

PROS AND CONS ONLINE OF EDUCATION AND ONLINE LEARNING IN HIGHER EDUCATION

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Abstract

Technology will not replace great teachers but technology in the hands of great teachers can be transformational. The most important thing that schools can do is not to use technology in the curriculum more, but to use it more effectively. Online Education, then, can serve two goals, for students lucky enough to have access to great teachers; blended learning can mean even better outcomes at the same or lower cost. And for the millions here and abroad who lack access to good, in-person education, online learning can open doors that would otherwise remain closed. Online learning can be a lifeline to those who have obstacles, such as geographical distances or physical disabilities.

Introduction

Online teaching and learning is exploding as an option in universities. This reviews current literature about advantage of online learning, the needs of teachers and students involved in online teaching and learning and a discussion of findings from personal interviews with participants currently engaged in online learning.

Traditionally, teaching has been a face-to-face experience. The interaction between the teacher and the student(s) with the increasing frequency of course delivery through online and hybrid means, hybrid refers to those courses that combine face-to-face meetings with and online component much of the face-to-face interaction is lost.

This loss is of great concern for those of us in teacher education.

Online courses are those that are offered partially or entirely over the internet through the World Wide Web.

What is online education?

Online education is a type of educational instruction that is delivered via the internet to students using their home computers. During the last decade, online degrees and courses have become popular alternative for a wide range of non-traditional students; include those who want to continue working full-time or raising families. Most of the time, online degree programs and courses are offered via the host school's online learning platform. Although some are delivered using alternative technologies. Although there are subtle dissimilarities, the main difference between online and traditional learning is the fact that online education liberates the student from the usual trappings of on campus degree programs including driving to school, planning their schedule around classes, and being physically present for each sequence of their course work if this sounds drastic, it really isn't. The truth is the education methods and materials provided in online degree programs are often the same as those provided for on campus programs.

According to Robert Monroe, Director of the Online Hybrid MBA at Carnegie Mellon university's Tipper School at business, the best online education programs actually mirror their on campus equivalent.

A high quality degree earned in an online format should not fundamentally differ from a campus based degree. The only significant difference should be the way that the classes are delivered.

Advantages of online learning

1. A large variety of courses to choose from: Did you know you can earn college course credits for almost any course you can think of? Whether its algebra, English composition or even biology lab work, there's a course you can take online. You can even study humanities, Sociology and business administration.

2. Multiple ways to communicate with your professor: The great thing about online classes vs. traditional classes is the flexibility you have to communicate with your professor. It's not always convenient to see your college course instructor face to face, so between email, live chat and telephone conversations, you should have more opportunities to get feedback or have a great Q & A session with your college professor.
3. It doesn't cost as much: You can save hundreds of dollars to get your degree when you're learning online. The traditional costs associated with using class room space and equipment doesn't apply. As long as you have the right hardware and software to log on and complete course assignments as well as study the material, there are big savings you realize right away.
4. You have better opportunities to concentrate: You can choose any place that helps you learn the material to gain a greater understanding of the overall body of knowledge you need to earn your degree.
5. You can customize your learning environment: Whether you're at home, on the road or at a friend's house, you can create your own perfect room to study class materials and do home work assignments. You don't have to put up with anymore disruptive environments like crowded libraries. Online learning offers better opportunities to concentrate by not being around other people. You can dedicate one room for quiet study, or if you are shy you don't have to worry about interacting with other students.
6. Enjoy a flexible schedule: One of the great benefits of getting an online degree is you can still work full time and manage time to earn a degree in your off hours. If you work non-traditional hours you don't have to lose sleep arrange for childcare or waste time commuting to physical classrooms.

Disadvantages of online classes

1. Lack of Discipline: Behind every successful achievement so far, discipline plays the biggest role in behind. We learned with discipline in schools. Rule and regulations are predefined by schools and teachers for students. And students are committed to doing their best whatever teacher ordered them to do. Discipline becomes their habit and because of this, they become high-quality government employees and successful businessmen, etc. Importance of discipline in school life for example, Q & A subject tests, etc. is part of a student's life. If they ignore the orders of teachers intentionally they know they will be punished. But in higher education or online classes, there is no fear of failure or teachers. Students are free. Freedom especially for students without the guidelines is not good for society and also for them continuous learning and taking classes regularly is very important to become knowledgeable and master in the subject. To acquire knowledge in any subject students have to do various tasks such as assignments, notes writing, research, group discussion and practical implementation, etc. are really important. It can be ignored by students easily if they are taking online classes at home. Some websites and universities providing everything that is important for learning but then it again depends on the students to follow. Nothing can force people to become a disciplined and funny thing is robots will never only fear of failure and punishment can align people to be disciplined.
2. Readymade answer: When you ask a question in offline class then teachers have to respond quickly based on knowledge and creativity. But when asked on online teachers, they have time to research the question on Google then give the answers. And also the top ten 10 question and answers are pre-written because they know what students can ask. And some online teachers just sent a copy of the answer to those questions to learn and understand the core part of the topic. Students need a reel-time answer filed with creativity and knowledge. If teachers producing ready – made answers without knowing and analyzing the curiosity of learners then you can predict the future of students and their understanding of the subject easily.
3. Less creativity & more instruction: The emanation of creativity in the student's mind comes during the class; in offline classes teachers do the analysis of the mind and behavioral activities of students before teaching about the subject. Then they teach student based on student's absorption power or learning capacity. This is not possible for teachers in front of the camera. Yes, teachers can give instructions but they are unable to emanation the creativity in students minds by using the camera, and if students are unable to feel the presence and thoughts of a teacher in the classroom and in the brain then I don't think students learned the lesson. They can pass the exam but I will guarantee they can't explain the same topic in more than 5 different ways immediately after the class. Teaching instruction is not teaching and instruction in the mind of students is not knowledge.
4. Tough to find an environment for study: In schools and colleges, students have a proper environment for study. They are committed to learning with discipline and ready to explore creativity. To explore creativity and discipline we need to provide an environment for students to learn. When taking online classes at home there are fewer chances to create an environment for study. It required support from other family members. That's not possible in joint families. This is a big disadvantage to study at home. Even getting the notification and mobile calls also disturbed students to focus on study. Offline class in front of the teacher is highly focused on the topic and no one can disturb.

5. Difficult to select best course & classes: Online learning is in founts and it will be increasing as people are getting more knowledge about online study programs. People from developing countries also started taking advantage of online classes. But that's why the organization, companies, individuals participating in the online education programs and funding startup educators. There are various courses and online degree programs available almost for everything from academic to technical and technical to the interest based (Music, Cooking, etc.) but in the perspective students point of view "How to select the best course in between?". From a business point of view, only big companies investing will lead the online education market. Online paid education provider or almost all big or small companies are using emotional marketing methods. People emotional materials spending the money online are 70% based on emotional decisions. Emotional intelligence is another big thing that people start analyzing or start learning about it 3-4 years later from today's point. In between emotional marketing it's really tough for students to select the best course and enroll in with reputed, qualified sites.
6. Scripted Lectures: In offline teachers are dynamic and change the attention of students from one point to the second point. I mean creativity is explored in a way that students understand and relate the lecture with real-time crises. If the teacher is giving a lecture on economic crises in online class and examples are not related about the economics of the country in which student is living, how I can help my country or myself when I got personal economic crises. My mean is that if an example in the lecture by teachers is not connected with current affairs or what happened yesterday on the economic sides. I don't think it's ok to learn about the crises that happened before my birth. Might be you can disagree with my point. But it's true that offline teachers can give the example of today's economic changes in even the same day in the class. There is a change that teachers create the script for the class or anyone teaching online has the script to read who has good expression skills. And also the class video can be edited materials and we can miss emotional attachment to subject from teachers. Because they are teaching in very humble and all words are very correct. That is ok, but how can I see the emotion of the teacher on the topic when there are points at anger, laugh freedom, and excitements.
7. Information overload: I know you're agreeing on this point that today we have information about everything or we have tools to get it quickly. Information is coming in our brain at high speed and from various methods. We have data but we don't time to analyze and mind power to store and some don't have high analytical skills to analyze which thing is wrong and right for us. We are taking the decision based on top 10 Google search results, reviews, like, etc. It can be a fraud and coming search results can be tricked. So, learners don't have an option other than just believe in what he/she getting from the learning source. Too much information in the brain at learners does not providing space to think creatively, use imagination power, and thinking on the answers of teachers.

I know writing about disadvantages can be difficult and easy too. If you're negative about the subject and topic than sure you can write and talk more about it. My motive for writing this is not to make you negative about online classes and learning. I want that you can analyze such above factors about online classes while reaching for the best online courses. I am in favor of both. Both offline and online courses have advantages and disadvantages. All the methods are not truthful for all students are in the same situation to take online classes. So, before choosing an online degree program, I suggest analysis your situation, resources, time, environment, money and results from you want.

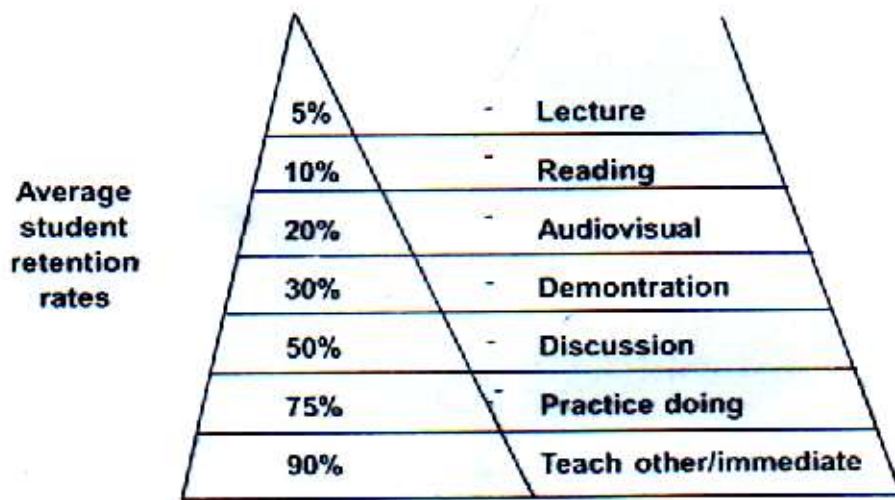
How to make online education more effective?

1. Learner-centre content: A learning curriculum should be relevant and specific to learner's needs, roles and responsibilities in professional life. This kind of content like skills, knowledge and all kinds of learning media provides to keep the focus on learner's end.
2. Engaging content: Instructional methods and techniques should be used creatively to develop an engaging and motivating learning experience. It depends upon developing the storyboard that has to be based on a very engaging way of learning programs.
3. Interactive content: Frequent learner interaction is needed to sustain attention and promote learning. Scenario based learning is a good example for this kind of learning media.
4. Personalization: Self paced courses should be customizable to reflect learner's interests and needs, in instructor led courses, tutors and facilitators should be able to follow the learner's progress and performance individually.

The Learning Pyramid

Designing learning contents also depends upon the type of learning methods which we choose on the analysis phase. Now let us know the details about the learning pyramid with following diagram.

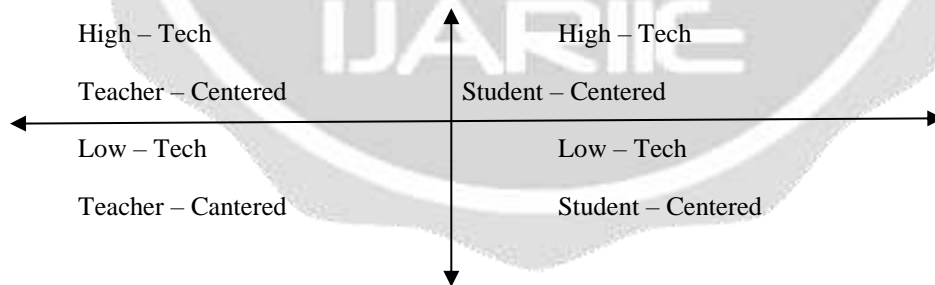
Learning Pyramid:



Source National Training Laboratores Bethel maine.

The learning pyramid researched and created by the National Training Laboratories in Bethel Maine. It illustrates the percentage of learner recall that is associated with various approaches. The first four levels lecture, reading, audiovisual and demonstration are the passive learning methods. In contrast, the bottom three levels discussion, practice doing and teach others are participatory (active) learning methods.

The learning pyramid really helps me to identify the right methods when choosing e-learning methods. I insist you to refer to this Pyramid on your analysis phase while you are choosing the right e-learning methods. Many types of e-learning can be created with advanced development tools, which are suited to the needs of the modern workplace learners. There are various types of e-learning solutions that can be employed to train the learners. Choose the type that best suits the needs of the learner, keeping in mind the available technologies that would help them access e-learning methods are synchronous and asynchronous in nature. It depends upon the learner's need and the learning objectives you choose.



Teaching method refers to the general principles, pedagogy and management strategies used for classroom instruction.

Your choice of teaching method depends on what fits you – your educational philosophy, classroom demographic, subject area(s) and school mission statement. Teaching theories can be organized into four categories based on two major parameters a teacher-centered approach versus a student-centered approach and high-tech material use versus low-tech material use.

Teacher-Centered Approach to Learning:

Taken to its most extreme interpretation, teachers are the main authority figure in a teacher-centered instruction model.

Students are viewed as “empty vessels”, who passively receive knowledge from their teachers through lectures and direct instruction, with an end goal of positive results from testing and assessment in this style, teaching and assessment are viewed as two.

Conclusion

Online education has brought a positive impact in the lives of students and working professionals. It has given an opportunity to take up additional courses along with their studies or job as per their convenience. Online education has also helped the faculty in the institutions to ask students to study some part of syllabus online which do not require much of classroom instructions. So the online study helps the faculty to save time in which they can interact with the students more. The quality of education has improved by online courses and even it has become easy for students to refer the content as per their lecture. In the era of digitalization the scope of online education increase even more and will be beneficial for students and also institutions.

E-learning is not just a change at technology. It is part of a redefinition of how we as a species transmit knowledge, skills and values to younger generations of workers and students. In many fields, e-learning has become the default way to conduct training or to provide education. There are four secrets of e-learning. The first secret is to teach what learners need to learn. The second secret is to define clear learning objectives. The third secret builds on the right objectives. The final secret is in the power of testing.

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