

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

1) Introduction

2) Advantages of Online Learning in Education

Online learning is more convenient than traditional classroom instruction

3) Transport

- 3.1) No expense of daily commute
- 3.2) Time consumption in daily commute eliminated
- 3.3) No energy wasted in travelling

4) Security and safety

- 4.1) Classes not disrupted in case of security threats.
- 4.2) Natural disasters do not hinder learning progress
- 4.3) Students travelling to and from school are not subjected to petty crimes.

5) Health

- 5.1) Students with disabilities do not have to face hurdles of attending physical classes
- 5.2) Students with injuries or illness can attend classes from their homes
- 5.3) Online classes can continue in case of an epidemic

Online learning is more effective than traditional classroom instruction

6) Learning environment

- 6.1) Comfort of home provides for better learning.
- 6.2) Students' learning capabilities are not negatively affected by harsh weather.
- 6.3) Students do not have to worry about being bullied at school.

7) Parental involvement

- 7.1) Parents monitoring their children during class timings.
- 7.2) Parent-teacher communication via school portal and social media.
- 7.3) Parents having access to children's progress via school portal.

8) Globalization of learning

- 8.1) Students can easily get enrolled into foreign schools.
- 8.2) Integration of local and foreign curriculums.
- 8.3) Increased exposure of students.

Way forward

- 1) Online learning could prove beneficial if adopted in all institutes along-side physical learning.

9) Conclusion

The Essay

Online learning is no longer a new concept, especially after the Covid pandemic. Shifting classroom learning to online learning had proven to be an effective solution during lockdown. Through online learning, the students were able to get quality education while keeping themselves safe from the pandemic. But the education regulatory authorities failed to recognize the many benefits of online learning. Pakistan is a country that is frequently faced with situations which lead to the temporary closing of educational institutes. We have seen instances like the tragic Peshawar attack, the floods of 2010, and Covid-19 resulting in the closure of schools and colleges for weeks and sometimes months. Online learning is not only a solution to such problems, but is also more convenient and effective than traditional classroom instruction. Its convenience is complemented by the ease it brings in terms of transport, safety, and health. Not only is it more convenient than online learning, but it proves to be more effective due to better learning environment, parental involvement, and globalization of learning. A deeper explanation of all these arguments will enable us to see exactly how online learning surpasses classroom instruction.

Firstly, online learning eliminates the challenges presented by regular transportation. The expense of daily commute is diminished. Factors such as inflation have caused a great increase in fuel prices. The price of petrol in 2019 was approximately Rs. 113/litre where as the current price of petrol is approximately Rs. 261/litre. A shift to online learning can help avoid this expense. Moreover, the time consumed in daily commute is avoided. Students can attend their ~~class~~ lectures with the click of a button. The early morning traffic coupled with the distances between homes and schools often leads to unnecessary wastage of time. It takes an average of 30 minutes to reach the school and another 30 minutes to get home from school. So, through online learning, the precious time of the students is not wasted. Furthermore, not only time, but energy of students is also wasted in this daily commute. A student who is already tired has to bear the strain of travelling back home. Students who go to schools on cycles are most affected. This energy could be put into studies or extra-curricular activities. Hence, online learning can help eliminate the unnecessary wastage of energy as classes can be attended from homes. In this

way, the challenges introduced by daily transportation to and from school can be overcome by online learning.

Secondly, the security and safety of the students is ensured by online learning. Classes are not disrupted in case of a security threat. It is observed that educational institutes are frequently threatened by terrorist organisations present in Pakistan. The result of this is closure of schools and colleges for undefined periods of time. If online learning is adopted, these disruptions will be removed from the learning paradigm. Students as well as teachers would be able to continue their lectures without being subjected to any kind of security hazards. Besides this, hindrances caused by natural disasters will be avoided with the adoption of online learning. We have seen many times that students are unable to attend their classes due to calamities like floods and rainstorms. The damages caused to roads and infrastructure does not only make it difficult to go to school, but also makes it dangerous. But, in the case of online learning, students can stay in the safety of their homes and continue their studies without any disruptions. Furthermore, online learning enables

students to not be subjected to petty crimes while travelling to and from schools. In most cities of Pakistan, with Karachi being on top, crimes such as phone snatching are a common occurrence. There have also been numerous cases where people have lost their lives at the hands of street criminals. The children of today are the leaders of tomorrow and their safety is paramount. Hence, online learning ensures the safety of students by enabling them to remain under the protection of their own homes.

Thirdly, the health and well-being of students can be maintained with no compromise on their academics. Students with disabilities do not have to face the struggle of attending physical classes. Most educational institutes are unequipped to cater the needs of disabled students. Even in universities like Ghulam Ishaq Khan Institute, there are no ramps and elevators in most buildings. Students that are physically impaired have to rely on their class fellows to reach classes. There have been instances where disabled students are carried up and down multiple flights of stairs every day. Online lectures can aid disabled students to face infrastructural challenges on a daily basis. In addition to

this, students with injuries and illnesses can attend classes from their home. For instance, students suffering from diseases like chicken pox may end up missing weeks worth of lectures. On the other hand, if the option of online learning is available, the same student can attend all his lectures ~~with~~ from the comfort of his home. Furthermore, online learning can be continued in the case of an epidemic. The most popular example for this is the lock down due to Covid, where online classes enabled continuation of education. Despite strict lockdown and health hazards, classes safely continued on platforms such as Zoom and Microsoft teams. Therefore, the health and well-being of students is not compromised.

It is no doubt that online learning provides convenience to students as already discussed. In addition to this, online education proves to be more effective than traditional classroom learning due to multiple factors which will be discussed.

Firstly, a better learning environment is provided through online learning. The comfort of home can provide for better learning. We have seen that most of the educational institutions are equipped in terms of furniture, ~~and~~ fans, airconditioners, etc.

and even cleanliness. These factors can prevent a student from fully taking advantage of a lecture. On the other hand, every student is most comfortable in their homes. Most homes are equipped with comfortable furniture, air conditioners, and heaters. Thus, a student can learn better if provided the comfort of their home via online learning. Another factor to consider is that students' learning capabilities are not affected by harsh ~~atmos~~ weather. Pakistan is not a stranger to extreme weather conditions. Extreme weather coupled with lack of facilities in schools can prevent students from performing in the class. Since most schools are unable to provide a fix to harsh weather, online learning can be viewed as a solution to this as students will be able to learn from their homes. Moreover, online learning can prevent students from being subjected to bullying at school. A student subjected to bullying is constantly in fear of his bully. This fear distracts him from focusing in the class as he is more concerned with his safety. On the contrary, online learning can help overcome the problem of bullying since the student will not have to go to school to attend lectures. Therefore,

online learning provides for a better learning environment to enhance the learning capabilities of students.

Secondly, greater parental involvement is ensured through online learning. Parents can monitor their children during class timings. This kind of check and balance on the students can ensure better focus during lectures. ~~where as an example~~ Compared to this, a student who attends classes with multiple friends is likely to indulge in shenanigans. As there is only one teacher in a classroom of multiple students, it becomes difficult to maintain ~~discipline~~ discipline and focus in class. As a result, online learning offers a chance for parents to ensure that their children focus during lectures. Other than that, parent-teacher communication can be enhanced via school portals and social media. Compared to traditional ~~in~~ classroom teaching, where there are only one or two parent-teacher meetings, ~~the~~ school portals and applications like whatsapp can enable teachers to remain in touch with the parents with ease. Hence, any complaints regarding the students can be communicated to the parents instantly. Besides this, parents can have access to the progress of their children through school portals. As test grades will be viewed to the parents regularly,

corrective measures can be taken timely to ensure that a student improves before it is too late. In addition to this, students will perform better in class if they know that their parents have access to their grades. As a result, increased parental involvement is another benefit of online learning that aids students' performance.

Lastly, globalization of learning is another important advantage of online learning. Students can easily get enrolled into foreign schools. This is evident from the fact that the entire process of getting a visa is eliminated. Thus, the students can attend classes of a foreign school from their homes via online learning. Another important factor is the integration of foreign curricula in our educational system. Since no travelling is needed in the case of online learning, foreign educational programs can be offered by hiring foreign teachers. The classes of such educational programs can be conducted online and the examinations can be held in the same way. Hence, more opportunities will be provided to the students through online learning. Furthermore, globalization of learning will increase the exposure of students. Since online learning will provide students with a chance to

interact with foreign teachers, great benefit can be taken from this. As our educational system thrives on cramming-based learning, the students are unable to develop conceptual understanding of a topic. This is evident by the lack of industrial progress of Pakistan. Hence, this exposure can develop an inquisitive nature in the students where conceptual learning is promoted. Considering these factors, globalization of learning can be promoted which would greatly benefit the students.

The advantages of online learning are countless and can prove to be beneficial if adopted in all educational institutes. Students should be given an option to opt for online classes if physically coming to school is inconvenient for them. Further more, steps should be taken to ensure that there is no compromise on the quality of education, may it be online learning or physical classes.

To conclude, online learning not only is more convenient than traditional learning in terms of transportation, security, safety, and health of the students, but it is also more effective as it provides better learning environment, more parental involvement, and globalization of learning. With the emergence of Mpx, it is likely

that this might develop into a global pandemic. In such a case, it is imperative to keep the students safe and healthy without compromising on their education. It is online learning that provides a fix to the, and an overall better learning experience to ensure future success of the students.