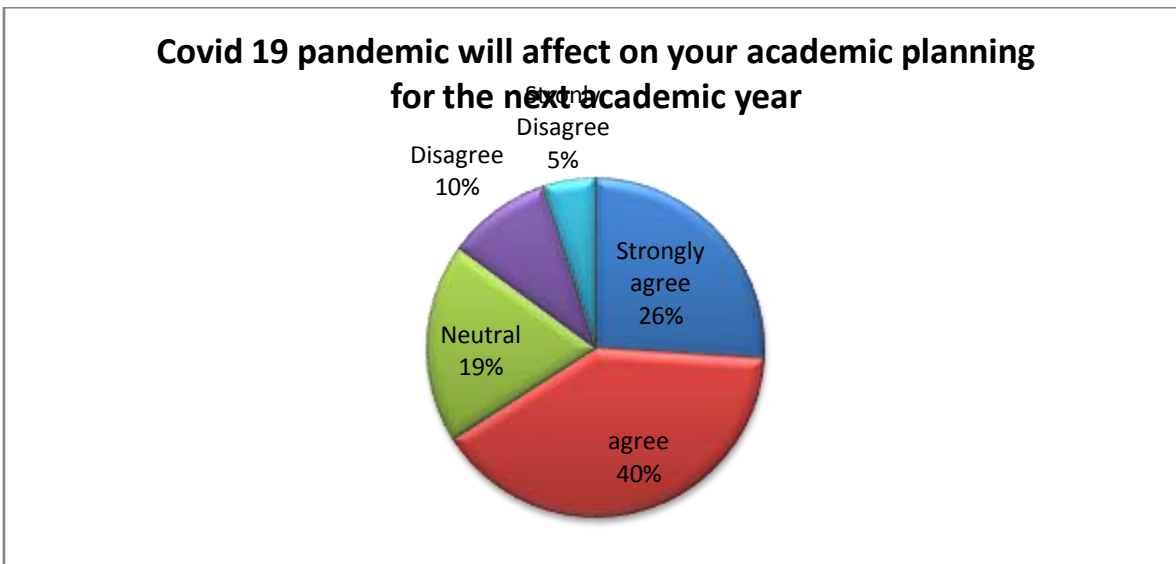


29 % respondents say that Powerpoint Presentation (PPT) is the best ICT tool for teaching from home. 24% teachers prefer video lectures for teaching from home. 19% teachers are in the favor of virtual classroom teaching tools. 19% teachers also suggest google classroom as an effective tool for teaching from home. 7% teachers are planning to use digital notes for teaching from home, while only 2% teachers think that MOOC's are better option for teaching from home.

exception for it. The Govt. has wisely decided to shut all schools, colleges and universities till the condition gets normal. This means that the next academic year will be affected due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The UGC has recently released guidelines for all universities and colleges across the country in which it has recommended to start the next academic year from September 2020. Off course, this will affect on the mindset of teachers as well as students. To understand the preparation of the teachers, a question regarding impact of this pandemic on next academic year was included in the survey.

**Impact of Covid-19 Pandemic on academic planning of next year:**

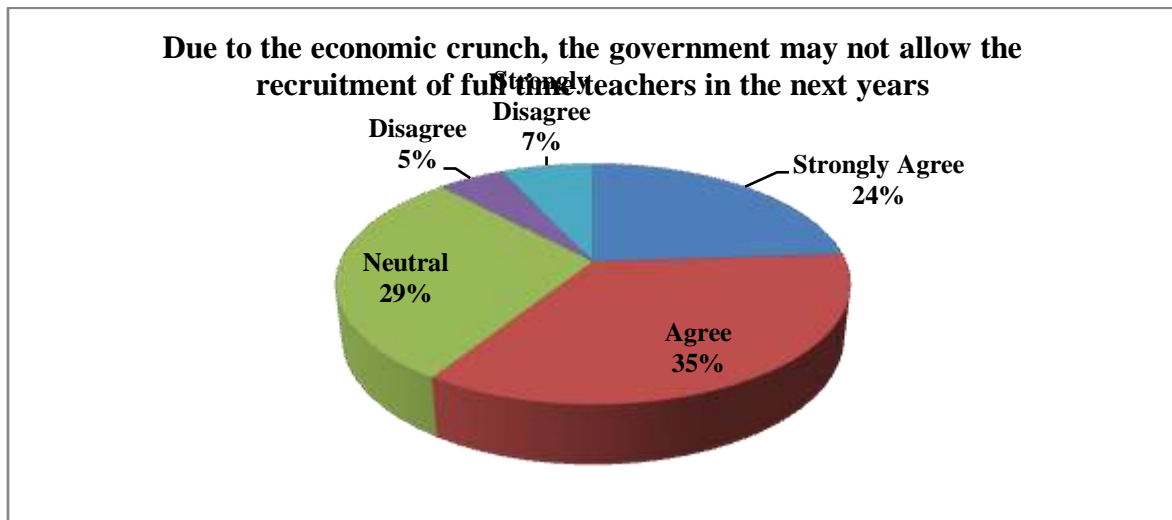
The Covid-19 pandemic has affected almost all sectors of the country. Education is no



26 % of the total respondents strongly agree and 40% others agree that the Covid 19 pandemic will affect on their academic planning for the next academic session. 19% teachers are neutral about the future prediction. Only 15 % teachers don't agree that the Covid-19 pandemic will anyhow affect on the next academic session.

Due to the economic crunch on the Government's revenue, the Government may not allow the recruitment of new posts of college and university teachers. It may create burden over existing teacher's workload in different manners. The researcher tried to find out the overall opinion of the college and university teachers about Govt. policy regarding teacher recruitment.

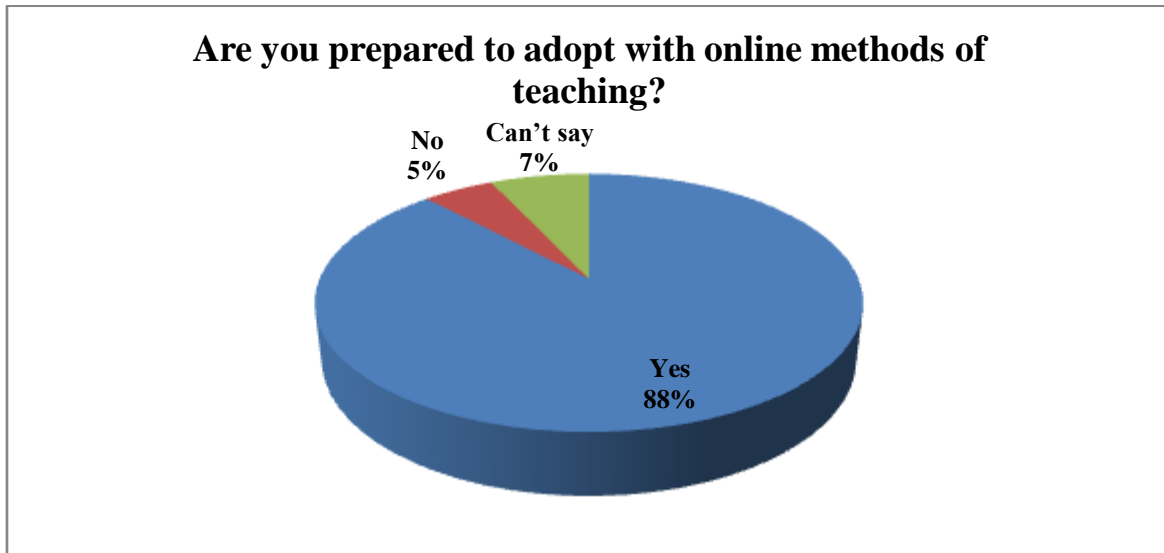
**Impact of Covid-19 pandemic on teacher's recruitment process:**



24% of the total respondents strongly agree and 35% respondents agree that due to the economic crunch the Government will not allow the recruitment of teachers in the next few years. 29% teachers are neutral about it and mere 12% teachers disagree that the government will not allow the recruitment of new teachers at university as well as college level. It shows that nearly 60% teachers are afraid of increased workload due to the unavoidable policy of the government.

**Preparedness of teachers with changing new methods:**

The Covid-19 pandemic has posed many challenges before the teachers of higher educational institutions. Keeping in view the need of the hour, the teachers are ready to adopt new techniques and methods of teaching for sustaining in this crunch situation.



88% of the total respondents are ready to adopt with online methods of teaching. 5% teachers are still not ready to use online teaching methods whereas 7% respondents have not yet decided about it.

### III. FINDINGS OF THE STUDY:

The researcher had set certain objectives for this survey. The researcher had asked a variety of questions to the respondents through this survey form. The respondents have given pin pointed responses for all the questions regarding academic planning. Following major findings are taken out as an extract of this study.

- 1) The teachers had a planning in their mind regarding work from home policy. A large number of respondent teachers had prepared their plan for the lockdown period.
- 2) An average of 3 hours per day is spent by teachers in their academic work like preparing notes, reading books etc.
- 3) An average of 3 hours per day is spent by teachers in research related activities like projects, writing books and research articles etc.
- 4) Majority of the teachers are ICT literate and aspired to take ICT enabled classes through different mediums like video lectures, virtual classrooms, Google classroom, PPT etc.
- 5) A very few teachers are interested to take MOOC's.
- 6) 2/3 respondents believe that Covid-19 pandemic will affect on their overall academic planning for the next academic year.
- 7) Nearly 60% teachers are worried about Govt. policy regarding non-recruitment of new teachers at university and college level in the next few years.

- 8) 88% of the respondents are ready to adopt with the changing teaching and learning techniques.

### IV. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION:

The entire world is under the influence of the Covid-19 pandemic right now. It has posed many serious challenges to the very existence of human race. However, education is the very important sector which is affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. The university and college teachers are taking all necessary steps to continue the teaching and learning through different modes in this lockdown period. The present study reflects that the threat of Covid-19 has raised many issues regarding higher education. The overall Indian higher education system is on the verge of a master change now. Accordingly, the teachers, researchers and students will have to make necessary adjustments in the coming future to match up with the global challenges. The study reveals that ICT enabled teaching and learning is the only situation in any emergency period. Right now, it is the duty of the higher education system to sustain itself and modify itself according the changing demands of the time.

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