

5. Conclusion

Online Education: Issues And Benefits

1. Introduction.

2. Overview of Online Education.

3. Benefits of Online Education.

3.1 Decrease in number of out of school children.

- alternate opportunities
- exclusive distant education
- National Centre for Education Statistics' study,
"more than 6 million students are enrolled in
higher education studies."

3.2 Improve reliability.

- (i) AIC to National Centre for Education Statistics survey
"85% students think that online learning is same or
better than traditional classroom experience".
- (ii) Renowned psychologist Jonathan said, "Students lose
focus about 5 min in a forty - fifty minutes
session."
- Replay lectures.

3.3 Positive integration of technology and education

- (i) Wang Tao - vice president of Tencent Cloud Institute,
said, "I believe that integration of IT & education
will be further accelerated and online education
will become integral component of school education".
- (ii) Prof. Amjad of Jordan University has underscored the
importance of integration of technology and education

by calling it "a change in the way of teaching".

3.4 Flexible learning schedule.

- anywhere at any pace.
- asynchronous communication.

3.5 Conductive means of communication.

As per Survey of Education week, "93% students call online education easier than traditional learning".

- no chances of corporal punishment, classroom bullying, teaching intimidation.

3.6 High quality Dialogue.

- more depth and forethought.
- sole focus on content & less distractions.

4. Issues of Online Education

4.1 Non-universal nature of Internet

- 95% students in Switzerland, Norway and Austria have access to internet
- As per report of OECD (Organization of economic

Cooperation and Development, "Only 34% students have access to internet facilities in Indonesia"

- Even some US states have places with no internet access.

4.2 Lack of structured environment

- for education and learning a ~~total~~ ~~an~~ proper environment is a vital requisite
- online education - proper learning space is missing.
- Education week report - "Already struggling students will struggle more"
- many distractions, advertisements, appealing content that divert students' attention.

4.3 Hasty transition to online may backfire

- untrained students and faculty
- A poor substitute for traditional learning

4.4 Non-serious attitude of few states

World Bank report 2022 - 1 in 3 countries is not taking any action to ensure education and

as per same report, "43% countries didn't increase education budget for 2022"

4.5 More responsibility on students

- Anxiety in students

- lack of proper direction, scattered schedules.

5. Way Forward to amend Online Education setup

5.1 Positive role of Int'l organizations

(*) Mission = "Recovering education 2021" - a combined effort of UNESCO, UNICEF & WB.

These organizations have ↑ literacy rate in many countries and world overall.

UN-sponsored illiteracy program, illiteracy rate decreased from 47% in 1955 to 13% in 2013.

5.2 Promotion of Digital literacy

- Guidelines about use of gadgets in at school

- Special focus on female digital literacy

5.3 Resources to provide psychological support to students

- Follow WHO guidelines

5.4 Self-directed learning content

assist online education more productivity

Khan Academy is a reliable platform for self directed learning
MIT open online courses

6. Conclusion

The world is going through a revolutionized shift from traditional to online education. Major credit is taken by recent pandemic COVID-19 that raised awareness of online learning and education. The COVID-19 pandemic halted world's economy and education, that caused havoc everywhere. During that critical time, technology proved its significance that helped people to cope with lockdown and continued communication with the world. Likewise, traditional education halted and online education prevailed around the world. Online education is a process of gaining knowledge and skills through virtual classrooms by accessing internet services. It has its proven benefits, issues and challenges as well. Several benefits of online education can be enlisted such as it

learning

reduces the number of out-of-school children, it improves interaction and integration between science and technology and education, it enhances reliability of students as they enter and experience virtual world, virtual classrooms provide flexibility of time and pace to the students to learn with their comfort, it also provides an effective method of learning with lesser distractions, class bullying or corporal punishments.

Along with benefits, it comes with some issues and challenges for example non-uniform availability of internet is a major challenge faced by developing nations, lack of experience and practical knowledge of technology in teachers, students and faculty proves to be ineffective method of learning. Another problem is lack of structured environment for a student when learning online at home, it burdenise students especially incompetent students face major issues in learning, leading them into psychological pressure, depression and

anxiety. Online education faces serious challenges due to non-serious attitude of many states towards its progress. Various steps and reforms are required to amend existing online education system to improve this platform. Digital literacy should be promoted through knowledge and training of using gadgets, international organizations should promote technological interventions and students should be given psychological support to encourage them to get online education and access self-directed learning content.

The following paragraphs delineate the benefits of online education.

Online education provides facilities of easy learning for students as compared to traditional classrooms. It provides opportunities for exclusive distant learning through internet and gadgets. It allows students gain easy learning and reduces the number of out-of-school children.

According to National Centre for education statistics, currently 6 million students use

enrolled in higher education studies. This survey highlights the significance of online education in increasing enrollment of students nationwide. Major chunk of students are from rural areas who ~~that~~ have no access to higher institutions or they are dwelling in far-lagged areas. These students face ~~diffut~~ difficulties and hindrances of ~~money~~ expenses of food, residence, fees and books. Online education has proven a blessing for them, to get enrolled in different courses and learn skillful and innovative ideas. Hence, it could be stated that online education has helped increase the number of students back to school.

Another benefit of online education is its reliability. Mainly this idea was proven during COVID-19 pandemic when world's economic growth and different sectors halted, online education prevailed in the population - proving its reliability. It compelled people to shift towards online learning and it gained trust of people with ~~pre~~ of time. According to a survey by National Centre

for education statistics, "85% of the students believe that online education is equal to or better than traditional learning." It has proven to be a reliable platform for online courses, learning different skills and innovative ideas. It allows students to remain focused on their goal without facing any kind of distractions. According to famous psychologist Jonathan said, "Students lose focus for 5 minutes in a forty to fifty minute class". However, in online education, students remain focused on their courses and in case if something is missed, they can easily replay and understand the missed ideas. In this way, their trust enhances reliability and students tilt towards more innovative ideas and better learning mechanisms.

Equally important is the positive integration of technology and education. Online education enables students to come in touch with technology and it encourages youth to utilize technology effectively to meet the needs of contemporary

world. Wang Tao, vice president of Tencent cloud institute said that, "I believe science and education integration will accelerate further and it will become an integral component of education. Similarly, Professor Amjad of Jordan university has underscored the significance of integration of technology and education. He called it "a change in the way of teaching". This change is admirable as it multiplies the benefits of both technology and education.

Also, the provision of flexible schedule is another blessing of online education. Students getting online education can work comfortably with no pressure of early morning wake-up or struggle with daily schedules. It enables students to work with their own pace and time asynchronously, which indirectly increases their efficiency. This asynchronous communication reduces burden of traditional learning and stringent schedules. Simply, online education provides uniform learning opportunities, the reason that it is advantageous because of its facilitating features.

Online education also provides conducive means of communication. It provides a uniform conducive environment for learning and discussions without traditional issues of distractions and corporal punishment. It is one of the important issues of physical classroom that students face. corporal punishments, classroom bullying and teacher intimidation, which discourage and demoralize incompetent students. These reasons produce more struggles in the already struggling students. Virtual classrooms provide a more integrated environment with no pressure of physical punishments and demoralization. As per survey of Education Week, "93% of the students consider online education easier than traditional learning. The students continue their learning free of bullying. Hence, this benefit of online education explicitly provide an innovative impact ~~on~~ on ~~the~~ overall educational landscape.

The provision of high quality ~~into~~ dialogue is an important feature, provided in the finest-

form through online education. It enables students to put more depth and forethought in the virtual classrooms because of facilitations of online education. Students focus on real content rather than distractions which are faced in traditional learning. It ensures creative conversation and more focussed approach between students and teachers whereas physical classroom requires students to respond in nanoseconds ~~with~~ under sound pressure of teachers. It doesn't puzzle students with restrictions of discipline of the institution, rather it keeps students to respond with more creative approach. Hence, online education propagates the content ~~with~~ to the students in an easy and sophisticated manner.

The aforementioned paragraphs have expounded the benefits of online education; the upcoming paragraphs will highlight dark side of online education.

Firstly, online education solely depends upon

availability of internet and gadgets like mobile phones, laptop, computer, ipad etc. This is one of the main issue of online education because of its non-uniform availability. The internet is not available at every place of the world. Majority population in developed countries have access to internet for example 95% of the students in Switzerland, Norway and Austria have access to the internet. But least developed nations or developing countries lack uniform availability of internet. As per report of organization of ~~economic~~ economic cooperation and development only 34% students have access to the internet in Indonesia". Even some United States' places have no internet accessibility. So, students of backward areas struggle with internet access and availability of network. Also poor students struggle with availability of gadgets in their homes to get online education.

Along with lack of internet access, other issue with online education is lack of structured

environment. To learn and get education requires people environment which is its vital requisite. It needs people learning space which is absent in online education. Traditional learning in classrooms provide a student with environment of learning whereas in online education people learning space is missing. There are many distractions during online learning such as advertisements, appealing contents that divert minds of students. Education week report stated that already struggling students struggle more with online education. Therefore, lack of people and structured environment is another challenge of online education.

Another challenging issue in online education is hasty transition from traditional learning. Specially in developing countries where archaic methods of teaching are used with no widespread knowledge of technology, online education becomes a challenge. Teachers, faculty members and even students lack training to deal with online education which reduces efficiency of

learning as compared to traditional classrooms. Hence, it seems as a poor substitute for traditional learning, and online education becomes an issue for itself.

The non-seriousness of few states regarding transition to online education is another problem. Though many western countries have switched toward online education successfully but many states are still non-serious. It is evident from "World Bank report 2022," 1 in every 3 countries is not taking any action to ensure education. As per same report, many countries (43%) didn't increase their budget for education in 2022. Such irresponsible behaviour of various states poses a great hindrance in transition from traditional to online education.

Online education puts more responsibility on students, which questions its usefulness, keeping in view ongoing realities of education. The ~~same~~ students struggle more with their schedules and lack of proper schedules produces apathy.

and demotivation in many students. It disturbs their learning on one hand and along with this, it creates mental pressure on students leaving them with depression and anxiety. Scattered schedules, lack of proper direction and lack of motivation produces social pressure and incompetent students are lagged behind. Hence, it puts more pressure and responsibility on students who lack the spirit of online education.

The preceding paragraphs have outlined issues of online education; the following paragraphs will shed some light on way forward to make online education better.

The foremost step to ameliorate online education is positive role of international organizations. The mission of international organizations. "Recovering education 2031", a combined effort of UNESCO, UNICEF and World Bank. These organizations have increased the literacy rate of many countries and whole world. For instance, because

of UN sponsored illiteracy program, illiteracy rate decreased from 47% in 1945 to 13% in 2013. This highlights how the role of international organization impacts ~~positiv~~ positively in ameliorating online education.

Another step to promote online education is to spread awareness of digital literacy. Awareness sessions should be considered in schools regarding use of gadgets and technology to utilize them in effective manner. Special focus should be on female digital literacy. Consequently, female students who are more vulnerable to drop outs will be able to continue their education through digital literacy. So, promoting digital literacy will help intervene issues faced during online education.

Provision of psychological support to the students help them get online education efficiently. It is of prime importance to be psychological stable and active to get

online education. To make online education a better platform of learning, WHO guidelines should be followed to provide psychological support to the students. Along with this, self-directed learning content should be promoted. The students who are struggling with live classes, can easily join online courses through different channels and attend lectures according to their own schedule. A reliable example of self-directed learning content is Khan Academy or another example is MIST open online courses that provide courses from prestigious institutes free of cost. Briefly, self directed learning provide more reliability on online education for those students who struggle with live classes.

In a nutshell, online education has both merits and demerits. However, problems can be mitigated to make online education more effective. The rising tide of online education has accomplished dream of many students to get education. In last three decades, it has provided

alternate ways of learning for those students struggling from backward areas. It has provided opportunities to get enrolled in alternate way of virtual courses and lowered out-of-school children specially female population. It has become a reliable source of learning and enhanced integration between technology and education. Online education provides students with flexible schedules, in which they can attend virtual classrooms with their own pace and comfort, at anytime and anywhere. It reduces mental burden of class bullying or corporal punishments. Hence, enables them to respond efficiently and patiently, taking their proper time to respond in a creative manner. Online education enables students to focus on real content rather than other distractions of discipline of institutions. However, there are some areas where online education has faced challenges such as - non-uniform availability of internet, lack of proper and structured environment for learning, students struggle more with scattered schedules and

directionless learning which leads them to depression and anxiety. Fortunately, these challenges can be averted through positive role of international organizations, promoting digital literacy to help easy use of technology in traditional culture, and guideline mechanisms will help students to achieve their dream. As, online education has become need of the hour, the quality of the provision is expected to improve soon.