

# The strengths and weaknesses of education through the open University

Strength of education through the open University

- ① Flexible learning
- ② Low cost
- ③ No time limit
- ④ ~~lack of face to~~ work and study at the same time
- ⑤ study from anywhere
- ⑥ less expenditure

Weaknesses of education through the open University

- ① Lack of face to face interaction
- ② Low Confidence
- ③ limited practical learning
- ④ more dropout rates
- ⑤ low teacher wages
- ⑥ less skilled teachers

Addressing the challenges and enhancing strengths  
Govt



# The strength and weaknesses of education in Open University

## Outlines:-

### I Introduction:

- a) Hook
- b) Supporting statement
- c) Thesis statement: Despite of having many benefits of education in open university like flexible learning opportunities, low cost, ~~no~~ transportation problems especially for females there are several weaknesses, lack of face to face interaction, low confidence in students and less practical work.

### II Main body: strengths:

- (A) Flexible learning opportunities
  - a) Diverse course selection
  - b) Freedom in how, when, and where to learn especially for females
- (B) Cost effective education
  - a) No transportation expenditure
  - b) Low fee structure



(C) Low or no entry requirement

a) less time consuming

b) No less age limit

(D) Global networking or access to Global Universities

(a) more opportunities especially for females to get education globally

(b) Study in pyjamas / No need to wear proper uniform or dress

Weaknesses of education through Open university:

(A) Lack of face to face interaction

(a) Lack of confidence

(b) less pressure on students

(B) Limited practical learning opportunities

(a) Less skills development and no support competition

(b) Schedule of workshop

(C) Dropout rates

(a) more dropout rate than physical

(b) Factors contribute to dropout  
lack of motivation

(D) Low wages of professors

(a) Less skilled teachers

(b) old method of teaching



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and no teachers training program.

Addressing challenges and enhancing strength

- a) implementing strategies to enhance face to face interaction.
- b) innovation of a support competition
- c) support system for students

Conclusion:

## Introduction:

"Online education is like a rising tide, its going to lift all boats."

This is the famous quote said by the Anant- Agarwal, showing the importance of online or open university education. Open university education means a university with an open-door academic policy, with minimal or no entry requirement. Open university is a great opportunity especially for the girls living in rural areas. In the past, when there was only one traditional method of teaching present, a lot of students were not able to get the education due to high expenditure and



transportation problems. There are several strengths of open university, flexible learning opportunities, cost effective education, transportation problems (especially for females) and access to different universities in the world. Despite of having all these strengths there are few weaknesses of lack of peer to peer interaction, less practical work and more drop out rate as compared to (phy) traditional education system.

First comes strengths in which flexible learning opportunities stands prominent. Open University has <sup>provided</sup> flexible <sup>time</sup> limitations to students in terms of learning opportunities. It provides students with the freedom to study at their pace and time. It is a good opportunity for students, who are working while studying. It means a student who are juggling work and family commitments can still pursue higher education. Open university has opened a (great) door for females, living in rural areas, to learn. No matter where he and she is sitting, when to learn and where to start. Secondly,



open university provides, say of lists of courses for students. Individuals who <sup>any</sup> ~~has~~ a background of arts, science and engineering, he can opt for that particular field. There is no limitations and rules to follow. There are many courses Allama Iqbal Open University has been offering, and almost 1 million students are getting education from this university in Pakistan, <sup>now</sup> different universities and academies are offering online courses.

For instance NCA academy is offering online CSS course for <sup>those</sup> students who are living in rural areas (especially in Balochistan).

Second strength of open university is low cost study in Pakistan, half of the population is poor. These people cannot afford the higher expenditure of schools or colleges. For those who are going to school, the transportation expenditure is very high. If an individual go from Sargodha to University to Lahore he must have five hundred rupees. Many parents are not allowing their children to go to private school because of transport problem. In online system there is no expenditure of traveling. And online education



only demands good access to internet. Moreover, fee structure of online classes is very low as compared to traditional physical classes. Virtual university in Pakistan ~~is~~ has very low fee structure. The average fee per semester of BS students is 17000 and the students convert this semester fee into five or six installments.

Thirdly there is no need for students to enter the university daily. <sup>There are</sup> ~~no~~ rules for attendance as traditional education system ~~has~~ so, students have no restrictions to come into <sup>the</sup> university on time. Students have access to the classes online on computer or laptop that saves them a lot of time. Open university offers different quizzes, and assignments for students. If students have plenty of time for the completion of these assignments, as Allam Iqbal open university in Pakistan, gives fifteen days (or sometimes twenty) to complete one assignment. In addition to this there is no age limit (for students) in different universities as <sup>in</sup> traditional education system. ~~has~~ student of all



The ages can apply for their interest course. AIU has no age limit for students to apply for study. The famous story of an Australian guy who has decided to study after his 30s, he got an admission in Griffith University Australia. He worked so hard to manage his full time job and studying. After getting the degree online, he has opened his own mass media company, and became the real example for the people.

The fourth strength of open media education is access to universities worldwide. In Pakistan most of the families do not allow their children's to go abroad for higher education due to financial issues. Mainly females are not allowed to go abroad to pursue their education. Open university has solve this problem. <sup>From now</sup> ~~now~~ the past few years after pandemic universities has <sup>initiated</sup> ~~opened~~ different <sup>online</sup> courses. Anyone can have access to these courses with low expenditure. For example Harvard university, University of Birmingham, University of Leeds and Florida international university



California institute of arts is offering courses like Graphic design specialization for six months. Another university, Hong Kong of science and technology offers making sense of news and state, law economy courses for six months. Moreover there is no hard and fast rules for to take these online classes one can take these classes while wearing pajamas, or any casual dress. There is no need to wear proper uniform and dress.

Fortunately, Pakistani <sup>universities</sup> has also offered different online courses with acceptable fee structure. This is a great opportunity for the country's females to get education from home. There is no issue for them to face traffic issues.

First weakness of online or open university is lack of face to face interaction. Students have no access to ask questions during the class as in physical class they can ask. The consequence of this is lack of confidence in students. They do not develop the habit to raise their hand confidently and



ask questions. Professor also has no access to call any student during the class. AIOU does not conduct any class, so, students from this universities can get degrees but have no confidence to ~~or~~ raise hand and ask for extra paper sheet. Also, students have no pressure to study. Students do not study the whole year they do not attend workshops but still they manage to get a degree at the end. Plenty of / students from Punjab / has passed bachelor of arts ~~for~~ program without opening their books.

Secound comes weakness of open university is not practical learning. Students from open university has no skills.

Especially in Pakistan, students have got ninety percentage in exams have no knowledge. Students cram the whole syllabus before one day of the exam, and manage to get pass in the exam. Online courses have this major drawback



Moreover, there is no support competition between students to build up confidence among students. Supports also enhance physical activity and brain activity of students. It builds leadership qualities in students but, unfortunately, our study system has no (right) supports. Competition in their curriculum that can also enhance students abilities of learning. Another major issue is dismanagement of workshops timing. Half of the students have never known about workshops. ~~on the other hand~~ Professors who come to teach students, (on these workshops), have more focus on their appearance and colour of their lipsticks.

Thirdly most important weakness is drop out of students from the universities. Thousands of students get admission in the university but at the end only few students go for the final exam. In AIU last year Ten thousand students applied for the admission but only five thousand appeared in the exams. The reason of these dropout is lack of motivation. Students have no interaction



between themselves. so these results will be no focus on study and left their study. Mostly those who are living in the rural areas of Pakistan needs more motivation as compared to those who are living in urban areas. They need motivation of their teachers that their study is important aspect of life. Sometime family issues letting students move away from studies.

scarcely low wages of teachers. These teachers lose their interests in teaching. They can hardly manage their monthly expenditure. some of the teachers work for other schools or colleges or any other job when they come to teach students they are already tired to teach. Most of the teachers ear twenty thousand per month. If these wages managed successful more skilled teachers will apply for online (learning) teaching. Additionally another big issue is



less ~~of~~ skillful teachers. Those teachers who are unable to get job in any other university, apply for online teaching. Mostly retired and old teachers are teaching students in online classes.

These teachers do not know about modern style of learning.

They have the attitude of "being the best" so they would not learn new teaching skills. Students who belong to villages they also do not know anything so they find them the best teachers and some of them consider them their ideals after learning wrong things.

Low wages, less skills and old learning method are <sup>very big loss for</sup> making students.

There are different methods that can be used to address the challenges and enhance the strength of open University. Implementing proper workshops and classes in a month can enhance face to face interaction. During online classes there should be a rule to <sup>on</sup> the camera during the lecture. <sup>For the</sup> motivation.



for stu of students specific teachers should be assigned. For extra curriculum activities supports should be organised once in a month.

In a nutshell, the major strengths of open university are flexible education opportunities, cost effective education, low and no entry requirement and access to different international universities. In spite of (having different) strengths there are few weaknesses, lack of face to face interaction and less practical work.

Therefore serious must be taken to address these issues. Implementing proper workshops, trainings and motivation to learn something new. Only those nations earn respect and prosperity who focus on their education. After world war II, Britain was deprived of all her colonies and source of raw material and revenues, she emerged as a respectable nation due to her excellence in higher education. Even today the majority of population aspire to get a British degree from Oxford or Cambridge.



It is never too late to pledge  
for a new change to create a  
new tomorrow. Where there is a  
will there is always a way,  
regardless of the obstacles and  
hindrances we can definitely achieve  
our goals.

(written by John Edward)