Mock - 4   English Essay

Essay Number : 5

Online Education has Given more Opportunities than Challenges

Outline

A. Introduction : The opportunities provided by online education surpasses than its challenges. However, digital education can be made more beneficial through certain 'Suggestions.

B. Online Education : An Overview

C. Opportunities Given by Online Education (thesis)

1. Quick accessibility and time saving in crucial times.

2. Increasing co-education and women empowerment leads to gender equality.

3. Constructive use of Information technology increases the literacy rate.

4. Effective communication is possible through this medium.

5. Provision of smooth environment for learning.

D. Challenges of an Online Education (Anti-thesis)

1. Insufficient digital infrastructure and security issue.

2. An uncommon phenomenon for students and teachers.
3. Unproductive for science students.
4. Lacks direct contact between students and teachers.
5. The issue of monitoring and cheating.

E. Suggesstions to Make Online Education more Beneficial by Overcoming its challenges (Synthesis)

1. Expanding the digital infrastructure to less developed areas.
2. Traditional education and online education can go hand in hand.
3. Effective usage and training on using information technology in online education.
4. Student-teacher gap needs to be reduced.
5. Proper mechanism for direct evaluation.

F. Conclusion

Education plays a vital role in the development of a country. This, 21st century, is the age of science and technology. Therefore, the use of technology in education sector cannot be ignored, rather, it is the need of hour to use technology in education sector. In case of Pakistan, online education has given more opportunities than challenges. Because illiteracy is very high in developing countries like Pakistan. According to a latest United Nation Developing Programme (UNDP), " More than 24 Million Pakistani children are out of the school, and less than Five Percent (5%) of population achieves higher education." This report represents a grim picture of Pakistan education ranking. That is why, online education provides more blessing than harm. Some of the opportunities provided by online education are, quick accessibility in crucial times; increasing co-education and gender equality; increasing the literacy rate of the country; effective communication is possible through this medium, and provision of smooth environment for learning. On other hand, digital education poses some challenges like, insufficient digital infrastructure and security issues; less productive for science students; lacks practicality and direct contact between students and teachers and issue of direct evaluation. However,

these challenges can be overcome through certain suggestions such as, expanding the digital infrastructure to less developed areas; training and expanding information technology; and proper mechanism for direct monitoring and evaluation. Hence, following essay will describes the benefits and opportunities of online education and its challenges, and how to make online education more beneficial.

Online education is the procedure of getting skills and knowledge through electronic devices like computers, mobiles, and laptops, using the internet. It is a modern way of getting education. It is a best platform for those who pursue education. But, still online education is yet not completely implemented in most of the developing countries including Pakistan. The world is like a global village due to internet and technology, and now people from one part of the world can easily communicate with people living in the other part of the globe. Information technology had made it more easy for students to learn and excel in education. Therefore, the use of technology in online education is sine qua non and beneficial.

Online education provides several.

opportunities, the foremost of them is quick accessibility and time saving. Online education can be obtained in crucial times. For example, during Covid-19 online education was the only way-out. And those countries where digital education existed they continue their education despite pandemic. Also, during terrorism, online education cannot stopped and is accessible. Besides, digital education is time saving as it can be joined without proper dressing and transportation issues. So, online education provides more opportunities in terms of accessibility and time saving.

    Online education, additionally, increases co-education and women empowerment which leads to gender equality. Digital education provides good platform for women to participate and attain education. Girls can, without any doubt, participate actively in an online classes. Also, it is easier and comfortable for girls to get education from home. For instance, through National Officers Academy (NOA) online education system, various girls have qualified competitive exams and are now serving the country. Therefore, online education is convenient for women to excel in their life and thus it leads to the gender equality in education and employment.

In the same manner, constructive use of information technology increases the literacy rate of the country. Pakistan is a country, where illiteracy is very high. It is the need of hour that IT (information technology) should be used in this regard. Small Kids, due to smart phones, are more interested in learning from technology. And it can be used effectively for this purpose. Additionally, digitalization of the country is increasing. According to a Pakistan Telecommunication industry report, " In Pakistan, there are more than 197 Million users of digital technology. " Therefore, in future, constructive use of IT will increase the literacy rate effectively.

Moreover, effective communication is possible through the use of online education. Online education can provide a non-interrupted one-to-one direct communication with the mentor. And this Kind of communication is possible round the clock. Some platforms which can be used for this purpose is Google Meet, Zoom, whatsapp, Telegram and so on. Besides, data sharing in soft form is more easier, secure and quick in nature. Therefore, effective communication opportunities can be acquired through this medium.

Last but not the least, provision of smooth environment for learning in possible through online education. In online education, in applications (apps), teacher has a lot of option to monitor and control noise and disturbance in class effectively. Whereas, in direct class (physical class), environment may not be as smooth and controlled. Hence, online education provides better facilities in terms of learning. As both teacher and students can avoid time wastage and noise.

Besides, online education has some challenges. One of the main challenge is the insufficient digital infrastructure and security issues. Different far off areas like villages, have less or no accessibility to an internet. And most of the developing countries are faced with this issue. Also, cyber crimes are increasing. And there needs to be have a proper mechanism to control this issue. Hence, it is difficult for government to improve digital infrastructure due to financial constraints.

Secondly, digital education is an uncommon phenomenon for students and teachers. As most of people are digitally illiterate. It needs time for

them to accelerate and advance in this sector. Similarly, there are also lots of issues in evaluation and exams for both students and teachers. This technology is new and it will take time for users to use it properly.

Thirdly, online education is less productive for students of science. As, online education lacks practical and direct work. The student cannot get time and experience to do things practically. Thus, students lack experience and actual learning. That is why, science students, who have to learn things practically, faces plethora of problems in an online education.

Fourthly, online education lacks direct contact between students and teachers. And due to this; teachers cannot properly evaluate the learning and performance of students. As, there is a gap between students and mentors. On other hand, physical education has no such problem. Therefore, it is a major challenges to online education that it lacks direct connection between students and teachers.

Lastly, online education is faced with issue of monitoring and cheating. The mentor or teacher cannot

Properly monitor the real progress and learning of learners. In digital education, as teacher lacks direct physical contact, so students can cheat more easily. And this is the main problem to evaluate the real performance of student.

Besides mentioning its challenges, there are some suggestions to make online education more beneficial by overcoming its challenges. The first remedy is to expand the digital infrastructure to less developed areas. By doing this, less far off villages will get an access to internet and thus their dwellers will get an accessibility to online education. In fact, it is the need of hour that digital infrastructure such as internet accessibility shall be provided to less developed areas to overcome the issues of accessibility.

Secondly, traditional education and online education can go hand in hand. Both the methods should be use combinely to achieve the desired benefits of attaining online education. As both teachers and students are new to use online educat education technology, therefore, both physical and online education should be used combinely in

order to get get the desired results.
Thirdly, effective usage and training on using IT in online education must be promoted to make online education more beneficial. For this purpose, proper training course module must be pre prepared. Also, the students of science needs to be incorporated with practical work. Therefore, learning IT usage and its training is necessary to overcome the challenges created by online education

Fourthly, student-teacher gap needs to be reduced. As online education lacks direct contact between learner and mentor. Thereof, there should be a mechanism for direct meeting between teacher and students as well. So, both physical and online education should be used blendedly to achieve the desired results from online education.

Lastly, there should be a proper mechanism for direct evaluation alongwith an online education. As online education is faced with issue of monitoring and cheating. And there this is very difficult to control this problem and ensure fairness. For this purpose, the examination shall be under supervision of direct video-recording. Also,

for evaluation purpse, exams shall be taken in halls direclty. By doing this, online education can become more beneficial and fair. Also, its a wayout for overcoming its challenges.

To conclude, it can be said and accepted that the opportunities provided by online education surpasses than its challenges. And digital education can be made, indeed, more beneficial through the mentioned suggesstions. In 21st century, as a matter of fact, online education is the only panacea to overcome the illiteracy. As it is said that, development and illiteracy cannot go hand in hand. Therefore, prevailing online education is sine qua non for developing countries like Pakistan. As online education education provides many opportunities such as, quick accessibility and time saving; promoting gender equality; expanding the literacy rate through IT; and providing smooth environment for learning. However, few people view that it has some challenges and they argue that there is lack of digital infrastructure, cyber crimes, lacks productivity for science students, and it is an uncommon phenomenon for both teachers and students. However, these people are

wrong in their perception because online education can overcome these challenges by certain measures such as, expanding the digital infrastructure to across the country; combining traditional and online education in usage; training of online education to both teachers and student and implementing proper mechanism for strict evaluation. To sum up, online education, despite challenges, provides ample opportunities and benefits. However, it depends upon its usage and fair implementation. The developing countries of the world can developed by leaps and bounds, if it rightly used online education sector in their institutions.