

WEB-BASED EDUCATION IS A BOON FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

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ABSTRACT

The web-based education system serves as a beacon in an unknown, inexplicable, and unaccountable circumstance. It's a detective in the present and a precursor to the future. The approach has been warmly adopted by the Indian educational community...more than willingly...carefully and ruthlessly. Given the rapid pace of technological progress, changes in the education system are unavoidable. A lot of studies are being done to determine the advantages and disadvantages of online education vs traditional schooling. There are several problems and possibilities for online education in India. In this paper, we have highlighted critical characteristics that would promote online education in India. The paper highlighted internet penetration as a crucial driver in the expansion of online education, as well as the considering low fee of online education, the convenience of completing a course study, administrating government effort, and recognizing and bridging the gap between employers and employees. Inadequate digital infrastructure, legitimacy, and the terminology used in online education are all challenges that are impeding progress. With India's rising number of internet users, the study looks at what potential exists in the education system in the future.

Keywords: *Online learning, Digital Education, Future Education, Opportunities.*

INTRODUCTION

*"We cannot solve our problems with the same thinking
we used when we created them."
– Einstein*

The contribution of science and technology has resulted in a significant shift in human lifestyle, either directly or indirectly. It has allowed us to expand the boundaries of our knowledge in a variety of ways and directions. New perspectives in the realm of education and teaching-learning processes have emerged as a result of the introduction of new technology and an explosion of knowledge. The right to education act was founded on the principle of providing equal and universal access to education, which necessitates increasing the reach and enhancing the quality of educational services. In many places of the world, the traditional growth of education systems is unfeasible, thus new resources and approaches are used. Technology developments can provide more access, more quality, and a cheaper cost per learner. Curriculum transaction has seen a significant shift, with the teacher's function shifting from "instructor to facilitator, coach, and designer of learning environments" (UNESCO.n.d).

The information era is well-known in the twenty-first century. In this scenario, technology tools and platforms enable instant access to a wealth of relevant information while studying and teaching in the classroom. Teachers and students in the classroom now use digital devices such as cell phones, computers, and tablets daily. As a result, new ways for integrating digital technologies into the classroom must be developed, as well as expressive learning methodologies that will benefit future generations of students.

Apart from establishing clever learning objectives, teachers must also train and trim students without diverting from the goals. This may be accomplished by employing a variety of digital technologies in the classroom, including the virtual classroom.

DIGITAL INITIATIVES IN INDIA

Information and communication technology (ICT) is undergoing massive transformations all around the world. These modifications have a greater impact on the current educational landscape or teaching-learning process. In India, online learning is more significant in the higher education sector. The Indian government and the Ministry of Human Resource Development are working to build online platforms for higher education students. The digitization efforts assist students in expanding their knowledge beyond their current capabilities. The following are the major digital initiatives platforms:

- ✓ **Study Webs of Active Learning for Young Aspiring Minds (SWAYAM)** is India's Massive Open Online Course platform (<https://swayam.gov.in>) Up to date, it provides more than 2,200+ courses offered by almost 1,300 professors from more than 135 Indian universities. It differs from other providers in that it allows Indian students to gain academic credit using the internet. SWAYAM has seen over 10 million students complete the courses since it debuted in 2017. SWAYAM might become the world's largest MOOC provider in a few years at its current rate of growth. (Swayam Central, 2020).
- ✓ **SWAYAM PRABHA** (<https://www.swayamprabha.gov.in>) is a group of thirty-two direct-to-home (DTH) channels dedicated to broadcasting perfect quality educational instructive programming 24x7 via the GSAT-15 satellite (Swayam Prabha | Free 34 DTH Channels, 2020).
- ✓ **e-Yantra** - IIT Bombay envisions the platform as a way to tap into young India's intellectual ability to develop utility-based robotic applications for use in agriculture, industry, military, home, city maintenance, and services. (<https://www.e-yantra.org/>)
- ✓ **Free/Libre and Open-Source Software for Education (FOSSEE)** is an initiative that promotes **FLOSS** tools in academia and research (<https://fossee.in>).
- ✓ **e-PG Pathshala** (<https://epgp.inflibnet.ac.in>) is an MHRD initiative carried out through the UGC as one of the parts of its NME-ICT (National Mission on Education-ICT) Get free books and e-content based on the curriculum (E-PG Pathshala, 2020).
- ✓ **Shodhganga** (<https://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in>) is a portal that allows scholars' research work to deposit their PhD research reports and make them freely available to the whole research community.
- ✓ **e-ShodhSindhu** is an electronic journal platform that provides free access to full-text e-resources (<https://ess.inflibnet.ac.in>).
- ✓ **Shodh Suddhi** (<https://pds.inflibnet.ac.in>) delivers Plagiarism Detection Software (<https://pds.inflibnet.ac.in/>) (PDS). By eliminating plagiarism, you can encourage people to write unique content.
- ✓ **The National Digital Library (NDL) of India** is a simulated virtual collection of educational content with a single-window search feature. (<https://ndl.iitkgp.ac.in>).
- ✓ **VIDWAN** (<https://vidwan.inflibnet.ac.in>) is the world's largest database of scientists, researchers, and other faculty profiles from the world's leading universities, institutions and colleges.
- ✓ **OSCAR** (<http://oscar.iitb.ac.in>) is a collection of learning objects, which are interactive animations and simulations that may be seen on the internet. At the college level, these learning objects cover themes in engineering and science, while at the school level, they include math and science.
- ✓ **IRINS** (<http://irins.org/irins>) is a web-based Research Information Management (RIM) service. Virtual Labs (<http://www.vlab.co.in>) allows distance learners to access labs in several sciences and engineering fields.
- ✓ **Baadal** (<https://baadal.nme> NME-ICT Cloud is a Ministry of Human Resource Development programme designed for academic purposes (<https://baadal.nmeict.in/baadat>).
- ✓ **Virtual Learning Environment** (<https://vle.du.ac.in>) is a one-of-a-kind programme that makes a wide range of opportunities and resources available to students and faculty regularly. This framework provides a variety of Web 2.0-based collaboration tools to meet the diverse demands of the teaching and learning community.
- ✓ **Shodhgangotri** (<https://shodhgangotri.inflibnet.ac.in>) is a project that goes hand in hand with "ShodhGanga." Shodhgangotri houses a list of study ideas submitted by research scientists to Indian institutions to apply for a PhD programme.

- ✓ **The National Academic Depository (NAD)** (<https://nad.gov.in>) was created as part of a development to offer a digital repository for all academic awards NAD is an online repository of all academic awards, such as certificates, mark sheets, diplomas, and degrees, that have been formally digitalized and uploaded by academic boards/institutions/eligibility assessment organisations, it is available 24×7. NAD not only simplifies the progression of locating and retrieving academic awards but also checks and assures their legality and safe storage.
- ✓ **Global Initiative of Academic Networks (GIAN)** (<https://gian.iitkgp.ac.in>) (<https://gian.iitkgp.ac.in>) in Higher Education aimed to tap into the global talent pool of entrepreneurs and scientists to encourage their assignation with Indian Higher Education institutes to supplement the country's existing academic resources, accelerate quality reform, and raise India's scientific and technological capacity to world-class levels.
- ✓ **DigiLocker** (<https://digilocker.gov.in>) is a platform for issuing and verifying digital certificates and documents. Residents of India who sign up for a DigiLocker account get a dedicated cloud storage space linked to their Aadhar number. Electronic versions of certificates and papers (e.g., school certificates, voter ID, driving licence) can be pushed directly into people's lockers by organisations that have registered with Digital Locker. Adding the ability to upload scanned copies of their legacy papers to these accounts is also a plus. The e-Sign function may be used to sign certain old documents electronically. The DigiLocker system's key technological components are:
 - Repository
 - Access Gateway
 - DigiLocker Portal

ADVANTAGES OF WEB BASED EDUCATION

Several benefits of web-based education are persuading people to choose it over traditional schooling. Here are a few of the benefits of online learning.

Work whenever and wherever

This is the most attractive part of internet-based online education for pupils who have a lot to recall. Now that the whole thing is reachable online, accessing class learning resources and submitting work is a breeze. As long as the assignment deadlines are met, the student needs to decide is important for the student to decide when and where this occurs.

Review lectures instantly

During a presentation, students lose attention roughly five times during a forty-five-minute class duration. There are several online programmes, on the other hand, that allow students to rapidly study statements from lecture audio or video that can be rewound or reviewed in the lecture text.

Less intimidating

Many students are hesitant about speaking in front of everyone in the classroom. In an online setting, it is very easier to exchange their thoughts and ideas with others. Online education, according to the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), tends to increase class involvement, with 74% of people suffering from speech anxiety.

Before sharing, give yourself more time to ponder

There is some conversation component toward online education, which is usually done in the form of a group forum or a conversation board. Offline campus-based students are forced to make rapid decisions or create an idea in class, and they may express it before they have thoroughly thought of all the choices. Pupils may devote as much more time as they would like to develop and refine their thought in an online environment. It can lead to more self-assurance and more graceful conversations.

Focus on ideas

Online student learners need not worry about body language intrusive with their messaging considering 93 per cent of communication is nonverbal. While physical expression or body language can be useful on some occasions, Academics are primarily concerned with thoughts, and ideas and online-based education eliminate bodily decisions that may cause the logical discussion to get muddled.

Group communication

A group project or cooperation component is now required in many degree programmes. Collaborating with others on campus or in the community entails setting out certain days and hours for everyone to attend. Virtual collaboration, on the other hand, encourages students to connect with team members via email, chat rooms, and other simple methods.

Scheduling flexibility

In offline learning students may sit and listen to extended class lectures lasting many hours, as not all online programs are created equal, many teaching faculty members use Presentation slides and other resources

that students may only consume in little portions. To put it another way, a student may attend part of a class lesson one day and the other the next day. People who don't like sitting in one location for long periods would like this.

Cost

Although the cost of a web-based online course can be the same as or more than that of a traditional learning course, students can save the amount of money by eliminating various expenditures associated with campus-based offline education, Lab fees, transportation expenditures, parking, and housing are just a few examples.

Diversity

Anyone can join any course in any country and attend the online class without travelling anywhere, without taking a visa and other things related to migration. Diversified learners can join the course anywhere.

Instructor availability

In conventional schools and colleges, it may be difficult to speak with a professor after class. Professors also have office hours, but they are usually only an hour or two a week, and there are often too many students waiting to see them. While online lecturers may require students to participate during specific hours, web-based technology makes interacting with several students at once extremely easier. Late at night or during intermissions, professors can utilise the internet to react to questions, publish comments, and so on.

CONCLUSION

This type of education has progressed in recent years and is now universally acknowledged. With an online class, learners can keep track of their learning environment, allowing them to develop a better comprehension of their subject. New learning models are continuously being introduced to the market, giving students a variety of options for modifying their education to fit their needs rather than the needs of others. This also allows people to finish a degree that they may have begun but been unable to complete due to a variety of factors.

The future of web-based education is exciting because it has the potential to educate a large number of people. Distance learning, like the education system, will never be outdated. With an increase in online enrolment every year, it appears that online education is increasing in popularity. Distance learning, like traditional education, will never be obsolete. With annual increases in online enrolment, it appears that online education is rising in popularity, prompting students to wonder about and enjoy their higher education.

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