

What I Found Out About Online Lessons During COVID-19

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Hello everyone. Now, we are suffering from COVID-19 all over the world. In NIT Tsuyama College, we took online lessons for the first semester. Today, I'd like to tell you about what I felt and thought about online lessons. Moreover, I researched what other students felt and experienced about online lessons.

It was good I could take lessons on schedule, but it was hard to ask questions to teachers on chat, and the system was complicated. Suddenly, I got worried about how other students were doing with online lessons. So I asked a teacher about that. He gave me some advice. He said, "You should do some research and open your eyes wide to the world."

First, I gave a questionnaire to 1st year students at Tsuyama College in August. Please look at this graph. 100% of students were using computers because they had bought their own PC when they entered the school, which is called 'BYOD: Bring Your Own Device'.

Next, 100% of them had the Internet environment.

I used a 5 point Likert scale for these questions. The first question, "Could you join online lessons without problems?" It shows the average 4.29, which is very high.

The next question, "Could you ask teachers on chat or e-mail?" It shows the average 4.12, which is still high.

The last question, "Do you like online lessons better than face to face lessons?" It shows the average 2.3, which is quite low. They prefer face to face lessons to online lessons.

There were some reasons. "I couldn't concentrate at home." "It was hard to take lessons because I had never had experience." "I couldn't feel I was taking real lessons. So new knowledge passed through my brain without sticking."

Second, I asked my friends using Instagram and LINE. One of my friends of a public high school was using the app "Classi". She went to school just once a week and submitted her homework. The other friend of a private high school was using the app "zoom". They said, "I didn't have enough motivation", "There were a lot of difficult things to understand". I guess that one of the reasons is that they don't have convenient systems like Kosen-Blackboard and Office 365 which we always use.

Third, I got some research data from a junior high school teacher. Please look at this graph. About 96% of the students of the school can use some devices like smartphones, tablets or computers, but about 20% of them can not take the online materials because of the limitation of GIGA byte usage.

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The Japanese government is proceeding with an educational policy called 'GIGA School Program'. In this policy, high speed Internet environment will be ready and each student will be given a learning device, but now only 41% of schools can activate the policy.

Through this survey, I noticed that we, Kosen students had remote lessons in a rich environment. Kosen has both 'face to face lessons' and 'online lessons', which is a very excellent blended learning system. I have learned that blended learning, that is, using technology and face to face human communication together is the best. I have made up my mind to study the technical knowledge harder than before in order to contribute to help the whole society upgrade for the future.

Thank you for listening.