

ONLINE LEARNING: ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Tahira Mumtaz

Lecturer, Department of Political Science
GC Women University, Sialkot, tahira.mumtaz@gcwus.edu.pk

Rabia

Associate Lecturer (Pakistan Studies)
Department of Political Science
GC Women University, Sialkot

Iqra Latif

Lecturer, Department of Political Science
GC Women University, Sialkot

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study is to examine Online learning in light of current definitions, technology, advantages, and challenges, as rapidly becoming an important part of educational programs both in developed and developing countries. Technological innovation has made this possible. Space and time no longer limit the methods of teaching and obtaining new knowledge. New Technology allows us a great deal of flexibility regarding when, where, and how teaching and learning occur. Individuals and groups can benefit from the knowledge that provides flexible learning opportunities. Learning at a distance is one of the fastest-growing disciplines of education, with the potential to significantly impact all aspects of education. The emergence of Internet-based information delivery systems has significantly accentuated the importance of delivery systems. The World Wide Web, in particular, is a result of technological advancement. To respond to the changing requirements of the world, future online learning must be flexible in terms of time and location, with competitive cost and value as well as learner centred. In this research paper, the issues that occurred in online education and their respective countermeasures are examined in detail.

Keywords: Online learning, education, literacy, flexibility, web-based information

INTRODUCTION

Distance learning is the mode of learning that enables students to access online content learning that is convenient and comfortable for students who cannot join physical classes. Authorities of education are cognizant of the variety of their learners, students who have the potential to perform better but they have no opportunity for face-to-face classes. There is a range of options to provide with the different platforms so that they could start the study of their interest. Different modes of delivery are provided and accessible for pupils where they have multiple choices and pathways to choose the subject areas of their interest. It might happen in traditional (face-to-face), non-traditional (online), or mixed-method (blended) along with different ways (Schmidt et al., 2016) so that learners could opt for the way which suits them better. As, many universities have different ways to educate students by providing them with short courses, certificate courses, learning skills, and some field work as well and they have their own choices to select their subject areas in the university. (Caplan, 2004)

In the meanwhile, face-to-face contact modes could be adopted for online learning. It is not an easy task that the teaching staff is relatively unacquainted with the online modes and methods. As we observed in the times of the outbreak of the pandemic COVID-19 when we immediately had to shift our mode of teaching from physical to online learning, we observed that it was problematic for both the teacher and student because of many genuine issues. There are different challenges and opportunities in online learning. Some course content is compatible with the online format and suitable for all learners but on the other hand,

some courses have, different modes and methods of learning so there is a need for assessment and measurement for field work and fieldwork practices. So, it is the need of the hour to find out different ways that some course contents are easy to adapt through online mode but others don't have this option or partially this mode of learning could be adopted. When technology is discussed, some scholars stated that "teaching with technology does not fit in all approaches as it varies from the modes and kinds of technology that is in practice at the time when it is needed and the curriculum type that is being taught. It means that it is the combination of technology with all features in terms of teaching style and structure of various capabilities. Even though "it is normally only for the time being that innovations can further develop learning. (Kirkwood and Price, 2014, 6) With the pervasive idea of innovative reconciliation and various guidelines, every learner and their responsibilities to those willing to be involved with an online mode of studies.

Concerning development communicated that education with development is not only one frame that suits all systems and it is based on the types of development being utilized by then and the instructive program material that is being delivered. This suggests that the joining of advancement gives more computation to thought regarding showing techniques and improvement of useful learning experiences. No matter what this is, it is much of the time underrated that improvements can further develop skills of learning with the overwhelming notion transforming the imaginative joining, knowledge up-gradation, or pupil responsibility is ordinarily indistinguishably associated. In any case, in making separately traditional fitted separate guidance for each student inside and across every partner, extra responsibility constraints on those trying to lock in with the web-based environment can be made by showing stories that try to answer, frequently responsively and singular learning and commitment needs of every partner.

The issue of having the sense to fit all approaches is appropriately featured in cooperative learning assignments (group work) where student differences between and across participants can be featured. It could be due to the summed-up instructive suppositions related to cooperative learning assignments being frequently applied to the internet-based atmosphere and there might be less centre the conveyance and thoughtfulness regarding the undertaking. In this way, students can know and work in groups paying little attention to a wide-size-fits-all application. Notwithstanding the commonplace challenges that substitutes can insight in group exercises paying little heed to mode, on-the-web environment added difficulties for the outer or disconnected student, especially through contemplations around their commitment, access, local area, and backing. In considering a teacher's viewpoint for working with learning on the web, this research work offers systems for the people who are planning to show atmosphere-centred academic procedures for supporting students through the turn of events and assistance of gathering to show cooperative learning exercises. Given quite a long while of involvement, the accompanying experiences are given to support those with vulnerability or naiveté in working with a web-based teaching atmosphere as a beginning part so the teachers can comprehend and uphold their students.

Research Objectives

- To understand the importance of online learning in the era of digitalization
- To highlight the problems faced by the teachers and students as well
- To find out a way forward and the benefits of online learning

Research Questions

- What is the importance of online learning in the contemporary era?
- How do teachers and learners face challenges through online learning?
- What could be the advantages of online learning in this hasty era?

The Secluded Learner

Expanding this, it could likewise give planning to Business graduates in their impending cooperation in web-based gatherings or coordinated efforts. This practice gives extra advantages to students advancing to the previous level. An undeniably computerized worldwide features the significance of capability in collaboration and practice involving innovation as an open medium.

Progressively, pupils in all programs, remembering those for corporate, the board, and schooling, are deciding to learn while participating in changing levels of work (Broadbent & Poon, 2015). Pupils have the adaptability of settling on part-time and additionally outside methods of study to expand association, investment, and at last consummation of their certification courses (Broadbent and Poon, 2015). The scope of extra dynamics hence encourages secluding the performing multiple tasks outer students as expanding

quantities of boundaries to progress are placed in place. It is subsequently indispensable that engaged thought of these companions and ways of bettering work with their interests are examined (Thorsteinsson, 2013).

A considerable share of these pupils likewise take with their different stages of certainty and experience with utilizing innovation to participate in college groups and despite imparted inclinations for virtual accommodation ways, additionally, show worry and uneasiness about finishing cluster evaluations on the web. Close to the rising digitalization of numerous working environments, new types of learners arise and they might be carefully more ripped than in past ages because of their "computerized local" position (Orlando, 2015). Despite presumptions around the innovative limit also, capabilities have little advantage when considering cooperative learning errands. All things being equal, the zero-in ought to principally be on how the communications and gathering work errands can be upheld and worked with, as opposed to the method for doing this.

The significance of working with supporting social association and improvement is significant. The supposition which is an emerging innovation and taking more prominent admittance to innovation could accomplish all it carefully competent is mistaken as people may, in any case, incline non-mechanical mediums, and have differing levels of skill furthermore, limited with advanced stages. Besides, outside student accomplices may likewise comprise of developed age, which moreover confuses the presumption of computerized inclination, advanced skill, and computerized capacity for online students. Hence, no matter what the segment of the accomplice, suppositions around innovative inclination and limits ought to be sidelined basically until important social and friendly support systems are set up. Adjusting to the web-based atmosphere could be quite difficult for both teachers and learners.

It is neither guaranteed to imply that a facilitator with less capability nor trust in exploring advanced innovations can give students reasonable and gainful growth opportunities. Many scholars portrayed the meaning of perceiving the significance of figuring out students and the capacities they have as tantamount to picking what innovations to utilize. The significance of promoting connections in the web-based climate both among teacher and pupil(s) and students is supported if looking to work with group exercises, as connections are key to viable gathering work. Notwithstanding friendly relationships working as upgrading the student's experience on the web, different variables that assume a huge part in student's outcome in the web-based space incorporate mental intricacy and scholarly feeling. It is presently significant as compared to any other time in recent memory for distance learning teachers to furnish pupils with encounters that encounter their mental abilities instead of moving substance to the students. The capacity of a teacher to work with and foster students' higher-request thinking abilities is similarly significant both on the web and in eye-to-eye delivery modes especially while looking to draw in students in group exercises.

While the particular platform might be somewhat unique for inside and outer students' companions, students learn while at the same time utilizing the capability of the electrical stage in various ways (e.g., simultaneously or non-concurrently). Considering the benefits and adaptability innate inside the internet-based climate gives boundless potential open doors for evaluation that can integrate a scope of innovations that are not restricted by the mechanical limits present in a more customary, close up and, personal environment. (Benson and Brack, 2010). The scope of simultaneous and non-concurrent methods of correspondence that can be utilized in the web-based learning environment presents extra open doors for connection and interest for remotely enlisted students, especially in group work exercises. In this way, students communicate with each other, associate with the school personnel, also, interface with the substance or topic through numerous configurations (Anderson, 2004)

The capacity for both teachers and companions to offer help "progressively," the flexibility of the climate in taking special care of people, and the capacity for students to have more noteworthy participation in the educational environment, everyone adds to the adding for consolidating web-based teaching methods in training and through these means that both students and tutors can more readily uphold the secluded student.

Importance of Online Learning

Internet-based pupils need to improve their understanding and learning of digital devices in the contemporary era. It gives them induction to different courses that they can browse, and the capacity to work at whatever point they need as compared to being constrained to a rigid timetable. Online courses

permit students to learn about themselves and what heading they need to take in their lives. They can figure out what they are genuinely inspired by without being compelled into humiliating themselves or being compelled to follow a specific way that was chosen for them before they got the opportunity to pick. By assuming responsibility for their schooling through internet-based courses students are not generally restricted by a friendly atmosphere or the limitations of their families. They can follow the right way and take advantage of the training they merit without being tormented or constrained into something they do not enjoy by people around them.

Challenges Posed by Online Learning

While web-based learning opens up a scope of new chances for bestowing education, it accompanies its portion of difficulties too. Pakistan needs to go a long way to give access to education to every individual living in a state to make web-based learning accessible to every one of the students in the country through appropriate improvements in such a manner. A portion of the difficulties that web-based development now faces in Pakistan include.

1. Lack of Interaction

While schools take into consideration live chat practically to augment the lessons, this isn't generally accessible or possible in different schools. (Barrot et al., 2021) This can sometimes prompt an absence of collaboration among students and their teachers, which might be dangerous relying on the situation.

2. Low-Quality Lessons

Some web-based courses may not give the excellent illustrations or lectures that students would find in an offline setting. This typically lacks to make fascinating substances when they realize learners can get to it from any place every time.

3. Distance Learning

Some internet-based courses don't offer distance learning choices which imply learn that the learner insight has to make a trip to school to participate (Milman, 2014). This can be especially precarious for individuals who live in the countryside or have small kids that stop them from having the option to leave their homes every day.

4. Lack of Accreditation

Accrediting organizations don't necessarily certify online courses, and that means students will be unable to use the lessons they gain from them to earn their degrees. This is generally because these courses don't meet entirely all norms that offline projects might be considered responsible for.

5. Decreased Teacher Accountability

When a course is completely on the web, learners have no justifiable excuse to think often about how well they act in it since they get credit without going to classes or meeting with their teachers on regular basis (Blackley & Sheffield, 2015). This can be especially problematic for educators attempting to keep up with command over their classes and authorize discipline in the manner in which they usually would take up learners in an offline setting.

6. Increased Cheating

Because no checking authority or figure can manage what occurs within an internet-based course, learners may not confront any outcomes when they undermine their tests. This can make a few students abandon learning and attempt to dodge their teachers to procure a high grade without taking any genuine information or expertise.

7. Poor Student-Teacher Interaction

Students might feel like they are missing out on the individual collaboration that happens between them and their teachers in distance learning courses. This is because they can't talk with their teachers beyond assigned times or areas, which might lead them to feel isolated from the remainder of the class and alone in their work.

8. Difficulty Finishing Assignments

Since numerous web-based learners have different obligations that keep them from having the option to invest as much time in their coursework as they would like, they might struggle to expeditiously complete tasks or complete them. This can prompt them to endure issues with relaxation (Barrot et al., 2021).

9. A Decrease in Job Opportunities

Since certain companies are hesitant to employ individuals who took classes completely on the web, learners will be unable to utilize that education to find a job. This can be tricky if they are jobless or need the additional cash that is given by their jobs to pay leases, bills, and different costs (Schmidt et al., 2016).

10. Expensive Tuition

Online courses frequently cost more than many offline choices means students will most likely be unable to bear the cost of them because of a shortage of money. This can be hazardous if they need to take classes to work on their abilities and procure promotions at work, get into school, or excel in the market.

11. Failure to concentrate on Screens

Another problematic side of web-based education for some students is the failure to concentrate on a screen for long a time. Learners are easily distracted by virtual entertainment or many websites become the reason for distraction while taking online classes (Graham & Misanchuk, 2004). Consequently, teachers should prepare their internet-based lectures to be interesting, intriguing, and instinctive to keep students concentrated on the subject.

12. Technical Issues

One more major issue which is faced by the students is the non-availability of the internet. Though web consumption has extended huge usage at a time, keeping a stable connection with satisfactory speed becomes a problem in urban areas and various communities (Blackley & Sheffield, 2015). It becomes the reason for the low learning process and low progress rate seen in learning for youngsters on the off chance that students or educators can't access the network constantly. This damages the educational process.

13. Feeling of Isolation

Being part of an organization and staying for long hours with friends can teach many lessons to learners in so many ways. Although, there are not many bitter experiences among students and educators in online classes. The students frequently feel alone while facing different issues. To cope with this situation, the institution should take it seriously and adopt alternative channels of correspondence between students, cohorts, and tutors (Gillett-Swan, 2017). This can integrate matters like information on the internet and video conferencing, which consider the close relationship and personal commitment and reduce the distance between students.

14. Teacher Training

Educators should have a vital conception of how to utilize computer-based techniques of figuring out how to instruct on the web. Though, this is not normally the condition. They don't usually have the up-graded devices and apparatuses that they can easily off internet-based learning (Cazan & Indreica, 2014). To overcome this situation, schools must have to provide resources to educators with the most state-of-the-art specialized preparation with the goal that they can undoubtedly direct their internet-based classes.

15. Oversee Screen Time

A lot of parents are conscious of the above health issues of their children while spending a lot of time on screens. Quite possibly the most difficult issue and drawback of web-based learning is the plenty of the that adults spend on screens no adults spend on screens that are not only dangerous for their mental and strong point of view are accessible, while other problems because of sitting squatted in front of a screen for long times (Park & Bonk, 2007).

Advantages of Online Learning

The virtual mode of learning is suitable for learners who are eager to learn but cannot join physical classes due to some personal issues. Distance learning is the way of learning that suits this kind of student in the educational landscape. Let's have a look at the core advantages one can take from a distance and online learning. Following are the key remunerations of online learning.

1. Flexibility

The best thing about distance learning is that it permits students to learn in a general setting of their decision. They can opt for adaptable timetables, particularly if they have some work or need to focus on youngsters

or other relatives(Boling et al., 2012). It gives them the choice to go on with school from any area they pick, be that from home, worship place, or whatever other area others easy for them.

2. Affordable

Online learning makes advanced education accessible and reasonable to students who probably won't have the option to go to class. Courses cost about correspondent to what they would in a proper setting since they do exclude instruments and supplies. They do, in any case, give all that students need to take the courses and get well-organized schooling.

3. Convenience

Students can get to their lectures any place anywhere there is a web connection, which generally can realize when it is usually helpful for them. (Jaques & Salmon, 2007) They can enjoy reprieves from what they are doing or concentrate in between different tasks without holding on until they can get to their PC.

4. Experienced Tutors

With web-based learning, students get access to specialists in the field and get training from experts who have had long-time experience in that specific subject. Internet coaching moreover offers the students more adaptability and chance for tutoring and one-on-one training than an offline setting could incorporate eye-to-eye mentoring(Prensky, 2001).

5. Flexible Schedules for Online Learning

Online learning permits students to plan their lessons appropriately, particularly assuming they are likewise working, need to deal with youngsters or older relatives, or have different commitments that would keep them from going to conventional classes nearby(Milman, 2014). This adaptability makes it simpler for individuals with less free time to keep going to class without stressing over when classes are going to start.

6. New Curriculum

The curriculum might be tailored explicitly to the requirements and wants of individual students when they pursue classes online because it very well may be easily different or refreshed to expeditiously address their issues. This likewise empowers them to learn at their speed and not be hurried by a class plan.

7. Increased Student-to-Teacher Ratio

Web-based learning makes it feasible to take classes any place, there is no worry about students missing out on the one-on-one time they would typically get with their teachers assuming they were in an offline setting. This takes into consideration a more prominent student-to-teacher proportion empowering teachers to more effectively give time to students who need it(Napier et al., 2011).

8. More Study Options

Students can concentrate completely all alone in the way that they decide, or they might have the choice of collaborating with a group of individual students to frame a review group that meets online for class(Jaques & Salmon, 2007). They may likewise have the choice of joining an internet-based discussion board or gathering where they can coordinate with different students who share their inclinations.

9. Student Reach

Students are not generally restricted by area while taking courses that numerous institutions offer web-based learning and individuals can take admission from anywhere in the world, giving them open options they probably won't have in any case had to join their school was just accessible in their area or district.

10. Faster, Easier Access to Information

Since students don't need to stress over investing time in travelling for taking classes, the other hand, they can spend more time studying and learning their course material and subjects which they have been taught by teachers. This implies they can learn quickly and utilize the knowledge they are given.

11. Proficiency

Tutors can hand over graphics to learners so that they could easily understand the lesson proficiently. Instructors can use an assortment of internet-based learning devices, like footage, PDFs, and footage dings, as a component of the class activities. Teachers can produce more productive teachers by reinforcing their lesson plans, improving plans, and standardized course readings to incorporate internet-based course materials.

12. Availability of Time and Place

Another benefit of web-based learning is the learning that allows learners to take classes from any place they can. Similarly, it enables schools to bound groups of students instead of being constrained by geological cutoff points(Williams et al., 2012). Online debates can similarly be recorded, saved, and shared

for future review. This allows students to take to the edifying resources at whatever topic it is helpful to form accordingly, web-based learning gives students the adaptability to general settings in their schooling.

13. Affordability

Affordability is another advantage of online learning in which expenses could be controlled accordingly. When it is compared with traditional education, online teaching is essentially less expensive. However, internet learning, courses/ programs expense student transportation, refreshments, and certainly, areas there where is the need of travelling long hours to take classes regularly. Besides, all process of learning goes smoothly and the environment decreases the expenditures of stationery. In this situation healthy learning atmosphere is more feasible for teachers and students, being harmless and it is environment friendly too.

14. Better Student Attendance

There are fewer chances of students missing classes as online classes can be taken from home or anywhere else. Students belonging to all areas take classes regularly because they have shown their commitment and interest in the continued learning process(Williams et al., 2012). In this way, students' attendance is improved through an online mode of study.

15. Combination of various Learning Styles

Every youngster has a distinctive scholastic experience. Only a few students are eager to learn through images, on the other hand, some students like to learn through sounds. Same like this, some less like to study in groups, whereas some students feel uneasy sitting and studying sittings and studying settings to join meetings. With its range of selections, web-based education, and frameworks are adopting different strategies and they can be improved in various types(Benson & Brack, 2010). It is a suitable method to enhance the perfect learning environment for every learner.

16. Prospects of Online Learning

Numerous web users feel learning is easy by using g different tools on the internet. Web-based learning can utilize as an expected option in contrast to traditional training yet just through reasonable preparation and execution by the public authority. With the various prospects accessible with online training, numerous educationists have tracked down it to turn it into the favourite-oriented method of learners in the upcoming scenario.

CONCLUSION

Online education has turned into a rising trend. Although, students need to ponder whether taking web-based classes could be the ideal decision for students were unable physical classes. They ought to ponder whether they could have the option to fulfil their ongoing commitments and this could help more by taking traditional education all options should be considered seriously. On the whole, online learning is rapidly increasing, and many organizations of advanced studies are consolidating it related to various types of training. The number of students enrolled in online courses has extended due to their many benefits. The like their benefits of online learning comprise owing instructive capability, providing better learning opportunities and capabilities and ranging choices for educational decisions. Accordingly, time, area, and quality are not generally viewed as restricting variables in chasing after degree courses or advanced education as a result of online education.

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