

Online and Remote Education

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Abstract:

Though generally used interchangeably, Online Education and Remote Education are unique in their own way. One requires an educator to be a technologically aware person if not a technological expert. Whereas the other doesn't necessarily require such expertise in technology. Although both the methods are intended to share knowledge from a distance, they differ in ways of presenting the intended knowledge. The difference is how the information is shared i.e. one method requires the educator to present the information live while the other method doesn't require an educator to be present at all times.

Key Words:- Higher Education, Digital and Remote Access to Knowledge, ICT

Introduction:

Online Education is a form of Distance Education in which the course or program is designed to be delivered online and asynchronously. Flexibility is the key benefit of Online and Remote Education. The Educator can teach from anywhere once their course design is completed. Remote Education involves moving content designed for face-to-face instruction to an online environment. The real benefit of Remote Learning is moving the Education outside the classroom. It can help the students who need to access the material outside the classroom due to obligations out of their control. If planned correctly and implemented properly the students will benefit from the course material which will help them continue their Education even while being outside of the classroom. The aim of this paper is to study the various aspects of both Online and Remote Education. What are the challenges that need to be dealt with and what advantages they offer over the traditional form of Education i.e. classroom learning. Certain advantages and disadvantages of both Online and Remote Education are discussed in detail to help the reader understand the difference and realise their importance in Education.

Concept of Education:-

Education is the transmission of knowledge, skills and character traits from an Educator to the learners. In simple words Education means learning. The term Education is derived from the Latin words 'educare', meaning to bring up and 'educere', meaning to bring forth.

Types of Education

Formal

Informal

Non formal

- **Formal Education:**

Formal Education refers to the basic mode of Education which we generally come across in schools or university. This includes learning from the teachers using fundamental and instructional skills.

- **Informal Education:**

Skill, knowledge or craft learned without the involvement of any well-structured classroom teaching can be categorized as an Informal type of Education.

- **Non-Formal Education:**

Non-Formal Education runs along the lines of Formal Education but is more flexible. It basically involves college equivalency preparations. There is intentional and pre-planned learning. But there is no set curriculum that has to be followed or completed in a given time.

Education and Technology:

The recent pandemic is a bold reminder of how Technology has helped the Education process. Wherever and whenever traditional modes of Education are hindered, Technology has provided the solution in the form of Online and Remote Education. The New Education Policy 2020 takes a step ahead in this regard. It calls for carefully designed and appropriately scaled pilot studies to determine how the benefits of Online and Remote Education can be reaped while addressing or mitigating the downsides. Existing platforms such as DIKSHA, SWAYAM and SWAYAMPABHA will also be leveraged so that all students have equal access to Quality Learning Experiences.

Advantages and Disadvantages:

As with traditional method of Education, Online and Remote Education also have its own set of advantages and disadvantages that are mentioned below.

Advantages:

- **Efficiency:**

Educators have an excellent way to deliver their courses to their students from any part of the world. They can use various tools such as videos, Pdf as part of their course material. By extending their material beyond textbook mode Educators can expand the horizon of Education.

- **Accessibility:**

Another advantage of Online and Remote Education is that it allows Educators to provide course material and students to access the course material from anywhere in the world. It helps in building a more extensive network than being restricted to specific region. Additionally Online and Remote Education material can be recorded, archived and shared for future reference thus offering the students the accessibility of time and place.

- **Cost Effective:**

Online and Remote Education is far more cost effective than traditional Education. It is due to the fact that it eliminates cost bearing factors such as transportation, meals, dress code and construction cost for building an institute. This also creates paperless environment for learning.

- **Improved Attendance:**

Online and Remote Education allows students to access the lessons from anywhere. Therefore there are fewer chances of students missing the lessons.

- **Preferred Learning Methodology:**

Each student has a unique style of learning. While some identify as audio-visual learners, others learn well during lectures. In Online and Remote Education Educators can integrate a combination of these to help learners assimilate the material comprehensively.

Disadvantages:

- **Lack of Face-to-Face Interaction:**

Even though many students dislike constant prodding from teachers, it is efficient in increasing retention. Lack of face-to-face communication with the Educator restricts and minimizes feedback, leads to social isolation, and may result in a lack of motivation. In addition, lack of focus is a detriment since it makes it more likely for students to drop out.

- **Internet Connectivity Issues:**

Students may face technical challenges like inadequate internet access, device hardware failure, and unreliable electricity. Although the internet penetration has significantly increased in recent years, access to a consistent connection and adequate speed remains a challenge. This results in a loss of coherence in learning.

- **Isolation:**

In traditional classroom students experience the company of other students and teachers. But in Online and Remote Education feeling of isolation can be observed. Social isolation combined with lack of dialog can lead to mental health issues.

- **Inability to Focus:**

Staring constantly at the screen is demanding on the eyes and is tiring. Resulting in lack of focus or the inability to maintain focus for an extended period of time.

- **Training:**

Online and Remote Education requires a certain level of technological knowledge for the Educator. This requires training for the Educator which will allow them to share their knowledge with their students.

Conclusion:

As we have seen from the above information, Online and Remote Education plays key role in the process of Learning. By being efficient and accessible this mode of learning allows Educators to share their knowledge from anywhere in the world while giving the learners the opportunity to acquire such knowledge from anywhere in the world.

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