

Identification and Statistical Analysis of the Problems Associated with Edusat based Distance Learning with Special Reference to Madhya Pradesh Bhoj (Open) University, Bhopal

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Abstract— This Paper is an attempt to understand the problems associated with education imparted in distance learning mode by Bhoj Open University, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. The paper also deals with the tentative possible solutions to minimise the problems. A study was conducted on 80 students of 2 centres of different regions and data was collected related to hub and 40 SIT's (i.e. BER (Bit Error Rate), Bandwidth, number of operation days, number of recorded and live lectures telecasted) to understand the nature of the various problems. A detailed analysis was performed using SPSS 22.0 on the primary data collected. On the basis of observations and interpretation of the analysis the present study attempts to categorise the problems and suggests possible solutions to make the education imparted through edusat satellite more effectively.

Index Terms—Edusat – Satellite dedicated for education, SIT – Satellite. Interactive terminals, BER – Bit Error Rate, Bandwidth – the amount of data that can be carried from one point to another in given time period. (Usually a second).

I. INTRODUCTION

Globally distance education imparted through satellite and other mode of communication is making a huge contribution in educating peoples of various age groups. It is being established as a effective, efficient and more popular than traditional and conventional education. The overall concept of the distance mode enables adult learner to study along with competing different priorities of profession, home and family and travel. The distance mode of learning gives excellent control over time, place and priorities. There are six basic elements used to define distance education i.e the use of technology and technical media (for example:- Websites, portals, ppt's, audio visual films etc.), the provision of two way communication to enable online communication

Between teacher and student group, the influence of

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educational institute which distinguishes distance education from private study, the separation of learner and teacher as opposed to face to face teaching, provision of counseling and periodic meetings to monitor and review the progress and to solve problems and the self directed nature of learners involvement [1].

The distance learning is not a very old phenomenon hence lot of development is happening throughout the world in this field. As every new concept faces problems and challenges, hence same is true for distance education also. There are four major components on which the effectiveness and success of distance education depends, namely technology used for enabling two way communication, content (online, offline, print), periodic reviews for monitoring of delivery and corrective actions and assessment. Previous studies conducted in technological advanced countries suggest that technology problems contribute majorly to the failure of distance education. A study was conducted on the students taking courses in distance mode at Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College program on issue pertaining to the equipment and technology operating correctly. The results from three groups spread over the different sites showed that only 42% agreed with the statement that the equipment and technology operated correctly [2]. Another study suggests that unanticipated technical problems with the system negatively effect the class and shortened the class time. In one session the connection was lost twice prior to the student's arrival and ten times during the actual session. During this particular session there was never more than a four-minute period before the connection to one of the sites was lost. [3]. In this chapter a study was conducted to understand the problems associated with distance education program at Bhoj Open University, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, India. This study was conducted on 100 students of 2 centers of different regions and data was collected related to the central hub and 40 SIT's (number of operation days, number of recorded and live lectures telecasted, BER (Bit Error Rate) observed during operation, Bandwidth etc.) to understand the nature of various problems [4]. A detailed analysis was performed using SPSS 22.0 on the primary data collected to scientifically test the nature of the problem and other factors associated region wise and category wise. On the basis of observations and interpretation of the analysis the present chapter attempts to categorise the problems and suggests possible solutions to make the education imparted through Edusat satellite more effective and to identify the impact of problems on various other factors (number of days of

operation, opinion of students etc) region wise and category wise (Rural, Urban, Tribal) and suggest possible solutions to minimize the problems and its impact.

II. METHODOLOGY

While conducting the studies, we aimed at the following broad objectives:

- a) To find out the reasons which may cause in decrease the number of students in classes and finally result in failure of the system
- b) To investigate the reason this may result in lack of interest in attending the classes in different regions.
- c) To investigate the opinion of students of different regions in which center is located and category of the center
- d) To investigate the effect of problems on the number days of operations.

To achieve the broad objective various statistical techniques were applied to identify dependency and impact of various factors and opinion of the student because of these factors.

The overall analysis was conducted on data collected from 100 students with the help of a structured questionnaire consisting of nine items of two centers and factual data collected from hub and 40 SIT's during the days of operations.

The paper aims to identify the dependency of the nature of problem with respect to region in which center is located and category of the center (rural, urban or tribal). We have also attempted to analyze the dependency on number of operational days on the region and the impact of the problems on the total number of days of operation. The above analysis helped us to specifically identify and categorize the problems under different categories namely Technology Problems, System Problems, Infrastructure Problems, Resource Problems and Operational Problems on the basis of the percentage of the variance observed. The communalities were calculated on the nature of problems as per section 6.3. Factor analysis was done to identify the percentage of variance of the problems with regards to the region in which the center is located and category of the center. We have also tried to analyze with Crosstabs the opinion of the students enrolled for various courses in different regions and different categories of centers.

III. RESULTS AND STATISTICAL DISCUSSIONS

The findings of the present study are summarized as (please see Table A to W).

Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis.

A. Interpretation:

Five factors identified by present study explain 63.764 per cent of the variance share by the original variables.

1. The first factor labeled as “**Technology problem**” accounted for the greater part of the variance which was 14.622 percent.
2. The second factor labeled as “**System problem**” accounted for the part of the variance which was 12.052 percent.

3. The third factor labeled as “**Infrastructure problem**” accounted for the part of the variance which was 9.584 percent.

4. The fourth factor labeled as “**Resource problem**” accounted for the part of the variance which was 9.035 percent.

5. The fifth factor labeled as “**Operational problem**” accounted for the part of the variance which was 8.919 percent.

Rotated sum of squared loadings along with the percentage of the variances suggest that the highest variance is of technology problem 14.622 which suggest that the technology problem is vital for the region in which the centre is located. Lowest is for operational problems which has low variance for the region in which the centre is located. The percentage of variance for the identified groups of problems suggests the differences and their accountability on the regions in which the centre is located.

B. Interpretation:

This is the table that shows the output of the ANOVA analysis and whether we have a statistically significant difference between our group means. These results show the variance (Mean Square = "mean squared deviations from the mean" = variance) between groups and the variance within groups. When we divide the Mean Square (Between) by the Mean Square (Within) we get 4.0174. On Comparing this value to the F statistic (4.017) it is found to be very close, because that's what the F is - a ratio of the variance between groups to the variance within groups. A one-way ANOVA is used to test for category viz. rural, urban and tribal, in which the centre is located. The three categories differed significantly across the three sizes, $F(2, 77) = 4.017, p = .022$.

The arithmetic mean across the observation is 111.2143 for Urban, 83.4211 for Rural and 97.2857 for Tribal. The significant level is 0.022 ($p = .022$) which is below .05 and therefore, there is a statistically significant difference in total number of days of operation of the Centre are independent of the category viz. rural, urban and tribal, in which the Centre is located.

C. Interpretation:

In the Anova table the results show the variance (Mean Square = "mean squared deviations from the mean" = variance) between groups and the variance within groups. When we divide the Mean Square (Between) by the Mean Square (Within) we get 7.599. On Comparing this value to the F statistic (7.599) it is found to be very close, because that's what the F is - a ratio of the variance between groups to the variance within groups.

A one-way ANOVA is used to test for category viz. rural, urban and tribal, in which the centre is located. The three categories differed significantly across the three sizes, $F(7, 72) = 7.599, p = .000$. The mean value for the different regions is for Bhopal it is 119.1250, for Gwalior 106.7500, for Indore the mean value is 118.2000, for Jabalpur it is 106.5000, for Rewa 79.6667, for Sagar it is 44.3333, for Satna 117.7500, for Ujjain the mean value is 57.3333. The p value is 0.00

which suggests that the value is less than .05 and hence the difference among the groups is significant.

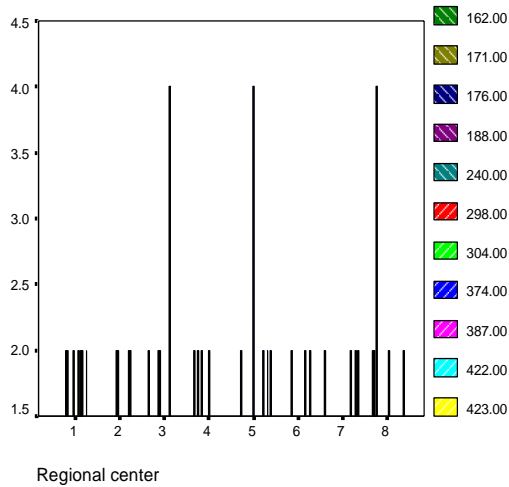
D. Interpretation:

[B] – $y = bx + a$ Operations days = AVE (Problem mean) (.449) + 79.506

According to the equation coefficient of AVE (problem mean) is .449, so for every unit increase AVE (problem mean) is .449 is increase in operation days.

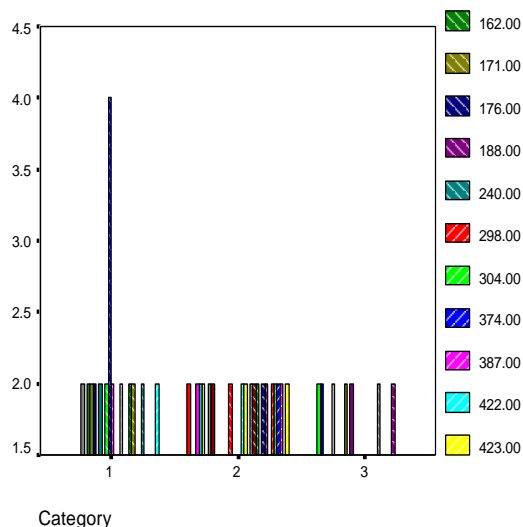
[T]- Value indicates statistical significance because it is .279 which is more than .05. The higher the t value, the greater the confidence we have in the coefficient we have in the coefficient as a predictor. Low t values are the indications of low reliability of the predictive power of that coefficient.

[P]-value is .781 indicates that it insignificantly predict the outcome variable because it is more than .05.



E. Interpretation:

This test shows that there is significant difference regarding the opinion of students enrolled for various courses of the region in which the centre is located (chi square = 501.667, p = .000).



F. Interpretation:

This test shows that there is significant difference in the opinion of students enrolled for various courses regarding

the area viz. rural, urban and tribal, in which the Centre is located. (chi square = 125.865, p = .000).

IV. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The problems related to five basic factors – Technology Problem, System Problem, Infrastructure Problem, Resource Problem, Operational Problem - can give solutions to majority of the challenges, if properly dealt with.

On the basis of statistical analysis derived in 6.3 following conclusions and recommendations are drawn.

1. Factor analysis categorized problems faced by centres into five categories viz., technology problem, System problem, Infrastructure problem, Resource problem and Operational problem. These problems are lined in order of the extracted variance. In other words, the order of these extracted factors suggests their importance. Of the five problems, the technology problem's contribution as it is indicated by the variance, is highest. It is suggested to have a strong training program for the Centre coordinator on technological aspects. It is also recommended to appoint a technician who is only responsible for technical issues and should be periodically updated with the advancement in the technology. The maintenance of the equipments should be done on time and vendor should be made responsible through either AMC or through per site visit arrangement.

2. Two Anova tests conducted shows that the location of the centre affects the days of operation of the centre. First test was considered using categories viz., rural, urban and tribal, as independent variable. The outcome of this test suggests that the category affects days of operation of a centre. Second test where region was used as a dependent variable also favours its impact on days of operation. Additionally, it suggests that based on number of days of operation Sagar, Ujjain and Rewa belongs to a different cluster whereas Jabalpur, Gwalior, Satna, Indore and Bhopal belong to a separate cluster. The analysis shows that there may be region specific issues affecting the days of operation but broadly such issues may be divided into two or three cluster based on location of centre.

3. Statistical analysis based on hypothesis D clearly indicates difference in number of days of operation is not dependent on all the problems as discussed in point 1.

4. Statistical analysis based on hypothesis E and F shows that opinion of the students enrolled for the various courses is different for both i.e. region as well as category. It is, therefore, recommended that need based analysis is required to be conducted region wise and category wise. Further detailed study can taken up in this regard.

5. It is concluded that the problems are more or less similar irrespective of region in which center is located or category of the center. This enables to create a general policy decision for taking action for problems which are responsible for the failure. Strong monitoring and proper policy decisions can give better solution to all these challenges.

**A: Nature of problems is independent of the region in which the centre is located.
Communalities**

	Initial	Extraction
Low C/N (Carrier to Noise ratio)	1.000	.732
Fault in UPS, Low input	1.000	.503
Fault in CPU	1.000	.680
Room shifting, improper maintenance and lay out of SIT room	1.000	.625
Problem in LAN card	1.000	.936
Shifting or de-alignment of antenna due to animal like monkey	1.000	.746
SAT (Satellite Access Terminal) not stable	1.000	.628
Power problem	1.000	.664
Fault in RCST, LNB	1.000	.608
Problem in cable connection	1.000	.790
RCST is put off manually	1.000	.755
Operator not available, or engaged in some other assignment	1.000	.618
Fault in Camera	1.000	.935
Non-availability of space as per prescribed lay-out of SIT	1.000	.621
Improper logging	1.000	.807

Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis.

Factor analysis result of impact of problems of the region in which the centre is located	1	2	3	4	5
FACTOR 1- Technology problem					
Low C/N (Carrier to Noise ratio)	.732				
Problem in LAN card	.936				
SAT (Satellite Access Terminal) not stable	.628				
FACTOR 2-System problem					
Fault in UPS, Low input		.503			
Fault in CPU		.680			
Fault in Camera		.935			
FACTOR 3-Infrastructure problem					
Room shifting, improper maintenance and lay out of SIT room			.625		
Non-availability of space as per prescribed lay-out of SIT			.621		
Improper logging			.807		

FACTOR 4- Resource problem					
Shifting or de-alignment of antenna due to animal like monkey				.746	
Operator not available, or engaged in some other assignment				.618	
FACTOR 5-Operational problem					
RCST is put off manually					.755
Fault in RCST, LNB					.608
Problem in cable connection					.790
% of variance	14.622	12.052	9.584	9.035	8.919

Total Variance Explained

Component	Initial Eigen values			Extraction Sums of Squared Loadings			Rotation Sums of Squared Loadings		
	Total	% of Variance	Cumulative %	Total	% of Variance	Cumulative %	Total	% of Variance	Cumulative %
1	2.607	17.380	17.380	2.607	17.380	17.380	2.193	14.622	14.622
2	1.932	12.879	30.259	1.932	12.879	30.259	1.808	12.052	26.673
3	1.350	9.001	39.260	1.350	9.001	39.260	1.438	9.584	36.257
4	1.299	8.660	47.919	1.299	8.660	47.919	1.355	9.035	45.292
5	1.248	8.317	56.236	1.248	8.317	56.236	1.338	8.919	54.212
6	1.129	7.528	63.764	1.129	7.528	63.764	1.300	8.664	62.875
7	1.084	7.224	70.988	1.084	7.224	70.988	1.217	8.113	70.988
8	.902	6.011	76.999						
9	.789	5.258	82.257						
10	.728	4.857	87.114						

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11	.667	4.443	91.557						
12	.568	3.786	95.344						
13	.385	2.563	97.907						
14	.292	1.948	99.855						
15	.022	.145	100.000						

B: Total number of days of operation of the centre is independent of the category viz. rural, urban and tribal, in which the centre is located.

Descriptive

Operation days

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error	95% Confidence Interval for Mean		Minimum	Maximum
					Lower Bound	Upper Bound		
Urban	28	111.2143	52.66270	9.95231	90.7938	131.6347	.00	177.00
Rural	38	83.4211	32.25794	5.23293	72.8181	94.0240	.00	131.00
Tribal	14	97.2857	22.24835	5.94612	84.4399	110.1315	63.00	119.00
Total	80	95.5750	40.92592	4.57566	86.4674	104.6826	.00	177.00

ANOVA

Operation das

	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	12502.715	2	6251.358	4.017	.022
Within Groups	119816.835	77	1556.063		
Total	132319.550	79			

Post Hoc Tests

Multiple Comparisons

Operation days

Tukey HSD

(I) Category	(J) Category	Mean Difference (I-J)	Std. Error	Sig.	95% Confidence Interval	
					Lower Bound	Upper Bound
Urban	Rural	27.79323*	9.82460	.016	4.3138	51.2727
	Tribal	13.92857	12.91205	.530	-16.9294	44.7866
Rural	Urban	-27.79323*	9.82460	.016	-51.2727	-4.3138
	Tribal	-13.86466	12.33274	.502	-43.3382	15.6089
Tribal	Urban	-13.92857	12.91205	.530	-44.7866	16.9294
	Rural	13.86466	12.33274	.502	-15.6089	43.3382

*. The mean difference is significant at the 0.05 level.

Homogeneous Subsets

Operation days

TukeyHSD^{a,b}

Category	N	Subset for alpha = 0.05
		1
Rural	38	83.4211
Tribal	14	97.2857
Urban	28	111.2143
Sig.		.053

Means for groups in homogeneous subsets are displayed.

a. Uses Harmonic Mean Sample Size = 22.479.

b. The group sizes are unequal. The harmonic mean of the group sizes is used. Type I error levels are not guaranteed.

C: Total numbers of days of operation of the Centre are independent of the region in which the centre is located.

Operation days

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error	95% Confidence Interval for Mean		Minimum	Maximum
					Lower Bound	Upper Bound		
Bhopal	16	119.1250	24.84854	6.21214	105.8841	132.3659	88.00	177.00
Gwalior	8	106.7500	36.66353	12.96251	76.0985	137.4015	49.00	134.00
Indore	10	118.2000	24.32557	7.69242	100.7985	135.6015	87.00	158.00
Jabalpur	8	106.5000	36.20971	12.80206	76.2279	136.7721	63.00	158.00
Rewa	12	79.6667	18.52435	5.34752	67.8969	91.4365	47.00	100.00
Sagar	6	44.3333	33.86247	13.82429	8.7969	79.8698	1.00	71.00
Satna	8	117.7500	26.14656	9.24421	95.8909	139.6091	92.00	158.00
Ujjain	12	57.3333	51.01753	14.72749	24.9183	89.7483	.00	134.00
Total	80	95.5750	40.92592	4.57566	86.4674	104.6826	.00	177.00

ANOVA

Operation days

	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	56220.533	7	8031.505	7.599	.000
Within Groups	76099.017	72	1056.931		
Total	132319.550	79			

Post Hoc Tests

Multiple Comparisons

Operation days
Tukey HSD

(I) Regional center	(J) Regional center	Mean Difference (I-J)	Std. Error	Sig.	95% Confidence Interval	
					Lower Bound	Upper Bound

Bhopal	Gwalior	12.37500	14.07745	.987	-31.5721	56.3221
	Indore	.92500	13.10539	1.000	-39.9875	41.8375
	Jabalpur	12.62500	14.07745	.985	-31.3221	56.5721
	Rewa	39.45833*	12.41514	.043	.7006	78.2160
	Sagar	74.79167*	15.56320	.000	26.2063	123.3770
	Satna	1.37500	14.07745	1.000	-42.5721	45.3221
	Ujjain	61.79167*	12.41514	.000	23.0340	100.5494
Gwalior	Bhopal	-12.37500	14.07745	.987	-56.3221	31.5721
	Indore	-11.45000	15.42107	.995	-59.5916	36.6916
	Jabalpur	.25000	16.25524	1.000	-50.4957	50.9957
	Rewa	27.08333	14.83893	.605	-19.2410	73.4076
	Sagar	62.41667*	17.55766	.015	7.6050	117.2283
	Satna	-11.00000	16.25524	.997	-61.7457	39.7457
	Ujjain	49.41667*	14.83893	.028	3.0924	95.7410
Indore	Bhopal	-.92500	13.10539	1.000	-41.8375	39.9875
	Gwalior	11.45000	15.42107	.995	-36.6916	59.5916
	Jabalpur	11.70000	15.42107	.995	-36.4416	59.8416
	Rewa	38.53333	13.92015	.120	-4.9227	81.9894
	Sagar	73.86667*	16.78834	.001	21.4567	126.2766
	Satna	.45000	15.42107	1.000	-47.6916	48.5916
	Ujjain	60.86667*	13.92015	.001	17.4106	104.3227
Jabalpur	Bhopal	-12.62500	14.07745	.985	-56.5721	31.3221
	Gwalior	-.25000	16.25524	1.000	-50.9957	50.4957
	Indore	-11.70000	15.42107	.995	-59.8416	36.4416
	Rewa	26.83333	14.83893	.617	-19.4910	73.1576
	Sagar	62.16667*	17.55766	.015	7.3550	116.9783
	Satna	-11.25000	16.25524	.997	-61.9957	39.4957
	Ujjain	49.16667*	14.83893	.030	2.8424	95.4910
Rewa	Bhopal	-39.45833*	12.41514	.043	-78.2160	-.7006
	Gwalior	-27.08333	14.83893	.605	-73.4076	19.2410
	Indore	-38.53333	13.92015	.120	-81.9894	4.9227
	Jabalpur	-26.83333	14.83893	.617	-73.1576	19.4910
	Sagar	35.33333	16.25524	.380	-15.4124	86.0791
	Satna	-38.08333	14.83893	.186	-84.4076	8.2410
	Ujjain	22.33333	13.27234	.698	-19.1004	63.7671
Sagar	Bhopal	-74.79167*	15.56320	.000	-123.3770	-26.2063
	Gwalior	-62.41667*	17.55766	.015	-117.2283	-7.6050
	Indore	-73.86667*	16.78834	.001	-126.2766	-21.4567
	Jabalpur	-62.16667*	17.55766	.015	-116.9783	-7.3550
	Rewa	-35.33333	16.25524	.380	-86.0791	15.4124
	Satna	-73.41667*	17.55766	.002	-128.2283	-18.6050
	Ujjain	-13.00000	16.25524	.993	-63.7457	37.7457
Satna	Bhopal	-1.37500	14.07745	1.000	-45.3221	42.5721
	Gwalior	11.00000	16.25524	.997	-39.7457	61.7457

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	Indore	-45000	15.42107	1.000	-48.5916	47.6916
	Jabalpur	11.25000	16.25524	.997	-39.4957	61.9957
	Rewa	38.08333	14.83893	.186	-8.2410	84.4076
	Sagar	73.41667*	17.55766	.002	18.6050	128.2283
	Ujjain	60.41667*	14.83893	.003	14.0924	106.7410
Ujjain	Bhopal	-61.79167*	12.41514	.000	-100.5494	-23.0340
	Gwalior	-49.41667*	14.83893	.028	-95.7410	-3.0924
	Indore	-60.86667*	13.92015	.001	-104.3227	-17.4106
	Jabalpur	-49.16667*	14.83893	.030	-95.4910	-2.8424
	Rewa	-22.33333	13.27234	.698	-63.7671	19.1004
	Sagar	13.00000	16.25524	.993	-37.7457	63.7457
	Satna	-60.41667*	14.83893	.003	-106.7410	-14.0924

*. The mean difference is significant at the 0.05 level.

Homogeneous Subsets

Operation days

TukeyHSD^{a,b}

Regional center	N	Subset for alpha = 0.05	
		1	2
Sagar	6	44.3333	
Ujjain	12	57.3333	
Rewa	12	79.6667	79.6667
Jabalpur	8		106.5000
Gwalior	8		106.7500
Satna	8		117.7500
Indore	10		118.2000
Bhopal	16		119.1250
Sig.		.293	.173

Means for groups in homogeneous subsets are displayed.

a. Uses Harmonic Mean Sample Size = 9.187.

b. The group sizes are unequal. The harmonic mean of the group sizes is used. Type I error levels are not guaranteed.

D: There is an impact of problems on the total no. of days of operation.

Model Summary (b)

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.032(a)	.001	-.012	41.16690

a Predictors: (Constant), AVE

b Dependent Variable: Operation days

ANOVA (b)

Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	131.897	1	131.897	.078	.781(a)
	Residual	132187.653	78	1694.713		
	Total	132319.550	79			

a Predictors: (Constant), AVE

b Dependent Variable: Operation days

Coefficients (a)

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	79.506	57.785		1.376	.173
	AVE	.449	1.608	.032	.279	.781

a Dependent Variable: Operation days

E: There is no significant difference in the opinion of students enrolled for various courses regarding the region in which the centre is located.

Crosstabs

Case Processing Summary

	Cases					
	Valid		Missing		Total	
	N	Percent	N	Percent	N	Percent
Regional center * student total	80	77.7%	23	22.3%	103	100.0%

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	Df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	501.667(a)	231	.000
Likelihood Ratio	309.124	231	.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	1.982	1	.159
N of Valid Cases	80		

a 272 cells (100.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is .15.

F: There is no significant difference in the opinion of students enrolled for various courses regarding the area viz. rural, urban and tribal, in which the centre is located.

Case Processing Summary

	Cases					
	Valid		Missing		Total	
	N	Percent	N	Percent	N	Percent
Category * student total	80	77.7%	23	22.3%	103	100.0%

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	Df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	125.865(a)	66	.000
Likelihood Ratio	136.445	66	.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	.266	1	.606
N of Valid Cases	80		

a 102 cells (100.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is .35.

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