

2,300 words

1st Essay

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Online education is not only more convenient but often more effective than traditional classroom instruction.

21st century can aptly be described as the most convenient era humankind has ever witnessed.

The credit, obviously, belongs to digitalization.


The digitalization of banking sector i.e., the emergence of online banking ^{has} made it both convenient and effective.

Similarly, the conspicuous impacts of digitalization are observable across all walks of life, such as communication, navigation, health, and even in education. However, the tremendous potential of shifting to online education remains largely untapped. One must then ask a question that if ~~auto~~ education is ~~creating convenience~~ digitalization

is creating convenience across all walks of life, why shouldn't we shift to online education from traditional classroom instruction. Such shift will make ~~A~~ education more effective as

it promises better quality of education - since it is more monitorable - and provides a platform that is free from bullying. Hence, making it ~~for~~ ~~is~~ more effective than traditional classroom instruction. Moreover, it can offer flexible timings

and can ensure uninterrupted continuation in turbulent times like COVID-19. ~~For~~ Thus, one can convincingly argue that it is need of hours to shift ~~or~~ to online education from the outdated traditional classroom instruction.

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a sense that more people are "online" in present time than ever since the emergence of internet. More than 5.3 billion humans have access to the internet as of 2023.

The COVID-19 pandemic has already forced most educational institutes to develop systems to deliver online education. The years of pandemic and lockdowns were example par excellence that online education is pragmatic and workable. However, it is imperative to note that there can be resistance to such a radical change and some hindrances that can arguably impede the process. Hence, it is important address any possible hindrance and if they really have merits.

In shifting to online education, the term convenience not only refers to ease and comfort but it is also proportional to the reach of education. Since ages, the educationalists and policymakers have struggled to ~~increase~~ make educational accessible to public at large. The issue of access to education is even more prominent in developing countries like Pakistan, particularly in less developed provinces, where poor infrastructure of roads and educational institutes deter many from gaining education. In a province, where 65% roads are in poor condition as per world bank, it is difficult for students to conveniently commute to traditional classrooms. However, shifting to online education will make it convenient for students from less developed areas to attain


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education with ease. It eliminates the need of proper infrastructure: particularly of ~~the~~ transportation and educational institutes.

However, ~~conv~~ traditional classroom is not only inconvenient for people from ~~and~~ less privileged areas and background but also for those who have an easy access to classroom.

One problem which has plagued the classrooms of both the ~~more~~ most developed of nations and developing nations is the issue of bullying and harassment, which create toxic ~~environ~~ environment for students in traditional classrooms. Even the brightest of students.

When become victim of bullying and ~~har~~ harassment ~~AA~~ are unable to perform ~~well in it~~ and concentrate in classroom. This make traditional classroom instruction ineffective even for the brightest of minds who would have ~~otherwise~~ otherwise - in a safe environment such as online ~~a~~ classroom - excelled. ~~Bullying and harass~~ Hence, online classrooms, as opposed to traditional, can offer a safe and healthy environment that is indispensable part of education.

Another aspect of healthy environment is "inclusiveness". This means that online classroom are far more inclusive than traditional classrooms. Persons with disabilities can feel more encouraged to get education. Even women and girls who are restricted to from attending traditional classrooms due to socio-cultural and religious reasons can ~~access~~ reap the benefits of online education. Again, 

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
The problem is even more prevalent in less developed and conservative societies. For example in Balochistan, Pakistan, ~~the~~ 70% girls are out of school as compared to 30% boys. The problem can also be attributed to the lack of segregated schools for girls but ~~setting~~ establishing separate schools for boys and girls require for more funding and maintenance cost. Online education offers simple solution to such a grave problem. The girls (or women) can attend classes online and even in segregation as there is no restriction of ~~the~~ number of classrooms. Therefore, it resolves the problem of gender discrimination in education that is pre-eminent in conservative areas of a society and makes the system of education more effective.

Another reason that makes traditional classroom instruction ineffective is the decaying "quality" of instruction. As education is expanding, it is becoming increasingly difficult to ensure its quality, especially in government funded public education. This can be attributed to the difficulty in monitoring the classrooms. The problem is apparent in developing countries, and Pakistan serves as a good example.

The "learning poverty" - which the World Bank defines as being ~~unable~~ unable to read a simple sentence by age 10 - is sweeping across classrooms of Pakistan. As World Bank reports that 4 out of 5

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children in Pakistan are unable to read a simple sentence by age 10. This means, that ~~not even~~ even school going children are suffering from "learning poverty". The underlying reason is the poor quality of education which can only be improved by monitoring classrooms, which is virtually impossible for all traditional classrooms. However, it is far more pragmatic in the case of online education where ~~the~~ an authority could be set up to monitor the classrooms. Multiple classrooms can go through "quality check" simultaneously.

Lastly, lessons can be learned from COVID-19 that a ~~the~~ calamity can befall on a society at any level i.e. global, regional, local and individual level. Such calamities like COVID-19 or natural disasters like floods, earthquakes etc ~~and~~ can interrupt the ~~traditional~~ traditional classroom but not an online class. The recent outbreak of the so-called "pink-eye" infection not only led to closure of many schools but also compromised the health of many students. Such interruptions in traditional classroom could also be caused by riots and conflicts which can lead to closure of educational institutes. Conversely no such problem can afflict the flow of education in an online classroom. The shift to online ~~at~~ education during COVID-19 lockdowns is a reasonable  example.

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However, regardless of how effective and convenient online education seem, as opposed to traditional classroom, it is apt to consider some possible counter arguments. For example, instead of increasing its ~~access~~ accessibility, online education might actually make education even more exclusive ~~to it~~ by restricting its access to those who are privileged enough to own a medium, such as laptop and internet. Thus, the disparity might remain as developed areas have access to internet and affordability of laptop varies from person to person. This might increase disparity in education and lower its reach further.

Similarly, the ~~bullying~~ bullying and harassment might continue in its modern form i.e. "cyber bullying". This could prove even more devastating for victim than physical bullying, which ~~is~~ remains restricted to classroom, as this might even continue to haunt them in their homes too. The moments of salvation, which the victims enjoyed at their homes could also be stolen from them. The harassment could spread from the online classrooms to the social media of the victim, and the harassers could be even more encouraged to harass as ~~they~~ their location would be possibly unknown or hundreds of miles away from victim, compelling them to

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harass without any fear.

The segregation and exclusive ~~environment~~ environment in the name of "inclusiveness" might prevent students from the exposure, interaction and socialization, which are an inherent part of education in a traditional classroom. Students, particularly young ones, need physical interaction to make friends. Such opportunities will be absent in exclusive and virtual environment the online education promises.

Similarly, those persons with disabilities might never learn to cope with them in the actual world as such training is often takes place when they learn and grow with their peers from young age.

As far as the quality is concerned, it can deteriorate even further.

This could be due to two reasons, which are attributable to online education. Firstly, it could become easier to cheat the exams aimed at assessing/evaluating the performance of students and secondly by making it difficult for teachers to ensure the attentiveness and presence of pupil attending his or her class. Hence, the quality might ~~be~~ worse, making online education ineffective as compared to the traditional classroom where teachers and instructors can ensure the presence and attentiveness of students.

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Lastly, one might argue that online education is ~~not~~ not only ~~vulnerable~~ vulnerable to more interruptions but also more frequent interruptions. ~~This would require~~ Online education would require a stable and reasonably fast internet connection. Students with unstable connections could face constant interruptions, putting them at ~~a~~ ^a disadvantage.

Also, a malware attack, or in other words, a malicious software virus can attack the online system of the educational institute and ~~not~~ not only interrupt the education but also breach the data of the institution.

Such concerns might feel ~~to~~ reasonable prima facie, but on deeper inspection they ~~are~~ can be ~~seen~~ out as largely exaggerated.

It is incorrect to assume that such change need to ~~be~~ be abrupt. It can be gradually started from those areas where internet is available and can ~~gradually~~ be spread across at a reasonable pace. The huge sum which is spent on the development of ~~transport~~ transport and educational institutes could be diverted to ~~providing~~ ~~internet~~ and subsidising internet and laptops for those who cannot afford.

This would eliminate the need of ~~main~~ maintenance of school, college and university buildings. It will ensure that the same quality education is being provided to people regardless of the facilities available in their respective areas. Hence, this would

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Certainly, lower the disparity in availability of quality education, when implemented gradually.

Also it would be ~~consider~~ ~~to~~ unreasonable to say that "cyber bullying" is dependent on online education. It continues to be a problem with or without online education. Thus, it should be treated and dealt as a separate issue. People of all ages, ~~regardless~~ ~~if~~ ~~they~~ even those who does not rely on online education, are prone to cyberbullying. However, even if one admits its causation with online education, it still remains far more ~~manageable~~ manageable as compared to ~~cyber~~ bullying in traditional classrooms as such activity is both traceable ~~an~~, monitorable and easily reportable so authorities can take prompt action. Contrarily, ~~plus~~ bullying in traditional classroom ~~is~~ ~~often~~ is often leaves no evidence for authorities. Hence one can convincingly say that online education is more safer.

Also, if someone argues that ~~it deprives~~ ~~marginalized~~ ~~class~~ ~~of~~ ~~society~~ it deprives the girls, women, ~~poor~~ and persons with disabilities of possible exposure, they must note that such classes often abandon education altogether in traditional classrooms. Hence, the age old saying of something is better than nothing can aptly be applied here. Also the other possibilities of interactions and

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Exposures are ~~also~~ still available. Children can spend early years of education in traditional classrooms before taking the advantage of online education. Furthermore, online education provides opportunity to interact with students from not only across different cities but also different countries and even continents. This would provide them far more exposure than traditional classrooms and can encourage the flow of information and ideas from advanced societies to less advanced societies.

The argument that it can lead to compromised quality due to malpractices such as cheating and inattentiveness of students might seem like a legitimate issue. However, online exams and evaluations are a common practice in developed countries and particularly in those institutes, which offer courses online to overseas students. Various softwares could be employed, which can detect plagiarism and similarity in students' work. Turnitin is one such example. Also various institutes took the help of A.I. ~~which~~ that with the help of webcam tracked the movements of students in exam settings. Such softwares can also be used to track the presence of students during an online class instruction.

~~lastly, online education~~

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~~Lastly, to argue that~~
Lastly, in a world where personal bank accounts, classified files, personal information ~~and~~ pass and health records have been digitalized, it would be cosmetic to argue that digitalization of education would substantially increase the risk of data breach or malware attack. ~~All~~ All banks and most of reputable companies employ reasonable measures to prevent such mishaps. Such ~~proton~~ protocols can also be applied by educational institutes, which guard against ~~at~~ malware attacks, data breach and hacking.

Hence, from above discussion, one can conclusively say that when digitalization is increasing effectiveness, productivity and ~~convenience~~ convenience ~~across~~ ^{sectors} across all fields of life, the education ^{sector} should also reap its fruits. ~~This will also help in digitalizing the world where~~

~~this help~~ This would help creating the world where equal educational opportunities are available to all. This can possibly resolve the problems, which have existed as long as the concept of education itself. ~~As~~ Online education is more safer, inclusive, effective and convenient than traditional classroom instruction. Although such a change is not free from challenges but it promises a more ~~or~~ viable alternative to ~~a~~ traditional classrooms.