

Students' Perception About The Usefulness Of SWAYAM - NPTEL Courses - A Study

- S. Sountharya

M.Phil. (English)

Chevalier T. Thomas Elizabeth (C.T.T.E.) College for Women

Chennai. 11

email id: sountharyasrini1397@gmail.com

BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY:

In the 21st century, engaging students in active learning with online instructional materials has become possible with the introduction of Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) by different universities around the world. The world of higher education has seen a massive shift over the past few years towards the realm of online education (*Magna2018*). In that way, MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses) provide an affordable and flexible way to learn new skills, advance the scope of career and deliver quality educational experiences at a larger scale. After the United States, India has become the second largest user country of MOOCs (Chakravarty 14). Currently, NPTEL, mooKIT, IITBX, and SWAYAM are the platforms used in India for offering MOOC courses (Chauhan 111).

National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning (NPTEL) initiated in 2003 and funded by the Ministry of Human Resource and Development (MHRD) is a joint initiative by the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) and Indian Institute of Technology (IITs). It provides quality online education to anyone who is interested in learning different subjects in Humanities, Management, Science, Engineering, and Technology through the Internet (Chauhan 112).

Study Webs of Active Learning for Young Aspiring Minds (SWAYAM) is the National MOOCs portal developed by Ministry of Human Resource and Development (MHRD). It is designed to achieve three cardinal principles of education policy namely access, equity, and quality. NPTEL (National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning) is one of the official national coordinators of SWAYAM which also receives financial support from MHRD. Initially, SWAYAM portal was accessible only through web

portal. Nowadays anyone can access SWAYAM courses through web portal as well as SWAYAM mobile app.

Need for the Study:

NPTEL acts as a remarkable platform that provides e-learning through online video courses in various streams. It is important to examine whether NPTEL helps students improve their subject knowledge in Higher Education Institutions (HEI).

Objective of the Study:

- The objective of the study is to investigate whether students find NPTEL courses helpful in improving their subject knowledge and learning/revising for exams.

Hypothesis of the Study:

- NPTEL courses help students in improving their subject knowledge.

Location of the Study:

- The location of the study is Chevalier T. Thomas Elizabeth (CTTE) College for Women, Perambur, Chennai.

Samples of the Study:

- The samples of the study are NPTEL exam participants from Chevalier T. Thomas Elizabeth (CTTE) College for Women, Perambur, Chennai.

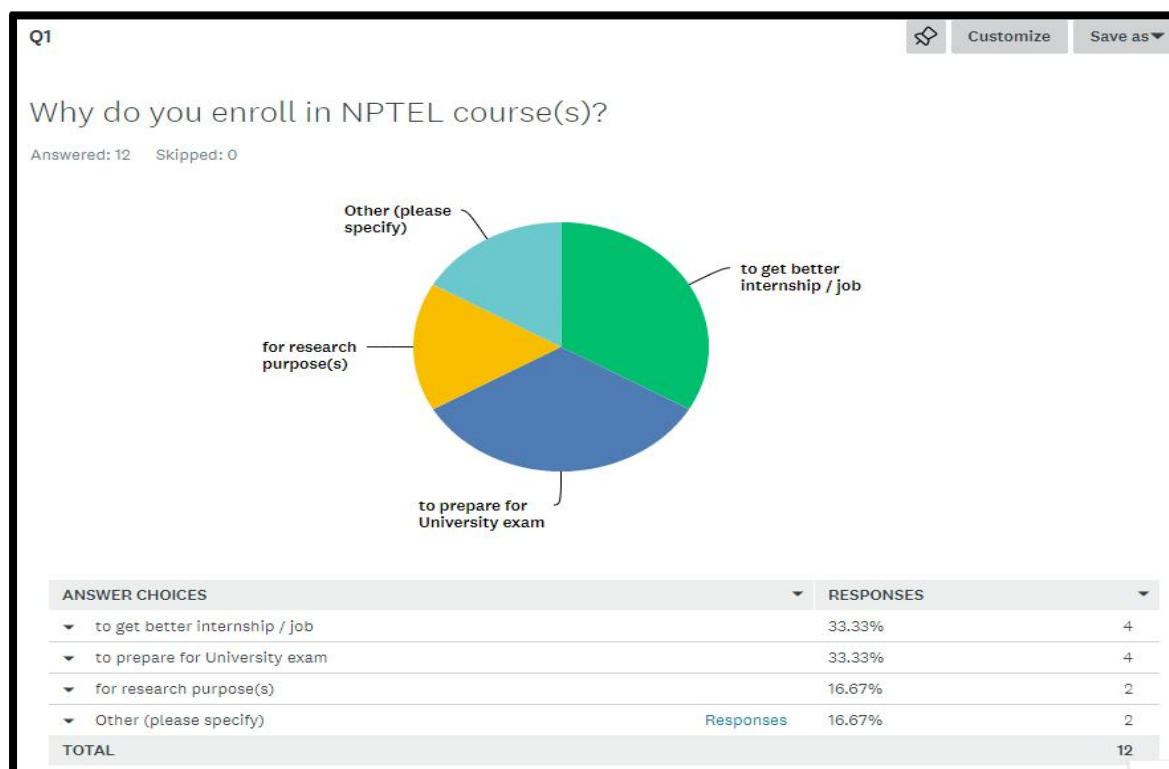
Research Tool:

- A feedback questionnaire with multiple-choice questions is designed using *Survey Monkey*.

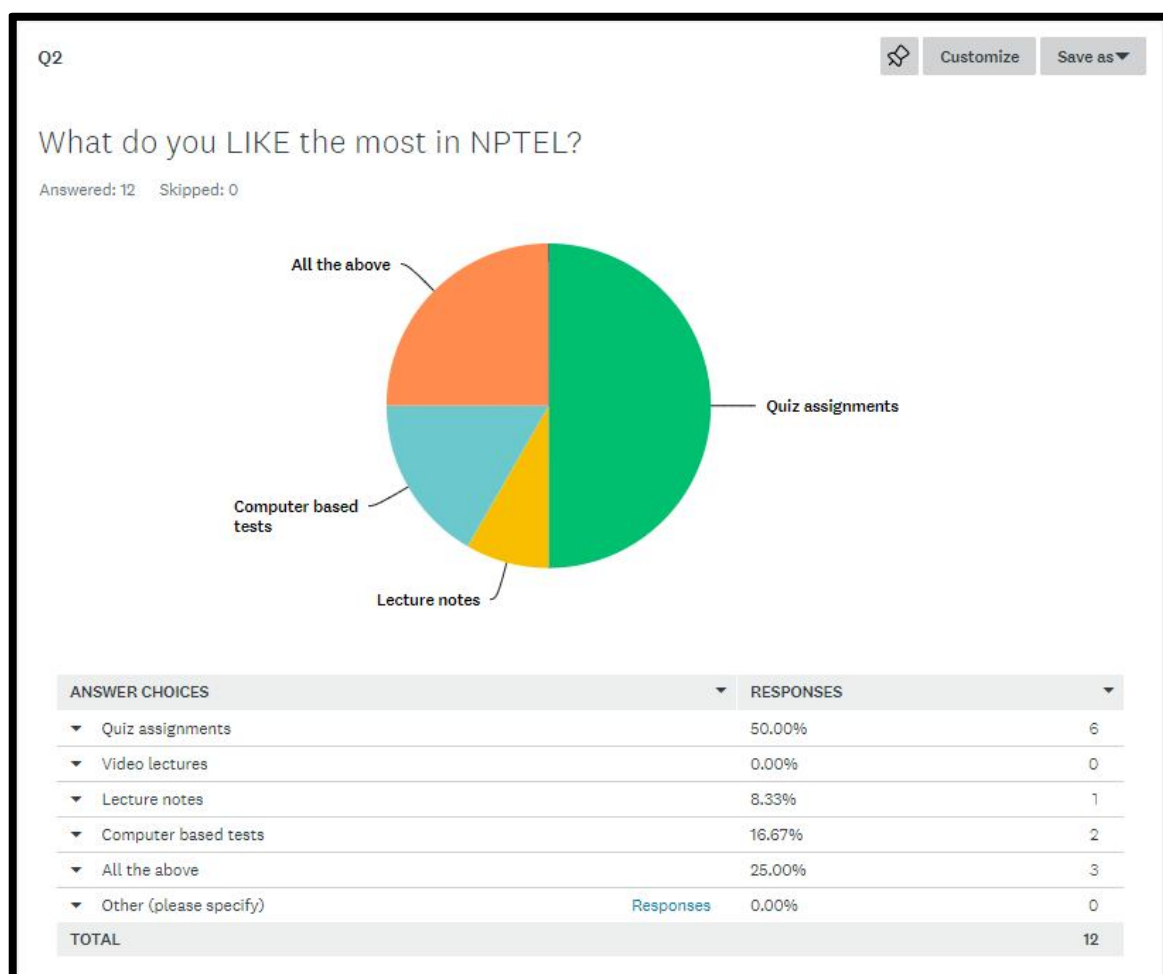
Methodology

- Survey Questionnaire is given, and feedback is collected from the students who have completed NPTEL course(s) with *Elite* certificate.

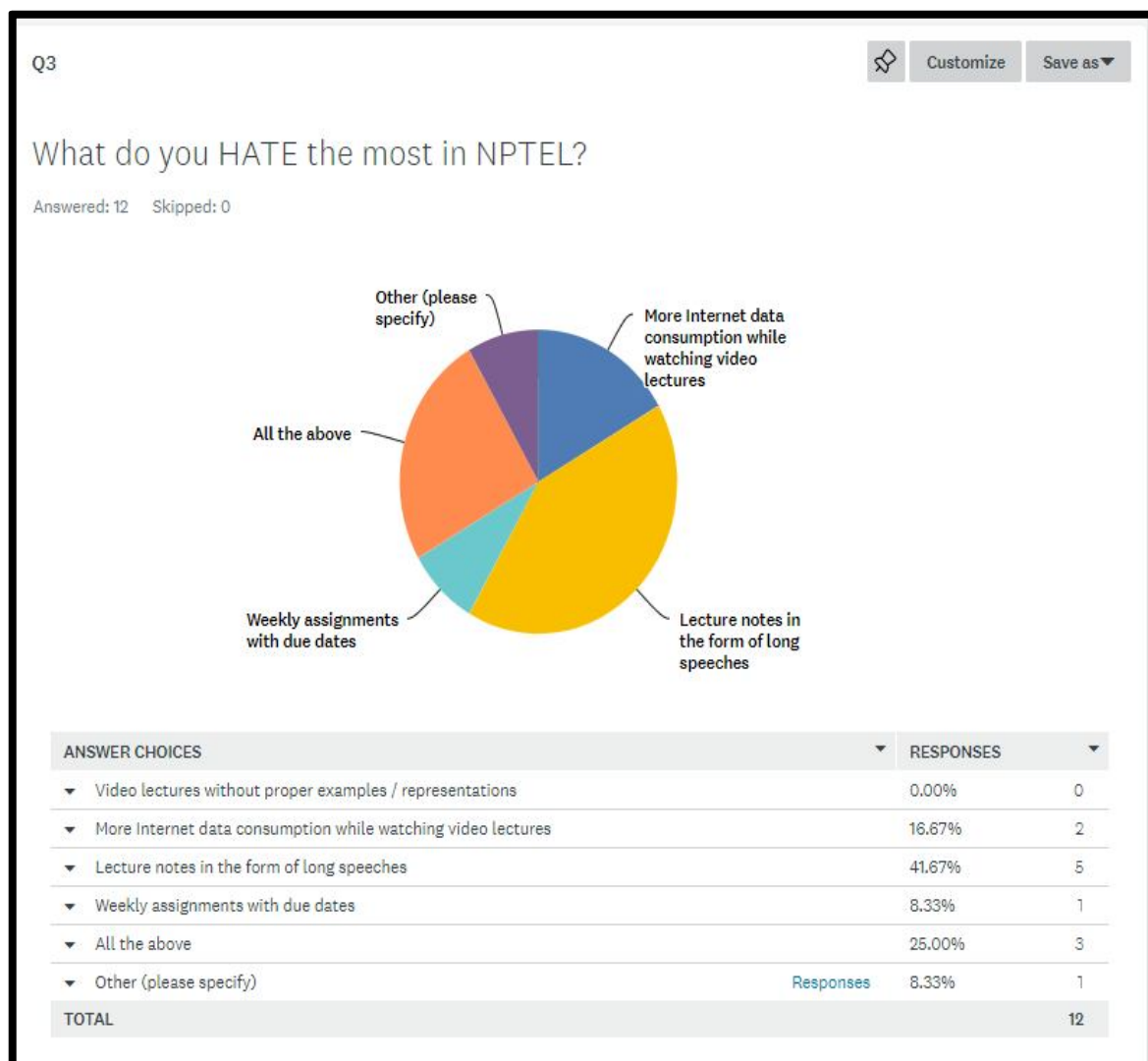
Data Analysis and Interpretation:



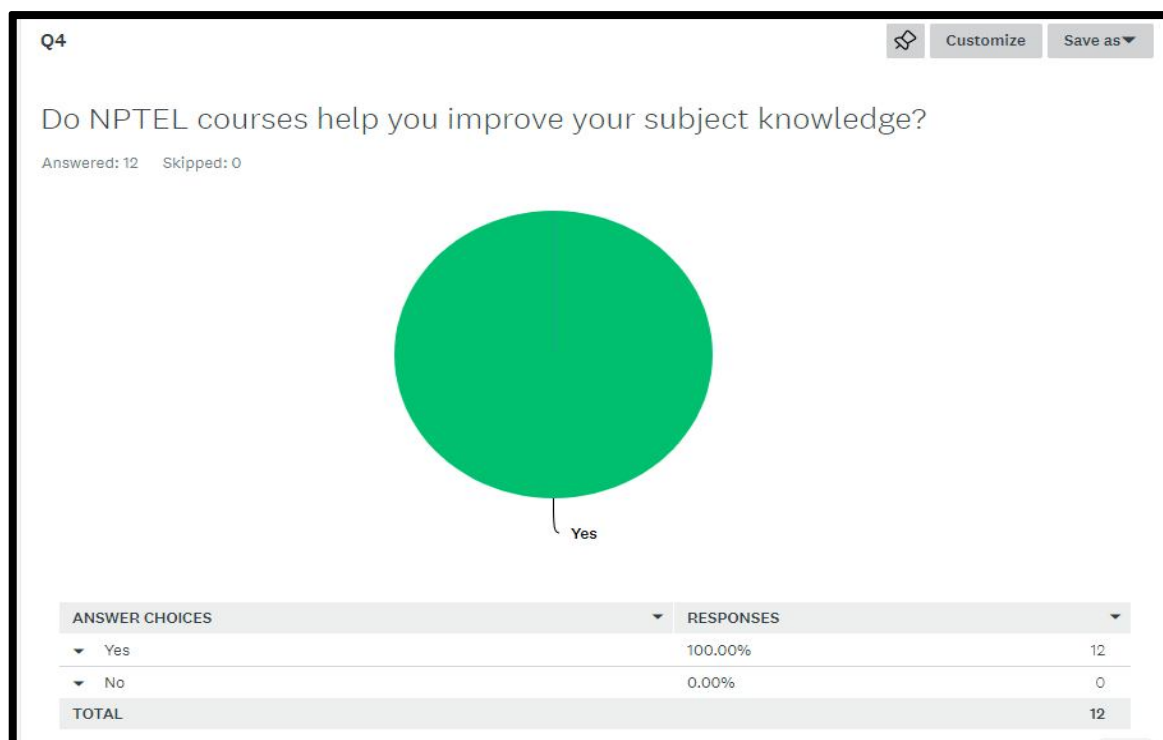
- Out of 12 students, 4 students (33%) believe that NPTEL courses help them get better internship or job.
- 4 students (33%) remark that NPTEL courses help them prepare for University Exams.
- 2 students (17%) remark that NPTEL course is useful for research purpose(s).
- 2 students (17%) remark that NPTEL course is useful for the preparation of UGC NET exam.



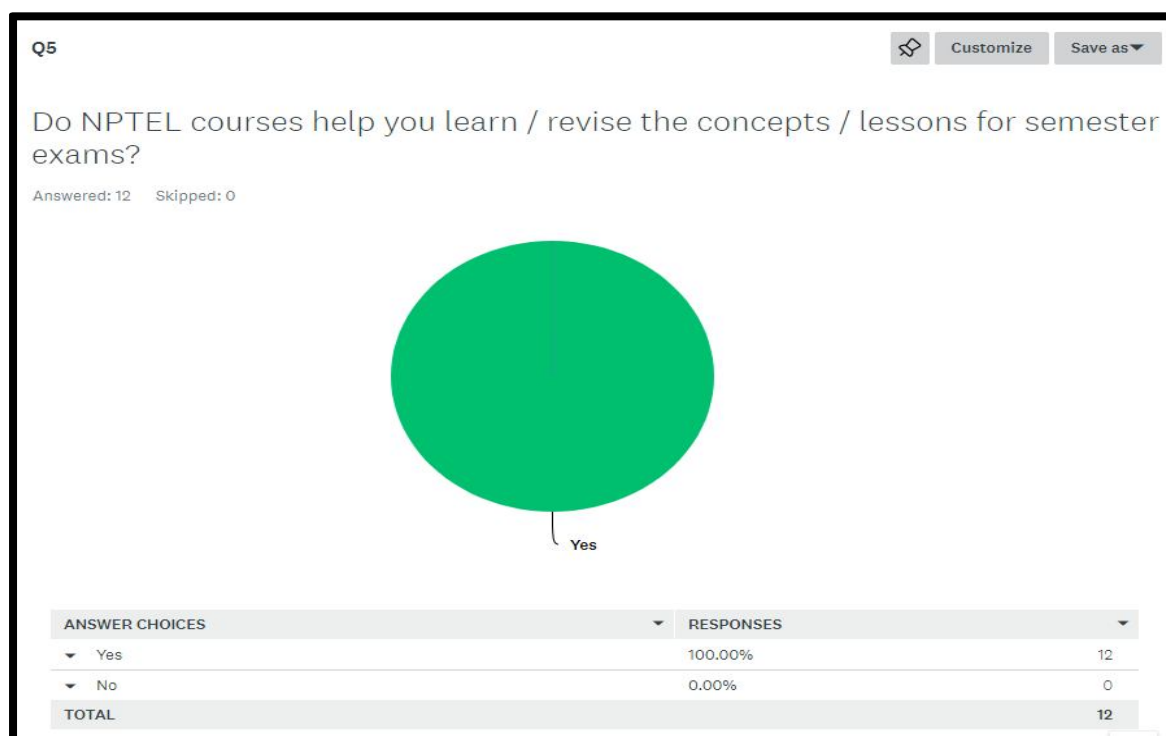
- Out of 12 students, 6 students (50%) like quiz assignments in NPTEL.
- 1 student (8%) likes lectures notes in NPTEL.
- 2 students (17%) like computer-based tests in NPTEL.
- 3 students (25%) like quiz assignments, video lectures, lecture notes, and computer-based tests in NPTEL.



- Out of 12 students, 2 students (17%) hate more Internet data consumed while watching video lectures in NPTEL.
- 5 students (42%) hate lecture notes in the form of long speeches.
- 1 student (8%) hates weekly assignments with due dates.
- 3 student (25%) hate video lectures, more Internet data consumption, long lecture notes, and weekly assignments with due dates in NPTEL.
- 1 student (8%) suggests that lectures can be more interactive.



- All the 12 students (100%) remark that NPTEL courses help them improve their subject knowledge.



- All the 12 students (100%) remark that NPTEL courses help them learn and revise concepts as well as lessons for exams.

Key Findings:

- Students find NPTEL courses useful.
- Most students prefer quiz assignments in NPTEL.
- Most of them hate heavy videos and lecture notes in the form of long speeches in NPTEL.
- NPTEL courses help the students improve their subject knowledge and learn/revise concepts as well as lessons for their exams.

Recommendations:

- NPTEL video lectures and lecture notes can be enhanced using real-life examples and illustrations.
- Exam fees can be reduced so that many students will register for NPTEL exams every semester.
- Exam centres can be at a shorter distance so that students find travel not very hectic.

Limitations of the Study:

- Samples are chosen from only one college.
- The sample size is limited only to 12 students.
- Test scores analysis is not done during the study.

Scope for Further Research:

- Surveys can be conducted to find if students from other colleges in North Chennai are aware of NPTEL courses.
- This research can be extended to find whether NPTEL courses help the students in improving their scores in formative and summative assessments, at college level.

Annexure

Survey Questionnaire

1. Why do you enroll in NPTEL course(s)?
 - a. to get better internship / job
 - b. to prepare for University exam
 - c. for research purpose(s)
 - d. Other (please specify)
2. What do you LIKE the most in NPTEL?
 - a. Quiz assignments
 - b. Video lectures
 - c. Lecture notes
 - d. Computer based tests
 - e. All the above
 - f. Other (please specify)
3. What do you HATE the most in NPTEL?
 - a. Video lectures without proper examples / representations
 - b. More Internet data consumption while watching video lectures
 - c. Lecture notes in the form of long speeches
 - d. Weekly assignments with due dates
 - e. All the above
 - f. Other (please specify)
4. Do NPTEL courses help you improve your subject knowledge?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
5. Do NPTEL courses help you learn / revise the concepts / lessons for semester exams?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No

Works Cited

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