



# Online Teaching – Benefits and Challenges faced during complete lockdown

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## ABSTRACT

E-learning was underutilized in the past especially in developing countries. However the current crisis of the covid-19 pandemic forced the entire world to rely on it for education. Online learning offers teachers an efficient way to deliver lesson to students. Many teachers are making the best of this situation by exploring new methods of teaching and assessment. For many students one of the biggest challenges of online learning is the struggle with focusing on the screen for long periods of time. This paper highlights the benefits, challenges and use of e-learning as a tool for teaching within higher education. Thus, it will help to develop a strategic plan for the successful implementation of e-learning and view technology as a positive step towards evolution and change.

Keywords: e-learning, Education, Benefits, Challenges

## INTRODUCTION

The deadly and infectious disease Corona virus also known as Covid-19 has deeply affected the global economy. This tragedy has also shaken up the education sector, and this fear is likely to resonate across the education sector globally. The Covid-19 pandemic outbreak forced many schools and colleges to remain closed temporarily. It is a thing of the past for students to learn by listening to a teacher who used to use the blackboard and chalk as the teaching tools. Most high-end private and public institutions have made the switch

smoothly using online platforms such as Zoom, Google classrooms, Microsoft teams, etc., while many still find it a herculean task.

The shift from physical class to online classes in the pandemic COVID-19 Situation has posed opportunities as well as challenges for teachers and students.

### **Benefits of Online Teaching**

Online learning offers teachers an efficient way to deliver lessons to students. Online learning has a number of tools such as videos, PDFs, podcasts, and teachers can use all these tools as part of their lesson plans. By extending the lesson plan beyond traditional textbooks to include online resources, teachers are able to become more efficient educators. Among the many advantages of an online education, virtual classrooms are great for people who are advancing their education while working. In a traditional classroom, lectures will be scheduled at a specific time of day and their schedule will be formed around the availability of classes. If they are currently employed and courses aren't available after your working hours, it can be difficult to juggle a course load in addition to their work duties. Probably, students are finding it a welcome change from strict schedules and long-distance commutes to attend classes. For some others, who find learning in large classes intimidating, this may be a less stressful option. Many teachers are making the best of this situation by exploring new methods of teaching and assessment. This is encouraging. But the moment online education moves from an optional to the only form of learning, and that too long term, the bad and the ugly slowly become evident.

Since online classes can be taken from home or location of choice, there are fewer chances of students missing out on lessons. Every student has a different learning journey and a different learning style. Some students are visual learners, while some students prefer to learn through audio. Similarly, some students thrive in the classroom, and other students are solo learners who get distracted by large groups. The online learning system, with its range of options and resources, can be personalized in many ways. It is the best way to create a perfect learning environment suited to the needs of each student.

Another advantage of online learning is reduced financial costs. Online education is far more affordable as compared to physical learning. This is because online learning eliminates the cost points of student transportation, student meals, and most importantly, real estate. Additionally, all the course or study materials are available online, thus creating a paperless learning environment which is more affordable, while also being beneficial to the environment. Every student has a different learning journey and a different learning style. Some students are visual learners, while some students prefer to learn through audio. Similarly, some students thrive in the classroom, and other students are solo learners who get distracted by large groups. The online learning system, with its range of options and resources, can be personalized in many ways. It is the best way to create a perfect learning environment suited to the needs of each student.

### **Online learning – The Challenges faced**

For many students, one of the biggest challenges of online learning is the struggle with focusing on the screen for long periods of time. With online learning, there is also a greater chance for students to be easily distracted by social media or other sites. Therefore, it is imperative for the teachers to keep their online classes crisp, engaging, and interactive to help students stay focused on the lesson. Another key challenge of online classes is internet connectivity. While internet penetration has grown in leaps and bounds over the past few years, in smaller cities and towns, a consistent connection with decent speed is a problem. Without a consistent internet connection for students or teachers, there can be a lack of continuity in learning for the child. This is detrimental to the education process. Many parents are concerned about the health hazards of having their children spend so many hours staring at a screen. This increase in screen time is one of the biggest concerns and disadvantages of online learning. Sometimes students also develop bad posture and other physical problems due to staying hunched in front of a screen. A good solution to this would be to give the students plenty of breaks from the screen to refresh their mind and their body.

While India enjoys a wide geographic and cultural diversity, it also suffers from a huge socio-economic divide. Only a small part of the Indian population has access to online education right now. Interrupted power supply, weak or non-existent internet connectivity, and unaffordability to buy necessary devices are major concerns. “In a Class of 40 students, after two months of online classes, around 20 students regularly attend class with whatever

device and connection they have. Around 5 – 8 students are completely absent till date and rest are fluctuating”, says a school teacher in Ratnagiri in Maharashtra. A teacher in a government-aided school from a small town in Himachal Pradesh says, “It is a frustrating experience to engage students of lower classes in online mode.

There are network issues on both teachers’ and students’ ends”. To deal with internet connectivity and device availability issues, ‘classes’ in many places were happening via sharing of videos by teachers over What’s App or YouTube, so that students can watch them at their convenience.

## CONCLUSION

Learning is the most common method of distance learning today Online Learning methods for various applications of the internet to distribute classroom materials and help learners and educators interact with one another. However, necessary steps must be taken to train all stakeholders of education on online learning platforms. Government/educational institutions should adopt the policy to provide free internet and free digital gadgets to all learners in order to encourage online learning as a result of which people would get engaged during lockdown and remain safe from pandemics. Online Learning is the best method of learning at this time of lockdown due to the outbreak of Covid-19 and further in-depth statistical study may be undertaken on impact of online learning during lockdown period.