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A Study on the Role of Online Learning Platforms in Career Readiness Applications, Risks and Future Directions

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Abstract: *This study focuses on how online learning platforms support the career readiness of MCA students. With the rapid growth of digital education, students now have access to flexible learning options that help them upgrade their technical, practical, and professional skills. The research explores students' usage patterns, preferred platforms, learning frequency, challenges faced, and overall impact on job readiness. The findings show that most MCA students regularly use online platforms to improve their skills, gain certifications, and prepare for interviews. The study also highlights how online learning contributes to better understanding of technical concepts and increased confidence. Finally, the research suggests ways to make online learning more effective and supportive for students' professional growth.*

Keywords: Online Learning, Skill Development, Digital Learning Platforms, Technical Skills, Employability

I. INTRODUCTION

Online learning has become an important part of modern education, especially for students in technical fields like MCA. Platforms such as Coursera, Udemy, NPTEL, Geekster, and YouTube allow learners to access high-quality courses from anywhere. These platforms help students build new skills, understand difficult concepts, and stay updated with industry trends. For MCA students aiming for IT careers, online learning provides additional support beyond classroom lectures.

This study aims to understand how MCA students use online learning platforms, what motivates them, what challenges they face, and how these platforms contribute to their overall career readiness.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Several studies suggest that online learning promotes self-learning, flexibility, and skill enhancement. Researchers also highlight that certifications from well-known platforms improve employability. Previous studies show that students prefer online courses for learning programming, data analytics, and communication skills. However, some challenges such as lack of concentration, self-discipline, and technical issues still exist. This research builds on existing literature and focuses specifically on MCA students and their career needs.

III. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

This study uses a descriptive research design.

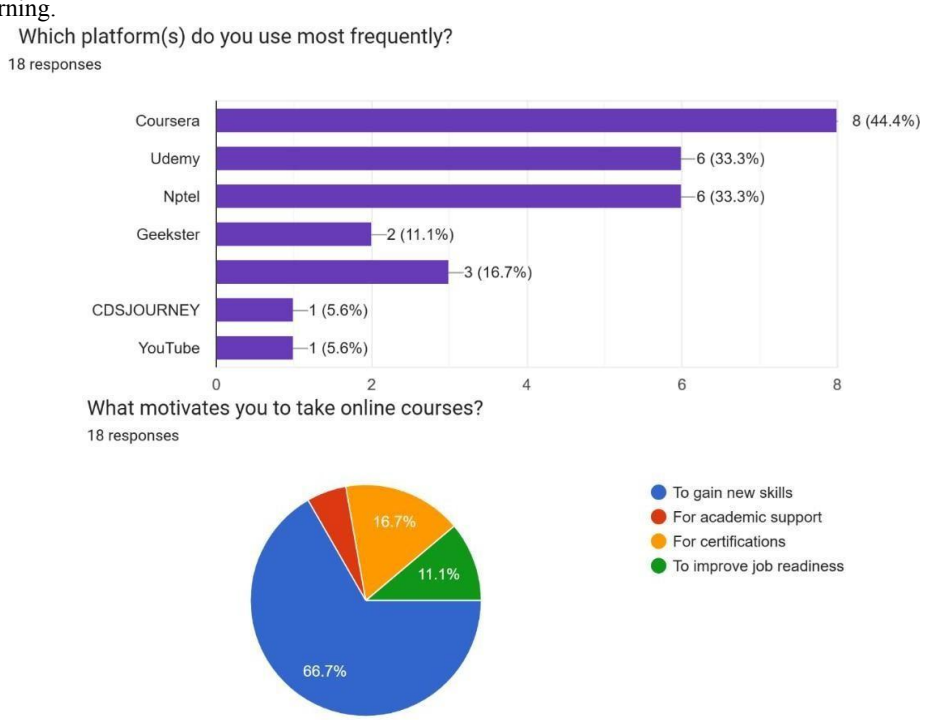
Data was collected from 30–50 MCA students through a structured questionnaire. The survey included multiple-choice questions and open-ended responses.

Both primary data (survey responses) and secondary data (articles, reports, research papers) were used. The data was analyzed using percentages and simple interpretation methods.

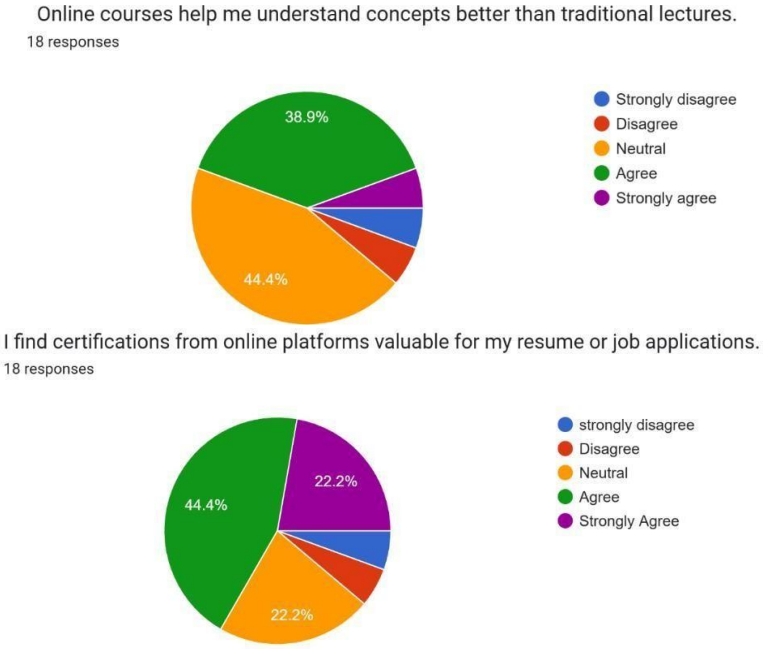
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IV. DATA ANALYSIS

The survey results show that most MCA students actively use online learning platforms, with 78.9% saying they use them and only 21.1% not using them. Among the platforms, Coursera is the most popular, followed by Udemy, NPTEL, Geekster, and a few others like CDSJOURNEY and YouTube. Students use these platforms at different frequencies—some daily or weekly, while others prefer to learn only when required. Most students spend around 2–5 hours per week on online courses, reflecting a moderate level of engagement. The main reason students choose online learning is to gain new skills, while some take courses for certification or to improve their job readiness. Many students feel that online platforms have improved their technical knowledge and helped them understand concepts better along with traditional classes. A good number of students also believe that certificates from these platforms add value to their resume. Online learning has also helped students become more disciplined and confident, especially during interviews and discussions. However, some challenges were reported, such as difficulty staying focused, procrastination, technical problems, low motivation, and the need for clearer explanations—although a few students said they did not face any issues. When it comes to course preferences, half of the respondents showed interest in Data Analytics and AI, while others preferred soft skills or business-related courses. Finally, students were divided on whether online learning will fully replace traditional education—some believe it can, some are unsure, and a few think it cannot completely replace classroom learning.



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V. FINDINGS

The study shows that most MCA students actively use online learning platforms for their studies. Coursera, Udemy, and NPTEL are the most popular choices among them. Students mainly take online courses to learn new skills, improve their technical knowledge, and stay updated with industry trends. Many students also feel that online learning increases their confidence during interviews. The most preferred subjects are data analytics, artificial intelligence, and communication skills. However, students face some challenges such as lack of concentration, procrastination, and occasional technical problems. Overall, students believe online learning is useful, but many feel it cannot fully replace traditional classroom teaching.

Suggestions:

Students can benefit from setting a fixed study routine to avoid procrastination when learning online. Online platforms should try to offer more interactive content such as quizzes, hands-on activities, and real-life projects to increase engagement. Colleges can follow a blended learning approach by combining online and offline teaching. Students should choose courses that match their career goals instead of randomly enrolling in multiple courses. Institutions can also conduct training sessions or workshops to help students understand how to select good-quality courses and use online platforms effectively.

VI. CONCLUSION

The present study highlights the growing importance of online learning platforms among MCA students. Most learners actively use platforms such as Coursera, Udemy, and NPTEL to enhance their technical and professional skills. The findings show that online learning significantly supports students in gaining updated knowledge, improving confidence during interviews, and strengthening their overall academic performance.

Although students appreciate the flexibility and accessibility offered by online platforms, they also face challenges such as distraction, procrastination, and technical issues. This indicates that while online learning is beneficial, it cannot fully replace traditional classroom-based teaching. A balanced approach—combining online and offline learning—can maximize the benefits for students.

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Overall, the study concludes that online learning platforms play a crucial role in modern education for MCA students. With proper guidance, structured study habits, and improved platform features, these tools can further enhance students' skill development and career readiness.

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