

MOCK-2

The Strengths and Weaknesses of education through the open university.

Brainstorming

Education through the open university



Strengths

- a. Accessible
- b. cost effective
- c. availability of modern technology
- d. feedback

Weaknesses

- a. limited exposure / social interaction
- b. Technical problems
- c. Lacking face-to-face interaction.
- d. Lack of competition
- e.

Outline.

1. Introduction:

1.1 Hook

1.2 Background information / General statement / Supporting sentence

1.3 Thesis Statement: These are several strengths

of education through the open university such as:

affordable, accessibility, immediate feedback,

while the weakness of it are: lack of face-to-face interaction, Technical problems, limited Administration feedback and faculty.

2. Main Body:

A) Strengths of education through the Open University

2.1 Affordable education through the open university

2.1.1 Using digital material

2.1.2 Travel discount

2.1.3 Reducing childcare cost

2.2 Accessibility - MOOC

2.2.1 Broader audience can reach.

2.2.2 students from reserved areas can join

2.2.3 Education can be taken from any place at any time. / physical disabilities

2.2.4 Lectures can be recorded for future reference.

2.3 Education through the open university provides Immediate Feedback.

2.3.1 Audio and video feedback

2.3.2 Gamification and game based learning (rewards)

2.3.2 Automated Grading

B) weakness of education through the open university:

2.1 Lack of physical presence or face-to-face interaction

2.1.1 Reducing social connection or skills

2.1.2 Reducing accountability

2.1.3

2.2. Technical Issue in Education through open university

2.2.1 not receiving timely feedback

2.2.2 internet troubles

2.2.3 Lack of resources, mobile, laptops, internet.

2.3 Limited feedback Administration and Faculty

2.3.1 Lack of training

2.3.2 Resistance to change

2.3.3 Focus on revenue over quality

3. conclusion.

The Essay.

Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world

— Nelson Mandela —

Education through open university has become an increasingly significant mode of learning in the 21st century. Most of developing countries are using this medium for a progressive approach to education. While Pakistan is one of them. However, there are many strengths and weaknesses of education through open university. The most commonly strengths includes: an affordable education, accessibility and immediate feedback while the weaknesses are, lack of ^{face-to-face} interaction, technical problems and administration and faculty. So serious and honest efforts are needed to solve the issues of education through the open university. Therefore, the main aim of the essay is to discuss the strengths and their weaknesses of education through distance.

First come with the strength of education through the open university, in which affordability stands prominent. Most of the institutions uses digital material in online learning as to create a rich, interactive learning environment. Digital textbook and online resources can be easily

used by those students who cannot afford either books or printing costs. for example. Also there are number of websites or apps which can be used for online edu material such as google classroom, Duolingo, edx etc. moreover, education through open university reduces or saves travel cost. students can take classes from their own homes which saves on transportation expenses such as fuel, public transit fares, parking fees and vehicle maintenances cost. so this education from home not only saves travel cost but also saves times which can be redirected towards studying, work, personal activities, family responsibilities such as childcare. open university education allows the married people to manage their time effectively with childcare responsibility, which reduces the need of childcare services. For example, in Pakistan, many people do CSS from home along with their responsibilities.

The second strength of education through the open university is accessibility. it means that a broader audience can reach from all corners of the country, regardless of their geographical location. Students from all rural areas can have an access to education through distance learning. for example, in Pakistan, girls are not allowed to go outside for education (because of co-education) in that case online ^{some areas of}

education has helped them to fulfil their dreams. Moreover, education through open university provides an opportunity for students with physical disabilities. There are several universities all over the world which are offering online education such as "open university" in United Kingdom, which is dedicated to distance learning. While in Pakistan, Allama Iqbal Open University, COMSATS University, University of Peshawar etc. are facilitate students with e-learning. Hence, As the studies found that online education has improved literacy rates in Pakistan, particularly among the youth. About 62.34% has increased (2020) from 58% in 2015 — Pakistan Bureau of Statistics.

In addition to, lectures from open/online education can be recorded, which can be used for future references as well. For example, people who do jobs along with studies can easily listen/read carefully later at any time and any place. Also recorded lectures can be especially helpful for students with disabilities, language barriers or those who miss a live lecture. For instance, Zoom app can be used for this purpose. So this highlights the strengths of education through the open university.

The third strength of education through the open university is its immediate feedback. Online quizzes and assessments provide immediate feedback, which enables the student to track their progress and to identify

their week areas. Furthermore, online platforms can automatically grade assignments and exams, which saves instructor time and reduces the likelihood of errors, allowing them to concentrate on providing constructive feedback that guides student's learning. Gamification or game based learning can be used for immediate feedback, which increases an engagement of students and motivates to continue learning. There are several platforms which can be used for immediate feedback such as learning management system (LMS), Duolingo, Google classroom etc.

On the other side, there are several weakness of education through open university along with strengths. The first weakness of education through the open university is lack of physical presence. Students cannot have face-to-face interaction which leads to the lack of social interaction and connection of traditional classroom learning that may results in isolation and disconnection. Students feels isolated from others and may miss out the opportunity to build relationships with peers and instructors. For example, some subject, such as lab sciences or performing arts, may be difficult to learn in an online environment. While students of literature, Biology, Chemistry etc may cannot

do not have access to libraries or laboratories. Moreover, without face-to-face interactions, students may feel more anonymous and less inclined to participate actively in online discussion. Also, students may find it easier to disengage in online education without feeling guilty or accountable.

The second main weakness of education through the open university is Technical Issues. Technical problems can interrupt the learning process, causing a disengagement of among students, decrease in motivation. It can also lead to missed deadlines, lost work, and decreased academic performance. Moreover, inadequate internet connectivity can hinder online education.

The third weakness of education through open university is Administration and Faculty. The absence of well defined policies and procedure can lead to confusion and inconsistencies in online education. Without proper training, faculty may struggle to navigate the online learning environment, resulting in disorganization and inefficiency. So we can say that failure to provide faculty with necessary training and support for online teaching can lead to poor course quality. But sometimes, some faculty members feel uncomfortable with technology, and

leading to resistant to change. They maybe concerned that e-learning will compromise quality or it may require more time for preparation. In addition to these problems, sometime for Administration and faculty focuses on revenue over quality by prioritizing enrolment numbers over student success, focusing on superficial engagement over meaningful learning, by ignoring student feedback and concerns etc. So all of these reason makes education weak in open universities.

But those weakness can be overcome by making clear policies, faculty training programs, student feedback and evaluation.

Conclusion: As to conclude, there are several strengths and weakness of education through the open university such as affordability, accessibility, immediate feedback, lack of physical presence, technical issue. To fully leverage the potential of online education, some serious and honest efforts are needed.