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Online Teaching is the Need of the Hour

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ABSTRACT

This paper will discuss how online teaching has become the need of hour. How and why we are made to adopt technology because of the circumstances. And now everybody is well aware of online education and it has become the new normal for us. Online classes are now being taken by students and given by teachers every day. We were reluctant in the beginning when this concept of online education was introduced to us but now it has become part and parcel of our lives. What are some of the merits and demerits of online education that also have been discussed in this paper. Finally, what things we should keep in mind while using technology that also will be discussed here.

Keywords : Online education, Zoom, Google meet, Google classroom. Microsoft, Technology, Computer Applications, Internet, On Campus Programmes, Collaborative Learning.

Main Text

People mostly put up a question online teaching or offline teaching which is better but I think if we combine both then better and effective collaborative learning can take place.

In my paper I am going to discuss how online teaching has become the need of the hour and how instead of choosing one over the other it's better to combine online and offline teaching to promote learning.

The students as well as the teachers are well-versed with in-class teaching i.e. offline teaching whereas both the students and the teachers are not so accustomed to online teaching.

Pandemic has changed many things in our lives and one of them is the way of teaching and learning. The biggest concerns for teachers is maintaining continuity in student engagement and tracking progress. The present situation of pandemic has somehow forced us to accept online teaching as a tool of learning which hitherto has gone unnoticed. But gradually we are becoming used to it. And in fact students are finding it interesting to use Zoom, Google classroom, Google meet, Microsoft etc provided they are given a proper environment and guidance.

Online education not only helps us learn the subject that we study but at the same time makes us learn the use of technology which is very much needed and is asked for in whichever field we go. Nowadays, technology plays a vital role in our lives so it becomes important for students to be familiar with it. And it will prove beneficial for them in the long run.

As the educational institutions are reopening and in-class programs have restarted so instead of ignoring online learning completely it's better to make it a part of learning which can supplement in-class learning.

We must acknowledge the importance of cyberspace in the field of education and understand how it can work more efficiently for us. "Online classes offer a more flexible and personalized form of education, allowing students to progress at their own pace and on their own time." (Hartshorne 140)

Use of the educational applications of computers promote collaborative learning between students and teachers and even help them take virtual trips to museums and science exhibits without leaving classrooms and giving a feeling of learning in a cyberspace. It is a type of distance learning method where limitations of the traditional classroom no longer exist. Also open educational resources are there which are accessible easily. "The OER

creates a smooth and efficient pathway in delivering engaging and up to date content to students. The method has proven to be cost effective as compared to paper based text books for students and teacher." (Hartshorne 140)

In the beginning we used to find it uncomfortable but now we have discovered that in fact it's more comfortable as we don't have to go anywhere and in our comfort zone teaching and learning are taking place. There were some students who were unable to reach their educational institutions because of distance or any other restriction. But now they can have easy access to education.

Students can connect to various study groups and other educational systems that make education convenient. Students can benefit from online tutorials and resources that are shared through internet. "Through online discussions and interactions, students can construct meaning with others in the course. Thus, such environments enable students who are mostly quiet in class to be active participants in online discussion forum especially English language learners and students with certain form of disability."(Hartshorne 141)

No doubt cyberspace education creates multitude of challenges for students and teachers. "Of all the blue sky scenarios and vaporware solutions offered by those who promote information technology, online learning has become the most pressing and pervasive. As thousands of academicians, millions of students, as well as librarians, support staff and administrators struggle daily to come to terms with its actual strengths, weaknesses, idiosyncrasies, the promise of Internet continues to develop unabated." (Walker 2)

Both the novice and the experienced computer users alike must master the use of internet while also working to overcome conceptual misunderstandings because internet is critical component of higher education.

Even supporters of online education say it is not for everyone because it requires self motivation and active participation. "Students must build their own knowledge by using class resources more than relying wholly on the instructor." (Hartshorne 141)

Despite some concerns, which are there with online learning we do find sometimes that it has given better results than on-campus programs.

On the whole, I would like to conclude this paper by saying that the role of teacher is to moderate and facilitate learning be it online or offline so both modes of teaching should be collaborated online and offline to promote interactive, efficient and effective learning. We don't expect digital classrooms to replace the campus but instead of finding faults with online learning we should try embrace it and use it along with offline learning to have best of both the worlds.

References

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