

Topic: "Online education has more than challenges"

Outline

1) Introduction.

→ Social benefits:

- (1) Integrating students from war zones and insurgent areas
- (2) Encourages female education
- (3) Option for women observing strict purdah
- (4) Imparts knowledge to other genders example internet.
- (5) People from remote areas are integrated

→ Environmental benefits:

- (1) Fuel efficient.
- (2) Energy efficient
- (3) Less pollution

→ Economic benefits:

- (1) More workforce produced
- (2) Cost effective
- (3) More economic activity
- (4) Increased demand of teachers

→ Educational benefits:

- (1) Multidisciplinary education possible
- (2) Skill improvement

→ IT industry boost:

- (1) boosts jobs of IT professionals in Universities and colleges
- (2) Boom of IT companies and internet providers
- (3) Encourages IT based education.



→ Challenges:

- (1) Slow internet connectivity in many areas.
- (2) Non-availability of gadgets.
- (3) Expensive initial cost of gadgets.
- (4) Limited skills imparted.
- (5) Many disciplines cannot be taught online.
- (6) Lack of technical training of teachers.

Conclusion:



## Essay:

Covid-19 was an unprecedented crisis for humankind that changed the way humans viewed and practiced their lifestyles. It was a modern problem that needed modern solutions. One of the biggest change that was noticed during this time was the use of online mediums to impart knowledge. As people couldn't leave their homes due to lockdowns and the danger of the deadly virus in the outside environment, online means to continue the education of student seemed to be the best possible option as to continue, at least somewhat, <sup>the</sup> educational activity. It has therefore, opened new opportunities for students from around the world and ~~top up~~ unpacked the potential of many students who were previously not getting education due to various social, economic and political causes.

Ever since the boom of online education, there has been debates regarding its effectiveness and the disadvantages it has compared to conventional forms of education. Many see it as a radical change in the educational sector as previously not many online education options were available. However, some ~~but~~ doubt its effectiveness and remain to be very skeptical of institutions and the skills of the students receiving it.

Arguably, Online education has helped many students who could not receive proper training due to multiple social causes. Any pupil from any war torn, area can now or insurgent



receive quality education given that he/she has a good device and internet connection. This is particularly helpful for a huge number of youth who cannot leave their homes or villages to reach any educational institution due to the unrest outside. Studies have shown that now a great number of students from Balochistan, <sup>some parts of</sup> KP and internationally, Palestine and other insurgent areas have taken up e-courses online and are now becoming a part of workforce through various online means. Not only this, in a country like Pakistan where universities and colleges and even schools are not available in all parts of the country, a number of students are now involving themselves in online educational activities through various institutions. This can be huge for a developing country like Pakistan and if developed in the right direction, can uplift the literacy rate of the country which is reported to be 62% in 2023.

Further, this medium of education can help integrate women and other marginalised genders of the society in educational activities.

A huge number of women are deprived of even basic primary education ~~to~~ let alone, higher education contributing to only 53% female literacy rate. A wide range of social and religious reasons can be blamed for this, many of which, many can be resolved through online means of education. Women living in remote parts of Pakistan can be encouraged to



learn ~~get~~ useful skills in their homes which takes away the biggest hassle of leaving their homes for it. Families will be more accepting for such medium in a conservative country like Pakistan. Moreover, it also can be a great opportunity for young ~~mothers~~ mothers to complete their leftover education which is almost impossible with young children. This will be a great success in encouraging women ~~to~~ literacy rate.

Online education can also be particularly progressive step in encouraging other genders like the intersex and transgenders towards education. It is a harsh reality, that in our society, the third gender is reduced to begging, prostitution or other immoral, unethical means to earn their bread. Many reasons contribute to their illiteracy, one of which is their reluctance to attend main stream schools and universities. This problem, coupled with subsidised <sup>online</sup> courses from the government can help them gain necessary ~~at~~ skills from the comfort of their homes. They will eventually join the much educated and skilled workforce of the country and help uplift the economy through their positive role in the society as their current literacy rate is reported to be less than 40%.

Online education just like it's social benefits, also has a plethora of environmental ~~benefits~~ benefits to it. It being environment friendly is one of the biggest reasons why it is encouraged a great deal by the world, especially the environment activists. If not for getting a lecture on the screen of your laptop, a



student has to travel all the way to the institution, sometimes even from a far away village to the city daily. This leads to higher emission of the cars in the environment which have contributed greatly to not only environmental pollution but also towards the depletion of ozone layer. Any course or degree imparted through the online medium takes away this huge environmental hazards as it will reduce the number of vehicles travelling everyday. This has a more profound effect in the developing countries owing to poor public transport due to which almost every pupil is required to arrange a vehicle for themselves. Karachi air pollution index is said to be the second worst in the world making it the 2<sup>nd</sup> most unliveable country in the world according to the South Asian Index. Moreover, it is also very energy efficient to teach students without calling them on campus as it saves the cost of electricity, gas and other utilities used on any campus. This makes it ~~not only~~ cost effective for the institution owner which in turn makes the course affordable for the student as the price of utilities is subtracted from the course fee.