

Topic: ①

Online Education has given more opportunities than Challenges

Thesis Statement:

No doubt that online education has provided far more opportunities to its learners. Still there are some challenges in its way which need to overcome for effective and proficient learning available to students.

Outline:

1- Introduction:

No doubt that online education has provided far more opportunities to its learners. Still there are some challenges in its way which need to overcome for effective and proficient learning available to students.

2- What is online Education?

### 3- Opportunities provided by

#### Online Education:

- a) Reduction in the cost of getting education
- b) Repeated access to Course materials
- c) Personalized Education for everyone
- d) More variety in other Courses to learn
- e) Better understanding of the Subjects
- f) More Free and Extra time to spend
- g) Enhancement in time management skills

### 4- Challenges faced by Online Education

- a) Lack of access to Digital Tools
- b) Lack of Motivation in Students

c) Unreliable Internet Connections

d) More distractions and lack of Discipline

## 5- Remedial Steps to alleviate Challenges for Online Education

a) Free access to Internet and Computers in Public Libraries and Schools

b) Provide opportunities for Teacher-Student Interaction

c) Incorporate creative activities with strict discipline Policy.

## 6- Conclusion

Far more benefits, Challenges need to curb, effective measures

"Education is the most powerful weapon that you can use to change the world."

(Nelson Mandela)

The importance of education can be grasped through the idea that it not only teaches skills but also broadens horizons. In today's world, learning education and gaining knowledge has become more easy and effective with the evolution of technology. People ~~are not~~ <sup>are now</sup> shifting towards online platforms to seek knowledge. ~~but~~ In this 21st century, majority of the world's population has access to social media. Detailed analysis by the team Kepios shows that there are 4.80 billion social media users around the world in early 2023, which makes up about 59.9 percent of the total global population. It means that more and more people are turning towards online platforms, and to acquire online education which has provided ease of

learning education. It has provided abundance of opportunities like reduction in education cost, repeated access to course materials and personalized education for everyone. Moreover, variety in other course and better understanding the topics has also given an advantage to online education. Similarly, it also enhanced time management skills of students and provide more free and extra time to spend. However, besides these advantages and opportunities, online education still have some challenges. Students often have lack of access to digital tools and unreliable internet connections. Furthermore, lack of motivation in students and increased in distractions through online media are some grave challenges in the way of online education which need to curb by taking some remedial steps. Hence, online education has provided far more opportunities to its learners along with some challenges which can be overcome for effective and proficient learning.

available to students.

Online education refers to instructions that are delivered electronically through various multi-media and internet platforms and applications. It is a development in distance education that expanded in the 1990s with the spread of the commercial internet and the World Wide Web. It allows students to take part in classes and interact with peers from any location, typically via the internet. Online education makes it possible for tutors or mentors to reach all the students more flexibly and teach them the relevant skills more efficiently. The students who cannot attend traditional regular classes now can also learn anything from anywhere using the internet. It has become a greater source of education that is available ~~every~~ anytime and anywhere to the students. Through the incredible invention of digital devices like mobile phones, laptops etc, it will become more flexible for

students to learn whatever they want, which cannot be attained during traditional classroom learning.

Online Education has provided majority of opportunities, chief among which is the reduction in education cost. Education,

nowadays, has become much expensive but virtual learning can provide a number of ways for students to save their

money. It also helps in saving transportation costs. Every year, the average student spends

thousands of dollars on textbooks and course materials. Online education often takes advantage of

providing virtual resources, e-books and other relevant material which requires less money. Similarly,

tuition costs can also vary between online and on-campus programs.

For instance, students enrolled in any educational sector or

academies online receive special discounts in comparison with physically attend the class. Hence, online education

not only reduced the cost but - also provided with repeated access to course materials.

Likewise, virtual learning or e-learning has given advantage for students to go through their course materials whenever they want. As video presentations can be watched and revisited as necessary. If a student did not understand some of the content covered in a video lecture, they can go back and listen to it again.

Students can use lecture videos as a supplemental tool to help with completing their assignments. Thus by providing repeated access to course materials, online education not only benefitted the students but also allowed, them, according to their taste of knowledge, to learn whatever they want.

Similarly, another major opportunity of online education is the personalized education for everyone. Students who



find their focus suffers from classroom activity may benefit from online classes. Working from one's own choice of environment, with self paced learning, the result can be more personalized learning experience. In online courses, students can choose the time that works best for them to complete readings and assignments. Since the coursework is online, courses can be completed anywhere there is an internet connection. Therefore, an average and below average student can find it helpful to complete his work according to his desires without major compulsions.

Furthermore, online education provides more variety in other courses to learn. Students can enroll in the courses they are most interested in. Through online courses, students can gain the knowledge they need to earn their degree or grow in their profession. It also allows to learn essentially the same range

of different degrees that can be earned from a traditional course environment, that includes learning certificates and professional certificates to master degrees.

Similarly, virtual learning has a benefit for learners to have a better understanding of the subjects. Students are interacted with video lectures that are characterized by pictorial methods and presentations. More senses are in contact and efficiency of learning significantly increases. If someone student did not understand a point, he can easily go back to where he is lacking and grab again the essential information according to his desires.

Moreover, more free and extra time can be spend students are not scheduled by their traditional classes. It means that in online education, there is no need to travel from campus -to- campus in order to attend classes. This

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Saves significant amount of time and also money. The extra time can be used in any way such as focusing on career or spending time with family. This enhances time management skills of a student which he can incorporate in every field of his life.

Furthermore, online education benefits the students to manage their time wisely. As completion of assignments requires effective time management, therefore, students ensure to complete assignments by the deadlines set by the professor. Online courses teach students how to manage their time better since the student bears the responsibility of engaging with the course instead of simply showing up to class on an assigned day and time. As a result, students not only gain knowledge from the coursework, but they also sharpen their time management skills.

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Besides these opportunities, online education has some challenges, chief among which is the lack of access to digital tools. The need for a computer, adequate software, constant electricity, and high bandwidth internet is quite a big demand. In most developed nations, these tools and facilities are available to the public through public libraries. If they cannot personally afford it. But for developing countries like Pakistan, Bangladesh and many others, this quality is only available to selective few percent of the population, further compounds their online education problems.

Moreover, another bigger challenge online education is facing is the lack of motivation in students. It was thought that online learning would be the new interactive method to teach the new generation of students. Though the results speak on contrary,

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Endless oceans of texts, quizzes, frequent learning assignments, and MCQs have led to students losing motivation to keep revisiting the learning portal. Students complain of lacking motivation due to a lack of interpersonal touch between the students and the teacher in the online classes. The need for physical interaction between the students is also a necessity for maintaining engagement which the online learning has no answers for yet.

Likewise, unreliable in online education, students are facing more distractions and lack of discipline. With recurrent technical issues, bandwidth problems, and monotonous lectures, online attendance has seen a drastic dip. Most students find learning online boring and often complain of lacking the motivation to make it through a class. Even teachers often complain of a lack of tools to make the classes engaging, leading to a loss of interest

from both parties. With the lack of accountability in the online teaching method, education quality often becomes compromised. Coupled with the free use of laptops and mobile phones during classes, distractions have become countless, often coming at the cost of focusing during class.

However, there are some remedial steps that can curb the challenges for online education. Firstly, there should be free access to internet and computers in public libraries and schools. Government in developing countries should invest in providing free access to computers and the internet. Private businesses should be encouraged to support online learning initiatives by providing free or discounted access to computers and the internet. Moreover, private funding organizations should establish grants and scholarships for individuals to access computers and the internet.

Similarly, local authorities should provide internet access in public parks and other public spaces.

Secondly, opportunities can be provided for teacher-student interaction. ~~It~~ Create smaller

groups of students to interact with one another as well as with the instructor. This will

create a more engaging environment. Additionally, the

instructor could assign interactive exercises or projects for students to complete in small groups

providing them with a chance to collaborate online. Furthermore, instructors should set up regular virtual office hours where

students can chat with them one-on-one. This would allow

instructors to provide individual attention to their student and help them work through any issues they might be having with their coursework.

Last but not least, there should be some creative activities with strict discipline

policy in order to make online classes more interesting and valuable. By establishing a clear structure for online classes with specific goals, objectives and expectations, this can be achieved. Video projects, online polls, and quizzes can enhance the teaching methods and keep the students engaged. Establish a strict discipline policy and enforce it to ensure that students are not using their laptops or mobile phones for other activities during classes. Encouraging students to take breaks between classes to avoid burnout and keep them refreshed and motivated can help increase the efficiency of online education.

Indeed, online education has far more benefits that has made education cheaper and more widely available. But with challenges, that online platform for education and learning is facing, there is always a solution. The system is changing



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and evolving rapidly and is soon to become the norm in the education industry. The mentioned remedies and measures must be accomplished in order to get a smoother and proficient online education sector. Sooner or later this section will be free from any leaps and bounds and will pave its way towards the prosperity and will become a greater freedom for new generation to fulfil their educational demand in a better way.

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