

# Online Learning Modalities in the Paradigm Shift of Education: the Challenges and Opportunities

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**Abstract:** *This study described online learning modality: challenges and opportunities and aimed to (1) identify the effects of online learning to students' academic performance and wellbeing through their experiences dealing with it; (2) examine the role of online learning as an effective new way of learning; (3) know the coping strategies used by students to succeed in their academic journey. This study utilized a phenomenological research design. Key informants (KIs) were asked using constructed questionnaires and interviews. Themes came out from the constructs of the interviewee like college and senior high school students of Surigao State College of Technology (SSCT) who experienced effectiveness, challenges, and strategies used in online learning to survive with these academic years.*

**Keywords:** learning modality

## I. INTRODUCTION

Online learning is a sort of conveyance strategy utilized in remote instruction that permits synchronous and asynchronous trades of asset over a communication network (Khan, 1998). Online class is a learning platform which is conducted through the use of the internet. By the use of online class, the student does not have to go to school to study in person and meet their teachers and classmates. Educational institutions around the world applied this kind of learning just for the students to continue their studies amid to COVID-19 pandemic. Online learning modality give understudies the opportunity to avail learning resources from anywhere in the world. On the other hand, online learning modality also give difficulties for the students to comprehend fully their lessons. Most of the students find self-learning hard that lead them to lose their interest to continue in learning.

In the Philippines, online learning modality has an impact on students in many aspects. With this new educational system, the ineffective time management brings pressure and can raise the anxiety level of a student. Some Students find it hard to balance their studies and household chores because of their hectic schedule that some professors want to pass the given activities on time. Moreover, not receiving timely feedbacks from our teachers and giving us unclear instructions are also the reasons why this blended learning is not effective to all students. Especially when someone lives in the area where the internet connection is not stable enough to join online classes. Despite of the solution made by the educational institutions which is the used of online learning, the challenges that students will face are still inevitable.

Hence, the study aimed to address the opportunities and challenges that the students of State College of Technology (SSCT) are currently experiencing with this new learning system.

The researchers decided to conduct this study because online learning gives understudies a lot of challenges that affects their academic performance. There's a lot of news and articles that some of the students ended up losing their interest to continue in learning that led them to stop studying. As we can see, the challenges that students are experiencing now can also affect their next steps in life.

## II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

DepEd (2020), In a broadly broadcast discourse, Sec. Briones pronounced the opening of classes to 24.7 million enlisted learners and 866,512 instructors in essential instruction over the nation on October 5, 2020 which coincided with the celebration of World Teachers' Day. She also stated that "Whatever is happening in the country, whatever challenges we are facing, education must continue, education cannot wait, our learners cannot wait, we continue with the process so we can give hope and continuity, and contribute to the normalization of activities of our country." On

that day also is the day where DepEd applied the utilized of online learning for the safety of the understudies amid this time of widespread and for them to continue in learning.

Moreover, Online learning is defined by Bates (2016), as "any form of learning conducted partly or wholly over the Internet". Students engaged to online learning need the use of technology which can gives understudies with get to limitless online resources, empowering them to carry out explore and hence finished up more independent. It was supported by Dogniez (2019), emphasizing that, online learning can make strides the quality of education in numerous ways. It opens entryways to a riches of data, information, and instructive assets, expanding openings for learning in and beyond the classroom. But, engaging with online learning requires stable internet connection for the students to be able to finish their activities much easier and faster.

Added to the definition presented, online learning has two commonly type of learning. The first one is synchronous learning which bolster learning and instructing and offer understudies and instructors with different ways of connection, sharing, and the capacity to collaborate and inquire questions in real-time through synchronous learning advances, Higley (2013). And also, asynchronous learning which students are able to actively participate in their own learning, giving them the opportunity to interact with their peers, provide peer feedback, and reflect on the status of their personal learning goals and outcomes (Er et al., 2009; Harris et al., 2009; Simonson et al., 2012).

According to Baticulon et al. (2021), the focal points of utilizing online learning in restorative instruction incorporate moved forward availability of data, ease of standardizing and overhauling substance, cost-effectiveness, responsibility, and improvement of the learning prepare, wherein understudies are spurred to be dynamic learners. Furthermore, another advantage of online learning is that it permits understudies to require classes from wherever they need. It too empowers schools to reach out to a bigger organize of understudies instead of being constrained by topographical limits. Online addresses can too be recorded, protected, and shared for afterward seeing. This permits understudies to get to the guidelines materials at whatever point it is helpful for them. As a result, online learning gives understudies with the adaptability of time and area in their instruction, Team Leverage Edu (2022).

Moreover, online learning holds a wide assortment of points of interest for learners. Online learning provides adaptability which clarifies the ubiquity of online course enrollment, Zimmerman (2012). Especially in nonconcurrent online situations, learners have the free choice to memorize at their possess pace. Utilizing synchronous implies, learners can connect with classmates, instructors, and experts within the field. With different web innovations, learners are prepared with the capacities to audit, revisit the challenging parcels of learning materials, and think about at their most comfortable time and place. Online coursework offers the ability to build environments where many new technologies and web-based activities are participatory.

As an addition, students actively engage with the topic and learn by doing, developing their knowledge as they go construct new knowledge (Johnston, et al., 2005; Pallof & Pratt, 2003). Online instruction, such as a recreation, pushes learners into a learning involvement, expanding engagement and giving exercises that effectively lock in learners to analyze, synthesize, and assess data whereas building information, Driscoll & Carliner (2005).

Once more, online instruction has the potential to supply openings to advance intelligent thought and profound learning through practically coordination and applying standards learned. E-learning can provide "new" information not contained in conventional sources, successfully strengthening other course data through advertising cases, clarifications, evaluations, and works out. In this way, online instruction can possibly upgrade learning compared to what can be fulfilled employing a classroom only approach, McEwen (1997).

Online instruction was moreover a positive learning involvement for understudies who were bullied or had issues socializing with their peers. Remaining at domestic given an expanded sense of mental security. That permitted them to gotten to be more beneficial. At last, online instruction too implied understudies might ended up more adaptable in their learning. They may at last learn totally at their claim pace and in their possess way. They may moreover commit more or less time to particular subjects based on their needs.

For most students, it gives them opportunities to continue studying regardless of their situation. There are students who are able to continue their degree even after returning home from the province. There are also working students who are better able to combine work and study now because of the more flexible setup – something they have to juggle with difficulty or even choose between during the pre-pandemic setup.

Online learning in its aggregate is subordinate on mechanical gadgets and internet connection, teaches and understudies with poor internet connection are obligated to be denied access to online inclining. The reliance of online learning on technology and the arrangement of the equipment was a huge challenge for educate, staff and learners. Furthermore, online learning is the modern instructive hone amid this time of widespread. Where understudies learn in a completely virtual environment. It is additionally a challenge to a few understudies since not all understudies are able sufficient to receive on this unused instructive hone. Concurring to David Timis (2020), "The key quality of online instruction is its availability and it moreover been the most challenge, as not all faculty are comfortable with virtual instructing and not all understudies have a computerized framework that permits them to proceed their instruction online".

Online students are inherently exposed to distractions. All of their coursework takes place on some form of computer; be it desktop, tablet, smartphone, or laptop. YouTube or video games are just a click away, and since many online students' studies autonomously, they have little to stop them from switching over. Once focus has shifted from study to entertainment, there is a deep dark chasm of media that constantly shifts focus to create some new distraction, Neiterman & Zaza (2019).

Moreover, the need of ethical bolster from our possess guardians is additionally one of the boundaries in online learning since of not accepting it, it'll affect the understudy scholarly execution learning is not accessible for all students because few children don't have a work area, books, stable network, a tablet at domestic, or steady guardians. Others do. What we ought to dodge – or minimize as much as conceivable – is for those contrasts in openings to extend and cause the emergency to have an indeed bigger negative impact on destitute children's learning, Saavedra (2020).

In expansion, Online Learning is troublesome to those students who doesn't have cash to purchase prepaid load ahead of time for their online classes. Since the wage of their guardians isn't sufficient to cater their instructive needs. Understudies try their very best to create and utilize of what they have at homes and guarantee don't get left behind. In spite of the fact that online learning may be the most excellent choice we have for presently, still you can't offer assistance but ponder how everybody is altering and adapting with the issues that emerge whereas going to online classes, particularly amid synchronous classes. Synchronous classes are classes conducted in real-time and amid this time, a part of issues emerge. Tragically, most of these issues are specialized, Amadora (2020).

Addition to the data presented, compared to physical classes and online classes, there are more assignments and other activities that need to be passed in the online class than physical classes because they are often passed at the same time so that the students do not get along well. students doing two or three activities in a chair in front of a computer or any other gadget. Also, communication between teachers and students is also difficult because only through chats or e-mails can communicate. It is not like physical classes where the student will approach the teacher and ask a question and the teacher will be able to answer him immediately, as if the discourse between the teacher and the student is faster. Within the studies about carried out amid the COVID-19 lockdown, understudies detailed negative impacts on their mental wellbeing and feelings. By and large, understudies have experienced an increment in their stress, uneasiness, and misery amid the COVID-19 widespread (Aslan et al., 2020; Odriozola-González et al., 2020; Saravanan et al., 2020; Son et al., 2020). Other than, they detailed feeling a few negative feelings heightens, such as fear, stress, or boredom (Aristovnik et al., 2020; Son et al., 2020)

It was clear that the aforementioned related literature and studies shows that online learning modality has its advantages and disadvantages to students.

### III. METHOD

This chapter focused on the strategy used in the collection of data for analysis to come up with new information or to understand a particular topic or phenomenon and on describing the research mode and the specific research type. The chapter also describes the various stages of the research, which includes the selection of participants, the data collection process and the process of data analysis.

This kind of qualitative research employed a phenomenological research design which helps the researchers to gather information that explains how individuals experienced a phenomenon and how they feel about it. This research design focuses on identifying and analyzing what all the participants had a common as they experienced a phenomenon. The result is described from the point of view of the respondents. Be that as it may, the researchers are still able to infer a set of discoveries that can be utilized to distinguish themes encompassing the phenomena beneath study.

Interviews was the main data collection technique for the study. Secondary sources of information including documents provided by the respondents which pertains to the study is relevant. Interviews were conducted based on the questions listed in the Interview Guide. However, respondents were allowed the freedom to talk about their experiences in a way in which they were comfortable.

Majority of data were gathered through in-depth interviews with 5 students of Surigao State Collage of Technology (SSCT) who have experienced online learning. Concurring to Creswell (2013), the best sample size for a phenomenal study is between 5 to 25 participants.

The participants are selected utilizing purposeful criterion sampling strategy through which the researchers will intentionally select the site and individuals of the study. The rationale of choosing this approach was that the researcher is seeking knowledge about the students' opinion about online learning modality, in which the participants would provide by virtue of their experiences. The researchers work in conjunction with the Students of Surigao State College of Technology (SSCT), in choosing participants, based on their capabilities to answer all of our inquiries. There were a lot of potential participants, of whom 5 participated on the study. Some of them were busy and not available, while others did not want to participate on the study. In-person interviews were conducted and recorded in a quiet, neutral location where the participants were not in danger and there was no intimidation or coercion.

After the validation of research instrument, the researchers followed the data gathering procedure advised by Creswell (2007). First, the researchers selected the participants with the help of students in Surigao State College of Technology (SSCT). After gaining access and establishing rapport with the students, the interview was set, then the actual one-on-one interviews were conducted.

The first step taken is bracketing in which researchers set aside all preconceived experiences and focused on live experiences of the participants. Then, the researchers proceeded in horizontalization, the process by which the interview transcriptions were read thoroughly and significant statements were highlighted.

#### **IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

The information of data collected from the interview that was audio recorded were interpreted. From the transcription, it was analyzed to create a pattern, identifying noteworthy articulations to create a cluster topic. The themes that come out from the statements of the participants are:

##### **THEME 1. ONLINE LEARNING IS SOMEHOW EFFECTIVE TO STUDENTS ENGAGING WITH IT.**

Engaging with online learning, students experienced the capability to handle their own time causing them to do other things they wanted to, while still learning. Aside from that, this new way of learning allows students to attend class from any location of their choice and help students to manage their time correctly in order for them to finish their school works on time. Online learning also taught students to be self-dependent, when it comes to learning where no one you can count into aside from yourself. In addition, working students find this set-up flexible it's because they can now do their responsibility as a student and work at the same time.

##### **THEME 2. ONLINE LEARNING AFFECTS THE ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE AND WELLBEING OF THE STUDENTS.**

This new way of learning has given a lot of challenges to the students, in terms of their academic performance, Students are not motivated enough to do their tasks timely due to lack of updates and feedbacks by their respective teachers and students simply complete their assignments to receive credit for a passing grade, rather than genuinely engaging with the course material. Online learning requires strong self-motivation and time management skills, but not all students can attain to offer these things. In addition, online learning also effects their emotions. They easily get pissed off and sensitive because of academic pressure. Aside from that, they isolate their selves in order to focused with their studies. Due to lack of human communication in their lives it often leads to several mental health issues such as heightened stress, anxiety, and negative thoughts which are not good for a student, during this kind of set-up.

**THEME 3. STRATEGIES THAT THE STUDENTS ENGAGED TO SCOPE UP CHALLENGES IN ONLINE LEARNING INCLUDES TIME MANAGEMENT, FAMILY AND FRIENDS SUPPORT, AND SELF DISCIPLINE.**

Through online learning, students can access and interact with high-quality educational materials from the comfort and convenience of home. Students manage their time, they set a routine to keep them focused and stick in doing their home works and make a weekly schedule the day before the start of the new week and break it up during the week so that they know what to finish regularly. Aside from that, students asked helps from their family, classmate, and friend during times of their breakdowns because of so much stress and anxiety from online learning. It is important to understand that school isn't closed during this circuit breaker period and learning carries on even at home. Students discipline their selves at home to ensure effective home-based learning.

**V. CONCLUSION**

Online learning was introduced to students so that they could continue their studies despite the pandemic we currently experienced, where social interaction was not allowed. This new way of learning brought effectiveness to students when it comes to time management, flexibility, and being self-dependent. However, online learning also become a problem to students engaged with it, because it affects their academic performance and wellbeing from learning.

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