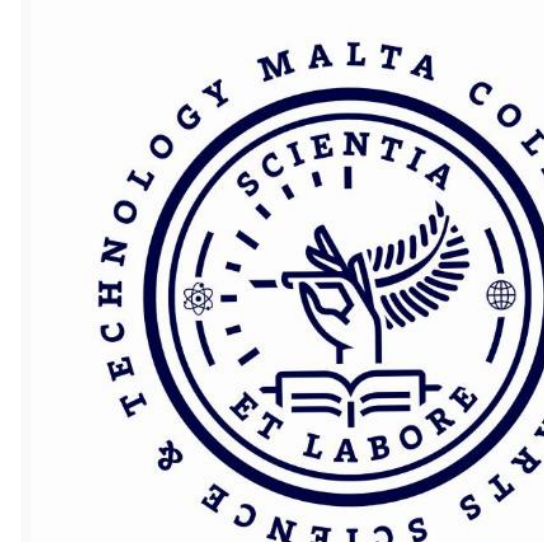


IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON IICT STUDENTS



MCAST

Alexander Michael Francis Mifsud | Lecturer | Institute of Communication and Technology

Problem Statement

The impact of Covid-19 on IICT students' progress in their academic goals and mitigation measures that can support their well-being.

Research Approach

QUANTITATIVE research study which uses regression analysis to identify whether IICT students were affected by Covid-19

- **Null Hypothesis:**

H0 students' learning achievements were not impacted by COVID-19 restrictions.

- **Alternative Hypothesis:**

H1 students' learning achievements were affected negatively as a result of COVID-19 restrictions.

Project Overview

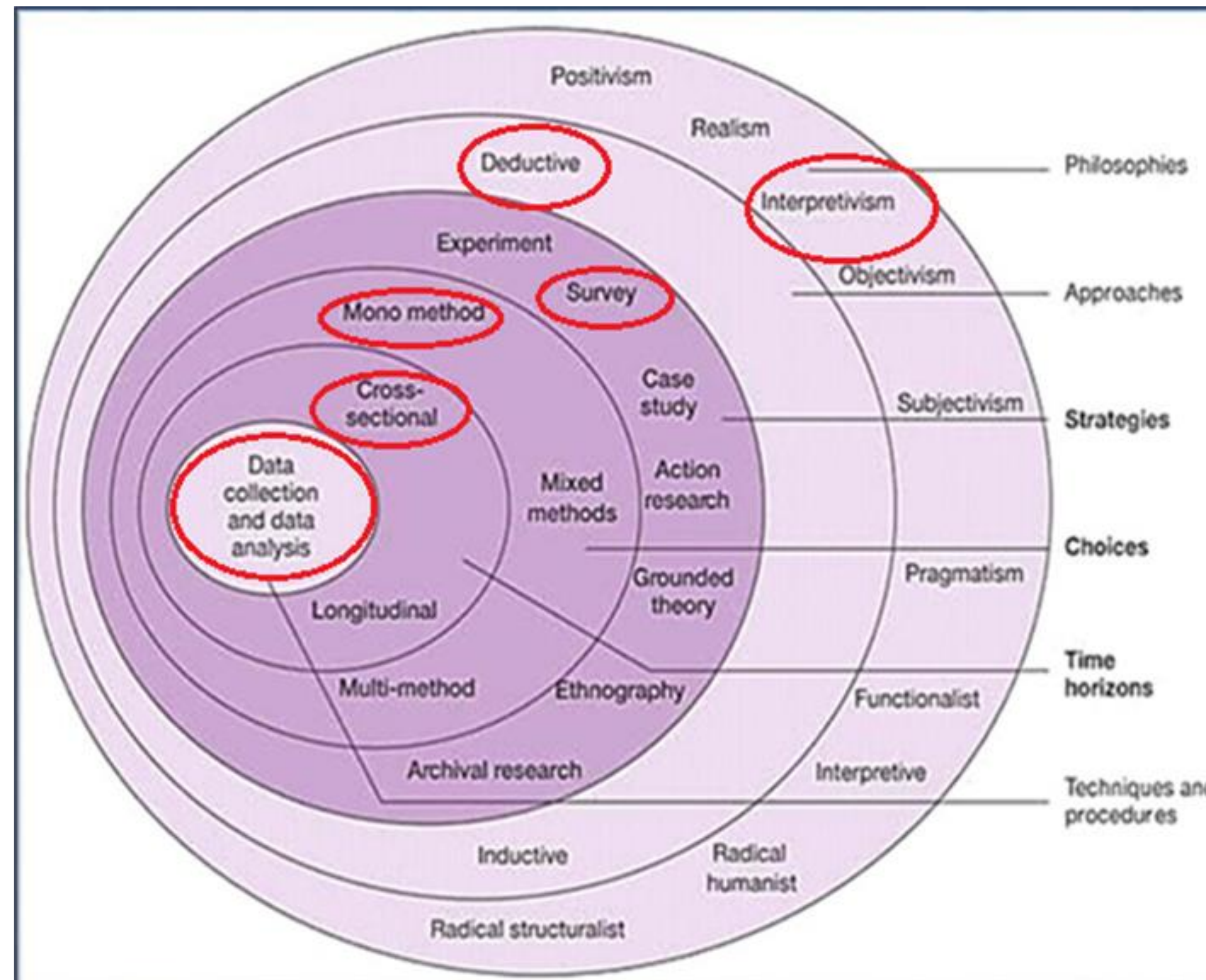
For this project, four research objectives were identified all related how Covid-19 could somehow have affected IICT students. After an intense literature review, that provided insights of how Covid-19 affected local and foreign educational institutions; a questionnaire was modified and adapted for our needs, in compliant to ethical priorities not to divulge respondents' personal information. Several questions were added bringing up the total number to 32 from the original 24 questions conducted in India by Aswal P. & Singh P. et 2021.

My position role within IICT is to manage the study-room. Having a number of students visiting on daily basis, made it possible to disseminate several printed questionnaires, even when students were very busy with assignments. Ethical procedures were observed on data collection, especially for those respondents who chose the printed version. A sealed ballot box was used with clearly marked date and time, so students could verify that no tampering is done when the seal is broken. In addition same questionnaire was available online both in English and Maltese.

Google form data was imported to SPSS, whereby some difficulties were encountered and listed as Appendix.

Data was checked for validity & reliability. Two outliers were identified using regression analysis. For implementation of same research on a more global scale within all MCAST institutes, Exploratory factor analysis reduced the number of questions from 32 to 12, with four different multi-item scales as tabulated in research propositions on this poster. The impact of Covid-19 was analysed using two-pie charts as shown hereafter, in order to check the hypothesis.

Quantitative Methodology



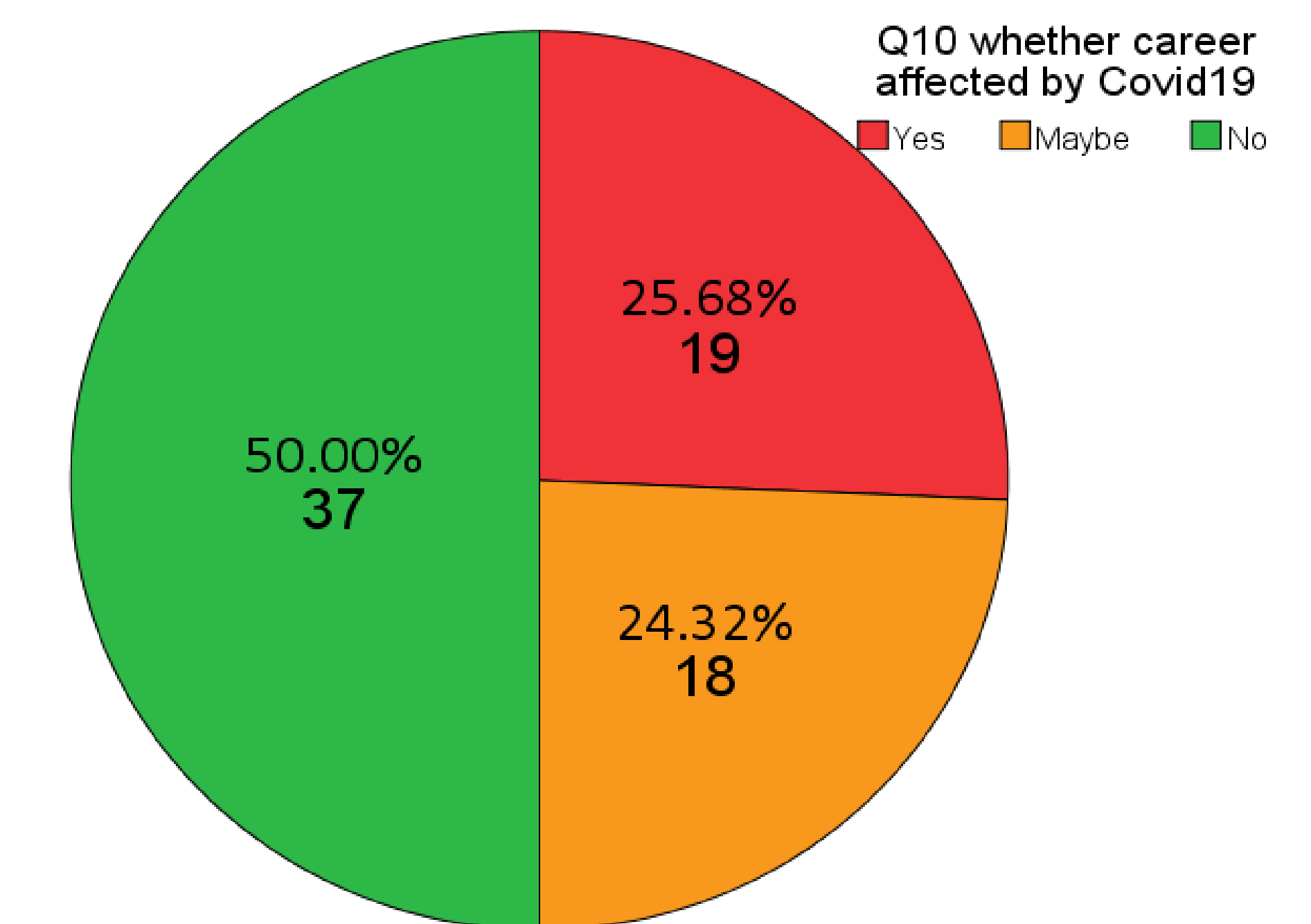
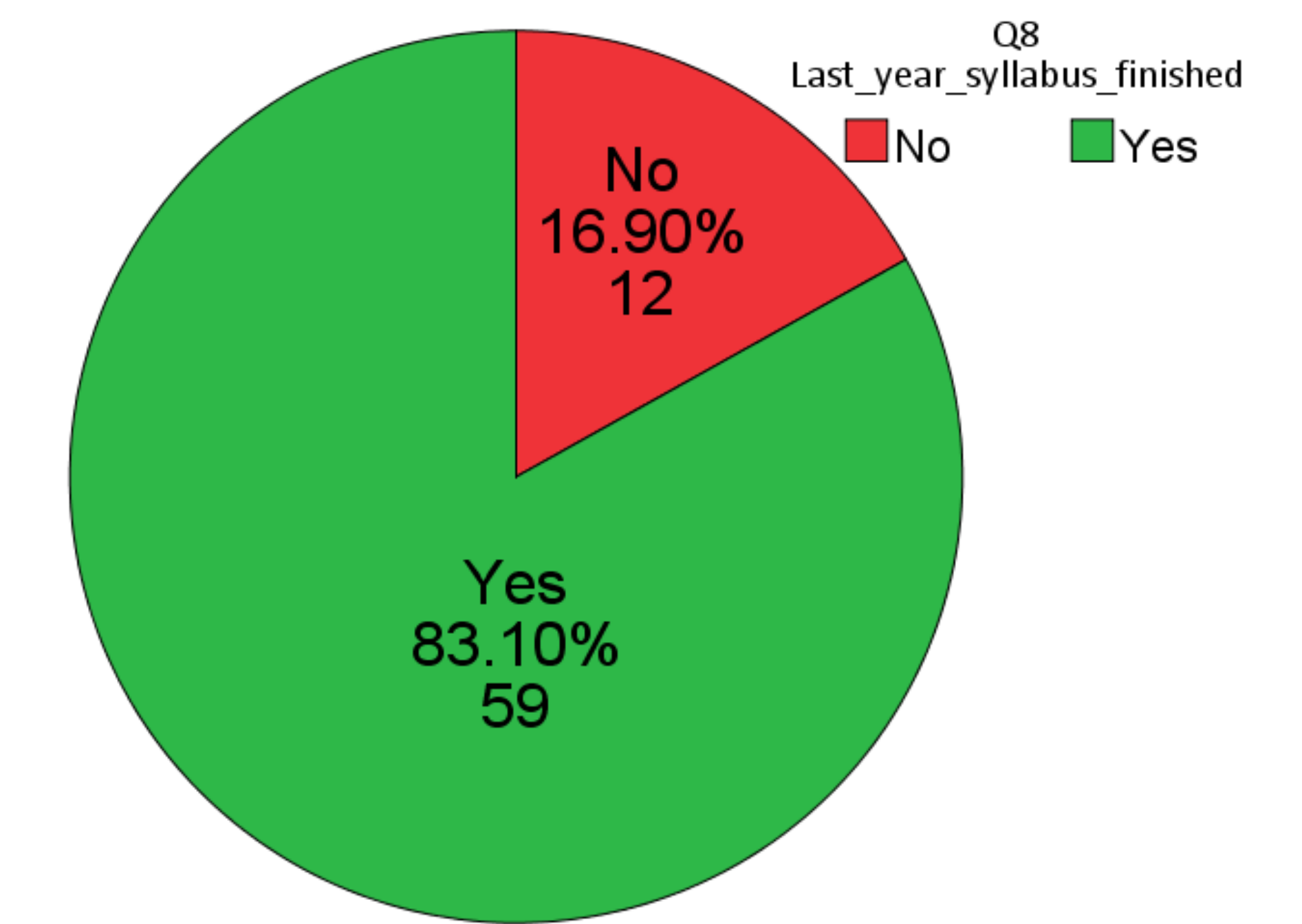
Research Propositions

Impact on Health issues	Impact on Education	Impact on employment	Future Prospects
Q11 Q21 Q22 Q23 Q28 Q29	Q8 Q9 Q10	Q17	Q16 Q20

Research Objectives

- RO 1. To identify if IICT MCAST students prefer to use already recorded lessons if it makes the lecturer more available for students.
- RO 2. To establish per locality whether synchronous blended learning, is the choice of preference for IICT students over traditional face-to-face teaching and the reasons why.
- RO 3. To distinguish IICT MCAST students are failing in their learning achievements and uncertain in job prospects due to repercussions suffered during Covid-19.
- RO 4. To relate whether IICT MCAST students with learning differences, have been affected more by Covid-19

Key Figures



- IICT institute performed very well despite all issues related to Covid-19 , with 83.1% of the students claiming to have completed their subject curriculum and 50% claiming it did not affect their carrier opportunities.
- Null hypothesis (H0) accepted.
- Conclusions drawn for each four research objectives though no listed here.

References

- Aswal P. & Singh P. et 2021
- Castelli & Sarvary, 2021
- Creswell, et 2018
- Hair Jr., 2019
- Zhang et al., 2021