

Online Education is not only Convenient but often more effective than traditional classrooms interactions

Outline

A) Introduction

Thesis: The shift to online education is driven by advantages of online education, which proved to be not only more convenient but also more effective than traditional classrooms. By leveraging tools, such as interactive tools, flexible curriculum and equitable learning environment, online education has proved itself as a more effective mean of education.

B) The Convenience of online education

- 1) Removes the institutional barriers for attaining education
- 2) Online education is more cost effective
- 3) Online education is time efficient
- 4) Online education is more convenient for women.

C) The effectiveness of online education

- 1) Online classes are equipped with modern tools, fostering effective learning
- 2) Effective learning can be achieved at a lower cost
- 3) Online education enable government oversight to ensure quality and effective learning. & diverse
- 4) Flexible curriculum allows integration of total content
- 5) Less discrimination in online classrooms promotes effective education
- 6) Online education ensures effective learning even during crisis.

15) Conclusion:-

Essay

There was a time when parents in South Asian households would chide their children for spending excessive hours in front of screens, believing they were squandering precious time on games or passive entertainment. Meanwhile, in the West, visionaries like Bill Gates and Steve Jobs recognised the immense potential of these devices, dismissed in the East as the "new idiot boxes". Their foresight led to the genesis of the digital era — a transformative period that revolutionised how the world operates. One of the most profound changes has been in the education, where traditional classroom is steadily being replaced by the virtual classroom, termed as online education. This shift is driven by advantages of online education, which has proved to be not only more convenient but also more effective than traditional methods. By leveraging features such as interactive tools, flexible curriculums and equitable learning environments, online education have proved itself as a more effective mean of education. Furthermore, it has demonstrated the ability to sustain effective learning even during crises.

To begin with, online education has made learning more convenient by overcoming institutional barriers to obtaining education. In earlier times, traditional classrooms in schools and universities were considered the sole source of education. However, such institutions require a robust infrastructure network to ensure

equitable access for all. Countries like Pakistan lack such networks due to limited resources. For instance, according to Pakistan Alliance for Math Science report, *The Missing Third of Pakistan, 2024*, approximately 25 million children in Pakistan are out of school. These startling figures underscore the shortage of schools available to the less privileged segment of society. On the other hand, online education has offered a more convenient alternative by replacing traditional classrooms with virtual ones. Consequently, individuals can access quality education regardless of their location within country. For example, the Virtual University of Pakistan, adhering to HEC guidelines, has engendered 107,000 graduates through online classes. Hence, online education provides a more accessible and convenient solution, effectively removing institutional barriers to education.

Moreover, cost effectiveness of online education is another factor that substantiate its convenience. As mentioned in the aforementioned paragraph, online education has dismantled the institutional barriers for accessing education. This means that educational institutes do not have to secure expansive land and construct large edifices to accommodate people, which in turn leads to reduced tuition fees. For instance, according to National Center for Education Statistics, U.S.A., online 4 years degree program is almost 50% less expensive than on-campus degree program. The cost saving associated with online education has made it more convenient for the people, particularly for the marginalised segment of society.

Hence, by minimising expenses online education has become a more convenient mean of education.

Besides being cost effective, online education is more time efficient than traditional classrooms. One of the major drawback of traditional classrooms education is time students squander by travelling distances to attend classes. Moreover, this travelling time is much longer in countries which lack a robust educational infrastructure. For instance, according to World Bank, in R.P.K, Pakistan, 44% of individual must endure a 30 minutes drive to access education, with some areas witnessing figures as high as 80%. Resultantly, students fritter away an hour daily if they have transport facility, which is considered as a luxury in Pakistan. However, online education has obliterate this travelling time by enabling students to attend classes through their laptops or mobiles. For example, Microsoft Teams and Zoom to ensure the efficient conduction of online classes by providing a user-friendly platform for communications, class discussions, and seamless learning experience. Therefore, by eradicating the need of physical commute, online education proves to be far more-time efficient, making it inherently more convenient option.

Lastly, online education is more convenient option for women. Dolorously, accessing education, especially in Global South has been an exacting task for women due to various factors. Extremist policies and social issues have

significantly hindered women's education. For instance, in Afghanistan, the de facto Taliban government has banned women from attending schools. Moreover, societal issues like harassment and dowry-related violence have further exacerbated the situation. Amidst these challenges, online education has offered a convenient escape. To provide evidence, Learn Afghanistan, founded by Pashtana Durroni, an Afghan woman, has established a digital school network across Afghanistan, enabling girls to access education while staying at home. Such initiatives not only circumvent restrictive regulations, but also empower women to overcome societal challenges. Thus, online education fosters accessibility and convenience for women, particularly in non-egalitarian societies.

While online education is more convenient, it is not only a benefit that surpasses traditional classroom interaction. Online education is also more effective than traditional classroom interactions.

Firstly, online classrooms are equipped with modern tools that foster effective learning. In online classrooms, teachers can easily play animated videos and use colour-changing white boards to ensure the effective transfer of concepts. For example, if a teacher is teaching human physiology during a Zoom class, they can play YouTube videos that explain different systems of human body using 3-D animation. However, traditional classrooms often lack such facilities. They still rely on primitive teaching methods, using black boards and chalk. For instance, UNESCO's 2023 Global Educational Monitoring Report has emphasized that despite advancement in educational technologies, many classrooms, especially in rural sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, still predominantly

use conventional lecture based instructions. Such methods often limit student engagement and development of critical thinking. Thus, by incorporating tools, technological driven online classrooms fosters more effective learning.

Moreover, besides being equipped with modern tools, online education ensures effective education at a lower cost. Traditional classrooms often require robust infrastructure and colossal workforce to deliver quality education. However, inadequate public funding has undermined the effectiveness of education in traditional classrooms. For instance, Pakistan spends only 2.5% of its GDP on education, well below than UNESCO's recommended 4%. Consequently, the outcomes has been reflected in "Education Performance index 2024" report, which states that in Pakistan, education system overall is in 'low performance category' due to insufficient public financing and poor quality teaching, which has led to persistently low learning outcome. In contrast, online education can ensure effected learning with limited resources. Through online classrooms, an efficacious teacher can deliver lectures to a large-scale population. Furthermore, the same teacher can teach in rural areas where they may be reluctant to work in person. Hence, issue of insufficient funds may persist; however, online education guarantees effective education for all by leveraging such facilities at a lower cost.

Additionally, online education enables government oversight that ensures effective learning. Since online classes operate through internet, lectures can be recorded and reviewed later by the authorities. Moreover, inspectors can join live sessions without disturbing class environment to assess quality of education. The same model, for instance, was adopted by U.K's office of Standards in Education (Ofsted) to evaluate remote teaching in schools during 2020 pandemic. Due to its efficiency, the same practices have evolved into a structured mechanism for monitoring schools. On the other hand, maintaining effective supervision in traditional classrooms remains an arduous task, as it requires physical interaction for proper evaluation. As a result, corrupt practices often undermines effectiveness of traditional classrooms. For example, according to Express Tribune, 64000 ghost teachers were reported in Balochistan in 2024, while Sindh has reported 1500. Furthermore, according to District Education Performance Index (DEPI) report 2022-23, highlighted persistent dismal education quality in both provinces. The lack of accountability and check and balance has given space to malevolent actors to plague the government education system, resulting in ineffective learning outcomes. Hence, online education, by ensuring accountability, guarantees effective education.

Moreover, the flexible curriculum of online education allows integration of latest and diverse content. Online learning

platforms like Udemy and Coursera have a large collection of almost 175,000 different courses. Each day, new courses are being added that align their curriculum with the requirements of modern world. Moreover, this colossal collection of online courses provides diverse options for learners to learn new skills. For instance, an engineering student can learn skills about business administration if he wants to become an entrepreneur. Similarly, a medical can learn AI if he is planning to revolutionise medical procedures. This diversity ensures that individuals are not confined to rigid curriculum, as it often case in the traditional classrooms. By having such facilities at their finger tips, motivated learners can master new skills and apply them to real-world scenarios — a hallmark of effective learning. Conversely, traditional classrooms can lack resources or expertise to provide such a comprehensive range of courses, often limiting students' potential. Hence, the flexible curriculum of online education enables learners to learn about a diverse range of subjects and apply them in real-life, fostering effective learning.

Additionally, reduced discrimination in online classrooms, promotes effective learning. In a traditional classroom setting, student may face discrimination from ethnocentric students or teachers, which hinder participation and obstructs effective learning. For instance, in 2018, AP forcefully News reported an incident in Mexico where a teacher cut the hair of a Native American student and made racist remarks. In such environment, meaning effective learning become remains unattainable. However, on line

platforms, by minimizing face to face interaction, have significantly reduced such discrimination in classrooms. To provide evidence, students who joined Khan Academy, an online platform for free learning, reported that their socio-economic status and cultural background became irrelevant. They engaged in a global learning environment anonymously, focusing solely on their progress. This interaction eliminates the possibility of discrimination, fostering fairness and inclusivity. Thus, online education creates equitable learning spaces, ensuring every student can learn effectively.

Lastly, online education sustains effective learning even during crisis, such as epidemics and socio-economic upheaval. In such times, not only does effective education become a challenge, but even access to education can become a challenge unattainable. However, online education boasts a unique ability to ensure learning continuity during crisis. For instance, during COVID-19 pandemic, when traditional classrooms were disrupted, online platforms successfully delivered education.

Similarly, amidst Ukraine war, UNICEF launched platforms like All Ukraine Online School, utilizing tools like Zoom and Google Classroom to maintain access to education. Unlike hence, unlike traditional classrooms, which rely on physical spaces and in-person interaction that become impractical during crises, online platforms enable student to continue learning from any environment, making them more effective in such situations.

In retrospect, online education outperforms traditional classroom interaction in two key aspects. Firstly, it offers greater convenience than traditional classrooms interactions. With the shift to online education, learning is no longer confined to the physical ^{boundaries} structures of concrete classrooms. This has made it more accessible, as it does not rely on robust infrastructure. Moreover, it is time and cost efficient and provides a more conducive environment for women; thus, making it more convenient, especially, for the marginalised segment of the society. Secondly, online education proves to be more effective than traditional classrooms settings. Equipped with modern tools, it provides effective education at a lower cost, and promotes quality education at a lower cost, a feature often absent in traditional classrooms. Furthermore, effective education with oversight of classes, flexible

curricula, and the availability of diverse subjects in an equitable learning environment substantiate online education as a superior mean of learning. Hence, online education is not only convenient but also more effective than traditional classrooms interactions.