THE ONLINE EDUCATION INDUSTRY IN INDIA: PRESENT AND FUTURE

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Abstract: - The scope of this paper includes the use of online education in pandemic situation and currently the use of online classes is increases rapidly. In India traditional education always better in ruler areas due to the lack of internet connectivity. Digital infrastructure not spread in many places hence lack of internet connectivity face by society. Now a day's dependency of digital platform increases due to social distancing hence institutes and students easily move to the online classes. In this paper we elaborate the working of online education and there utilization.

Keywords:- eLearning, Online Education, online learning, Traditional Education

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Introduction :

In pandemic situation, most of the schools adopted online teaching and learning process. The Government of India is also permissible the expansion of eLearning and online classes. The eLearning modules help students interact with each other using digital platform. In the past few years, the various types of technologies have come out in the education industry and improve the institute productivity. Through eLearning module we can encourage students for interactive and useful learning process. Student can optimize their concentration in studies through this approach. Online education is delivered via the digital media and internet to students using their home computers or mobiles. Indian government now allows many universities for the online courses. Earlier, Indian universities were not permitted to offer more than 20 percent of a degree online because of quality and limited mechanisms and infrastructure.

Online Education :

Depending on your home residence, family responsibilities, full-time or part-time jobs you may be able to quickly decide the pursuing an online education is the right choice for you. Students can comfort them with existing responsibilities and commitments with the family. Many students don't want to travel in different places to study due to financial problem, they can simply log in to the virtual campus from their own home or office. Online learning is become so popular because it's cheaper than traditional education. The convenience and the cost of courses, a large number of students are turning to online learning. Many students registered them in the online courses because they are serious about improving their new skills with valuable qualifications.

Online Education Advantages :

- **Flexibility of time**: Working professionals, who don't have time constraints in pursuing an offline course. Such professional's always select online mode that allows to multi-task with other work and family commitments. Online education only requires a laptop or a Smartphone with an internet connection hence students can learn anywhere and at any time. All the course materials are readily available on internet.

- **Quality education**: In many ruler areas in India there is lack of quality offline education. Now a day's online degrees are accepted by reputed companies as long as it is accredited and approved by Distance Education Council (DEC) of India. Reputed companies are also encouraging their employees for getting online education.

- **Immediate results**: All online education allows candidates to generate immediate results on their device after test that they appear for. This technique helps them in preparing for exams more efficiently.

- **Government initiatives**: Government's recent initiatives like <u>SWAYAM</u> and Digital India is more supportable for the students. Digital infrastructure needed for the students to pursue education in online mode.

- **Study material**: Study material easily available on Internet in the form of videos and texts are encouraging students to adopt online education platforms.

- **Affordability**: For Under Graduate and Post Graduate Students online courses are much more affordable than traditional courses. It helps students who are not attending regular college to achieve their dreams without spending much more money.

- **Learn at your own pace:** Many students find it difficult to follow the classroom lessons due to their learning capacity. In online education all the course materials are provided earlier, students learn it by taking their own time. Students can clarify their doubts by live chats or forums from the teachers.

Disadvantages of online education :

- **No face-to-face interaction**: In traditional education, teachers is physically in front of you, you can read his or her body language, manners, gestures, tone, volume and so on. These things help you to interpret, understand and recall the information being presented by the teacher. You are also able to share your experience with classmates that can enrich the learning experience.

- **Fraudulent Online courses**: There are many websites that may offer online courses without the accreditation of educational authority. So it is very important to choose an accredited and authorized online/distance program before you take your admissions.

- **Laboratory/Practical Work**: Engineering course or any other course that requires labs or hands-on workshops are not possible to perform with online. Courses like MBA, Engineering, Journalism you miss the chances of professional networking, overseas experience etc. This is considered an important part of the course.

- **Increased personal responsibility**: You're on your own! No one is going to remind you about the assignment due. You will need to be organized and manage time yourself efficiently. Smart phone apps help you to remind regularly. This means that you must take your full control. You will need to take the initiative to connect with your professors and classmates.

- **Insufficient digital infrastructure**: Indian government has been making efforts to create and improve a digital infrastructure across the country. In India, many cities and ruler areas get poor internet connectivity.

- **Lack of standardization, credibility and quality**: Online courses are designed and imparted by different instructors, who may be given autonomy to design the curriculum. So, the quality of online courses may differ in many learning platforms. Most online courses do not get academic credits, credibility and recognition like the traditional education.

- **Language of the courses**: India is a multi-linguistic country and many languages speak in their areas. The majority of the population comes from ruler areas. The online courses are design in English language. Hence, non-English speaking students struggle with e-content.

- **Low completion rates**: All online courses are self-paced learning. There is minimum motivation due to lack of face-to-face interaction. Hence, the completion rate of online courses teaching and learning is low.

Online Class Requirements :

Online classes based on digital platform and Internet connectivity hence they required following component for the smooth online education.

- **Smartphone, Computer and Internet:** Computer, Laptop or android mobile with latest configuration needs for online education. Internet connectivity is essential requirement for the online education. Fast internet will help to make accessing your coursework convenient for all admitted students.

- **Devoted Time:** Online classes based on audio and video devices hence students must be devoted for the particular time with best connectivity. Online classes conduct online meeting on digital platform on your schedule.

- **Textbooks:** Textbooks or e-books need to purchase by the student for online study. Many online course designers provide their own study material and force to be purchase from study centre for further study.

- **Digital-friendly government policies:** The ruling government has launched several online programmes under the initiatives such as 'Digital India' and 'Skill India' to spread digital literacy to the people that create a skilled and knowledge-based society in India.

Key factors of online vs. traditional education differences:

- **Social Interaction**: Online education usually provides an opportunity for lecturers and students to interact with each other through online portal or video conferencing software. With the use of such online meeting software, it's easier to hold or attend classes online from anywhere at any time.

- **Flexibility**: In online courses, you can attend classes at your own free time, without being forced to attend lessons at specific times. On the other hand, traditional education consume more time due to their daily schedule. This option is more ideal for students or professionals. However, many on-campus courses have scheduled for which it is convenient for working students.

- **Budget**: Online courses offer cheaper options to learning than the traditional education. Traditional education might be expensive due to huge infrastructure; it does offer tangible learning programs and materials that required more money.

- **Methods, Tools and Facilities of Teaching**: The traditional education often provides a hands-on training to all students and learns many things in practical lessons. In traditional education, Chemistry, Biology, Dentist, Nursing, Medicine or Athletics course, he or she will perform plenty of lab lessons and/or field training.

- **Discipline**: Discipline is a key aspect when student enrolling for an online program. The success of the student mostly depends on his or her commitment on his course. Without a proper organization or plan, a student taking online classes may not success in future.

Future Trends:

E-learning sector in India will improve the online educations using digital platform:

- **Hybrid model:** Online course providers actively worked on Internet and providing additional education, such as e-tutorials, videos and live projects. There will have virtual classrooms where traditional offline courses will be aided by digital platform to improve the practical knowledge as well as soft skills.

- **Virtual Labs:** Virtual Lab is the Laboratory design with the help of software that will help students of various departments to perform and practice experiments to improve their understanding of the subject. Many virtual labs design by IIT's for the engineering students. We can perform all experiments similar to traditional Lab.

HRD Ministry provided the list of online learning platforms for learners.

- **SWAYAM:** SWAYAM is an online teaching-learning resource available for learners. These courses were available on the SWAYAM platform. Students or learners who registered on swayam.gov.in platform can continue their learning.

- **MOOCs:** MOOCs are free online courses available for anyone to enroll. MOOCs provide an affordable and flexible learning material for UG and PG students.

- **e-PG Pathshala:** e-PG Pathshala provides high quality, curriculum-based, interactive e-contents with thousands of modules such as e-text and video for Post Graduate Students of social sciences, arts and mathematical sciences.

Conclusion:

Online education increased in pandemic situation due to social distancing.   Online education is more flexible, reliable and cost effective. Indian people not accepted the online education in broad level due to digital infrastructure and lack of internet connectivity. Many students are not trust on the online education due to their face-to-face interaction, discipline and digital platform.   India is a multi-linguistic country and many languages speak in their areas and hence online classed not available on their mother language.

Acknowledgement:

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