



A Study on Part Time Hustle for Students

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Abstract

The study focuses on understanding how students in India perceive part-time work and whether it should be normalized as a common practice among young learners. Although many students worldwide balance academics and part-time jobs, it remains less accepted in India due to cultural, social, and family expectations. This research was conducted through a Google Form survey with 48 responses from students aged mainly between 18–20 years. The findings show that majority of the students believe that part-time work should be normalized, while most consider it essential for financial independence and self-development. However, challenges such as balancing studies, lack of family support, and low pay still exist. The study highlight that normalizing part-time work could bring positive changes in the attitude, respect and skill growth among students. Hence, institutions and families should take a step forward to encourage part-time opportunities.

Keywords: Part-time jobs, normalization, student perception, financial independence, work balance.

Introduction

In today's fast-paced world, balancing education and financial independence has become a major concern for students. Across many developed countries, students take up part-time jobs to support their studies and living expenses. Working while studying is not just about earning money; it helps students gain valuable experience, improve communication skills, learn time management, and understand real-world responsibilities. However, in India, part-time work among students is still not widely accepted or normalized. Many families and institutions continue to view working students as distracted or financially unstable rather than independent and ambitious.

The idea of normalizing part-time work is about changing this mindset. In several foreign countries, students work in cafés, retail stores, offices, or online platforms without being judged. Such opportunities make students more confident, self-reliant, and better prepared for their professional careers. In contrast, Indian students often face discouragement due to family expectations, societal perceptions, and academic pressure. The concept of "work while you study" is slowly emerging in India but still needs broader social and institutional support.

This research aims to explore how Indian students perceive part-time jobs and whether they believe such work should be normalized. The survey includes 48 student responses collected through a Google Form, covering aspects like

motivation for part-time work, societal attitudes, academic effects, and challenges faced by students. The study primarily focuses on students who live away from their hometowns, as they often experience financial and emotional independence.

The findings from this study not only highlight the growing awareness among Indian youth about self-dependence but also reveal a social gap between what students want and what society accepts. Through this research, an attempt has been made to show that part-time jobs can be a positive and empowering step for students — not just financially but also in developing their skills and confidence. The ultimate goal is to encourage institutions, families, and the government to take collective steps toward normalizing part-time work culture in India.

Review of Literature

The concept of part-time work among students has been widely discussed in global research, especially in developed countries where it is considered a normal part of student life. Studies have shown that part-time jobs help students develop essential life skills such as financial planning, communication, time management, and responsibility (Brown, 2021). In countries like the United States, the United Kingdom, and Australia, universities even encourage students to work part-time because it helps them gain professional exposure before graduation.

According to *Smith and Lee (2020)*, working students are

often more organized and confident in handling academic and personal challenges. Their study emphasized that work experience during studies enhances employability after graduation. Similarly, *Kumar and Sharma (2022)* found that students who work part-time tend to perform better in teamwork, adaptability, and problem-solving, which are crucial skills in today's job market.

However, not all studies portray part-time work positively. *Johnson (2019)* pointed out that excessive working hours can lead to stress, fatigue, and reduced academic performance. Students who struggle to balance work and studies often experience burnout and poor time management. Therefore, the key lies in maintaining a healthy balance between education and employment.

In the Indian context, there is limited but growing research on this topic. Traditionally, Indian families have placed strong emphasis on academic excellence, often discouraging students from working while studying. *Rao and Singh (2021)* observed that many Indian parents view part-time work as a sign of financial weakness rather than an opportunity for growth. On the other hand, a recent survey by *The Times of India (2023)* revealed that more urban students, especially those studying away from their hometowns, are now considering part-time work to manage expenses and gain experience.

Despite these changes, the acceptance of part-time jobs for students is still evolving in India. Few institutions offer flexible programs or "earn while you learn" schemes. This shows a clear research gap between the growing willingness of students to work and the lack of structural or societal support for such initiatives.

Thus, reviewing the existing literature shows two important points:

- i). Globally, part-time work is an accepted and beneficial practice.
- ii). In India, it is still viewed with hesitation, though attitudes are slowly changing.

This study aims to contribute to this growing discussion by examining the opinions and experiences of Indian students and exploring how normalization of part-time jobs could be implemented more effectively across educational systems.

Research Methodology

The research on '*Part-Time Hustle for Students*' is based on a descriptive and analytical approach. The primary purpose of this study is to understand how students in India perceive part-time work and whether it should be normalized as a common practice during their academic years. Since part-time work is still seen as unusual or unnecessary by many Indian families, this study focuses on real student opinions and experiences to highlight the current social and cultural attitudes surrounding this topic.

Type of Research

This is descriptive research, as it aims to describe and analyze the existing attitudes, beliefs, and opinions of students about part-time work rather than test any experimental variable.

Objectives of the Study

The main objectives of this research are:

- i). To examine students' perspectives on working part-time while studying.
- ii). To identify the reasons that motivates students to take up

part-time jobs.

- iii). To study the social and academic challenges faced by students engaged in part-time work.
- iv). To understand whether normalization of part-time jobs could positively influence students' independence and skill development.

Research Statement

"Should part-time work be normalized among Indian students as a means of financial independence and personal growth?"

Hypothesis

It is hypothesized that a majority of students believe part-time jobs should be normalized in India, as they help in building financial stability, real-world skills, and self-confidence.

Sample Size and Population

The study included 48 respondents, all of whom were college students belonging to the 18–25 age group. Most participants were pursuing their undergraduate studies, and a large portion of them were living away from their hometowns for educational purposes.

Sampling Technique

A random sampling method was used. The Google Form link was shared among students through social media and college networks, allowing voluntary participation without any bias or selection criteria.

Data Type and Collection

The research primarily relied on primary data collected through an online Google Form questionnaire. The form consisted of both multiple-choice and opinion-based questions designed to understand the views, challenges, and attitudes of students toward part-time work.

Research Limitations

The study has some limitations. The number of respondents (48) may not represent the entire student population across India. Also, most respondents were from a similar age group and educational background, which may limit the diversity of opinions. Moreover, since the responses were self-reported, they reflect personal opinions that may not always represent the general mindset.

Research Gap

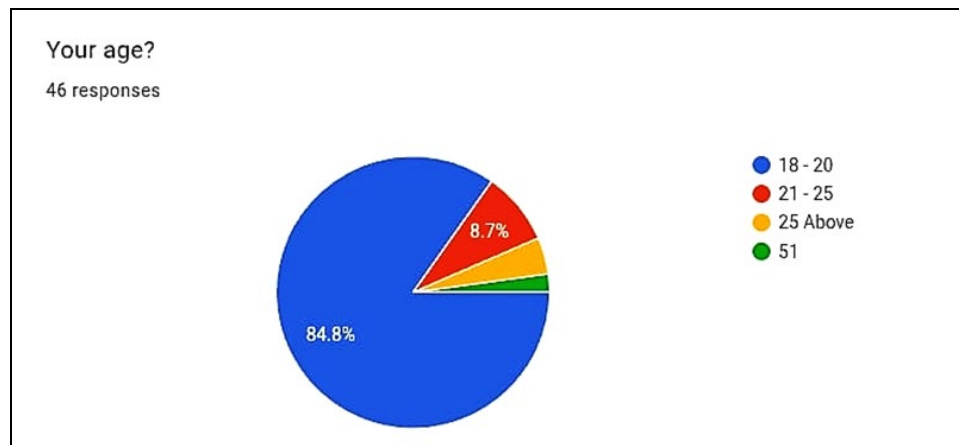
While several international studies have explored the benefits and drawbacks of part-time jobs among students, limited research exists on how Indian students perceive this trend. This research aims to fill that gap by presenting direct student opinions from an Indian context, offering a more realistic view of how part-time work can be normalized in India.

Data Analysis and Findings

The data for this study was collected through an online Google Form questionnaire distributed among college students. A total of 48 responses were received. The questions focused on demographics, opinions, motivations, challenges, and suggestions related to part-time work among students in India.

Below is a detailed analysis of each question and its responses:

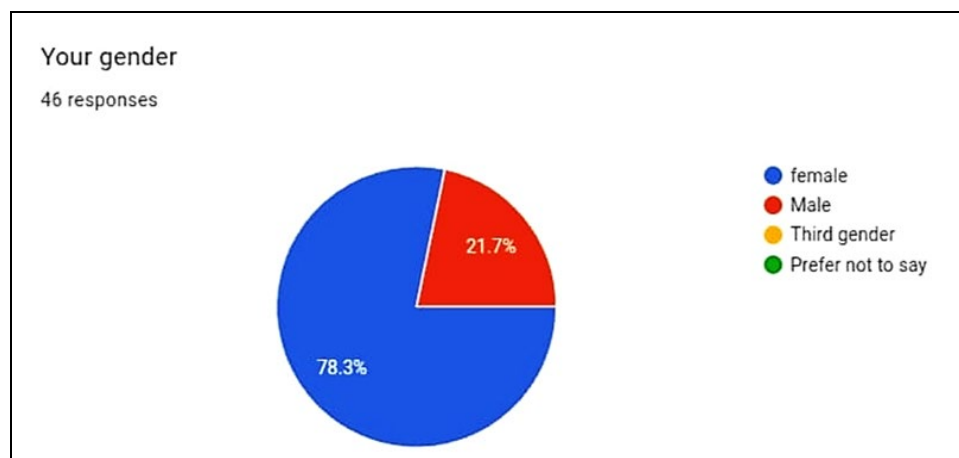
1. Age of Respondents



Inference: A majority of the participants (84.8%) were between 18 to 20 years old. Only a small portion is above 25 years, and some responses remained blank.

This indicates that most respondents were young college students — an age group that is often financially dependent on their parents but curious about part-time opportunities.

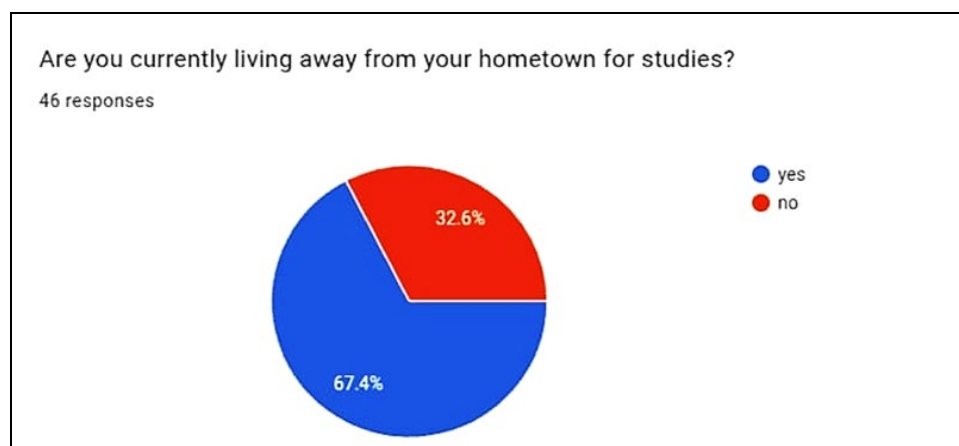
2. Gender



Inference: Among the respondents, 78.3% were female, while 21.7% were male.

This shows that more female students participated in the survey, suggesting that young women are also actively thinking about or engaging in part-time work — a positive sign of changing attitudes in society.

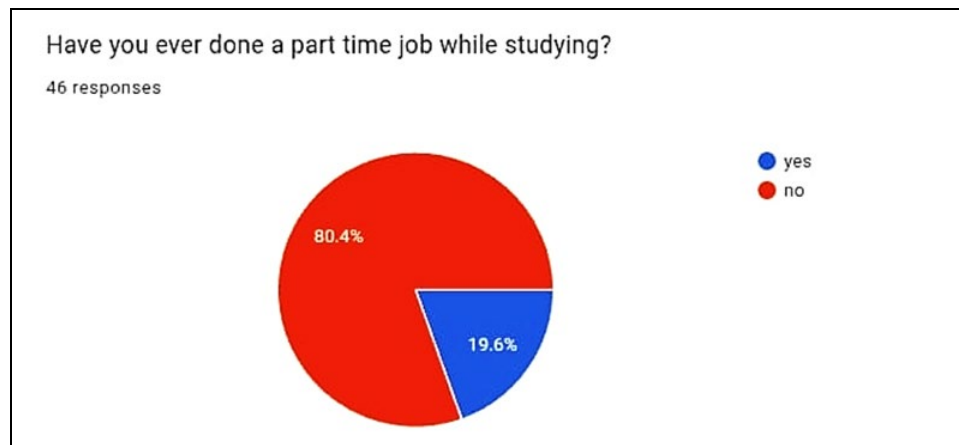
3. Living Away from Hometown



Inference: When asked whether they were living away from their hometown for studies, 67.4% said yes, while 32.6% said no.

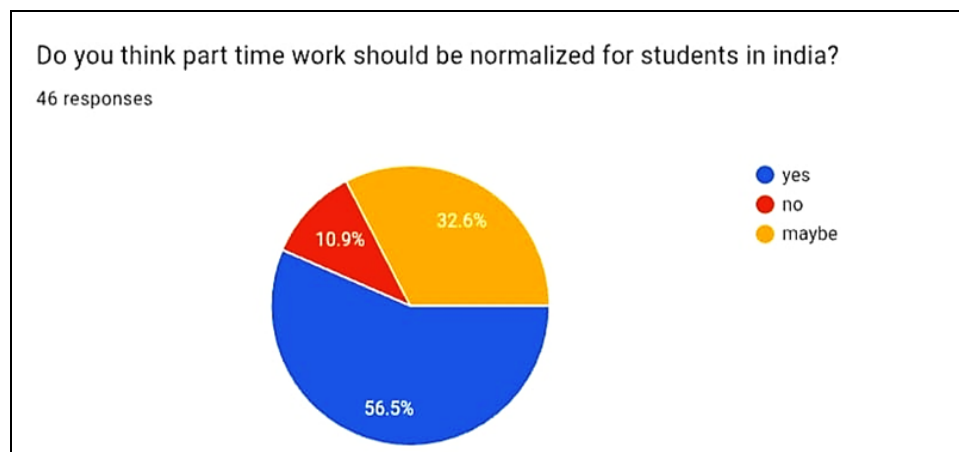
This is significant because students living alone often handle their own expenses, which can increase their interest in part-time work as a source of financial support.

4. Have You Ever Done a Part-Time Job While Studying?



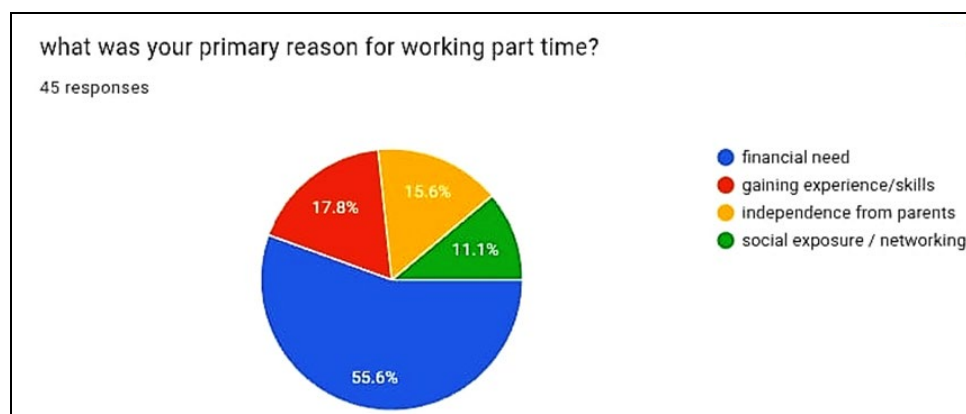
Inference: A fair number of students admitted to having tried part-time work, while others had not. This variation reflects how part-time culture in India is slowly gaining attention but is still not mainstream among college students.

5. Should Part-Time Work Be Normalized for Students in India?



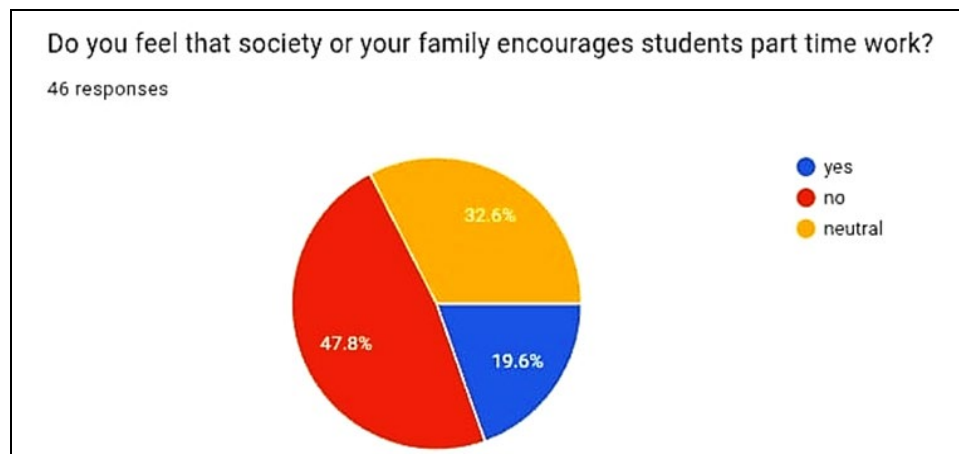
Inference: A majority of 56.5% respondents said *yes*, 32.6% said *maybe*, and a small percentage disagreed. This result clearly shows that most students are open to the idea of normalizing part-time work, but some hesitation still exists due to cultural and academic concerns.

6. Primary Reason for Working Part-Time



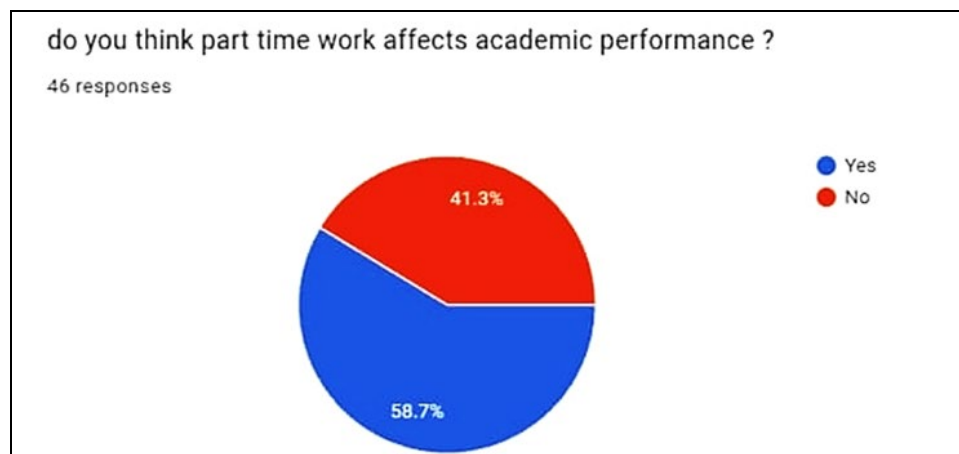
Inference: The top reason for working part-time was financial need (55.6%), followed by gaining experience (17.8%), and wanting independence from parents (15.6%). A few students mentioned social exposure as well. This highlights that economic necessity is still the biggest motivation for students, but personal development and independence are also key drivers.

7. Do You Feel That Society or Family Encourages Part-Time Work?



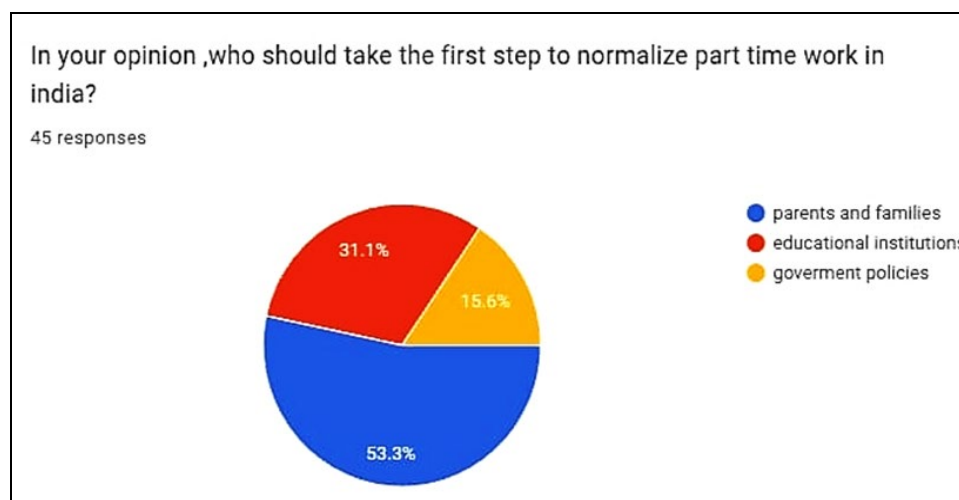
Inference: Only 19.6% felt encouraged by their family or society, while 47.8% said *no*, and 32.6% remained *neutral*. This result emphasizes that even though students are interested in working, many families still discourage part-time jobs due to traditional beliefs or fear of distraction from academics.

8. Does Part-Time Work Affect Academic Performance?



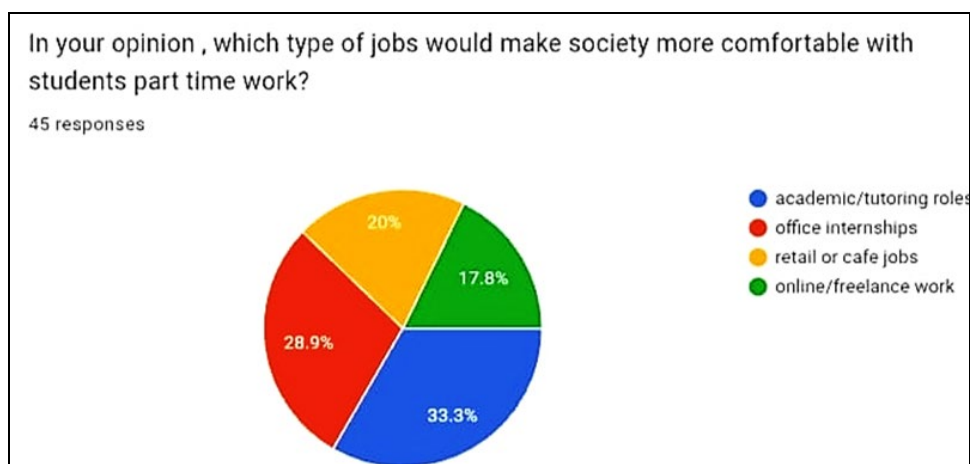
Inference: A majority of 58.7% said *yes*, while 41.3% said *no*. This indicates that most students feel part-time jobs can affect studies if not managed properly, though many believe balance is possible with time management.

9. Who Should Take the First Step to Normalize Part-Time Work in India?



Inference: More than half (53.3%) believed that parents and families should take the first step. Around 31.1% said educational institutions, and 15.6% believed government policies should lead. This shows that change must begin at home, with family support, before it can spread through schools or policies.

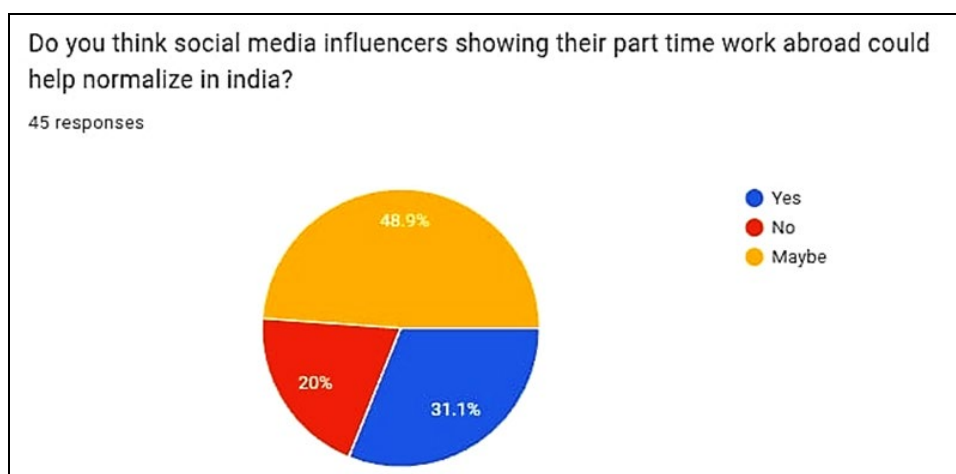
10. Which Type of Jobs Would Make Society More Comfortable with Student Part-Time Work?



Inference: The most selected option was academic or office-based jobs (33.3%), followed by internships (28.9%), retail/café jobs (20%), and online work (17.8%).

This suggests that students feel society accepts academic-related jobs more easily than service or physical work — reflecting existing social attitudes.

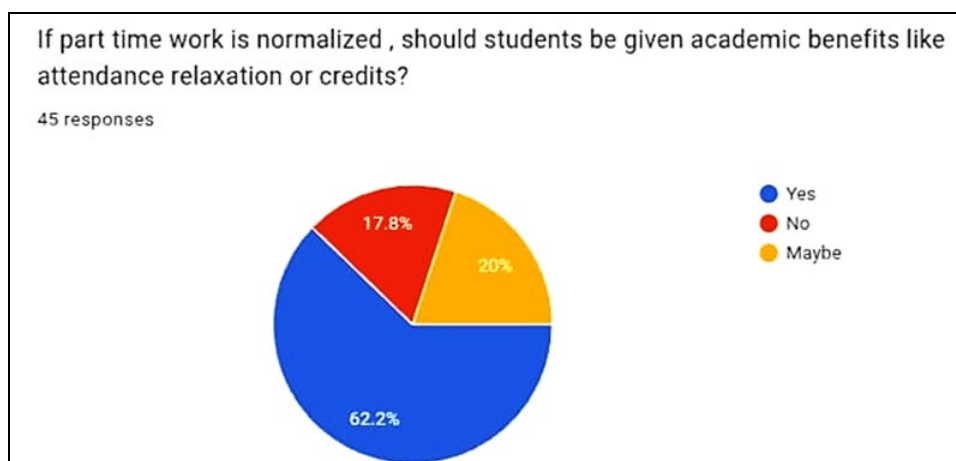
11. Do You Think Social Media Influencers Showing Their Part-Time Work Abroad Could Help Normalize It in India?



Inference: Responses were mixed — 31.1% said yes, 48.9% said maybe, and 20% said no.

This shows that influencers play a small but growing role in shaping awareness about work culture among Indian youth.

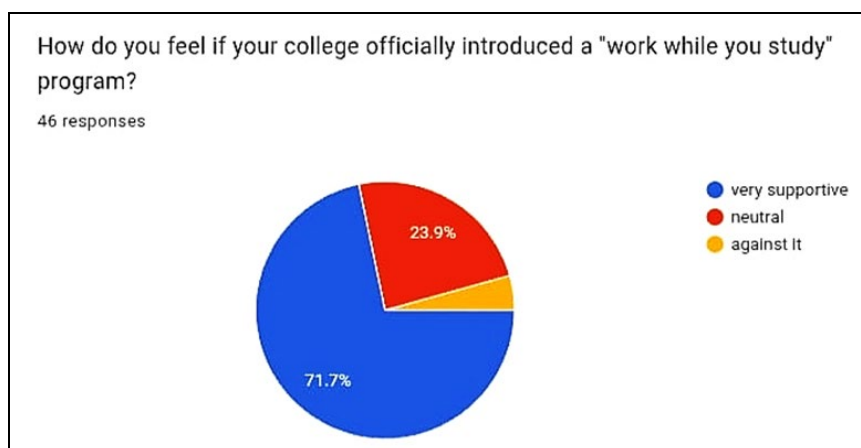
12. If Part-Time Work Is Normalized, Should Students Get Academic Benefits (Attendance Relaxation or Credits)?



Inference: A strong 62.2% agreed, 20% said *maybe*, and 17.8% disagreed.

Students clearly feel that recognition from institutions, such as attendance benefits or credit points, could encourage more to take part-time jobs.

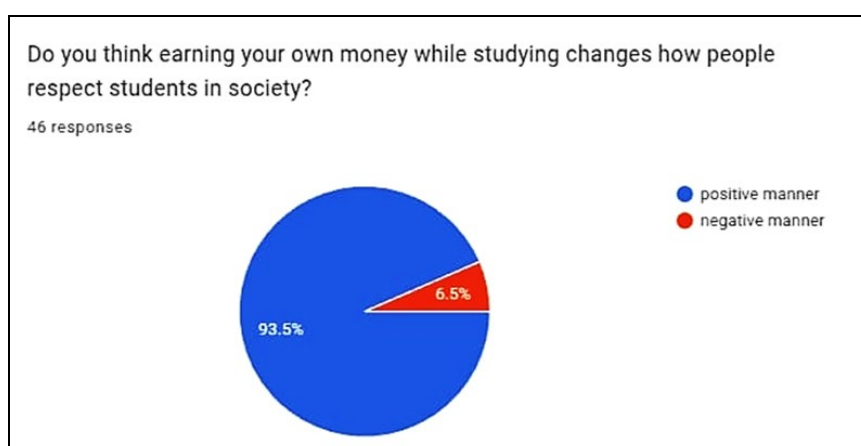
13. How Do You Feel If Your College Officially Introduced a ‘Work While You Study’ Program?



Inference: A large majority (71.7%) said they would strongly support such a program, while 23.9% were neutral and only a few were against it.

This indicates that most students are ready and willing to take part-time opportunities if colleges make it accessible and legitimate.

14. Do You Think Earning Your Own Money Changes How People Respect Students in Society?



Inference: An overwhelming 93.5% said *yes*.

This is a powerful result — it shows that students believe financial independence earns social respect and self-worth, proving how normalization could empower the youth.

15. Challenges Faced While Doing Part-Time Work



Inference: Most respondents (52.3%) struggled with balancing work and studies, 15.9% mentioned lack of family support, 9.1% reported safety/security concerns, and a few faced low pay and other minor issues.

This indicates that while students are motivated, they still need emotional and institutional support to succeed in balancing both responsibilities.

16. One-Line Opinions about Student Part-Time Work

Inference: Out of 34 open responses, most students expressed

positive thoughts such as:

- “It helps us become independent.”

- “It should be encouraged everywhere.”
- “We learn the value of money.”
- “Balancing both is hard but worth it.”

These responses add emotional depth to the research, showing how strongly students connect with the idea of working while studying.

Summary of Analysis

From the data, it is clear that students in India are ready to embrace part-time work as part of their education journey. Most of them see it as a path toward independence and self-growth. However, family disapproval and lack of institutional support remain the biggest barriers. There is also a visible cultural hesitation toward certain types of jobs. If families, colleges, and the government work together, the idea of part-time work can become a socially accepted and beneficial practice in India.

Suggestions

After analyzing the responses and understanding the general mindset of students and society, it becomes clear that there is a strong need to bring a positive change in the way part-time work is viewed in India. The following suggestions can help normalize and improve part-time work opportunities for students:

- Encourage Family Support and Awareness:** Families play a major role in shaping a student's choices. Many parents still believe that doing a part-time job will distract students from their studies. Awareness programs, workshops, and open discussions can help parents understand that part-time work actually builds confidence, time management, and responsibility. Emotional support from family members can make students feel more motivated and secure.
- Educational Institutions Should Take the Lead:** Colleges and universities can take the first step by officially introducing “Work While You Study” programs. Such initiatives would allow students to earn experience and income without compromising their academics. Institutions can collaborate with nearby organizations, retail businesses, or NGOs to provide flexible part-time opportunities suitable for students' schedules. Colleges can also organize career guidance sessions to help students find safe and meaningful work options.
- Government Policies and Incentives:** The government can play a key role by framing policies that encourage student employment. Rules that ensure fair wages, safety standards, and flexible working hours can make part-time jobs more accessible and secure for young people. Incentives like small tax benefits or scholarship points for working students can also motivate others to participate.
- Recognition through Academic Benefits:** If part-time work is normalized, students who engage in it could be given certain academic advantages such as attendance relaxation, internal marks, or academic credits. This recognition would not only encourage more students to take part but also highlight the importance of real-world learning alongside education.
- Collaboration with Private Companies:** Private companies can be encouraged to hire students for part-time roles like content creation, customer service, internships, or retail assistance. By providing flexible hours and safe working environments, these companies

can contribute to students' skill development and professional exposure.

- Promoting Awareness through Media and Social Platforms:** Media, especially social media influencers, can play a major role in changing public opinion. When people see students abroad working part-time confidently, it creates curiosity and acceptance. Similarly, Indian influencers, educators, and student leaders should promote stories that highlight the benefits of part-time jobs, not just as a financial necessity but as a learning opportunity.
- Building a Balanced Work-Study Culture:** Both students and institutions need to understand the importance of balance. Overworking can affect academics, but responsible scheduling can help students learn time management effectively. Workshops on balancing work and studies should be conducted to prevent burnout and ensure that education remains the main focus.
- Creating Safe and Respectful Work Environments:** Safety concerns and low pay were major challenges found in the responses. Employers must ensure that student workers are treated with respect, given fair pay, and protected from exploitation. A proper complaint or feedback system should also be established in workplaces where students are employed.

Summary of Suggestions

To normalize part-time work among students in India, it requires combined efforts from families, educational institutions, government bodies, private companies, and society as a whole. When everyone cooperates, part-time work can become a healthy and respected part of student life — not just a financial backup but a path toward independence, confidence, and experience.

Conclusion

The study on “*Part-Time Hustle for Students*” clearly reveals that the concept of part-time work among students in India is slowly evolving from being seen as unnecessary to becoming a sign of independence, confidence, and self-learning. Most of the respondents supported the idea that part-time work should be normalized because it helps students manage their personal expenses, gain experience, and become more responsible individuals.

However, the findings also show that traditional family beliefs, academic pressure, and lack of structured support from institutions continue to hold back many students from working while studying. Despite these challenges, the younger generation is showing a strong willingness to break stereotypes and balance both education and work.

Normalizing part-time work is not only about earning money; it is about building character, discipline, and practical understanding of the real world. If colleges, families, and government bodies start recognizing and supporting part-time work as part of student development, it can lead to a more empowered and career-ready youth population in India.

In short, the *part-time hustle* is not just a trend — it's a growing mindset that teaches students how to stand on their own feet while preparing them for life beyond the classroom.

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