

ESSAY TOPIC: Online Learning: a disaster or Saviour.

Outlines:-

1. Introduction

Thesis Statement: Online learning has many advantages and disadvantages for students. It is disastrous because of its distractions, overdependency and huge influx of knowledge. But it also fills the study gap that is produced by traditional education system. It has proved saviour during the period of covid pandemic. It is a saviour for humanity. (50)

2. Background of online learning.

3. Online learning is a Saviour (Thesis).

- Online education remains uninterrupted
- It provides time and resources to learn new skills.
- It is accessible to everyone.
- It gives students the freedom to study in their chosen setting.
- Insured the livelihood of so many educators. (job opportunities)

4. Online learning is a disaster. (Antithesis).

- Online education is interrupted because of too many distractions.
- Online learning waste alot of time and promote misuse of resources.

c) - It is ^{not} accessible to everyone due to digital divide.

d) - It is not freedom. In fact a hindrance to their study choices, because of less social interaction.

e) - Online platforms e.g. Youtube put the livelihood of so many educators at risk.

5. Although Online Learning has some demerits but it provides more opportunities to humanity. Online education is a Saviour. (Synthesis).

a) - Although online learning is interrupted but it can be tackled with proper counseling and improving online learning environment.

b) - Although it promotes misuse of technology but it is affordable and less costly.

c) - Digital divide could be reduced through proper policy making.

d) - Although online learning lacks interaction but it provides solution to the arising infrastructure problems.

e) - It provides a wide scope of job and opportunities for both teacher and students.

6. Conclusion.

Essay:-

"Online education is like a rising tide, it's going to lift all boats." - Anant Agarwal. Online education provides lots of opportunity to humanity with the revolution of technology. In order to make progress, human should increase its speed and ^{should} trying to compensate its speed with the ^{speed} of the storm of Artificial Intelligence. Online platform is going to replace all other champions in the field. There is a debate on online learning whether it is a disaster or a saviour for humanity. Everything has its pros and cons and online learning system also has. But important point here is that which is more impactful on education system and humans. Online learning has many advantages and disadvantages for students. It is disastrous because of its distractions, overdependency and huge influx of knowledge. But it also fills the study gap that is produced by traditional education system. It has proved saviour during the period of Covid pandemic. It is a saviour for humanity. Online education remains uninterrupted. It saves time and is accessible to everyone. It also provide freedom and job opportunities to students and teachers. But online education is distracted by many factors. Students loose ^{their} focus in studies. There is a digital divide that

hindrance in the equal access to online learning. Online learning lack student and teacher interaction and people pay less tuition to online educators. Problems in online learning system can be tackled with proper counseling. Online educating is less costly and it decrease the tension of building infrastructure. It provides wide scope of opportunities and benefits to both teachers as well as students.

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The 21st century has brought about a massive change in the world of education. Gone are those days when teaching was limited only within the confines of a classroom. The internet has brought about a paradigm shift in the fundamental way in which learning is done. It has been taken learning beyond the hallowed walls of the universities and into the palms of everyone. However, one of the first instances of online learning in the world can be traced back to 1960, at the University of Illinois, USA. Though the internet wasn't invented back then, students began learning from computer terminals that were interlinked to form a network. The first-ever completely online course was offered in 1984 by the University of Toronto. Online learning system in Pakistan got importance during the Covid-19 pandemic where the virus was spreading everywhere and people were living in Quarantine. It illustrates

the importance of online learning in today's school system, as it has proven to be a boon to both students and teachers alike who are unable to attend school due to the risk of disease spread. Beyond high school, online learning is steadily increasing its market share at the pre-university level.

Furthermore, e-learning is expanding in presence beyond the traditional fields as well.

Online education remains uninterrupted as compared to traditional learning system. It saves the the student's travelling time and saves from the useless disturbances. By staying isolated students can improve their focus to achieve their goals. They can utilize plenty of time in a positive way according to a study by the Online Learning Consortium,

online courses can increase student retention ratios by 12-24% compared to traditional classroom-based learning. This is often attributed to the flexibility and personalization that online learning offers. (81)

Online learning provides the students with plenty of time and resources to learn new skills. After completing online class they don't need to travel, they can take their class everywhere and later they can utilize this time

in learning new skills. During online learning their exposure is increasing with different technological applications and software through which they can explore the world. Students came to know about the use of different study applications for example, Zoom meeting application, Power Point Presentation, Microsoft office lens and etc. Moreover they can learn by using youtube. In this way, online learning provides different resources to learn different skills. (108)

Online education is accessible to everyone. It is a savior for the people living in remote areas who could not afford to study in large cities.

By studying online they can save their transport and residential expenditures. While for some students with disabilities, a digital classroom can reduce movement, transport and access to barriers often found in the physical world. Disable persons feel more confident while learning online. Laws like the **American with Disabilities Act (ADA)** require institutions to provide accessible online content, which ensures uninterrupted learning for all students. Therefore online learning allows people to access education more easily. (102)

It gives students the freedom to study in their chosen setting. It provides them with more control over their learning. Traditional learning methods allow the

teacher to decide how they will convey information to their students, but online learning provides more flexibility and gives children control over their education.

They have choices to manage their study setting for online classes according to their time and space. Students have access to wide variety of resources, including recording video clips, photographs and handwritten notes. Hence, online education provides the students more freedom and flexibility. (97)

Online education insured the livelihood of so many educators. It supports them by providing different job opportunities. It can provide job opportunities by equipping individuals with the knowledge and skills needed to enter new field, advance with their current careers, or launch entrepreneurial ventures. For example [Nearpeer.org](https://nearpeer.org) is an Ed-tech platform that aims to provide high-quality education at a low price through technology in Pakistan and Middle East. It helps the students to prepare for competitive examinations on one side but on the other side helps the mentors in earning for their livelihood. Moreover, lots of educators provide education on [Youtube](https://www.youtube.com) and earns a lot. Therefore, online learning provides job opportunity for many. (115)

Online education is interrupted because of too many distractions. Students may

checkout and read their messages and social media posts during an online class. In this way they will lose focus in their lecture. It will be a big loss for the students. Even during their online exams, students go for checking different social media apps. Secondly, while taking classes online at home, students feel more relax and unchecked. They do not pay attention on the lectures. They consider it worthless during the presence of teacher because they know they have lecture recording facility. They show passive response in online setting. While on the other hand, in physical education system students show active behaviour and pay attention under the surveillance of a teacher. Therefore, online learning education is a source of distraction (Daf)

Online learning waste alot of time and promote misuse of resources. When student sit down for a task for particular time period. They will accomplish it in a short required period with more efficiency. But if they are sitting in online setting to complete it they are face notification distractions, checking out posts and updates. In this way they require more than the particular time to complete it efficiently. Moreover it promote misuse of resources. People can cheat a lot more in an online classroom as compared to the physical one. The more time that you

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spend online, the more harmful it is for both physical and emotional wellbeing. Spending time online makes students drained and saps all their energy like a giant monster that is hungry for their energy. Hence, online learning is harmful for students. (141)

Online education is not accessible to everyone due to digital divide. This issue is very real in Pakistan, with economic factors heavily restricting children's access to hardware to enable them to learn online.

According to the education statistics 2016-17, 86% of Pakistan's Primary schools are based in rural parts with limited access to the internet and mobile connectivity restricting access to any digital learning solution. A Unicef Report indicates that

during the Covid situation in 2020 under tele-school programme initiated by the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training

(MOFEPT), people had less resources to online study. The report indicates that 75% of the countries have used educational TV for at-home learning, while 57% of the countries have used Radio for online education. This indicates a substantial and global divide that will pose a barrier to the digitisation of education. (142)

Online learning is not a freedom for students in fact it is a hinderance to

their study choices. The online learning experience presents new challenge for the students. For taking online classes, students need to be attentive. They lack social interaction with their peers and teachers. Because of less environment exposure they are unable to polish their communication skills. Communication skills are very much important in this 21st century. To tackled with online learning and teaching, skillful and expert teachers are required.

Otherwise students will get plagiarised content with developing creativity. Using Artificial Intelligence in education will demand a set of requisite skills.

According to the World Bank, no country has a universal digital curriculum for teaching and learning before the pandemic, meaning that teachers needed to up-skill quickly. If skillful teachers ~~wild~~^{be} not provided it will cause hinderance in online learning. (146)

Some Online platforms have put the livelihood of so many physical educators at risk. Online education charge less on the students while on the otherhand mentors who are providing education in physical setting charge tuition fees according to the need of the subject. But because of less cost of online education, people

are getting interested in online education and show ignorance towards physical education.

So everyone has not access to the opportunity to teach online so they are not get their incomes according to the needs. Moreover, Many Youtubers or mentors on youtube provide free of cost education to the millions of students. This is also the reason of neglecting physical/private mentorship. Therefore, online platforms have put the jobs at risk. (120)

Although online learning is interrupted but it can be tackled with proper counseling and improving online learning environment. To avoid frustrations, students need to set up a reliable system before starting their online course. This means checking the course requirements, testing devices and applications, updating their software and antivirus, and backing up their files regularly. Students should create a perfect study space to avoid distractions. Online teaching institutions should initiate programs and seminars for the awareness of student that how they could overcome with such distractions. In this way online learning can be proved as a saviour for students. (511)

Despite the misuse of technology in online learning environment, online learning is a saviour for a middle class because it is affordable and less costly. Majority of the population of

the country face resistance in getting online education. large part of population is living in the rural sectors and they don't have access to ^{Urban centers for} higher education. Because Education is becoming too expensive day by day with increasing poverty and inflation rate. It ^{has} become difficult for the people to meet the travelling expenses, residential and tuition fees. Online education has proved a saviour for the people living in remote areas. They can save their convince and hostel expenses and will be able to pursue their education with some relief. In this way, online learning is affordable and less costly. (142)

Digital divide could be reduced through proper policy making. The narrative about lack of digital resources is real but government need to move forward towards concrete corrective steps. Government should ^{through effective policies} provide launch certain literacy programmes to provide the people with equal opportunities and online resources. So that everyone will get equal opportunities and benefits. For example. **The Digital Literacy Programme** in Kenya, for example, started small "DigiSchool" as it is called a ran on solar power and provided devices to almost 100 percent of primary school children and their teachers. Global skills involved navigating the digital world. to find, evaluate and create information

and prepare learners for 21st century needs which we can delay, but not escape. Hence, digital divide could be reduced through proper measures (154)

Although online learning lacks interaction but it provides solution to the arising infrastructure problems. With the increasing urbanization and population explosion infrastructure is the major rising demand of the time. Providing proper infrastructure for millions of population is a tough task for the dwindling economy. Online education system is helpful in minimizing this problem. Teacher can handle only specific number of students in physical classroom while on the other hand, one teacher in an online classroom could handle hundreds of students at a time. Therefore, online learning is a saviour in solving infrastructure problems. (95)

It provides a wide scope of job and opportunities for both teacher and students. Those people who hesitate in teaching physically can feel confident during online teaching. They can earn millions of rupees through online mentorship. On the other hand, students are also be able to do certain jobs along with online learning. It became

difficult for students to manage part-time jobs along with their physical education. But now students can easily manage their jobs as well as education due to online learning systems. Moreover student can also do teaching and other jobs. Therefore, online education system has provides wide scope for generations of 21st century. (98)

Online learning with its merits and demerits has proved necessary for the students. It fills the study gap that is produced by the traditional educational system. It is a savior for students because of its accessibility. Despite some of the distractions that is faced by students in online learning it has proved soothing for the students in 21st century. It is accessible and affordable to everyone. It is providing the students with freedom in their choices and more flexible environment. It resolves the infrastructure problems and make it easy to handle a large number of population that would otherwise lack this opportunity. Online learning make the students familiar with modern technology and equipments along with their use that is very much important in this time of Artificial Intelligence. "Technology will not replace great teachers but technology in the hands of great teachers can be transformational. - George Couros. Therefore, online learning is a saviour for humanity. (140)

