

Essay: Online education has given more opportunities than challenges.

Outline:

1. Introduction

Thesis statement: It goes without saying that online education poses many a opportunity in its belly. But it has confronted various challenges in one way or the other. However, some meticulous measures can turn the table from challenges to opportunities. (38)

2. Concept of online education

3. Opportunities provided by online education system:

- a) Ensuring distant learning with ease of access
- b) 24/7 availability of classes
- c) Paving a way for female education
- d) Putting a full stop on deforestation
- e) Reducing time frame of degree completion

4. Ensuring Skill-based Learning
Challenges to online education:

- a) Hurdle of poor network connection
- b) costly smartphones and mobile packages
- c) Unawareness of teachers to online mechanism
- d) improper mechanism of examination and evaluation

5. Ways to overcoming the Challenges:

- a) Ensuring strong network connection.
- b) Availability of Laptops and smartphones to students
- c) Cheap packages availability
- d) Teachers training to online mechanism
- e) strict mechanism for online evaluation

6. Conclusion

gone are the days when people had to go to far and wide places for the purpose of learning. Now-a-days it is easy to learn and educate others. This is made possible via online education system. online education has opened the doors of various opportunities for mankind such as ensuring distant learning with ease of access, paving a way for female education, reducing the time frame of degree completion. Similarly, skill-based learning is also made possible through online approach. However, it faces some challenges to come into action. Challenges include the non-availability of network connections, heavy prices of smartphones and laptops. Moreover, improper mechanism for online assessment and unawareness of teachers to online mechanism add insult to the injury. Thereby, it goes without saying that

online education possess many a opportunity in its belly. But it has confronted various challenges in one way or the other. However, some meticulous measures can turn the table from challenges to opportunities.

Online education system is not a new concept. It existed throughout the globe; however, Covid-19 pandemic made it possible to come to front seat. During the pandemic in 2019, almost all countries, throughout the world, ~~di~~ closed their institutions to cease the spread of the virus. It resulted in huge losses of economy as well as educational sector. Thereby, there was hobson's choice to the institutions: Whether suffer the educational gap or come to a new alternative. In this way online education hold a strong position for every country and institution to spread education

without delay.

online education system provides various opportunities for people following are some main important opportunities.

primarily, this is the online education system which ensures the distant learning in a more easy way. Distance learning is the learning mechanism in which one gets ~~entire~~ education through online mechanism while sitting in his home or cottage.

For this, only things ~~are~~ required are a smart phone or a laptop, and a strong and secure internet connection. One having access to these can benefit oneself from ~~not~~ only the enrolled institutions, but can also from other internet services including "YouTube", Wikipedia, ^{and} Google, etc. Hence, online education system provides an ease of access to distant learning.

Very similar to this, there

is availability of classes at any time. In traditional or physical way of Learning, institutions can be accessed at a proper routine-based timing. Whereas this is the online system of Learning which is available at any period of time. Therefore students and other aspirants of education can access online sources with ease. Moreover, in some institutions, teachers of some subjects are not available. Thereby, students have to compromise in such situations. But in online mechanism hundreds of thousands of teachers are available for each type of subject. That is the reason which makes online mechanism a better one.

In addition to this, online education system also provides a way for female education. Women are bereft of education in various countries of the

world including Afghanistan. Thereby, online mechanism can prove beneficial for women education. Similarly, in Pakistan, especially in Balochistan, Literacy rate of female is around twenty-first per cent. Because people in many rural areas do not let their women get access to educational institutions. Thereby, in such a scenario, online education is nothing but a blessing for such places where they can educate themselves while residing at their homes.

In a likely manner, it also provides an opportunity for ending the deforestation. Every year, millions of trees are cut for fulfilling the requirements of educational institutions. These requirements include papers for examination, chairs, desks and other furniture items.

However, online education system requires none of these requirements. Therefore, no trees are cut down. In this way online education would pave a way for ending the deforestation.

Likewise time frame for degree completion will also reduce. As far as the physical education is concerned, there are many hurdles in physical mechanism, which increase its time frame of degree completion, such as strikes held by masses, extra holidays, and sometimes weather catastrophes also obstruct the students from going to institutions. An online mechanism is a distance based learning mechanism. Therefore there is no limitation, and students can complete their degree within a specified time frame.

To put more to this

Skill-based Learning is also ensured by online mechanism. Skills play an important role in modern era. They are the demands of the time. Online education system ensures skill based learning in many ways. For example, through online learning people can learn software developing, graphic designing, logo creation, video editing, and content writing. Apart from this people do their online business by working for various websites such as amazon, Ali Baba, and Daraz online, etc. thereby, online mechanism is a way to instill the skills in people.

Everything comes with some opportunities and some sorts of challenges and drawbacks as well. online education mechanism is also prone to various challenges. Following are some challenges mentioned in below paragraph.

poor and insecure network connection retards the process of online learning. A strong and secure network are the pre-requisites for a proper online learning. But, unfortunately, in some countries including Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Bangladesh, there is lack of proper internet infrastructure. Therefore, there exists a poor and insecure internet connection which debars the people from going online.

Apart from this costly smartphones and their costly packages further add insult to the injury. Smartphones, the essential component for online mechanism, are so expensive that not every one can afford to buy them. There is a lot of General Sales Tax (GST) on mobiles, which makes them costly. Similarly, costly packages also act as an hurdle in

online mechanism of learning.
In Pakistan, internet providers
of companies such as Zong,
telenor, and ufone provide
either insecure internet or they
are much expensive to afford.
Thereby, costly prices of both
smartphones and packages ~~are~~
also hamper the online learning
mechanism.

Additionally, teachers are
unaware about online system.
Teachers play a crucial role
in imparting knowledge whether
it is physical or virtual.
But, unluckily, most of the
teachers are unacquainted of
new technology and skills.
They do not know how to
operate a computer, make slides
of notes or work in power
point or Microsoft word.
Some even do not know how
to attend online classes at
zoom. Thereby Lack of awareness

about modern-day requirements also challenges the online way of learning.

Lastly, there is no proper way of online assessment and checking. Assessment plays a pivotal role in examinations and weekly or monthly tests. In traditional method, teachers mostly evaluate the papers more carefully, however, as for as online education is concerned, there is no proper mechanism to monitor the students while taking examinations. Due to this many students opt for copy paste culture. Ironically, teachers do not evaluate the papers in an effective way. They just mark the papers and give passing marks to every student. Hence, there is a lack of assessment and monitoring mechanism for in online system of education.

Every problem has certain solutions. Pitfalls in education-based on online - can be solved by taking the following affirmative measures.

Firstly strong and secure internet connection should be provided to every student. For that infrastructure should be developed throughout the country, so that every student might benefit from it. Providing just infrastructure is not the only option, there should be strong and secure internet connection as well. Mobile companies can help in this regard by providing strong and secure internet connection.

Secondly there are many a student who lacks the availability of smartphones and laptops. As mentioned in previous paragraphs, both mobile and laptop are very essential

for distant learning. Therefore, government should take some initiatives like prime ministers Laptop scheme. Their funding should be saved, so that more laptops and smartphones would be available for students.

Thirdly, availability of cheap mobile packages should also be ensured. As students cannot access to internet due to costly packages, reducing the prices can bring a new hope. Mobile phone companies can help in this regard to provide secure, strong and yet cheap packages. Moreover, government should also provide special subsidies to such mobile phone companies so that they might not hesitate in reducing the prices of packages.

Fourthly, Teachers should be trained and skilled with

modern ways of learning. For this, government should establish some institutions and held workshops. The main purpose of these institutions should be to provide the teachers and educators with modern skills and effective ways of online teaching. Moreover, prize distribution for the encouragement of dignified teachers may also prove fruitful.

Last but not the least, there should be a proper mechanism for online monitoring during exams, and an effective and speedy method of evaluation. Both monitoring and evaluation are momentous in shaping students' personality. Strict measures of assessment such as pligranizing the papers should be mandatory so that students might not opt for copy-paste culture.

To put a finishing stroke, online education is the demand of the hour. It has brought many opportunities for learning. Distant learning, easy access to millions of knowledge, improving female literacy rate and abreasting the people with skilled-education are the advantages in treasure chest of online education system. However, it faces some certain challenges such as poor network issues, nonavailability of smartphones, and unawarencens of teachers about the much-needed skills of modern day. All these challenges require some wholehearted and concrete measures. Following steps such as ensuring availability of the secure network and smartphones, providing cheap packages to students can help eradicate the mentioned challenges. In this way online mechanism can prove more fruitful to students.