

ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF ONSITE LEARNING COMPARED TO ONLINE LEARNING

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ABSTRACT:

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused people all throughout the world, particularly students, to change their routines. As a result of cutting-edge technology, e-learning is on the increase. Many educational institutions now use virtual classrooms instead of actual classrooms to conduct their lessons. Before the COVID-19 crisis, virtual technology was expanding quickly and becoming more widely used. Before the pandemic, students were taking a variety of online programs, but since then, there has been a significant surge in demand for virtual learning.

KEYWORDS:

Digital education, online learning, offline learning, university education, digital educational advantages, digital educational disadvantages

JEL Classification: M10, I20, I23

1. Introduction

Technological advances have irrevocably changed the way education is delivered. Online learning has become a versatile teaching method that allows students to quickly access learning resources from home. Online learning is a great alternative for students who cannot attend regular classes because it gives them the freedom to learn at their own pace. With access to an unlimited supply of educational resources, online learning can help students improve their self-

discipline and time management. If learners have the right tools and a reliable internet connection, they can easily set their own learning pace.

In this paper, I have tried to point out that while both forms of education involve learning, they differ significantly in terms of teaching methods, student-teacher interaction, and access to educational resources.

Offline instruction involves face-to-face interaction between students and teachers in a physical classroom and

provides the opportunity to share ideas and experiences in real time. In addition, offline instruction provides access to physical educational resources such as libraries, laboratories, and other educational facilities. In contrast, online learning relies on online interaction between students and teachers through online learning platforms and other digital tools. It offers flexibility and accessibility in terms of study location and programme, and allows students to access educational resources from anywhere there is an Internet connection. Even though both forms of education have their justification and advantages, offline and online education are two different forms with specific characteristics and different advantages and disadvantages. Even though online learning is considered the way of the future in education, it will never completely replace traditional learning. Offline learning is largely independent of technical issues and provides a good opportunity for students to create and maintain a regular routine. Offline learning promotes teamwork among students and helps develop new skills. Because they only interact with other students online and not in person, students who take courses online tend to be more withdrawn.

2. Research methodology

This research paper is based on a study that aims to compare the advantages and disadvantages of online and offline learning in the current educational environment.

A qualitative research study was conducted comparing the past, present, and future potential of online learning with that of on-site learning, using observation and analysis as methods of data collection. Non-numerical data such as observations, interviews, and focus groups were collected and analyzed as part of the qualitative research in order to gain a deeper understanding of this topic, or phenomenon, as it might be called.

The observation method was used to gather information about online and on-site learning environments, and then the two methods were compared through analysis. I also mention that the past, present, and future potential of both methods were compared, suggesting a longitudinal or historical approach to your study.

Overall, our study should be well suited to explore the advantages and disadvantages of online learning versus on-site learning, especially given the qualitative approach we took. Qualitative research can provide rich insights into complex issues and help uncover the subjective experiences and perspectives of those involved in the learning process.

3. Online versus offline learning

With online education, teachers can easily teach their students in virtual classrooms. One of the benefits of online education is the flexibility and convenience it offers both teachers and students. Online learning allows teachers to reach a wider audience and deliver education to students who do not have access to traditional classrooms. In addition, as mentioned earlier, online classrooms offer a number of resources that can enhance the learning experience. For example, virtual whiteboards and conference rooms can facilitate collaboration and communication between students and teachers, while live chats can provide instant feedback and support. Another benefit of online learning is the ability to access educational resources from any location. This is especially beneficial for students who live in rural or remote areas or have other commitments, such as work or family obligations that make it difficult to attend traditional classes. Overall, online learning has the potential to transform education by making it more accessible, flexible, and attractive. However, it should be noted that online learning also has some drawbacks, such as the lack of face-to-face interaction and the potential for technical difficulties.

It is important to carefully weigh the pros and cons when considering the use of online learning in an educational setting. On the other hand, offline classes provide students with a hands-on learning environment in a real classroom. This allows them to interact directly with their professors and participate in real-time conversations and discussions. Students can also take part in extracurricular activities that help them develop their mental and physical skills, such painting and physical education (Akcil & Bastas, 2021).

The fact that online classes may be accessible from any location is one of its best features. By simply checking in from anywhere, students may access course materials from the convenience of their homes. Students may now attend lectures from anywhere thanks to apps like Zoom and Microsoft Team. Additionally, there is no transportation cost for students. Because of this, online courses provide the distinct advantage of location flexibility. On the other hand, attendees of offline classes must make the trip to the venue of their educational institution. Typically, instruction takes place in a physical classroom or lecture hall that is fixed in place.

Online course participants struggle greatly with time management. Online learners lack a set routine and are constantly sidetracked by a variety of tasks. Because online classes allow for self-paced learning, some students may not have a clear schedule and fall to the procrastination inclination. Additionally, because they must devote a lot of time to their online studies, students may find it necessary to check their social media accounts or search the internet for distractions. Students who attend offline lessons are required to adhere to a rigid timetable that the instructors give. The utilization of interactive learning also means that students will be held accountable for completing their assignments and projects on time.

Contrary to common opinion, students and professors communicate extensively in online education. Students in online classes have the ability to connect with their professors at any time and from any location. In online classrooms, two-way contact is also possible, which has a significant influence on learning. Student-teacher engagement in online classrooms may be both synchronous and asynchronous. There is face-to-face interaction in offline classes, especially when instruction is simultaneous. Students and instructors can freely communicate, allowing for lively debates and discussions. It also enables students to receive prompt responses to their queries and feedback. To capture students' interest, teachers are experimenting with new learning methodologies.

Learning has always been an important element of human history. People have long sought methods to expand their knowledge, better comprehend the world, and make their lives simpler. We have traditionally learned via face-to-face interactions. It often takes place in a classroom and is concentrated on the lecturer. Of course, there are various methods to structure the classroom, such as group learning, learning with a partner, and/or learning with a mentor. Face-to-face learning necessitates being in a given location at a certain time. It may also necessitate engagement or participation at times. Going to a certain location at a given time is what puts most individuals in a learning mentality and helps them concentrate (Winter, Costello, O'Brien, & Hickey, 2021).

Online learning is a relatively new method of learning that has grown in popularity as technology has evolved. With almost everyone possessing a computer and a busy schedule, eLearning has become a popular choice for many people to take classes and expand their knowledge. Many individuals, however, remain skeptical that a computer can

provide the same knowledge and abilities as a classroom. Online learning may take place in any location and at any time, as long as a computer, an internet connection, and a willing learner are available. An LMS may distribute course information in a number of multimedia forms. Learning may be lively and

exciting, or it can be dry and lecture-like. The history of e-learning demonstrates a growing recognition of the importance of technology in education and a commitment to making learning more accessible, flexible and attractive to learners of all backgrounds and abilities, as shown in Figure no. 1.

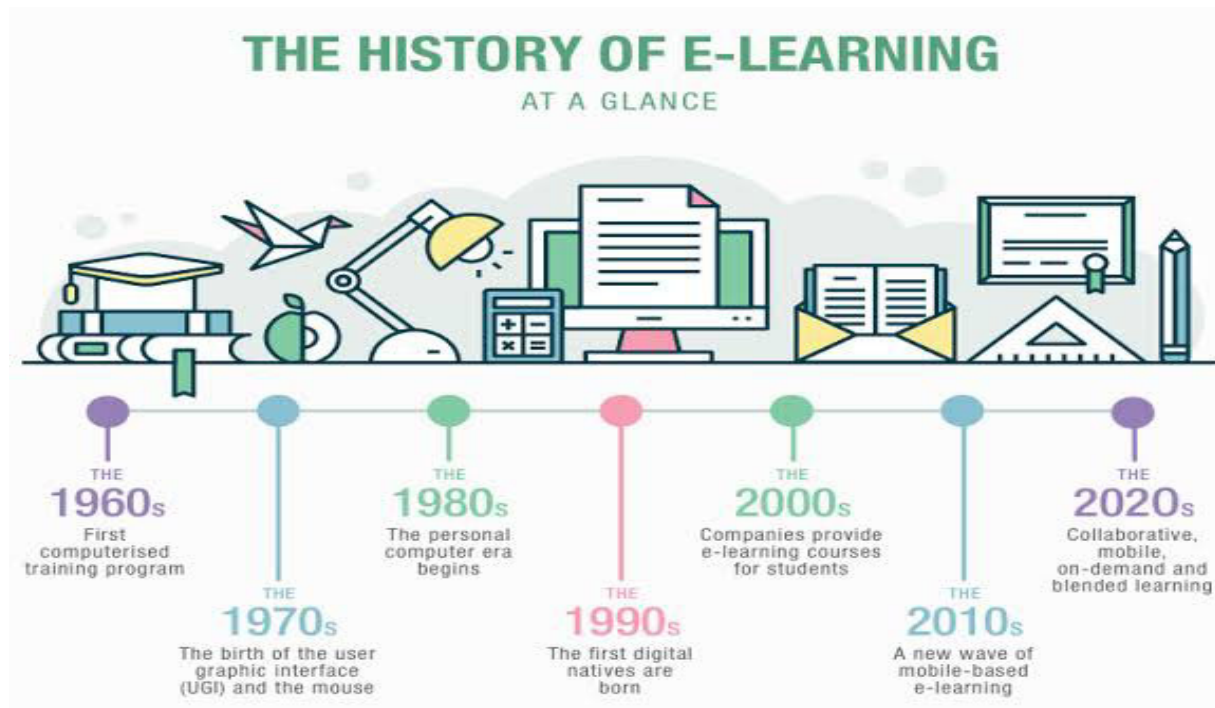


Figure no. 1: The history of e-learning
(Source: PWC, 2021)

Online training and classroom training are two different forms of learning, each with their own advantages and disadvantages. As mentioned earlier, online learning uses information and communication technologies (ICTs) to provide learners with a range of resources, such as chats, blogs, videoconferencing, and shared documents that make instruction dynamic and intuitive. One of the main advantages of online education is the asynchronous system, which allows students to access course materials, interact with faculty and classmates, and complete assignments at their own pace and from any

location. This flexibility and convenience can be especially beneficial for students who work full-time, have family responsibilities, or live in remote or underserved areas. In addition to flexibility and convenience, online education can also promote student freedom and curiosity, collaboration, critical thinking, and self-directed learning. Online learning often requires students to take more responsibility for their learning, which can lead to greater engagement and motivation.

However, it should be noted that online education also has its limitations, such as the lack of face-to-face interaction

and the potential for technical difficulties. In addition, not all students may be amenable to online learning and prefer traditional classrooms. It is important that educators consider these factors when designing and delivering online courses. In general, both face-to-face and online instruction have their own advantages and disadvantages, and educators should carefully consider their goals and the needs of their students when choosing a format (Abduh, 2021).

The first reason why online education is superior to traditional education is its flexibility. Notably, online training uses a distinct method that allows students to be more adaptable. When students have classes, they must attend lectures every day. As a result, no further considerations exist, but the student should not skip the lessons. Students frequently complain about the timetables utilized to deliver onsite education since they are deprived of leisure time. On-site education, according to some, operates on a timetable that everyone is expected to follow. On the other hand, when one decides to pursue online education, they study from the comfort of their own home. Furthermore, flexibility is gained with online education because there is no set timetable that everyone must adhere to. For example, the tutor's responsibility is to provide assignments to the students, which they can complete and submit at their leisure. Because of the flexibility provided by online education, a person can even pursue many courses at the same time. Because they have adequate free time, students may organize themselves and complete several courses. Because of all of these benefits, it is easy to infer that online education is superior to onsite education (Azubuike, Adegboye & Quadri, 2021).

Another reason why online education is superior than onsite learning is self-discipline and responsibility achievement. One of the most important aspects of online training is that a person must maintain

control over their education. For example, the tutor may give the pupils an evaluation to complete, but this does not imply that they are being monitored. As a result, it is the responsibility of the students to remain responsible and finish the project on time. When it comes to onsite instruction, however, the situation is different. The onsite education approach requires students to adhere to the criteria established by the institution. As a result, the student's lack of accountability may be due to the institution's power over them. The self-discipline demonstrated by online students is extremely valuable in their employment and in life in general. For example, the employment market prefers those who they feel are responsible and self-disciplined. Even if a person has the finest talents for a specific career, they will be denied the opportunity because they are not disciplined. A successful online student will demonstrate responsibility and self-discipline. As a result, these folks have a greater probability of landing a job. Because of the self-discipline benefit, it is reasonable to assume that online education is superior to onsite school (Sim Phek Lin, Sim & Sim Quah, 2021).

An opinion poll, as shown in Figure no. 2, indicates that higher education has already taken a big step toward online, with the COVID-19 pandemic accelerating the shift to digital learning. While traditional on-campus learning will likely always have a place in higher education, online learning has proven to be a viable and effective alternative for many students and institutions. Higher education will likely continue to be a mix of face-to-face and online learning, with institutions offering a mix of traditional and digital programs to meet the diverse needs of students. The key will be to find the right balance between online and campus-based learning and to continue to improve the quality and efficiency of online education.

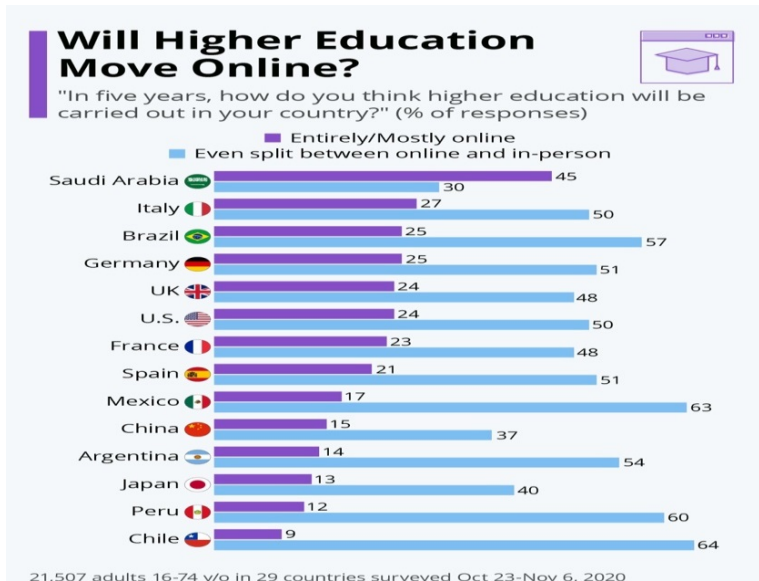


Figure no. 2: Will Higher Education Move Online?
 (Source: Statista, 2020)

Another feature that makes it reasonable to assume that online education is superior to onsite training is its lower cost. To begin, it is critical to recognize that many students have dropped out of school in the past due to inability to pay tuition. Traditional onsite studies have numerous roles that will cost students extra money. Traditional schooling, for example, requires students to pay lodging costs. While some students prefer not to pay housing costs, they must still spend money on transportation every day. Additionally, when participating in onsite instruction, students are obliged to pay for meals. Because of such expenses, some students prefer to drop out or avoid enrolling in higher education institutions. When it comes to online education, the situation is somewhat different. Online education, for example, has no type of lodging because the student remains at home. Staying at home saves money since the student does not have to pay for the institution's housing and food. Students benefit from online education because they save money that they may put to better use in the future. Furthermore, the low cost of online learning

allows all students to complete their studies (Dhawan, 2020).

Unlike traditional onsite education, online education offers students a wide range of courses. The use of online study programs implies that the student has the opportunity to select from a variety of courses. The key reason for providing various course selections to online students is that they recognize their flexibility and ability to manage everything. As a result, online education is the finest since it allows students to progress their professions by participating in a variety of courses. Furthermore, an individual who has finished a number of courses is more marketable in the job market than one who has just completed one course.

Compared to traditional classroom settings, online education offers students a more convenient learning environment. Students frequently voice their complaints about the bad learning environments at their universities. For instance, noise pollution limits students' ability to concentrate, which is one of the primary reasons why they complain. When it comes to online education, things are different since the

optimal atmosphere must be chosen depending on the student's preferences. The finest illustration of how having a convenient learning environment helps pupils is in their ability to retain what they are taught. For instance, since there are no distractions, the students will be able to concentrate on their studies in a calm setting. As a consequence, the online learner will be able to record the best outcomes when compared to the on-site learner. Due to these benefits, one would naturally infer that online study is the best (Abduh, 2021).

One of the most difficult times for academic administrators, staff, and students was the academic year 2020–2021. One cannot dismiss the difficulties brought on by the pandemic notwithstanding high vaccination rates, various forms of in-person graduations, and the opportunity to resume some face-to-face instruction. In conventional brick and mortar colleges, the vast majority of lessons were taught entirely face-to-face prior to the epidemic. Face-to-face instruction has several advantages since it allows students and instructors to engage in person and in real time, which can lead to creative queries and discussions. The chance to ask questions and receive answers in the classroom is available to the students.

The COVID-19 epidemic is likely to have altered the way higher education looks. Both traditional and online teaching methods have advantages and disadvantages. Many colleges and academic institutions now use blended or hybrid modes of education. This kind of education combines online learning with face-to-face interactions on a campus. Students can participate in planned and self-paced classwork as well as face-to-face and online learning through hybrid and blended training (Jensen, Bearman & Boud, 2021).

All those involved in academic environments were affected by the COVID-19 epidemic, including educators, learners, and administrators. Faculty members had

continuous difficulties due to their fear of technology, lack of software understanding, difficulties with time management, and feelings of isolation. As a consequence of illness, death, and the unexpected loss of friends and family, both faculty/instructional staff and students were grieving and suffering from personal loss. This brings up the need to keep in mind the human aspect of education.

Clear communication and transparency regarding the format and requirements of online and digital learning courses are key to student success and engagement. To ensure that students understand the nature of the course and what is expected of them, it is important that institutions provide clear and concise information about the course format, delivery, and attendance requirements.

One concrete way to do this is to use consistent and standardized designations for the different types of courses, such as “fully online”, “blended/hybrid”, or “fully face-to-face”. This can help avoid confusion and ensure that students have a clear idea of what each type of course entails.

In addition to using consistent naming conventions, institutions should also provide detailed information about course requirements and expectations, such as whether on-campus attendance is required, whether students must be online at a certain time, and what type of course it is. This information should be clearly communicated to students before the course begins, preferably in the course description or syllabus.

It should be well understood that clear and transparent communication about the format and requirements of online and digital learning courses is critical to student success and engagement. By using standardized naming conventions and providing detailed information about course requirements, institutions can ensure that students clearly understand what is expected of them and can make informed decisions about their course choices.

Figure no. 3 shows the spectrum of learning modes, which is a framework that classifies the different learning modes according to the degree of online and offline interaction.

The spectrum ranges from pure online learning to pure offline (or face-to-face) learning, with various blended or hybrid models in between.

The Modes of Learning Spectrum

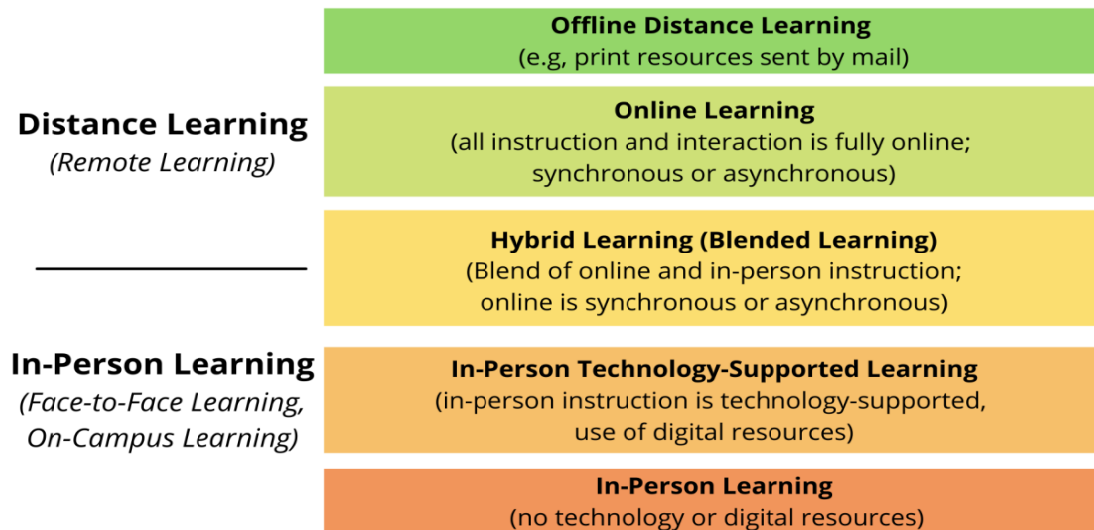


Figure no. 3: The modes of learning spectrum
(Source: Johnson, 2021)

Universities and academic institutions all across the world adopted online and alternative learning methodologies as soon as the World Health Organization (WHO) designated COVID-19 a pandemic in order to lessen the crisis's impact on education. Universities were forced to switch to an online mode of education in order to manage infection. It was difficult for instructors who had never before taught online classes to adjust to the new standard and shift their whole curriculum to an online medium in such a short amount of time. In a very short amount of time, they had to locate, pick up, and begin using a new, vast set of talents. Courses that solely needed classroom teaching in person were either canceled or alternate ways to meet the criteria were identified (Joosten & Cusatis, 2020).

In programs that need experiential education to prepare students for employment

in professional health settings, the effects of course cancellation were magnified. It is crucial to understand that developing competence to teach online cannot be done in 10 days. To develop an engaging learning environment for students, careful preparation, pedagogical expertise, theoretical understanding, and implementation of course and instructional design concepts are required. Institutions did not have the chance to carefully plan for this transition so they could adjust to the new set of teaching and learning methods because of the emergency circumstances. Organizations must engage in professional development opportunities, research and data gathering, capacity building, and strategies to lessen opposition to change efforts in order to successfully navigate any transition or change.

COVID -19 had a significant impact on e-learning enrollment, as the pandemic forced

many educational institutions to move their courses online to maintain social distancing measures and prevent the spread of the virus. it will be important for institutions to continue

to invest in e-learning infrastructure and resources to ensure that students have access to high-quality online learning, as shown in Figure no. 4.

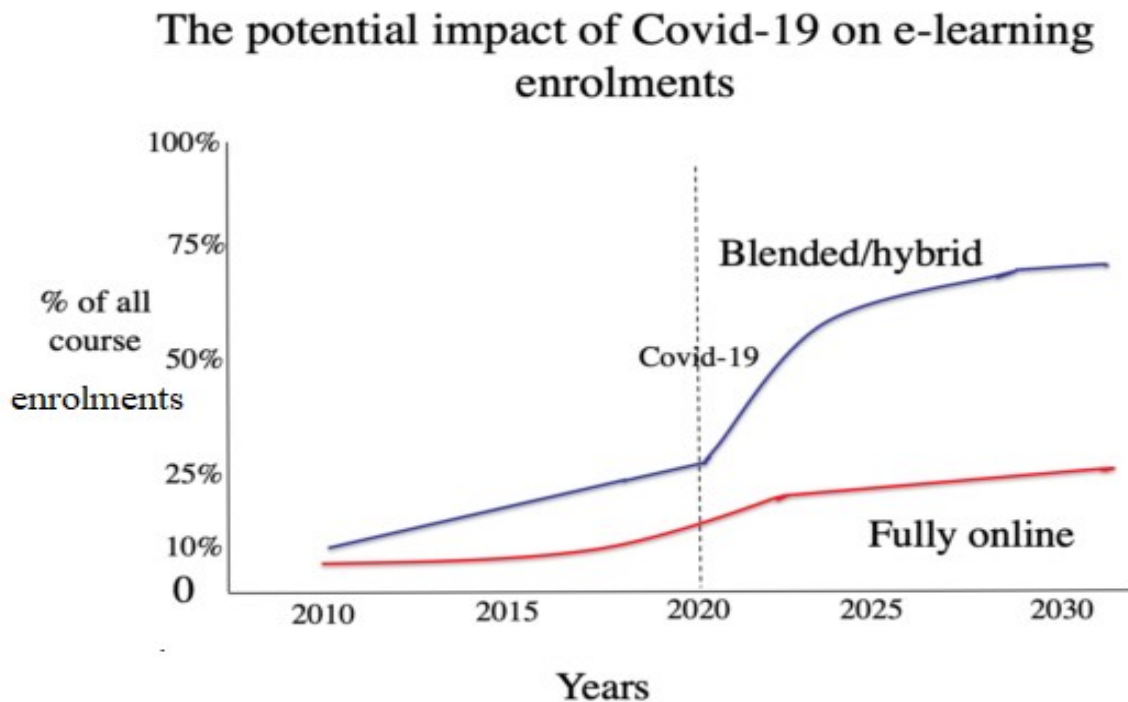


Figure no. 4: The potential impact of COVID-19 on e-learning enrolments
(Source: University of Canada, 2020)

Educators who succeed in combining an integrative online learning strategy with meaningful human relationships will have a significant and lasting impact on students' academic experiences in this post-pandemic era where fully online, blended, and hybrid courses are the main course options. The relationships forged with students can also challenge them to reach their full academic potential, something faculty who value relationships understand.

Organizing online, hybrid, and blended courses in a logical and accessible way is critical to student success and engagement. One way to accomplish this is to use a learning management system (LMS) to create separate course shells for each course. This way, students can easily access course materials, modules, and

assignments, and instructors can manage course content more effectively.

In addition to using an LMS, teachers should also create an inviting course website for each subject. This can include information about the course objectives, syllabus, assignments and expectations, and any resources or materials students will need to successfully complete the course. Providing this information upfront can help reduce student anxiety and increase engagement.

Another important strategy for promoting engagement and creating a sense of community in the classroom is encouraging students to participate and interact. This can be accomplished through a variety of means such as discussion boards, group assignments, and peer

assessment. To this end, teachers should send out welcome letters and emails prior to the start of class, encouraging students to show up for class during the first week.

In general, effective online and blended learning requires careful planning, organization, and communication on the part of the instructor. By developing a clear and inviting course website, using an LMS to organize course content, and encouraging student participation and interaction, instructors can help create a positive and engaging learning environment for all students. The first day of class, teachers should submit an introduction with personal information and urge students to react on previous posts made by themselves and their classmates. By introducing personal information and attributes into online platforms, teachers may support the process of building trust and provide the foundation for cognitive trust required for open discussions. These early introductory posts help people connect in online organizations (Hampsten, 2021).

Teachers could make an effort to teach actively in the classroom by using a variety of technology tools. When students are not in the classroom, whether online or in person, the use of announcements, a calendar, a chat function, and notifications in the learning management system can be helpful. Weekly discussion questions and blog posts on instruction-related topics can create a productive and interesting learning environment in the classroom. Incorporating real-world case studies, video recordings of classroom sessions, and interviews with guest lecturers who are experts in their field can also help increase student engagement in blended and hybrid courses.

In hybrid, blended, and online courses, instructors can use a variety of tactics to engage their students in collaborative activities. Role-playing, policy change conversations, brainstorming sessions, pair-sharing sessions, team case study discussions, and problem-based

learning exercises are just a few examples of such activities. After discussing key ideas in an online presentation, teachers can pause briefly and ask students to summarize what has been said. Students can discuss ideas and develop clarifying questions by breaking into smaller groups and using the Zoom breakout rooms. If there are students who do not understand important topics, this can help teachers change the way the course is delivered. As students actively collaborate with faculty and other students on ongoing projects and assignments, this will also help eliminate feelings of isolation. Since most professional situations require cooperation and collaboration, this type of exercise fosters those qualities.

Online orientations should be incorporated into hybrid and blended courses in order to accommodate institution closures and travel constraints. In order for students to succeed in their classes, instructors should provide information on the course material, readings, course structure, libraries, and other pertinent topics. Before entering the college campus for on-campus meetings, students should be informed of key information. Asynchronous orientation should also cover topics like college rules, internet etiquette, and academic dishonesty laws. As this will enable students to create relationships with teachers, efforts should be made to add personal information about the instructor and make these modules engaging and exciting. Furthermore, online orientation ought to cover virtual activities. As a result, instructors will be able to interact with one another. Staff may construct breakout rooms for students to learn in smaller teams using a variety of technologies, including Zoom and Adobe Connect.

Online education is still in the early stages of its development, although it is growing rapidly, especially in light of the Covid-19 epidemic. Therefore, in order to make the necessary changes to improve the quality of online education, it is essential to consider faculty impressions of this

medium. It appears that teachers are generally positive about online instruction, even though there are numerous problems with this method of instruction and its effectiveness is not always comparable to that of a traditional classroom. Online teaching is already widely used and is likely to remain so (Naqvi & Zehra, 2021).

4. Conclusions

Education has a significant influence on every community, which is why it is such an important field of study. Notably, the importance of education is why many institutions provide training. For example, conventional education required students attending universities and colleges to obtain information. However, technological improvements introduced the internet,

which is the source of online education. Whereas traditional education needs students to physically attend courses, this is not the case with online education. Online studies imply that a student may study and take the test from the convenience of their own home. Nonetheless, many individuals question the usefulness of online education in comparison to the traditional system. Others feel that online education is superior to traditional education, while others say that it is inferior. As a result, this persuasive essay on online education examines why this style of learning is superior to traditional schooling. Online education is superior to traditional study because it provides greater flexibility, lowers expenses, improves self-discipline, and provides more course selections.

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