

Online Class: A Boon or Bane- The Pros and Cons

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ABSTRACT: In COVID-19 situation, 500 million students have been affected. All schools and colleges have been shut down. Online learning has come to the rescue of these students in a virtual world. Does new media actually have better teaching standards when compared to classroom education? This indeed has become a debatable topic over the past few months as every single thing has its own pros and cons, similarly online learning has its pros and cons.

online education has brought a positive impact in lives of the 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 parts of the 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 the students to refer the content as per their leisure.

Introduction:

An **online class** is a course conducted over the Internet. They are generally conducted through a learning management system, in which students can view their course syllabus and academic progress, as well as communicate with fellow students and their course instructor.

Online classes are generally self-paced, allowing for greater flexibility in completing coursework. Some examples of online courses are MOOCs, or Massive Open Online Courses, as produced by organizations such as edX or Coursera. Many traditional universities offer online courses, including Purdue University via their takeover of Kaplan.

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I. DRAWBACKS OF ONLINE LEARNING

No face to face interaction:

It's often possible that we misinterpret what we actually see or read when we do not find somebody to actually explain it out to us. A single punctuation error changes the real meaning of the entire sentence and as it is said half and the improper information is even more harmful than no information. Hence, face to face interaction is very important for proper learning.

No regularity or discipline:

As the students are free from the regulations and boundaries of a proper classroom environment, it is quite obvious that the curriculum will not be maintained the way it should be. They might not study the materials in a routine manner and may start taking things lightly. There are high chances that the students might get distracted while learning online.

No time commitment:

Since there is no one to inspect them studying they might just not complete their work and leave it unfinished further harming their own selves in the long run.

Higher dropout rate:

Students are more likely to drop out as they are not giving their full commitment to their studies and take their studies too lightly. There will not be any particular mentor for the students to keep a track record on their progress and solve their doubts effectively. At places, where online education is difficult to reach, they might just drop out of the schools.

Technological challenges:

Online learning is helpful to only those students who have access to a proper internet connection and have devices such as laptop and computers. Students without it cannot rely on online learning.

II. ADVANTAGES OF ONLINE LEARNING

Flexibility :

The main advantage of online education is its flexibility. A student can adjust his study timings as per his own needs. One can study indoor or outdoor, in a room or while travelling in a metro. It also saves time, energy or money of travelling to a specific destination to attain knowledge.

Cost-efficient:

Online education not only saves time and energy but also money. Education has mostly become a

business in educational institutions these days be it coaching, schools or colleges, everyone is just trying to extract more and more money in the name of donations etc. Online education saves students from falling prey to such fraudulent practices. All one needs to do is have an internet connection in their system.

Wider choice of courses and subjects:

In online education, one is free to choose his own combination of subjects regardless of the percentage required for taking up that particular subject. One can even take up odd combinations such as science with psychology or commerce with mass communication fearless of the fact that someone might judge them for their choices.

No language barriers:

Since online education is available in most of the vernacular languages, there are no language barriers. One is free to learn new things in their own mother tongue as well. They are not bound to understand a particular language in order to follow the text, they can read the text or see a video related to it in whichever language they please, this gives them self-pride and confidence in themselves.

Underused data:

If a student does not has the time to take down notes while studying online, he can always save the page or convert it into a document and download it. Unlike in traditional classrooms where the matter gets erased from the board once the teacher is finished teaching, one can always refer to what he or she has studied previously online by simply clicking on the history of the site.

As we are aware of the World Pandemic of Coronavirus, the demand for online learning has surged up. Many institutions who have proper resources have gone online to take classes. But in a country like India, where internet connection is not available everywhere, not everyone is benefited with such resources so that they can go digital. There are many students who do not have a laptop, internet connection and money to even buy that. It totally depends on one's personal opinion as to what is more convenient for him/her- the old traditional teaching or the new online education whoever is having a choice between both. But our country is not yet ready to turn fully digital. Online teaching is definitely a boon and can be an add-on to traditional teaching but it cannot replace it.

III. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Department Mission Statement

It is the mission of ETS to ensure that the use of technology enhances the effective operations of the School of Education. We will partner with faculty, students, and staff, both within, as well as, outside the School to make technology integrate seamlessly with the teaching, research, and support operations of the School.

Department Purpose

Education Technology Services exists to understand the business of our stakeholders and how technology can help accomplish their goals.

Departmental goals

- efficiently; communicating effectively; and exceeding stakeholder expectations.
- To be our stakeholders' advocate and single point of contact for all technology support issues in the face of rapidly changing technology.
- To strive for continuous improvement by measuring our performance against our stakeholders' expectations and industry standards.
- To empower and educate our stakeholders with self-service tools and solutions.
- To take ownership of our stakeholders' problems until resolved to their satisfaction.
- To establish and maintain positive, long-term relationships with our stakeholders through open communication and continuous feedback.

- To provide high-level customer service and technical expertise.
- To provide consistent, best-in-class support, by managing, resolving, and preventing problems To respond rapidly and positively to all stakeholder inquiries.

Department Objectives

- Objective 1 - Provide simple, universal access to information and services for all faculty, staff, and students.
- Objective 2 - Research and provide more advanced web tools for the School of Education to enhance its web presence in a way that will reach and attract more potential students and meet our community's changing needs.
- Objective 3 - Improve the online communications ability for individuals and groups associated with the School of Education.
- Objective 4 - Expand and enhance technology support tools to meet the School of Education's current needs and expectations.
- Objective 5 - Obtain feedback from users on satisfaction levels of current services, as well as, new services and implement changes accordingly.
- Objective 6 - Maintain current technology hardware, software and network infrastructure so that it is reliably available.
- Objective 7 - Enhance security awareness throughout the School of Education

What are the advantages of an online course?

1. Online courses are convenient.
2. Online courses offer flexibility.
3. Online courses bring education right to your home.
4. Online courses offer more individual attention.
5. Online courses help you meet interesting people.
6. Online courses give you real world skills.
7. Online courses promote life-long learning.
8. Online courses have financial benefits.
9. Online courses teach you to be self-disciplined.
10. Online courses connect you to the global village.

There are probably many more advantages to Internet-based courses, but I think you get the idea. The point is that we live in an ever-changing world that is ripe with new possibility. The ability to learn new information or a new skill whenever you want and wherever you want offers far greater

opportunities for education than ever before. The scope and reach of education broadens to far greater horizons that perhaps ever imagined. Ten Disadvantages of Online Courses
How could there possibly be any disadvantages of online courses? Read on.

1. Online courses require more time than on-campus classes.
2. Online courses make it easier to procrastinate.
3. Online courses require good time-management skills.
4. Online courses may create a sense of isolation.
5. Online courses allow you to be more independent.
6. Online courses require you to be an active learner.
7. Online courses don't have an instructor hounding you to stay on task.
8. Online courses give you more freedom, perhaps, more than you can handle!
9. Online courses require that you find your own path to learning.
10. Online courses require you to be responsible for your own learning.

VI. SUGGESTIONS OR PRECAUTIONS FOR ONLINE CLASSES

If you're considering taking online college courses (or you're already enrolled in a program) the tips and advice below can help you address their unique challenges to get the most value out of your online program.

1. Treat an online course like a "real" course.

When it comes to online classes, you need to have the discipline to sit down and say, "I am going to work on this," as well as the dedication to actually follow through. Though you can be flexible as to when you choose to complete your work during the week, you can't put it off indefinitely.

One of the easiest ways to ensure follow through is to remember that you are paying to take this online course, just as you would for a traditional, in-person class. You must "show up" if you're going to get real value out of your class. Treat your online classes the same way you would a face-to-face class—or, better yet, a job—and you'll be off to the right start.

2. Hold yourself accountable

Set goals at the beginning of the semester, and check in with yourself weekly. In a traditional classroom setting, you'll often receive verbal or visual reminders of an assignment's upcoming due date. But without a professor actively reminding you, it's up to you to make sure you've allotted enough time to complete the work so you're not starting an assignment the day before it's due.

If you're having trouble holding yourself responsible, pair up with a fellow classmate, or enlist the help of a spouse or friend to check in as an accountability partner. By being organized, proactive, and self-aware, you can get the most from your online class even when life outside of school becomes chaotic.

3. Practice time management.

The flexibility to create your own schedule is often one of the biggest appeals of taking online classes. But that freedom can also be detrimental if you do not have solid time management skills. Without them, you might easily

to find yourself cramming before classes or handing in subpar assignments.

Though how you manage your time will depend on your schedule, learning style, and personality, here are some universally valuable tips to help you practice and improve your time management skills:

- Look at the syllabus at the start of the semester and make note of major assignments. Mark them on a calendar you check regularly so you know what workload is coming in the weeks ahead. Don't forget to factor in prior commitments that may interfere with your regular study schedule, such as weddings or vacations, so you can give yourself enough extra time to complete assignments.
- Create a weekly schedule that you follow, designating certain hours each week to reading, watching lectures, completing assignments, studying, and participating in forums. Commit to making your online coursework part of your weekly routine, and set reminders for yourself to complete these tasks.
- When working on your assignments, try time-blocking, allotting yourself a certain amount of time for each task before moving on to the next one and setting a timer to keep you accountable.
- Check in periodically throughout the term, and look at how you're spending your time. Ask yourself: How much time am I dedicating to course reading and assignments? Am I regularly underestimating the time it's taking me to get things done, forcing me to cram the nights before the exams? A little self-reflection and adjustment can go a long way.

4. Create a regular study space and stay organized.

Set up a dedicated learning environment for studying. By completing your work there repeatedly, you'll begin to establish a routine. Whether your workspace is your kitchen table, a library, or the corner booth in a local coffee shop, it's important to determine what type of environment will work best for you. Experiment to discover which type of setting boosts your productivity. Wherever you choose, make sure there's high-speed internet access so you're not trying to take an online course over a lagging connection.

Setting up a regular workspace or office will also help you to stay organized. Knowing exactly where important dates, files, forms, syllabi, books, and assignments live will help keep you on track

towards hitting your goals. When setting up your study space, make sure you:

- Have a high-speed internet connection
- Have the required books, materials, and software for the course
- Have headphones for listening to lectures or discussions (especially important in shared spaces)

5. Eliminate distractions.

From Netflix to social media to dishes piling up in the sink, you'll be faced with many distractions that can easily derail your studies. The best online students know how to lessen these distractions and set aside time to focus.

Exactly how much of a challenge these distractions will prove to be will depend on your own unique personality and situation. Some might find that they can tune out a noisy home by listening to music. Others might choose to work from a local coffee shop or library to eliminate their urge to multitask at home. Ultimately, you will need to find a strategy that works best for you.

Regardless of where you choose to work, consider turning your cell phone off to avoid losing focus every time a text message or notification pops up. And if you're still having trouble resisting the temptation to check your email or surf the web, try downloading a website blocker. Using applications like Cold Turkey and Freedom can help eliminate distractions by blocking the apps or websites that tend to compete for your attention, such as Facebook and Twitter.

6. Figure Out How You Learn Best

Once you've established where you'll learn, think about when and how you accomplish your best work. If you're a morning person, make time to study first thing. More of a night owl? Set aside an hour or two after dinner to cozy up to your computer. If the kids require your morning and evening attention, try to carve out a study session mid-day while they're at school. Brew your usual cup of coffee, put on your go-to playlist, and do whatever you need to get into the zone and down to business.

Not everyone learns the same way, so think about what types of information help you best grasp new concepts and employ relevant study strategies. If you're a visual learner, for example, print out transcripts of the video lectures to review. Learn best by listening? Make sure to build time into your schedule to play and replay all audio- and video-based course content.

7. Actively participate.

Participate in the course's online forum to help you better understand course materials and engage with fellow classmates. This might involve commenting on a classmate's paper on a discussion board or posting a question about a project you're working on. Read what other students and your professor are saying, and if you have a question, ask for clarification.

Make sure you are checking in as often as you can, too. The flexibility of online learning means that if you have 30 minutes before dinner plans, you could squeeze in a discussion response around your schedule. Set a goal to check in on the class discussion threads every day.

And if you do feel yourself falling behind, speak up. Don't wait until an assignment is almost due to ask questions or report issues. Email your professor and be proactive in asking for help.

8. Leverage your network.

Online classes may sometimes make you feel like you are learning on your own, but this couldn't be further from the truth. Most online courses are built around the concept of collaboration, with professors and instructors actively encouraging that students work together to complete assignments and discuss lessons.

Build relationships with other students by introducing yourself and engaging in online discussion boards. Your peers can be a valuable resource when preparing for exams or asking for feedback on assignments. Don't be afraid to turn to them to create a virtual study groups.

VII. CONCLUSION:

online education has brought a positive impact in lives of the 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 parts of the 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 the students to refer the content as per their leisure .In the era of digitization the scope of online education increase even more and will be beneficial for the students professional and also institutions. But after these all of benefits there are some cons also of online education. Students became more lazy , inactive and addicted to the phone and internet.

And we all know about the bad impacts of internet . So in this pandemic situation online classes are the requirements of the students .But offline classes are more interactive and fruitful for the students as well as for the faculties.

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