A STUDY ON THE INFLUENCE OF DIGITAL EMPOWERMENT AMONG TEACHERS IN CONTEMPORARY TEACHING

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Abstract
In this modern world knowledge is power. Education is the key point of acquiring knowledge. Through digitization, the new emerging mode of business, India could be transformed into empowered society and knowledge economy. The knowledge of basic use of internet, which connects everything and everyone online aims at empowering citizens of India. Spreading of digital literacy is one of the basic elements of digital campaign, which in turn empowers young India. Teachers are the main catalysts to convey the digital knowledge to young Indians. There is a need for a teacher to go parallel in both learning and teaching new technology to students which in turn digitally empowers them. This paper emphasizes at evaluating the thrust of teacher in procuring and disseminating digital knowledge for digital empowerment.

Keywords: Digital, Empowerment, Teachers, Education, Learning.

Introduction

Digital literacy is the ability to locate, organise, understand, evaluate and create information for using digital technology. It is the basic knowledge of digital medium, to utilise the technology of internet, smart phones, computer tablet. It is the introduction of information technology in every sector of the economy to empower people, that is, from health to industry, education to commerce. We have seen the conversion of entire world into digital space, where one has to adapt himself into digital learning.

Educational institutions and teachers are major players in empowering young India. Digital literacy among teachers makes their work easy and simple. When they are aware of digital skills and competencies, they can teach and guide the students more competently and professionally. Today's educational environment is dynamic and challenging, which demands the teachers to play a significant role like digital networkers and learning consultants. There is a need for proper search, evaluation, analysation, application and dissemination of information according to the specific context. The great challenge is whether universities and teachers are meeting these needs at a higher level of thinking to empower the students who are future citizens of India. Therefore, in this digital era teachers also have to inculcate co -learning along with students.

Teachers act as torch bearers to students. There is no substitute to good teaching. They have to connect the students to knowledge, which is true, valid and accurate. Through emerging digital technology teachers have to motivate students to pursue self-directed learning in both local and global environment. Through digital technology teachers could close gaps in students achievement. A teacher being himself a constant learner could endeavour the love of learning in students.

Teaching is considered as one of the noble professions, which builds the nation by keeping the talent pool of students employable, by guiding them in a right path. Though today's students are more passionate about their subjects of interest, they require mentorship to tune up themselves, which they expect from teachers.

Research Paper
Impact Factor: 6.304
Peer Reviewed & Indexed Journal
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IJBARR
E- ISSN -2347-856X
ISSN -2348-0653

Literature Review

Tony Fisher Chris Higgins (2006) Teaches Learning with Digital Technologies: A review of research and projects. This study emphasises on powerful learning environment for teachers and maps on to the potential affordances of Digital technologies to enhance and expand their knowledge. Digital technologies play the role to extend the use of creating a new way of dealing with tasks.

Maarit Makinen (2006) Digital empowerment as the process for enhancing citizens participation. This study opines that empowerment is the sense of enablement which helps the people to do what is important to them. It strengthens them to grow as competent personalities in the societies.

Frank B. Withrow (2013) Literacy I the Digital age; Reading, Writing, Viewing and Computing. This paper states the importance of technology in development of child's literacy. The author opines that teacher who fails to bring technology to the learner's desk fails in practicing the profession of teaching.

Dr. Soon SengThah (2013) Digital empowerment in education for school administrators and teachers – The Malaysian experience. This study aims at exploring the need for Digital education from Pre-school to Post-secondary education and another higher study. The author opines that Digital empowerment depends on the systematic plan and its implementation in educational institutions where it can be measured by the level of teacher teaching and student learning. The author also states not only students and teachers, parents should also take active part and support their children to excel in this field.

Shikha Dua, Seema Wadhawan, Sweety Gupta (2016) Issues, trends and challenges of digital education. An Empowering innovative classroom model for learning. The objective of this paper is to discuss the upcoming trends in digital education eco-system, which shapes the future of young generation towards empowerment. The author opines that through digital technology education sector has emerged to be the fastest field where there is major change in teaching and learning methods styles and content.

Cathy Burnett (2016) The Digital age and its implications for learning and teaching in the primary school. This study aims at explaining the importance of digital technology in education, right from primary level. The author opines that digital knowledge connects the curriculum, pedagogy and schools which supports child's emotional and social life. Therefore, teachers are major players in this field. They should be provided with professional development to acquire digital skills in their career, so that they impart their experiences in class room.

Martin Beckett, A vision for learning and teaching in a digital age. This paper aims at building a progressive and sustainable vision for learning and teaching in a digital age. The author states that the teacher must have four skills like Creativity and Innovation, Critical thinking, Communication and Collaboration to empower the students through Digital learning. He also opines that through Digital education students are trained to play their role in rapid technological change and increase globalization.

Objectives of the study
- To evaluate the digital literacy among teachers
- To measure the influence of digitization on teaching
- Need of digital education for digital empowerment of India.

Research Methodology

Type of Research: This study is both analytical and descriptive in nature.

Sources of Data: Collected Data is collected through both primary data and secondary data. Primary data is collected from 30 teachers through questionnaire and secondary data from other research articles, websites and journals.

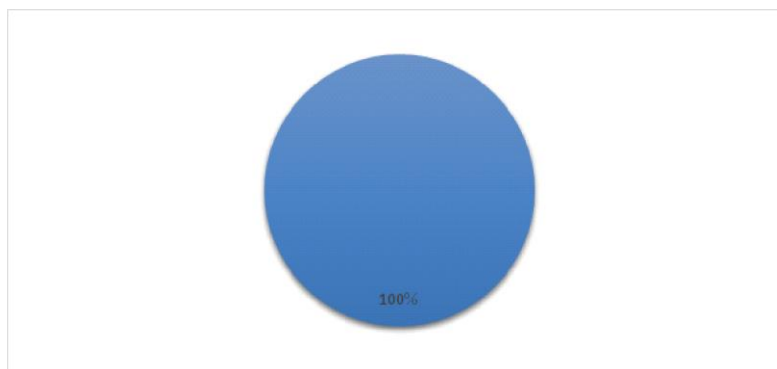**Sampling Technique:**Convenient sampling technique is used to collect the data.
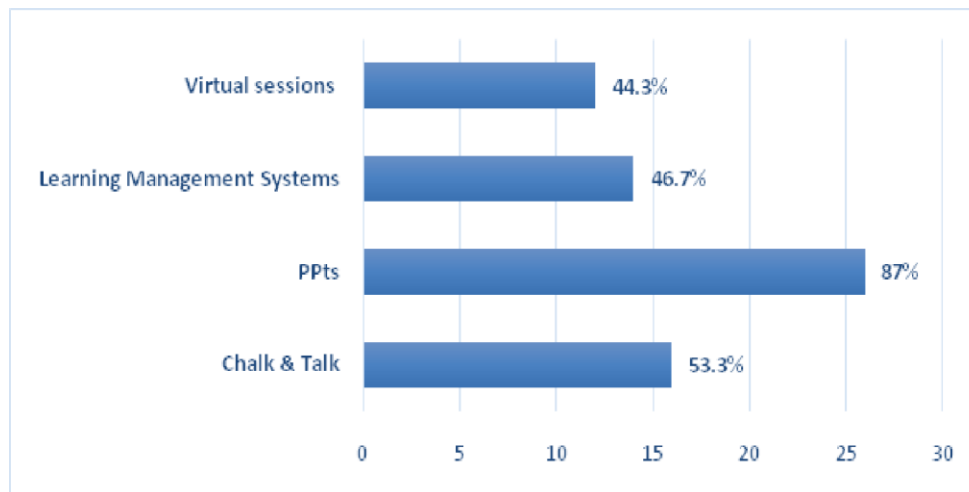
Sample size : Analysis is done by taking 30 respondents.

Limitations

1. Information is collected only from UG and PG lecturers.
2. A small sample size of 30 is considered.
3. Only Commerce, Management and Art lecturers are considered

Data Analysis
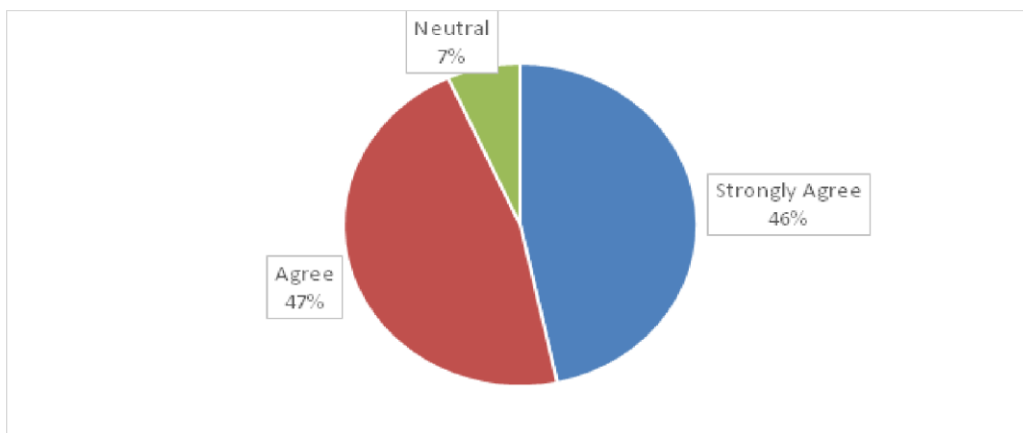
1.Teachers accustomed to Digital teaching techniques

100%

2.Teaching Technique that reaches the listener quickly

Technique	Value
Virtual sessions	44.3%
Learning Management Systems	46.7%
PPts	87%
Chalk & Talk	53.3%

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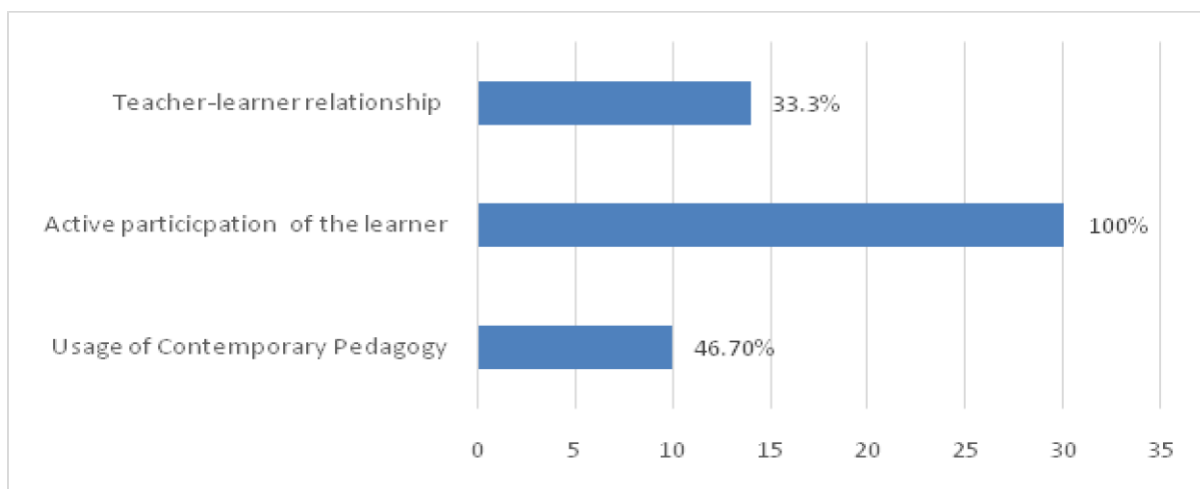
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E- ISSN -2347-856X
ISSN -2348-0653

**4. Teachers acquaintance level towards the Emerging Digital pedagogical sources**
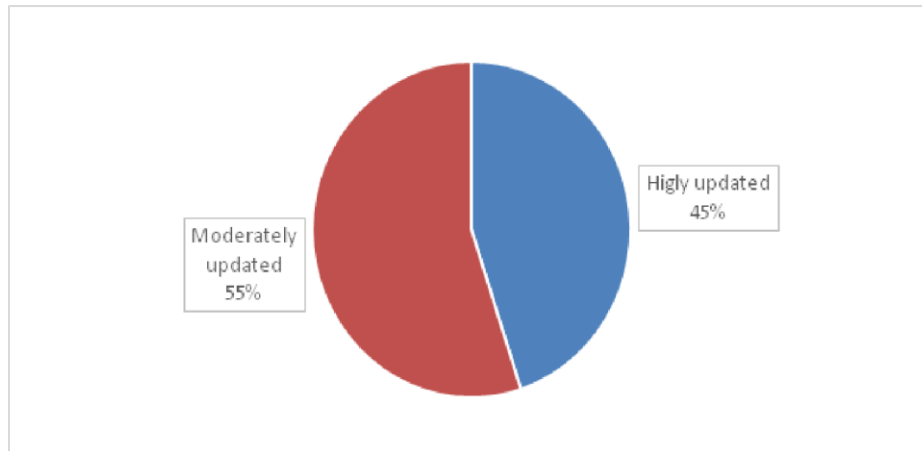
5.“Need of the Hour” is to be aware of Contemporary teaching techniques


6.Influential factor of a Comprehensive knowledge seeking state in a Classroom

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7. There is paradigm shift in the learning aspiration of Students and Knowledge enhancement of Teacher
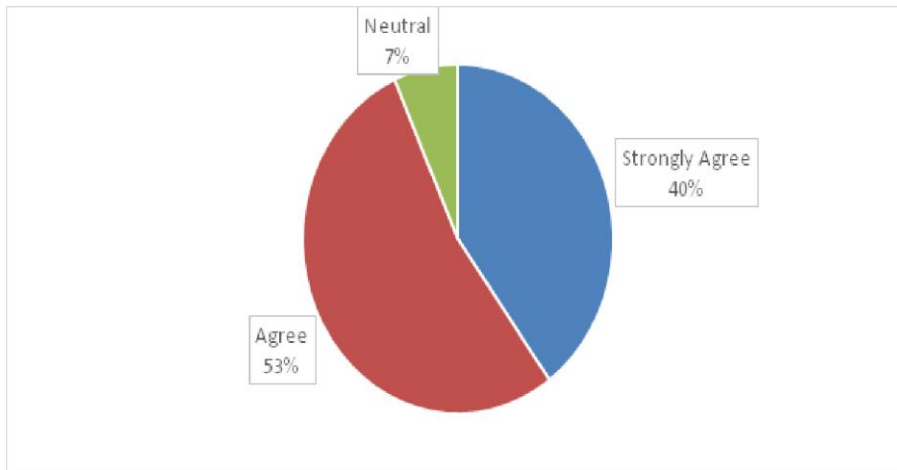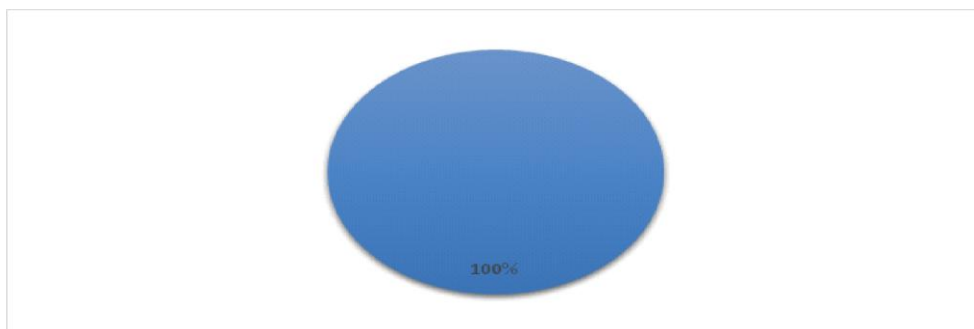

8. MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses) are slowly replacing the traditional Classroom teaching
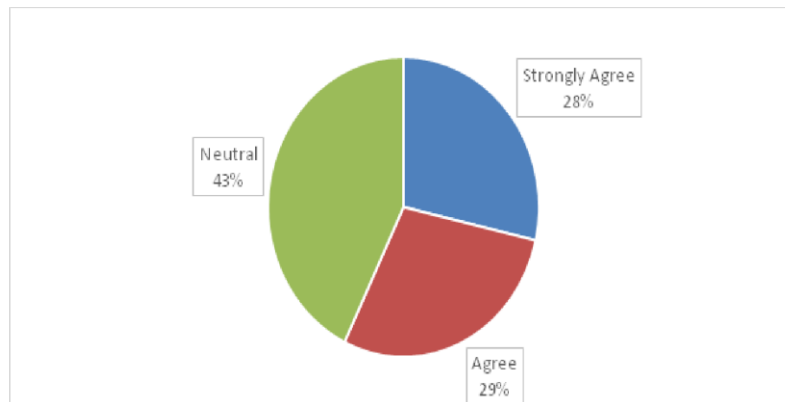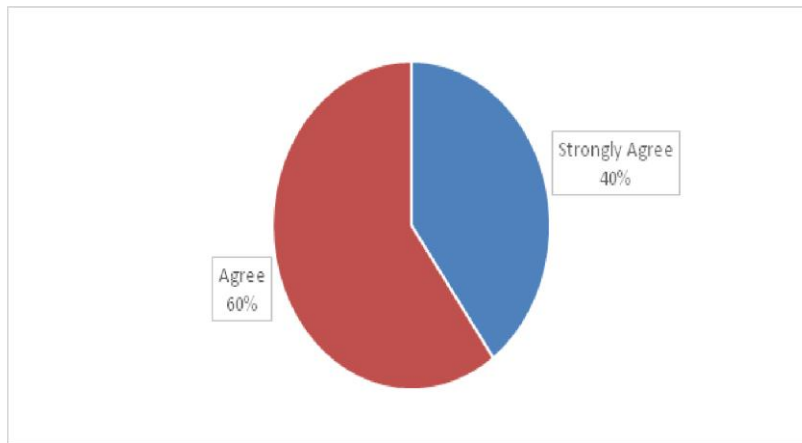

A massive open online course (MOOC) is a model for delivering learning content online to any person who wants to take a course, with no limit on attendance.
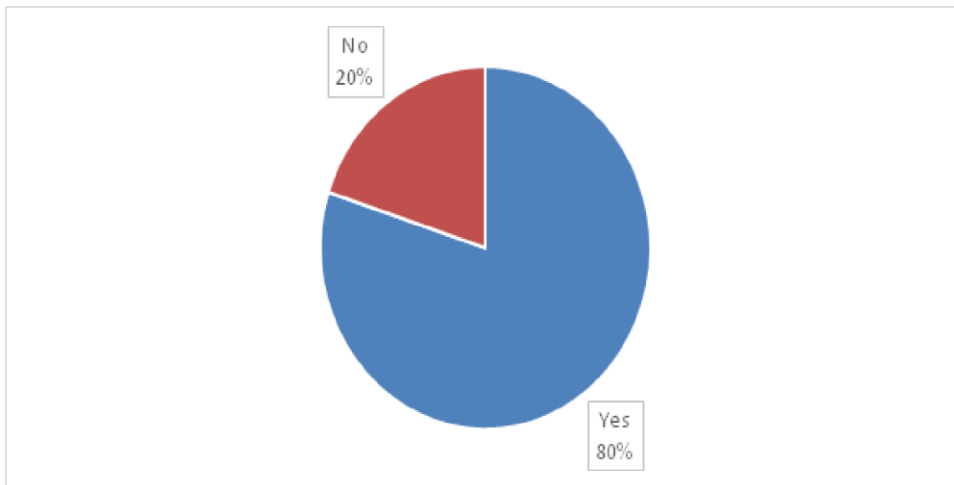
9. Mobile phone and other Gadgets are the modern-day source of knowledge seeking
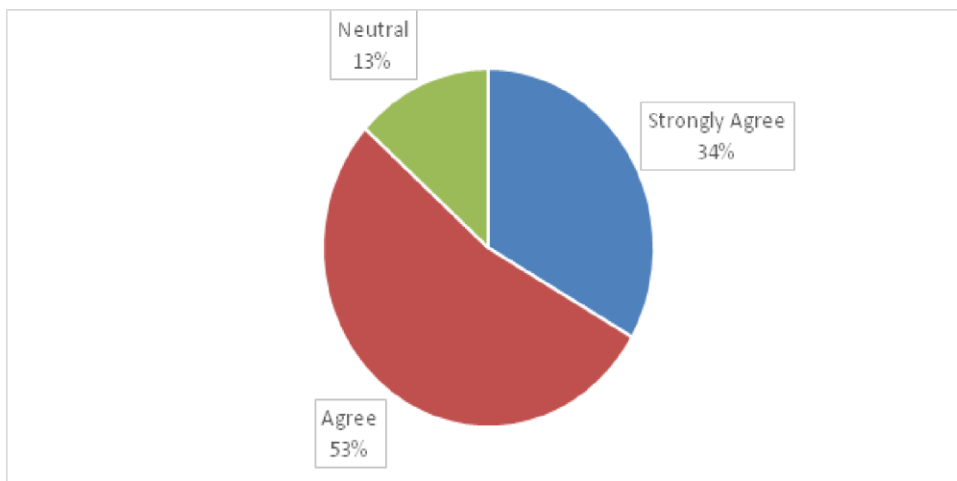
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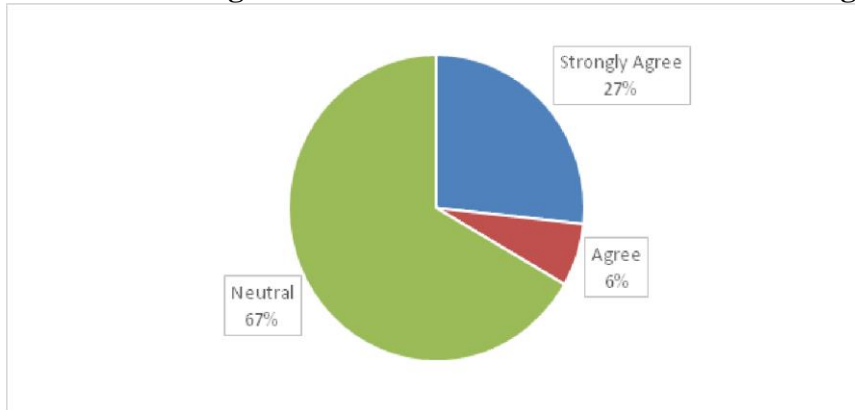**10. Digitally robust Campus is the next Hot-spot in the Education sector**

**11.Active user of E- Library, Digi-magazines, and E-Journals**

12. E- Library is the alternate source of learning for the present-day learner

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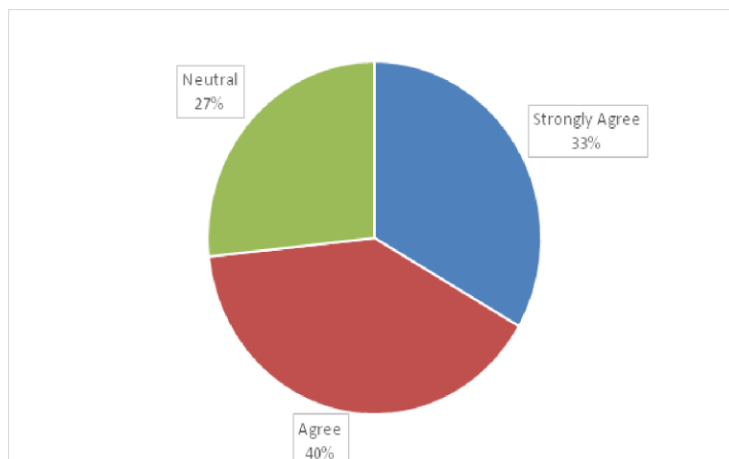
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13. Social Media is the linkage that associates the World in one's Knowledge enrichment

14. Websites utilised as a part of knowledge enhancement
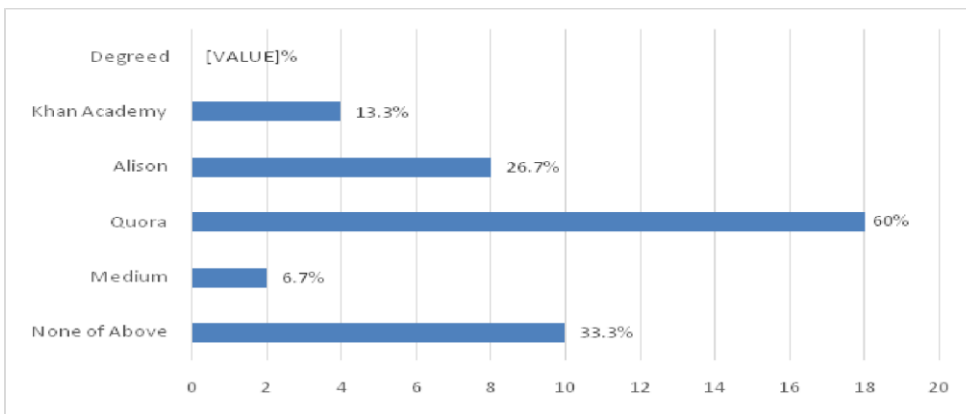
15. Digital Education alters the prevailing Education system

Analysis and Interpretation

Through the above survey, it is proved that all teachers are aware of digital technologies. Respondents agree that not only Chalk and Talk there are other digital technologies of teaching like PPT, Virtual sessions and Learning Management systems which are widely used. More than 50% of respondents are acquainted towards the emerging pedagogical resources and are aware that Contemporary teaching techniques are the "Need of an Hour". Respondents stress on the active participation of the Learners in the classroom.

Very few respondents agree that MOOC's are slowly replacing classroom techniques, where all of them agree Mobile phones and Modern gadgets are also the sources of knowledge seeking. At the end, more than 50% of respondents agree that Digital Technologies alters the prevailing education system.

Suggestions
- Teachers should show interest in the use of digital teaching techniques.
- Educational Institutions must provide a robust digital environment, infrastructure and create a digitally equipped campus.
- Education Institutions should train the teachers with the latest digital teaching techniques/ learning sources.
- Digital literacy must enable the user, the ability to locate, evaluate and use effectively the needed information.
- Digital literacy must enhance the ability to organise, apply and communicate information to the needy according to the situation.

Conclusion

In order to Digitally empower the citizens of India, the government has formulated the digital education from the basic level of learning, which can be adopted by the teachers in their teaching technique.
From the above analysis, we can find out that teachers are Digitally literate. It is a challenge to adopt the Digital teaching techniques along with chalk and talk. It connects the students to digital world which in turn enhances the digital awareness and makes a way to the digital empowerment.

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4. http://www.ictacademy.in/pages/Digital-Empowerment.aspx.
5. https://www.jisc.ac.uk/news/is-digital-technology-changing-learning-and-teaching-15-mar-2017.
6. http://cprtrust.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/Burnett-report-20160720.pdf.
7. http://www.opsba.org/SiteCollectionDocuments/OPSBA_AVisionForLearning.pdf.
8. http://www.dailyo.in/politics/digital-india-narendra-modi-education-technology-students-teachers-schools/story/1/ 4829.html.
9. https://www.mygov.in/sites/default/files/user_submission/55aa0999e7f5443c6647dd5d7b347b5f.pdf.
10. http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=108926.
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