Online Education in India: Future Prospective benefits and Challenges

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Abstract

Online education has gained much popularity in the recent time. Online learning has been reported to improve the teaching methods, which many students have considered as a positive influence. Many teachers have gone the extra mile to make their classes more interactive, while some of them have to learn how to handle modern online resources.

Key words:-Online education, e-education and online education benefits.

Introduction

Education is a very important factor in the economic development of any country. India since the early days of independence has always focused on improving the literacy rate in our country. Even today the government runs many programs to promote Primary and Higher Education in India. Education in India means the process of teaching, learning, and training of human capital in schools and colleges. This improves and increases knowledge and results in skill development hence enhancing the quality of the human capital. Our government has always valued the importance of education in India and this is reflected in our economic policies.

Online education allows for learning something beyond the norm. A learner has access to unlimited topics and global experts in niche subjects – something otherwise not affordable or imaginable for many. Online programs allow people of a wide age group to learn at their own pace, without inhibitions, and without compromising on their other responsibilities.

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Why online education matters

E-learning tools provide a plethora of educational resources for both educators and students which they couldn't have access to, no matter what their location or status is. A student can learn from the top professor a continent away and that too in their own preferred time. In a classroom full of 20-30 students, it's impossible to get the attention of all of them.

Easy Access: Online learning helps to eliminate both social and physical barriers, meaning if a student misses his class, he can access the lectures online if made available.

Teacher Development: E-learning is not only beneficial for students but also for the teachers as good teachers love to teach, but the best educators enjoy the opportunity to learn consistently.

Flexibility: Online courses give students/learners the freedom of choosing a time of their own. Students can study and work at their convenience. Course material is always accessible online, and it is unnecessary to make special library trips.

Variety of programs and courses: From traditional university courses to completely online career colleges, higher education today offers a variety of options for students.

Career advancement: Students can take online courses and even complete entire degrees while working, while in-between jobs, or while taking time to raise a family. This academic work will explain any discontinuity or gaps in a resume as well.

Benefits of online education

Is cost-effective and saves time: Online courses do not demand students to be present in a classroom. Students can attend these classes from anywhere in the world. Provided, they have a stable internet connection. This cuts a lot of time and money spent on the commute and gives students a chance to learn better.

Offers higher knowledge retention: To make education interesting and interactive, educators online employ methods like gamification, blended learning approach and more. This increases knowledge retention and the time spent on learning becomes productive.

Allows you to track your progress: One of the best things about online education is that it allows you to track your course progress, easily and efficiently. This is possible as online learning includes an LMS or learning management system that opens a window for students to chart their growth. **250**

Besides this, online learning provides a step-by-step explanation procedure for students to understand. This makes room for everyone to manage their tasks, as and when they find it convenient. Moreover, online education business has become a tool to boost the economy as well. All of this and more has made online learning immensely successful in India.

Challenges faced by online education

Unfortunately, the internet is still a luxury in many parts of the country. A vast section of the Indians resides in the rural parts of the country. Here, there is a lack of infrastructure, which gives rises to connectivity and accessibility issues.

Moreover, it will take some time to shift from a traditional method of education that has enlightened generations for over decades. And, even if people saw the benefits and advantages of online learning, they will have to become tech-savvy first. Hence, while online education is ruling a large part of the country today, it will still take some years for the entire country to understand the importance of building online learning communities.Using the internet for entertainment is common, but for online lessons is a big challenge. Teachers may not be well-versed with creating digital content, and conveying it

effectively online. A sudden expectation from them to upgrade, and from students to adapt, is unfair.

Body language and eye contact, which are important cues for the teacher, are difficult to perceive in an online class. "I do not receive continual feedback in the form of students' reactions during online sessions, which reduces the effectiveness of teaching", says a college teacher in suburban Mumbai. How many students have paid attention in a class? Of those, how many understood the lesson? Is the teaching pace alright? Are some students getting left behind? These questions arise even in traditional classrooms, but they are harder to address in online classes.

Conclusion

Online education is not entirely new concepts but has grown as the WWW has developed each country. These are only a few reasons to choose an online education, and why 90 percent of students today think that online learning is the same or better than the traditional classroom experience. Every student must assess their unique situation and decide according to their needs and goals, and while this alternative to traditional education is not for everyone, it's still a convenient option with virtually endless options for international students all over the world. **251**

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