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Topic Number 8 : Online Education : a boon or a bane for Pakistan !

Outline

A. Introduction

- a. Education plays a vital role in development
- b. Online education is a blessing
- c. Thesis statement

B. How is Digital Education a Boon for Pakistan ?

1. A comprehensive platform for learning
  - a. Twenty Four hour availability of learning content
  - b. Improving creativity and diminishing dependency on tutors
2. Expansion of digital infrastructure
  - a. Internet access in remote areas
  - b. Reducing digital gap
3. Constructive use of information technology
  - a. Information technology parks
  - b. Industrial exports of Pakistan is improving
4. Availability in crucial crucial time time
  - a. Covid-19 pandemic
  - b. Terrorism and in war like situation
5. Quick accessibility and time saving ;
  - a. Distant learning
  - b. lowest cost effective
6. Increasing co-education in Pakistan ;

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- a. Easy for women to participate
- b. Bringing gender equality through women education

7. Effective communication is possible through this platform ;

- a. Data in soft form is more secure and easy to share
- b. Round the clock communication is possible

8. Increasing Pakistan literacy rate ;

a. Digitalization

b. Kids are more interesting in learning

9. Provision of smooth environment for learning ;

a. Classroom controlling and monitoring is easier

b. Time wastage and noise can be avoided

10. Paves new ways for learning ;

a. Role of Artificial Intelligence

11. Pakistan is advancing technologically ;

a. Digital literacy is increasing

C. How Online Education is a Bane

1. Insufficient digital infrastructure and security issues ;

a. Cyber crimes

b. Budget deficiency

2. An uncommon phenomenon for students and teachers ;

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- a. Digital illiteracy
  - b. Issues in Exam and evaluation
3. Unproductive for science students
- a. No practical work
  - b. Lack of experience
- D. Critical Analysis and Way Forward ;
- a. Technology use is the need of hour
  - b. Online education is an integral part of future
  - c. World is a global village
  - d. Traditional and online learning can go hand in hand
- E. Conclusion

Education plays a vital role in the development of country. Therefore, the use of technology in education sector can not be ignored, rather, it is the need of hour to use technology in education department. Hence, for developing countries like Pakistan, digital education has more merits than demerits. In fact, online education is fair implementation of technology in learning process; therefore, online education has more advantages than disadvantages. In case of Pakistan, where illiteracy is high,

hence, online education is of utmost importance. According to a latest report, "More than Twenty Four Million Pakistani children are out of the school, and less than Five percent (5%) of population achieves higher education." This report represent a poor picture of Pakistan's education. That is why, the use of technology is, undoubtedly, sine qua non for developing countries like Pakistan. Digital education is boon for Pakistan in various ways, such as it provides a comprehensive platform for learning as it is available for Twenty Four hours. Furthermore, it is helpful in expansion of digital infrastructure through access of internet access in rural areas. Alongwith this, constructive usage of information technology can not be ignored. Pakistan's exports have currently crossed \$2 Billion per annum, due to in Information technology sector alone. Moreover, online education is available in crucial situation like Covid-19 and terrorism crisis. Likewise, coeducation and distant learning is possible through this platform. Last but not the least, digital literacy in Pakistan is improving. On the other hand, few people are of view that online education is

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a bane as due to some reasons, for instance cyber crimes, digital illiteracy, and lack of practical work. However, they are wrong in their view. In fact, Twenty First (21<sup>st</sup>) century is the age of technology; therefore, the future of Pakistan's education must ensure effective usage of technology in every sector. Without any doubt, world is like a global village, hence, traditional and online learning can be used combinedly to address the opponent concerns. To cut the story short, online education has more pros than cons. The following essay will describe how online education is a boon for Pakistan in detail.

The first factor which supports that digital education is a boon for Pakistan is that it provides a comprehensive platform for learning. In fact, it is available for Twenty Four hours to the learners. This platform can be used efficiently round the clock. The learner can improve his creativity and learning through various online sources. For example, Google search engine can serve this purpose more effectively. Additionally, digital learning is helpful in diminishing

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dependency on to tutors. Because online learning provides a vast platform for learning. Resultantly, digital education is a boon for Pakistan as it is improving the quality of education in Pakistan.

Secondly, online education helps in the expansion of digital infrastructure. Pakistan, as a matter of fact, is a developing country of the world. Therefore, digital infrastructure can be improved through the usage of technology. Online education provides that facility in true spirit. For example, student in remote areas are looking for internet accessibility. And this, in turn, reduces digital gap in urban-rural areas of the country. So, expansion of digital infrastructure is a boon for Pakistan.

The third factor which makes online education as a boon for Pakistan is the constructive use of information technology. Pakistanis, like other developing countries, are unaware of effective and correct usage of technology. Several programmes like Microsoft office and applications (apps) are helpful to students in many ways. In this regard, information technology parks has been established in various parts of the country.

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which is really beneficial for Pakistan to advance in technology sector. Alongwith this, exports of Pakistan is also improving. A report estimates that, Pakistan annual Information technology (IT) exports is about \$ 2 Billion. Therefore, it is a positive sign for Pakistan's industrial growth and it is possible due to digitalization of education sector.

Fourth, availability of online education in crucial time is also a blessing for Pakistan. In fact, <sup>just like</sup> all countries of the world, Pakistan ~~is~~ badly suffered due to Covid-19 pandemic. The curse has, largely, hit the education sector. The schools were closed for almost more than a year. In same fashion, in war on terror, Pakistan education system suffered a lot. Hence, to combat all these threat in future, online education is the only possible remedy in this regard.

Fifthly, quick accessibility and time saving is another factor which makes digital education as a blessing for Pakistan. Indeed, distant learning is the major benefit of online education. And, undoubtedly, it is available to all participants

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on time as well. Moreover, there is no need of dressing and transportation cost. So, it is cost effective as well. In the same manner, it saves time. For example, online classroom can be joined through with a click of button quickly. On the other hand, physical classes needs proper dressing code and requirements. Hence, online education is more of a blessing than disguise.

Sixth, online education helps in increasing co-education in Pakistan. It provides an easy platform for women to participate. In fact, women education and empowerment is also possible because of this blessing. Moreover, it can bring gender equality in Pakistan. Girls can, without any doubt, participate actively in an online classes. It provides them an ample opportunity to excel in education. They can avoid several problems through online education. Therefore, online education is a blessing not only for women but also for Pakistan.

Seventhly, effective communication is possible through the platform of an online education. Some modern applications (apps) such as whatsapp,



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google meet, and zoom is used for this purpose. The teacher and participants can effectively communicate with each other. Besides, data in the soft format can easily be shared through website, links and other means. Moreover, data is secured and can be moved easily to other files as well. In addition to this, round the clock communication is possible in this regard. Hence, online education is a blessing as it provides a way for effective communication.

Furthermore, online education increases the literacy rate of Pakistan. The process of digitalization is occurring in the country and the use of technology in this regard cannot be ignored. According to a report, "In Pakistan, almost 24.2 Million children are out of school." Those bunch of illiterate kids can become the part of literate people through the means of technology. In this regard, smartphones and laptops are also helpful as kids are more involved and seems interesting in it. Therefore, online education is a blessing as it can increase literacy rate in the country.

Last but not the least, online

education is a boon as it provides smooth environment for learning. The classroom controlling and monitoring, undoubtedly, is more easier than traditional classroom. Furthermore, noise is effectively controlled in this platform. Besides, it paves new ways for learning, such as artificial intelligence, which is an advance form of technology in Pakistan. Albeit, digital literacy is increasing. Hence, online education provides multiple advantages to Pakistan.

The following paragraphs will discuss how online education is a boon, which is a false reality.

The opponents to online education argue that Pakistan is faced with insufficient digital infrastructure. There is a gap in between rural and urban areas. Alongwith this, there is a budget deficiency and cyber crimes. However, these arguments are weak, in fact, Pakistan is improving its digital infrastructure. And very few areas of the country lacks access to an internet. Moreover, cyber crimes law and mechanism has been established. The government is keen to provide more budget to IT sector.

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Therefore, online education is boon not bane in this manner.

Similarly, they are also of view that online education is an uncommon phenomenon for students and teachers. Both are faced with digital illiteracy and there are various issues in in examination and evaluation (online). On the contrary, these things will take time to improve. Both students and teachers will learn it with the passage <sup>of time</sup>. Advanced and developed countries of the world, such as China, USA, UK and Japan is using modern technology in their education system. Therefore, online education is a boon not bane and it will become a ban. Common phenomenon for both teachers and students.

Lastly in their opinion, online education is unproductive for the students of science. They argue that it lacks practical work and student gets no first hand experience. But, as a matter of fact, online education is more productive for science learning. It can be combinedly used with traditional learning. It depends on students as well

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as teachers to do practical work and experiments on regular basis. Technology, in this regard, can be used for learning purpose. It is the technology that led to the invention of machineries such ~~as~~ <sup>and</sup> ~~robots~~ robots. With the help of these things, science is more advanced in today's era. Resultantly, online education is not harmful but more beneficial for science students.

The ~~Besides~~ <sup>Besides</sup> critical analysis on online education and how online education can be used more effectively to make it a more blessing is discuss in the following paragraph.

In 21<sup>st</sup> century and onward, the use of technology is the need of the hour. It is an online education that seems to be an integral part of the future. As globalization of world is occurring very fast; therefore, world has become like a global village. Now, a person from <sup>one</sup> part of the world can <sup>with other person</sup> access and ~~so~~ communicate very quickly. This approach is also prevail in education sector as well. In fact, future without online education is impossible due to immense growth of technology. Therefore, both traditional

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method of learning as well as online learning must go hand in hand. The world in near future is quickly transforming due to this technological revolution. That is why, Pakistan need to mould itself accordingly. Hence, mixed learning can be used according to the demand of situation.

To conclude, it can be said and accepted that online education is a boon for Pakistan. However, few people views that it is a bane for Pakistan and they argue that Pakistan is not ready for digital revolution and Pakistan digital infrastructure is insufficient. Furthermore, they claim that Pakistan faces issues of cyber crimes, ~~but~~ budget deficiency, digital illiteracy, and unproductivity for science students. Moreover, the opponents claims that there is also<sup>an</sup> internet signal issues and the process involves poor evaluation and assessment mechanism. On the other hand, these all claims are wrong. In fact, it is the age of technology and Pakistan need to be advanced in technology. The digital infrastructure in the country is improving and citizens are now getting digital literacy. The number of

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Smartphones and computer users are growing exponentially. Besides, online education is a boon for Pakistan in various ways. It is online education which increases co-education in Pakistan. Women participation and gender equality can be ensured through this medium. Moreover, effective communication is possible through digital education. The digital literacy rate in Pakistan can be improved <sup>through</sup> this means. Similarly, online learning provides a smooth environment for learning and it paves new ways for learning. Self likewise, Artificial Intelligence is also used in advanced online learning. Hence, there are several ways through which it can be said that online education is a blessing for Pakistan. As the future without the use of technology is impossible; henceforth, online education is an integral part of future. The world has changed into a global village. So, traditional learning and online education must go hand in hand. Indeed, developed countries of the world uses online education; therefore, digital education is also a blessing for Pakistan development. To sum up, online education is a boon for Pakistan and it is

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hoped that the country would soon get over all the challenges through by making an online education a boon for all students and overcoming its bare.

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