

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

## Outline

### 1. Introduction

Thesis Statement: The benefits of online learning are more than that of traditional classroom instruction and it offers more opportunities and inclusive way of learning. It is, therefore, more convenient and effective than traditional learning.

### 2. Distinction between online learning and traditional classroom instruction

### 3. How online learning is convenient and more effective than traditional classroom instruction. (Thesis)

a. Online learning is cost effective

b. Online learning is easily accessible to everyone, everywhere

c. Online learning is more flexible since it is not time bound

d. Online learning offers self-paced learning provides

e. Online learning provides the opportunity of global networking

f. Online learning has positive environmental affects

### 4. Drawbacks of Online learning (Anti-thesis)

a. Online learning is a novel idea

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as compared to traditional classroom instruction

b. Online education offers limited social interaction

c. Students face internet and other technical issues in course of online learning

d. Online learning offers limited access to educational resources

e. Online learning has no structured environment of learning

4. How to overcome the drawbacks of online learning (Synthesis)

a. Structuring and institutionalization of online learning

b. Removal of technical barriers in online learning

c. Making online learning more engaging

5. Conclusion

Attention catcher or hook should be more solid

Ali from the northern areas of Pakistan takes online courses of Virtual University of Pakistan from his home. Thanks to online education system that he needs not to come down cities for education. Similarly, Nadia from Tharparker is enrolled in the University of London Distance learning programme. This was made possible because of the commencement of online learning mechanism. Online learning has broken the traditional barriers of attaining education and it has brought much ease for students. Online learning offers more opportunities and provides an inclusive way of education as compared to traditional way of learning. It is, therefore, more convenient and effective than traditional classroom structure. Online learning is more beneficial because it is cost effective, and easily accessible. It offers more flexible and self-paced learning. Moreover, it provides an opportunity of global connectivity and it is also environment friendly. Nonetheless, there are some drawbacks of online education. Since it

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is a new concept, therefore, it lacks legacy as compared to traditional learning. It offers limited social interaction and students face many technical issues as well. ~~Moreover~~ Additionally, students lack access to educational resources in online system and ~~it~~ it provides no proper structure of education. However, by addressing the drawbacks online learning can be further enhanced. This includes structuring online education system, removal of technical barriers and making the system more engaging.

Online learning refers to the system of education which is based on the internet. It does not need a classroom as like the traditional system, rather, it needs a reliable internet and electronic gadgets including computer/laptop, tablet or smart phone. In this type of learning, it is not necessary that the student and teacher be at the same place. It is possible that a teacher can be in the United States

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and a student can be in Pakistan and they may be connected through online system like Zoom, Google Meet, Class Dojo or any other online classroom and engage in teaching and learning. There are many online platforms like Coursera, Edx and others that provide recorded learning materials which can be accessible any time, any where. Besides short courses, nowadays, full degree programmes are also available online which have shattered the traditional classroom norm. Unlike the rigid and structured traditional education system, online learning is more easy, versatile and convenient. Thus it brings more benefits with itself.

Firstly, Online learning is convenient and more effective than traditional learning is because it is cost effective as compared to traditional educational system which cost heavily for students, online learning is much cheaper and sometimes even free of cost. Due to its low cost, students prefer online education

over traditional classroom instruction. For example, before the advent of Youtube, and other online resources, students used to go to academies or tutors in person which was costly. Now they learn the same things free of cost from more capable teachers on Youtube. So cost effectiveness of online education make it more effective and convenient.

Similarly, online learning is easily accessible to everyone everywhere which gives it leverage over traditional classroom instruction. It does not need proper registration, enrollment and specific place. Student can take freely available online courses without registration or going to somewhere most of the time. A person in rural area, which has<sup>to</sup> internet, has access to can take the same courses online as the person living in a city. Thus, online learning is easily accessible as compared to traditional education.

Another benefit of online learning which makes it convenient and more

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effective than traditional education is that it is more flexible. Online learning is not time bound thus it offers flexibility. Unlike traditional classroom instruction, which needs proper timetable to follow, online learning does not need any timetable. For example, one can take the courses any time which is convenient for him or her. This gives advantage to online learning over traditional classroom education.

Likewise, online learning offers self-paced learning for a student which makes it further convenient and effective. Students are not alike as their capacities vary. Online learning offers different students the opportunity to learn at different pace unlike traditional classroom where every student has to cope up with the teacher. It is so because online courses are always and readily available online. A weak student can learn slowly without the fear of being dropped out. Similarly, a brilliant student can finish the course quickly. Thus online learning is convenient and

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and more effective than traditional learning in the sense of self-paced learning.

Moreover, Online learning provides the opportunity of global-networking for the students which makes it more convenient and more effective. Different students from different corners of the world get enrolled in the same course in online learning. It offers them the opportunity to connect with each other without going anywhere. For example, Coursera is an online platform where students from round the world get enrolled and make an educational family. They talk freely and discuss on many things in the discussion forums. So online learning is ahead of traditional learning in context of global connectivity as well.

Furthermore, Online learning has positive environment effects as compared to traditional way of education. There is no need of traveling which pollutes the environment or using



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papers and other stationary which comes from cutting trees in online education. Unlike traditional learning which needs one to travel from one place to another, and based on using paper, pen, white boards and other things, online learning is environmental friendly. One need not to cut trees to make paper but only to use laptop. According to the Economist, millions of trees are cut every year to make papers which are used in traditional education (Economist, 2023). Thus, online learning is also saving the environment.

Nonetheless, there are certain drawbacks of online learning such as it is a novel idea as compared to traditional classroom instruction. Since it is a recent phenomenon, it lacks long legacy as that of traditional classroom structure. Due to no previous history and experience it poses challenges which have to overcome. For example, the teachers and students are not fully

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adopted to this method. Therefore, they cannot participate effectively which makes the learning not up to the mark. So not having a history is a true drawback of online learning.

Another drawback of online learning is that it offers limited social interaction. Unlike traditional classroom where students and teachers are present in person, in online education, a student is alone and on its own.

A student lacks engagement with teacher and other students which is crucial part of education. According to Professor Nasir Jamal Khattak, ~~and~~ a student grows less in online education system due to less or no social interaction as compared to traditional way of learning. Thus limited social engagement is a potential drawback in online learning.

Likewise, in online education system, students face internet and other technical issues which

also a certain drawback of it. Internet and technology is not available everywhere equally and online learning is highly dependent on it. No internet and less acquaintance with technology puts a large proportion of students at harm. For example, almost of half of Pakistan lacks internet facility (Ministry of Information and Technology Pakistan, 2024). This internet issues and technological deficiency ~~is a great~~ makes online learning less reliable.

Moreover, another drawback of online learning ~~offers limited access~~ is that it offers limited access to educational resources. Library, Laboratory, computer lab, study rooms and other educational facilities and resources are out of the reach of students who involve in online education. Due to less exposure to these resources, students of online education system lack deep and practical understanding of their subjects. A study, conducted by the University of Peshawar, of an online

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learning mechanism of the University during the Covid pandemic, in which universities turned to online learning, concludes that the understanding of students of the courses taken online was only surface level. Thus due to lack of access to educational facilities online education system faces this challenge.

Lastly, Online learning has no structured environment of learning which is also a big drawback of it. Most of the online courses are once uploaded and students have to take them on their own without any compulsion or penalty. Due to no structured method like classroom, students tend to distract from learning. For example, it <sup>has</sup> <sup>been</sup> a common observation that most of student who get enrolled in courses on Coursera (an online platform of learning) do not finish the courses (Coursera Report 2022). This is due to no structured mechanism students get distracted which is a certain drawback of online learning.

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However, there are certain ways to overcome the drawbacks and challenges posed to online learning, chief among them is structuring and institutionalization of online learning. Structuring and institutionalization means to formalize online educational method, like that of traditional classroom. If online learning is formalized, students will not get distracted and finish their courses on time. Structuring involves live instructions not recorded lectures, taking attendance as that in traditional classroom, and setting time frames to finish courses (Georgiana Kristina, 2021). ~~The purpose~~ So by formalizing the online learning, ~~the~~ the online learning system can further be improved.

Secondly, there is a need to remove all the technical barriers student face during the course of online learning. Technical barriers may include internet issues, technological novelty and lack of understanding, lack of equipments like laptops,

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coo noo smart phones and other issues.  
The respective governments need to focus on those issues and resolve them so that everyone can participate and get benefit from online learning. A good case to follow is For example, Nepal. offers a good case to follow. The government of Nepal signed an agreement with Google to provide internet to far flung and rural areas of Nepal through air balloon. Moreover, the government distributed thousands of free laptops among the needy student. Thus by such measures, the barriers to online learning can be removed and it can be enhanced.

Lastly, online learning mechanism can be improved by making it more engaging. Interaction with teacher and peers is also a part of learning which is currently missing in online education. There is a need to make such platforms of online learning where student can have live social interaction with fellow members which

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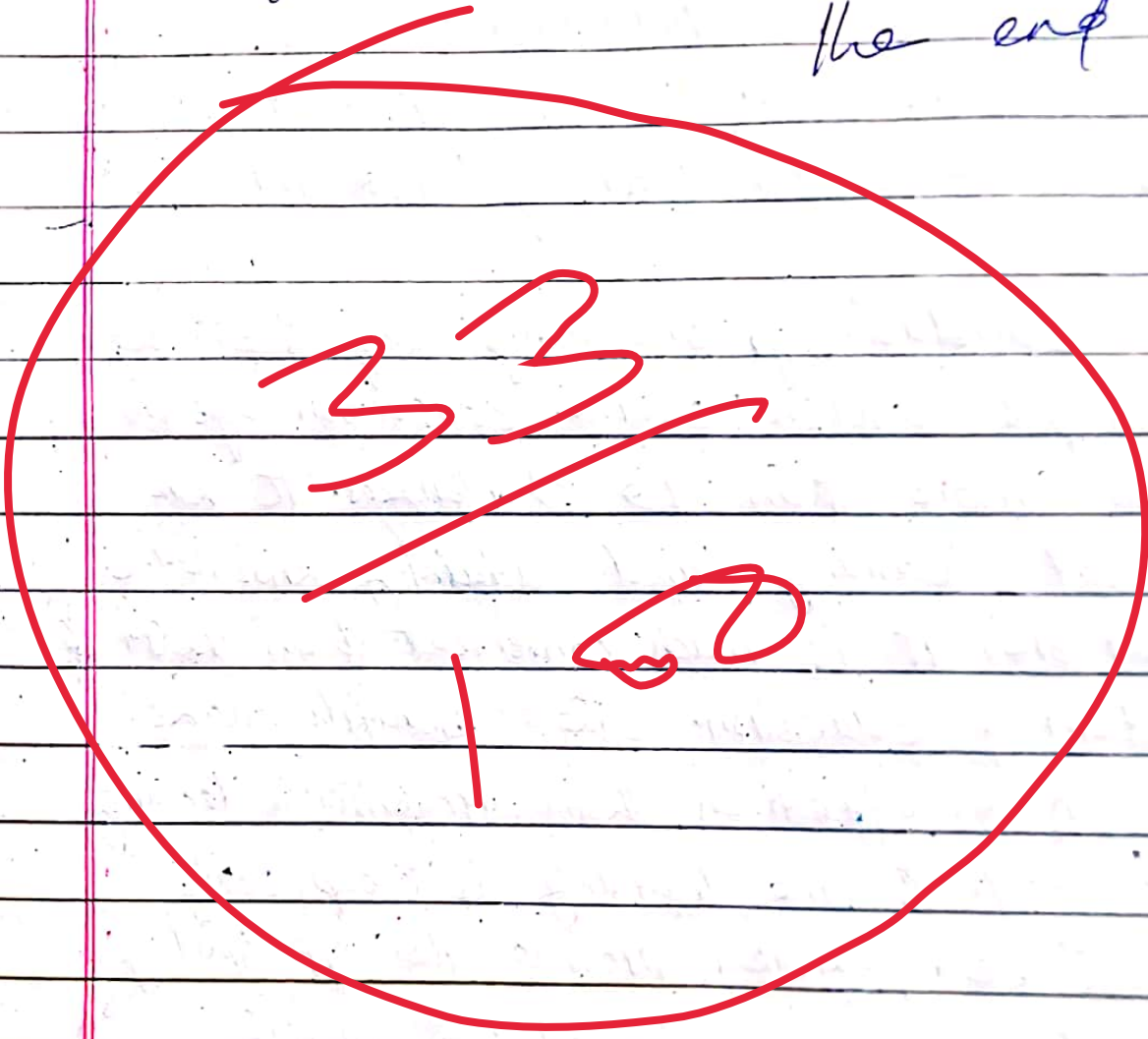
is essential for their grooming. Keeping in mind this, the University of California Irvine aims to launch such platform where students can feel like traditional classroom environment (Washington Post, April 2024). Therefore, it is crucial to make online learning more interactive.

Conclusively, one may say that the benefits which online education system has more than the challenges. It has eased learning and attaining knowledge. Therefore, it is much convenient than traditional system of education. Other benefits make it more effective than traditional learning as well. Online learning is cheap, easily available, flexible, provides the opportunity of self-paced learning and international friend as well as it is environmental friendly which make it ahead of traditional or orthodox way of learning. There are some challenges to it like no in hand experience, no grooming of students, technical problems, lack of access to resources and lack of proper structure of learning. Nonetheless, these challenges can be dealt

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easily by taking certain measures like formalizing the online learning system, minimizing the technical glitches and making online learning more interactive.

The end



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