



Online Learning must be integrated in our education system:

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Abstract: Covid 19 has impacted almost all the sectors of the economy and education sector has been no different. In the Pre covid period, awareness regarding online learnings was low, students were preferring in-classroom programs over online programs. But during covid and post covid period it is the online education sector that got the boost. Now students are opting for online learnings more than earlier, educators are providing online courses along with the regular courses. In this present article the pros and cons of online learning for learners and educators have been discussed to offer the insight into what future would look like in our education system.

Keywords: In-Classroom Program, Online Learning, Modern Technology

Introduction: Education has always been the key for Human development. There were times when getting education was considered as the most difficult part because students had to travel miles to get a teacher who could teach them in proper manner. The travelling was not as easy as it is today. Because the development of modern transportation system is a few decades old. Animals were used for travelling purpose that took months of time to cover a distance of a few thousand kilometres. Then there came a time when we developed the modern transportation system and modern cities to live in, due to which the travelling time got shorter and we were having a good number of Universities/Colleges to get education, but travelling still remained a part of getting good education. With the development of Modern technologies such as Internet, websites, apps, Smart boards, good quality cameras, mic etc now what we are seeing is the reversal of decades old education system. Now any student can get education at a place where he is living. Everything is available at its finger tips. With these levels of developments, getting good education is quite easy. But are we really having that kind of skills or the peer pressure is building upon the students regarding the success is something we need to research on.

Significance of the Study: In this dynamic world everything is changing quickly but when it comes to education sector the adoption of the change is slow especially in the government educational institutions. In this article the status of adoption of technology in educational sector has been studied. The study also focuses on the impact of online learning on the overall well-being of the students.

Objectives of the study: Every study whether small or large has some objectives. The objectives of the study are given below.

1. To study the need for adoption of Modern Technology in the education sector.
2. To study the effect of online learning on the learning outcomes of the students.
3. To study the status of adoption of technology in Private and government educational organisations.

But before we get into the details on effect of Online Learning, let us have a look on Advantages and Disadvantages of Online Learning.

Advantages of Online Learning for the Learners:

1. **Ease of Attending class:** Students who opt for online learning save lots of time that would have been spent on travelling for attending in-classroom programs.
2. **Can attend missed classes with the help of online app/web-based classes:** Gone are the days when students used to worry whenever they missed their lectures, now with the availability of online learning one can watch the missed lectures easily.
3. **Online MCQ Tests:** Online learning also helps students in taking MCQ tests and monitor their own performance. Not only that the results can also be displayed instantly after submission of the answer sheet.
4. **Online Doubts clearing session:** Students can avail their doubts clearing sessions to improve their performance. Asking for the doubts clearing session is also quite easy for students compared to in-classroom program.
5. **Cost effective:** Online classes have brought down the cost of the courses. Courses that were earlier offered at lacs of rupees cost few thousand rupees now a days.
6. **Attend classes as per the convenience:** Students now can attend the Important events of their life without affecting their studies because with the online facilities one can reschedule their classes.
7. **Advantages of Audio-visual learning:** with the advancement of technology everything can be displayed in audio visual formats which is the best form of learning as it helps students learn through observation.
8. **Easy Notes taking:** Students attending online classes don't need to bother about notes taking because they can get the classroom notes in digital format and can revise it on their laptop, tablets or Mobiles.

Advantages that educators get for providing online classes:

1. **Good teaching Aid:** For providing online class facilities educators use different kinds of technologies such as smart board, App based classes, digital notes etc. all these teaching aids help teachers in many ways. Teachers can now focus on making students learn better in classroom rather than focusing on notes taking.
2. **Source of Passive income:** Educators can record their lectures and by selling the recorded lectures they can earn passive income.

3. **Better explanation through A/V Learning:** With the help of modern technologies educators can explain the complicated topics in an easy manner through A/V Learning e.g., explanation of movements of solar system has become quite easy by showing the motion in the video formats.
4. **Online Lab facility:** Providing lab facility to students were considered expensive because of the costs involved. Now the labs can be created in a 3D format where students can practise their studies in labs without even any chances of accidents. Because the accidents will take place virtually this will help students understand the use of apparatus in a better way.
5. **Online tests and assessments:** Educators can conduct online tests to monitor the progress of students learning.
6. **Revision classes can be given easily without stress:** Providing revision class was a time taking exercise for the educators but now an educator can provide revision class by sending the recorded lectures, these revision classes can be customised as per the need of the students.

Disadvantages of Online learning for Students/Learners:

1. **Lack of concentration:** Attending online classes is not easy for students because it requires higher level of concentration and self-motivation. Students having lack of self-motivation or concentration may not understand the online classes well.
2. **Lack of time management skills makes online learning ineffective:** When students fail to attend a few lectures in online classes. It becomes difficult for them to make up for those classes due to the lack of time management skills among them. Students at their age hardly understand the importance of time and how they can use their time in best possible manner.
3. **Spending major time with screens decreases the retention power:** Students who study online have often complained that they tend to forget more often and it takes much time to recall the answers.
4. **Lack of resources:** Online learning have brought down the cost of content but the resources such as laptop/tablet/mobiles/internet or Wi-Fi facilities etc required to access the content have gone up. Students who come from poor background find it difficult to arrange the resources and hence the gap of haves and have not remains the same here.
5. **Lack of observer:** For making online learning effective, it is important to have somebody who keeps an eye on the students when they are studying otherwise, they would get distracted easily because the contents of distractions are available for free and are easily accessible as well. And the worst thing with the content of distraction is that, it gets the students attention easily.
6. **Chances of frauds:** In online classes many a time student gets cheated by some fraudulent person. There are cases where students have opted for online courses and were sent outdated courses and even after complaining, they did not get any refund. Not all students are aware of their rights as a consumer.

Disadvantages of online learnings for educators:

1. **Lack of Personal Touch:** The best feeling that educators have with the students in in-classroom learning is the individual attention upon the students, this makes the teaching easier as they can observe the students whether they are understanding the lectures or not. In online learning this is not possible.

2. **Teaching by looking at the screen is not every one's cup of tea:** In online classes teachers need to look at the camera or screen while teaching which may not make some teachers comfortable. Teaching online is more like acting onscreen which requires a bit of training and expertise that many teachers may not have.
3. **Students can cheat in online test easily:** In online test series students can easily check google or other search engines to find the answers thereby making the online assessments of students ineffective.
4. **Requires training of handling the technology:** Providing online classes are not easy for educators because they need training to handle the technology which is complicated sometimes.
5. **Requires Capital Investments:** For Providing online classes educators must have to invests in equipment such as Laptop/Desktop/Smartboard/Writing Pad/Studio set up/Good quality camera/good quality mic/WIFI Facility etc. without the right kind of equipment one cannot provide online classes.
6. **Lack of fame:** Online learning does not depend only on your teaching ability it also requires how famous you are. You may be famous in your locality this does not mean that you will get the same fame once you enter the online teaching mode. An educator will have to work on its goodwill after entering the online classes.
7. **Confusion over selection of right kind of technology:** Selection of right kind of technology is not easy for the educator they need to get information regarding different types of equipment and technology and keeping in mind their own need they have to decide it. Even in some cases one needs to consult with experts regarding the set up which further increases their investments.

Conclusions & Suggestions: Adoption of Modern technology is need of the hour. Every educational institution must have some basic technology such as WIFI, Smart Boards, Dedicated app for the school/College, MIS etc in order to provide all the required facilities to the students. Online learning must be used in proper manner to help build the learning outcomes of the students. Government Educational Institutions are far behind when it comes to adoption of Modern technology compared to the premium private educational organisations. Students need to understand the problems associated with the online learning and should work on himself/herself to overcome the challenges associated with the online learning. On the other hand, our educators need to understand the importance of providing online classes. The challenges associated with providing online classes must be removed. Online Learning is the future of education system, with the rapid development of technology and equipment the demand for online learning is increasing day by day. We are moving towards web 3.0 where all the works would be done online. If we look at the development specially after covid what we see is the 10-fold increase of internet in all fields. When we look deep into it, we can rest assure that providing quality education at a nominal cost is quite possible now. Every educational institution can run its in-classroom programs along with 24 x 7 online classes. This has made a possibility of establishment of a Digital University where courses and certification can be provided online. Can we ditch the yearly assessment system? Should the boards go beyond yearly assessment system? Right now, it is a big no. But the government, educational institutions must start to think about these future possibilities, where we can focus better on individual assessment on a continuous basis better than a group assessment on yearly

basis. Overall, it can be said that integration of online learning with our traditional education system has become a need for us.

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