

Analysis of Online Learning - Boon or Bane

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Abstract

Online learning is helping numerous students in achieving their targets without going into the classrooms in person. This essay is written from a rural student's point of view because a rural student is the basic unit of Indian education system. It is believed India lives in villages, therefore, the standpoint of non-urban student relevant in contemporary period along with pandemic crisis. At first, the advantages of online learning will be discussed, and then disadvantages of online learning will be depicted. In this way, this paper will present an analysis of online learning having a focus upon pros and cons. The findings of this analysis is that online learning should include within offline classes after the inclusion it will prove a great feat of human beings.

Keywords: online learning, student, advantage, disadvantage.

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I. INTRODUCTION

What is online learning? Unlike the conventional learning in a classroom, online learning makes the content available for students digitally ("Is Online Learning"). The online learning is not a new concept for modern students as well as teachers because prior the Corona pandemic they used to have this mode of learning but not necessary one, those were not able to take their classes in person they chose to the online mode. After Corona pandemic online learning became the trend or necessity, education administration decided to impart knowledge through electronic devices and mobile phones. According to SimilarWebData, online learning platforms in India have seen a surge amid the nationwide lockdowns. They drew up to 4 per cent of the total Web-traffic (Bysani).

As being students learning through online classes at home it brings along with it many advantages and disadvantages which prove online learning is boon as well as bane for students. In a school or college, students usually go with their textbooks and notebooks and are taught by their teachers within a given time table. However, a different experience learning online looking at a screen and adjusting hands free (earphone) or headphone. With the internet replacing the college and our beds replacing our benches, online classes pose several issues to students (Kaur). Online learning has been a new experience for school students up to matriculation particularly for rural students.

II. ADVANTAGES

As universally acknowledged every coin has two sides, similarly, online learning proves to be boon and bane for students. At the outset it provides respite and a sigh of relief from the fear of scoldings and beatings by teacher. Many school students miss classes even though few had left school because of this fear in earlier times, but in online classes teacher could only scold but no more beatings. Maximum

school students have no personal mobiles and computers in middle class and lower class families; and they have been feeling bad of not having smart devices that are being taught about in the classrooms but hardly exposed to them but after online learning it became mandatory, and parents were told to provide their offspring's mini computers and mobile phones. With the online classes students are able to access smart phones and computers; and using them for study purposes. Students feel enthusiastic having mobiles in their hands with the permission of their parents earlier they were rebuked by them. It might not be a boon for convent school students, yet government school students are really enjoying it. ...this revolution also approached to every little child who always tried and escaped from going to school... children enjoyed taking these virtual classes more seriously (Kriticulture).

Those students have become tired of going school daily and not comfortable with it they have found online learning quite beneficial because they have developed a sense of not wasting time in going to school daily and beating around the bush throughout school hours with classmates because generally students do not like syllabus textbooks and their talks are full of vivid and pleasurable issues other than academic syllabus. The students do not need to concern for other students and they attend their online classes and learn. Offline centres and study material usually make learning monotonous and the student tends to lose interest after a while, but online learning has made it interesting, fun and a cakewalk ("Is Online Learning"). Along with it they have time for other activities like sports, helping parent's esp. moms in household chores.

Knowledge has also been improved by using new means and modes of learning for both students and teachers. Generally, teachers would use traditional technique of teaching similarly students also would use same approach of learning but when

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online learning became the mode of teaching teachers have to use new methods of teaching and create new content for presentation and learning exercises and it helps the students in exploring knowledge through new methods and techniques that enhance the knowledge of students a lot.

Online learning benefits also the administration and managing staff of institution. Their workloads, not complete, have been reduced to some extent of daily basis. Students make lot of hobnob and nuisance but when there are no students in the classrooms no disorder and chaos. It's an additional advantage of online learning.

III. DISADVANTAGES

Apart from the above mentioned advantages there could be more other benefits of online learning. Some benefits are very personal i.e. students do not need to wait for last bell of the school or full recess. Very funny advantage, but as it is mentioned coin has two sides, therefore, online learning has disadvantages too which makes it bane for students.

When it comes the issues of disadvantages of online learning students particularly miss their school or college. Students need not to go into institution rather have to sit in their study room quietly to listen the online lecture. They have to stare at a screen which is losing internet connection often. Life at school and learning in a classroom is quite different from online learning and students find it unattractive after few minutes; they got exhausted due to technical errors, as well as, no one is nearby to them to say look at the blackboard or whiteboard. They enjoy at the beginning but not for long. Online learning becomes worse than the classroom.

Online learning shows many infrastructural flaws too which need to be cope in future for making better learning. The students lose the zeal of learning in online classes due to a stereotype to syllabus and textbooks. In offline learning mode students had a sense of fear – fear of teacher.

In the online lectures and in recorded videos, students cannot ask questions or doubts immediately, thereby, they have to wait for doubts classes. Therefore, online mode affects students knowledge and curiosity to learn because this constraint and network obstacles. Apart from network obstacles, online mode does not appeal to the students for learning. According to Akash Chander, an MD and executive coach, "...no matter how good eLearning is, it cannot replace the insight gained from a group discussion... Instead, eLearning leads to solitude and isolation."

Physical aspect has forgotten completely in the online classes. Students are ordered to sit quietly and watch the audio-visual content. Along with the trend of online education and e-learning, come these very practical physically exhausting and mentally disturbing problems (Kaur). Teachers only talk about prescribed syllabus, not other general current issues; overall personality development does not seem fulfilled. It is not completely a flaw of online classes but teachers due to time constraint teach only academic syllabuses; they skip many topics of must discussion. Best Teachers and experts and trainers are at their very best when they are grilled while they directly interact with young minds (Raju 247).

The qualities and values that can be learned in a classroom such as sharing, friendliness, fraternity among classmates, helping one another etc. names of few are out of view in the online classes because these values could be taught only in a classroom. If online schooling becomes a reality children are going to miss most of their life lessons (Kumar). The disadvantages describe online learning is a bane for students, however, along with a boon.

IV. CONCLUSION

Online learning should be the part of learning and teaching, but it should be included with the offline classes to establish a balance, "To put things in perspective, both offline and online cultures can go hand in hand (Bysani)", in all aspects of learning and developing personality. Online learning is a great feat for students of remote areas where classes are very difficult in person but carries along few disadvantages too.

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