

Challenges and Opportunities for Online Education in India

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Abstract: The roles and skills of instructors in online learning serve as a framework for the creation of programmes for teacher training and preparation. The disadvantage of online education is that these issues—empowering online teachers, encouraging critical reflection, and incorporating technology into pedagogical inquiry—are not adequately addressed. A different viewpoint views teachers as adult learners who continuously change the importance of the structures associated with online teaching through a continuous process of reflection and action. The goal of the current study is to examine the effects of mandating eLearning to support teaching and learning procedures in higher education following this historic epidemic and to pinpoint the biggest obstacles and opportunities the users confront.

Introduction

Online learning and computer-assisted education have somewhat fused in recent years, evolving into what are frequently referred to as blended- or personalized-learning approaches. One of the sectors most severely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic was the education sector, with institutions struggling to find ways to remain open. Online learning resources have become invaluable during these trying times. Significant technological advancements have been made as a result of the explosive growth in investments in EdTech tools during the past two years, particularly in the online education sector. There are many advantages to online education, including mobility, accessibility, a need for less physical infrastructure, fewer prices, and more flexibility. However, that does not mean that it is without flaws. According to a recent survey, 60% of students who had just switched to an online learning system found the experience to be monotonous and found it difficult to stay motivated to pay attention in class. The development of technology has significantly altered practically every aspect of existence. The educational process has been altered by technology as well. In the past ten years, there has been a notable change in face-to-face schooling. Even while in-person instruction is still the norm, acceptance of online courses is growing in the management and engineering fields. A few factors contributing to the exponential rise of online education are its immediacy, accessibility from any location, self-direction, and mobility.

Technical Challenges and Digital Literacy

Even while the younger generation is adept at using computers, this does not equate to digital literacy. It is quite difficult to learn how to use many pieces of software effectively when using an online learning system. Additionally, students must be aware of their rights and obligations in an online learning environment as well as proper online communication protocol. A bigger issue is the ongoing technological difficulties that teachers and students encounter on these sites. The flow of learning is frequently interrupted by these issues since they frequently require technical assistance to fix.

The Advantages of Online Education

Even conventional colleges and universities have begun implementing online teaching/learning strategies. Those who are unfamiliar with the idea of online learning could be uncertain about whether to choose it or not. In order to provide you a better knowledge of this type of education, we have listed a few points below that describe the advantages and difficulties of online learning. Faculty and students benefit from increased convenience, access, and flexibility to the courses thanks to online learning. Trainers and students do not need to drive to specific sites in poor weather because these courses can be taken and given from anywhere, at any

time. For all students in the classroom, online education fosters an engaging and dynamic environment, and it is especially useful for those who are uncomfortable raising their hands. At the conclusion of online courses, many teachers have noticed that students tend to engage in more substantive conversations on significant course issues. Those who are hesitant and unable to speak up might also express their concerns in writing. Online courses that are well managed also have a tendency to boost rates of student satisfaction and retention. They have the option of pursuing their interests while working a conventional job or from home. Students have access to a number of options through online learning where they may easily advance their skills in a variety of fields. Teachers can take advantage of a variety of incentives. They can make lectures more interactive for students by utilising modern technology like casting. Multimedia content, virtual reality, and augmented reality can all support online learning. A wide spectrum of audiences can now access education online. These programmes benefit students from all over the world and are not just available to those who can travel to a campus of a university or college. This is the primary cause of the growing acceptance of online education.

Online learning challenges

It could be a little difficult and confusing for teachers or trainers who had been using traditional teaching methods for some time to become comfortable with online learning techniques. On the one hand, online education provides options for keeping courses open around-the-clock, whereas campus-based courses are constrained to specified time periods and specific days of the week. In online classes, it can be a little difficult for teachers to gauge each student's level of learning. In order to create an engaged learning environment in the classroom, it is tough for teachers and students to get to know one another. The use of online technology by students for the first time can be bewildering. In this situation, teachers must use more effort to inform students of due dates and assist them in finishing their work. Although significant technical knowledge is not necessary for online learning, participants must feel at ease using a computer and connecting to the internet. Slow internet connections and a lack of supplies can be frustrating in rural places.

Conclusion

In the wake of the COVID-19 epidemic, online learning—learning that involves interactions that are mediated through the use of digital, often internet-based technology—is pervasive, multifaceted, and dynamic. As a result, it presents both opportunities and problems for educational research. We pursue an interdisciplinary research agenda for online learning at the nexus of educational technology, educational psychology, and the learning sciences in this paper. We defined online learning and all of its variations, evaluate historical and present contexts, explored its multidimensionality, and made assertions about the major concerns influencing modern online learning. In order to better understand how scholarly communities are producing knowledge that shapes research and practise in online learning environments, we suggest five key lenses: community, engagement, pedagogy, equity, and design-based research. These lenses draw attention to areas where the literatures on online learning and psychological learning share concepts. As a result, we can also say that the type of students and the subject matter have a big impact on how well online learning works. In general, online environments might have a negative effect on pupils who have a weaker intellectual foundation. It can be challenging for teachers to give lower-performing students the individualised attention they require when taking programmes online. However, these classes might be more successful for competent and ordinary students.

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