Issues of Online Learning and Offline Learning for Students and Teachers

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Abstract: *Online education is learning via online classes as per the convenience of the students and teachers. In comparison, Offline education is the traditional learning system where students and teachers have face-to-face learning. Both forms of education have their advantages and disadvantages. People all over the world, including students, have been forced to adjust their habits as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. We are witnessing the rise of e-learning as a result of advanced technology. To conduct classes, several educational institutes have switched from physical classrooms to virtual classrooms. Virtual technology was rapidly growing and being adopted even before the Covid-19 issue hit the world. Students were learning through a variety of online classes before the pandemic, but there has been a considerable increase in demand for virtual learning since then.*

Keywords: Online learning, Offline learning, Virtual Classrooms, Physical Classroom

I. INTRODUCTION

Both online and offline education have their own set of benefits and drawbacks. This paper will tackle one of the most hotly disputed topics these days: Online Learning Vs Offline Learning: Which one is better?

Online Learning:

The way education is delivered permanently changed as a result of technological innovations. In reality, online education has evolved into a flexible teaching technique in which students may easily access study materials from the comfort of their own homes. Furthermore, online education gives a fantastic option for students who are unable to enroll in traditional classes, as well as allowing them to study at their own pace.

Students can learn self-discipline and time management skills through online education, which also gives them access to an endless supply of educational resources. Students can easily determine their own learning speed if they have the correct equipment and access to a stable internet connection.

II. OFFLINE LEARNING

Offline education is the traditional counterpart of online education and the original mode of learning that allows students to engage with their peers and teachers in a face-to-face setting on a regular basis. Even if online education is anticipated to be the future of education, it will never be able to replace the whole nature of traditional education. Technical issues have little impact on offline education, and it provides a wonderful opportunity for students to build and stick to a fixed schedule.

Offline classes encourage students to collaborate on projects with other students and help them learn new skills. Students become more introverted as a result of online education since they only communicate with other students through online chatting rather than face-to-face interaction.

Additionally, offline education allows teachers to observe their students' responses and behavior and respond as needed. As a result, no matter how advanced online education becomes, offline education will continue to play an important role in students' growth.

There are some things to consider when choosing whether online learning or offline learning is better, such as:

a) Accessibility

One of the most pleasant aspects of online classes is that they may be accessed from anywhere in the world. Students can access study materials from the comfort of their own homes by simply logging in from anywhere. Apps like Zoom

and Microsoft Team have made it possible for students to attend lectures from anywhere. Furthermore, students do not have to pay for transportation. As a result, online classes offer the distinct benefit of location flexibility.

Offline classes, on the other hand, require students to travel to their educational institution's location. Teaching usually takes place in a fixed location, such as a lecture hall or a physical classroom. Certain students may have to travel a long distance to go to their educational institution, which can be inconvenient. Not to mention the fact that students will have to pay for transportation.

b) Time Management

Students who take online classes face significant time management difficulties. Online students are frequently distracted by a variety of responsibilities and lack a structured schedule. Students may not have a good schedule and succumb to the tendency of procrastination because online classes provide the benefit of self-paced study. Furthermore, students are obliged to stay hooked on their online classes for an extended amount of time, which may cause them to browse the internet for distractions or check their social media profiles.

In the event of offline classes, students must follow a strict schedule provided by the lecturers. Furthermore, because interactive learning is used, students will be expected to finish their work and projects on time. Furthermore, kids are less distracted within the confines of a physical classroom, and they learn to do their assigned work according to a predetermined schedule.

c) Flexibility

The biggest advantage of online classes is their flexibility. It gives students the freedom to establish their own learning rate without feeling rushed. Students can simply attend courses whenever it is convenient for them because they have access to recorded videos and online reading material. It also allows students to take their time digesting the content and completing their work or research at their own pace.

When it comes to offline education, there is a certain element of rigidity. Because there are no pre-recorded films or notes readily available to students, they are expected to arrive on time for their lectures or sessions. As a result, students must adhere to a planned and strict schedule established by their educational institute.

d) Student-Teacher Interaction

Despite popular belief that there is little interaction between students and teachers in online education, there is plenty of engagement between students and teachers. Students can communicate with their teachers at any time and from any location using online classes. Two-way communication is also possible in online classes, which has a major impact on learning. In online classes, student-teacher interaction can be both synchronous and asynchronous.

In the case of offline classes, there is face-to-face interaction, especially because teaching is simultaneous. Students and professors have open lines of contact, which allows for vibrant debates and discussions. It also allows students to get immediate answers to their questions and feedback. To engage students, teachers are adjusting to various learning approaches.

e) Practical Learning

Online education is entirely theoretical and takes place through the internet. This makes it difficult for students to participate in the practical parts of learning, which are an essential part of education. Students must be physically present in subjects such as chemistry, physics, biology, art, and sports in order to conduct live experiments or actively participate in the activity.

Unlike online classes, offline classes provide a stimulating setting that combines both academic and practical aspects of learning. This contributes to the students' overall cognitive and skill development. Practical learning enables you to learn and adapt quickly to daily obstacles and settings, as well as have a better grasp of lessons.

f) Technical Issues

Technical issues are constantly present in online classes. Online classes involve the use of proper electrical equipment such as webcams, microphones, headphones, and PCs, as well as a reliable internet connection. Furthermore,

technological issues such as a slow internet connection or a lack of sufficient technical infrastructure may prevent seamless learning. It may be challenging for students to attend live lectures or download videos or online notes.

Technical problems are rarely a threat to offline classes. With the exception of any lessons that involve presentations or computers, students and teachers are not required to be extremely tech-savvy, and because most learning takes place in the physical classroom, technical issues are not a major concern.

Advantages of Online Education:
- It is flexible; can be accessed from anywhere with a device and internet connection.
- Budget-friendly.
- Convenient attendance.
- Class recordings are available for later references.

Disadvantages of Online Education:
- One of the major disadvantages faced by students learning online is managing screen time. Online education requires staying logged in on the screen for an extended period regularly. Long-duration screen time becomes a great difficulty for the students and harmful for their health as well, especially the eyes.
- Another disadvantage includes technical problems. Poor Internet connectivity issues also arise multiple times during online sessions. Small towns/cities, urban areas face the most difficulty maintaining stable Internet connection. It destroys the learning of the students.
- Other disadvantages include: Feeling of isolation by individuals, Minimal peer help, Group work not as efficient as it would be if done offline.
- Advantages of Offline classes:
- Students are fully attentive towards class only; less distraction. Online classes have more possibilities of distractions where students may surf on other online platforms or pay less attention in class.
- Teachers can provide individual attention to the students, address their issues and solve it quickly.
- Disadvantages of Offline classes:
- Students may lack the opportunity to learn advancing technology.
- Time management becomes an issue for students who reside far away from campus.
- No recording or any other form of data is available for students who missed the class or later references.

II. CONCLUSION

To sum it all up, online learning and offline learning both have their pros and cons. You just have to choose which is better for you and your circumstances. The advantages and disadvantages can differ from person to person. The ones listed above are few general ones commonly heard. Online education is more favourable for secondary school and university students, as they are less prone to develop health consequences than younger students. Offline education will allow younger kids to create a habit of functioning in a different environment and explore it. Most young kids do not want to study with their parents or elder siblings, for which going to school is beneficial for them.

Suggestions for Faculties
- Making short sessions/periods of classes..
- Minimum 15 minutes break between every class.
- The last class of the week can be held as doubt clearing sessions.
- Assigning tasks and deadlines should be according to other classes, so the students do not have submission deadlines with the same dates for more than one subject.

Suggestions for students attending Online Education:
- Stay away from the screen during break times.
- Eat healthy, Have enough sleep.

- Discuss any doubts with teachers at the soonest possible.
- Note down doubts for doubt clearing sessions.
- Inform teachers beforehand or immediately of any technical problem.