THE EFFECTIVENESS AND CHALLENGES OF ONLINE LEARNING FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS-AN OVERVIEW

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KEYWORDS	ABSTRACT
Online learning, remote learning challenges, COVID-19.	In recent years, online learning gained a significant popularity and due to its effectiveness and popularity, it is a subject of discussion. The effectiveness of online learning depends on a various factor. Overall, it is a valuable alternative to traditional class room-based education. However, it is necessary to acknowledge the online learning but it's not suitable for each age group and each program. Due to its interactivity some learners may prefer it over the traditional version of class room. Additionally, some practical subjects where lab requirement is necessary that needs hands-on activity, may be challenging in an online learning format. Overall, it depends on the learner's motivation, quality of content, self-discipline and way of explanation. While designing and implementing, online learning can be highly effective educational approach that empowers the learners to gain skills along with a knowledge in an accessible and a flexible manner.

1. INTRODUCTION

Several factors can affect how effective online learning is for undergraduate students. Undergraduate students can access a wide range of educational resources online, including as lectures, readings, multimedia content, and research databases. This enables students to investigate many viewpoints and deepen their comprehension of the subject. Online education allows for scheduling freedom. Undergraduate students have the flexibility to access course materials and engage in discussions at their own pace and convenience, fitting their own learning preferences and other obligations like part-time jobs or family obligations. Students who learn online must take responsibility for their education, practice self-control, and manage their time well. This promotes the growth of self-directed learning skills, which are advantageous for

undergraduate students when they transition into the workforce or pursue further education. Virtual conversations, collaborative projects, and interactive multimedia tools are typically seen in online learning settings, encouraging student connection and participation. Collaboration, critical thinking, and active learning are encouraged by these traits. Online learning platforms can offer personalised learning possibilities by utilising adaptive learning technology. By tracking their development and adapting the pace and content of the course to meet the needs of each student, these tools assist pupils in understanding topics more thoroughly.

Students have the option to learn at their own pace and convenience through online education. Due to the fact that participants may access course materials and contribute in discussions at any time and from any place, it is excellent for those with busy schedules or other commitments. Adaptive learning strategies are frequently available on online learning platforms, allowing students to move through the course material at their own pace. This individualized approach allows students to concentrate on the areas where they require more time and practice and accommodates various learning preferences. Access to a wide variety of courses and subjects is made possible by online learning, frequently from top institutions around the globe. People now have the chance to learn about a variety of subjects that might not be easily accessible at their local educational institutions. To improve the learning experience, online learning platforms combine multimedia materials including films, interactive simulations, and virtual labs.

 These tools can help students learn more efficiently and simplify difficult subjects. Discussion boards, group projects, and virtual classrooms are all common features of online learning systems that encourage student involvement and cooperation. This enables students to interact, gain insight from one another's viewpoints, and develop vital communication and teamwork skills.

Online learning necessitates that students establish self-discipline and time management skills as well as assume ownership of their education. These abilities can support lifelong learning and are highly valued in the modern workplace. Online learning can be more affordable than traditional schooling since it saves money on transportation, accommodation, and other related costs. Furthermore, online courses frequently have reduced tuition costs, opening up education to a wider spectrum of students.

Online education is also called e-learning/ distant learning, now-a-days growing incredibly and known well in last few years. Online learning has emerged as a competitive alternative to conventional classroom-based education as a result of technological improvements and rising demand for flexible educational options. The purpose of this literature review is to examine the scholarly literature and current

research on online learning, including its efficacy, advantages, drawbacks, and best practices.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

As an adverse effect of COVID-19 our immune system is damaged and comes to the end of potentiality. The virus's quick spread can also make people anxious, which can have psychosocial effects including loss of breath and lightheadedness. (Tarista, 2020). Technology-based remote learning is strongly supported in the middle of internationalisation and the development of ICT. To encourage communication among teachers and students, pedagogical procedures should be managed innovatively and artistically Mat Dawi al. (2016).For the purposes of this research, online learning is described as a method of instruction as well as comprehension. Using various technological media, teachers and students can learn together., such as "Zoom,","WhatsApp," and "Google Classroom."In online learning, the instructor should not single handedly control the system but the two-way communication or discussion is also necessary. The teacher should supply all the material related to subject.

The connection between thoughts and actions intention is explained by Ajzen's (2002) Theory of Planned Behaviour. This idea, which explains how conduct develops in a variety of domains, including education, has been widely adopted.The influence of attitude, perceived behavioural control, and subjective norms on behavioural intentions can be shown. In general, attitude relates to individual interactions or experiences that motivate someone to carry out a particular conduct goal (Datnow, 2020). (Hazwani ,2020) not every student enjoys the online learning. To ensure the broad use of digital medium successfully, it is important to develop the eagerness about digital medium in teenagers. Additionally, self-motivation and self-discipline is compulsory part in online learning (Adnan 2020). Students thought that the both learning methods are different i.e., online learning and traditional class room learning.

Students also thought that group assignments were difficult to complete online and that in-person instruction was crucial for successful learning. According to Wildana et al. (2020), it is essential that the institution's leader upholds the norms when delivering online learning. The length of online learning relies on how easily accessible the web is and how much internet packages cost. However, this study found that in practice, students' online access was constrained by their physical location and a lack of resources to pay for online packages. The students who are weak in audible approach of learning or not able to concentrate during online learning it is compulsory to have reading proficiency. During the widespread of COVID-19, the newly develop online educational apps and program focuses on the easier use and learning through app approach. (Schneider and Council, 2020). To ensure that this

growth does not stop, development in the field of education needs to continue (Verawardina 2020). As per the research of Nurul Haidah (2020), the new generation students' needs to learn and/or adopt new technology to better learning. This approach will boost easy handling in modern life style. Students can learn better by adapting changes in circumstances and by handling the obstacles once they have mastered in these skills. As a result, the students will have the various types of technological skills that they can use in future. Through this approach, the digital platform has been promoted as a vital source of learning and teaching with remote learning. The literature study offers a thorough overview of online learning, highlighting its efficacy, advantages, difficulties, and best practices. The results imply that, when planned and executed well, online learning can be a practical educational choice. Making the most of online learning requires addressing issues, encouraging engagement and motivation, and adhering to pedagogical best practices. To deepen our understanding and improve the use of online learning in various educational situations, further study and investigation are required.

3. DISCUSSION

A large percentage of respondents claimed to be competent, assured, and at ease when using electronic gadgets as a learning tool for the online session. By Ajzen (2002), The theory of planned behaviour expresses this. Some students, despite of sharing their devices and technology with their siblings and with the other members of family, they are keen to learn and to integrate. The exposure to and familiarity with the devices in their atmosphere of family has influenced how they behave when using electronic communication tools for learning.(Ajzen, 2002) Online education is still relatively new and is not well-liked by students. Although the modern families have all the amenities at home in form of gadgets, Wi-Fi and atmosphere but the children have lack of learning enthusiasm Adnan(2020 and Hazwani et al. (2020)For undergraduate students, online learning offers flexibility, accessibility to a variety of courses, and individualized learning experiences. Online learning can be greatly impacted by technical concerns including poor internet connectivity, problematic software, or broken hardware. These problems can obstruct participation in online classes, access to course materials, or assignment submission, frustrating students and impeding their ability to learn. The discrepancy in student access to technology and stable internet connectivity is known as the "digital divide." Some students might not have access to the required equipment, fast internet, or a comfortable working space at home, which would restrict their ability to participate completely in online learning. Students who learn online must have strong time management skills, self-discipline, and motivation. Some students can find it difficult to retain concentration, meet deadlines, or keep a regular study routine without having the actual presence of instructors or classmates.Because it lacks the in-person engagement and social relationships that are normally present in traditional classroom environments, online

learning can be lonely. The advantages of face-to-face interactions, teamwork, and networking possibilities may be lost on students, which could have an effect on their educational experience.

Students may be exposed to distractions when studying from home or in other non-traditional settings, such as household chores, outside noise, or other variables. Without the routine and structure of a traditional classroom, children could find it difficult to focus and maintain a positive learning atmosphere.

 Some topics depend heavily on hands-on and practical experiences, such as based in laboratories sciences, fine arts, or physical education.

The depth of comprehension and skill development in some areas may be constrained by the difficulty of replicating similar experiences in an online setting.

4. EFFECTIVENESS OF ONLINE LEARNING

Several studies have compared the efficiency of traditional classroom education to that of online learning.These studies typically show that online learning can be just as effective—if not more so—in fostering academic success and knowledge retention in students. The efficiency of online learning is greatlyinfluenced by factors like student characteristics, instructional design, interaction, and support systems.

4.1. BENEFITS OF ONLINE LEARNING

Compared to traditional classroom environments, online learning has a number of advantages. The literature emphasises advantages including scheduling and location flexibility, better educational resource accessibility, personalised learning experiences, increased student engagement, and the capacity to meet a variety of learner needs. Online education can also encourage self-directed learning techniques and offer chances for lifelong learning.

4.2. ONLINE LEARNING CHALLENGE

Online learning has numerous benefits, but there are some negatives as well. Among the main challenges noted by studies are the need for technological competence, the potential for information overload, student motivation and self-regulation concerns, impeded social connection and peer collaboration, and the absence of prompt teacher feedback.

These problems need to be acknowledged and fixed in order to enhance the online learning experience.

4.3. PEDAGOGICAL METHODS AND RECOMMENDED PRACTICES

Effective pedagogical methods are crucial for designing and delivering online courses. The literature review highlights numerous strategies and best practises, such as formative evaluations, group work, multimedia integration, and active learning methods. The report also emphasises how important community building, student support services, and teacher presence are in online learning environments.

4.5. MOTIVATION IN ONLINE LEARNING

Online learning experiences must maintain learner interest and motivation in order to be effective. The literature review looks at a number of factors that influence learner engagement, including instructional design, learner-centered approaches, social presence, instructor-student interaction, and peer-to-peer interaction. The relevance of motivation theories and tactics in fostering learner motivation in online learning situations is also covered.

4.6. ONLINE LEARNING QUALITY ASSURANCE AND EVALUATION

It's crucial to guarantee the calibre of online courses and programmes. The assessment of the literature looks at frameworks for quality control, requirements for certification, and methodologies for online learning-specific evaluation. It talks about how to improve the calibre of online learning experiences by using learning analytics, assessment techniques, feedback mechanisms, and continuous improvement procedures.

5. CHALLENGES

Online learning might not have the same social dynamics and face-to-face interaction as traditional classroom settings. This may make it difficult for some undergraduate students to develop relationships with peers and teachers, which may cause them to feel alone. Online learning necessitates great time management abilities and self-motivation. When faced with the lack of regular in-person class meetings and deadlines, some undergraduate students may struggle with self-discipline and procrastination. It can be challenging to reproduce in an online learning environment the in-person instruction and practical experience needed for some disciplines, such as arts performance, or hands-on technical skills. It can be difficult to come up with new approaches or modifications to offer hands-on experiences. For certain college students, access to dependable internet connections, technological issues, and

computer skills may be obstacles. Their capacity to fully engage with the online learning materials and take part in virtual activities may be hampered by these difficulties. Online courses may have a big enrollment, which makes it difficult for instructors to give each student individualized attention and support. It's possible that students won't ask for help as often, which could leave gaps in their knowledge of the subject Instructors and institutions must address these issues in order to make online learning as effective as possible for undergraduate students.

They must do this by offering suitable support systems, encouraging a sense of community, providing clear communication channels, and creating flexible yet structured course designs. The educational experience for undergraduate students taking courses online can also be improved by identifying and putting into practice successful tactics, which can be aided by ongoing research and evaluation of online learning practices.

6. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, online education has shown to be a successful method of instruction for undergraduate students, providing a number of advantages and chances. It makes a variety of courses available, encourages ease and flexibility, and supports individualized and independent learning.

Interactive materials and collaborative learning possibilities are included in online learning systems, which improves student engagement and information acquisition.

However, it is important to note the drawbacks of online learning, such as the lack of in-person interaction, the possibility of experiencing social isolation, and the requirement for strong self-discipline and time management abilities.

Additionally, some disciplines, especially those requiring hands-on or practical experiences, could be harder to teach effectively online.

Institutions and educators must address these issues by putting methods in place to encourage student participation, allow communication and collaboration, offer prompt feedback, and guarantee access to relevant resources in order to maximize the effectiveness of online learning.

Additionally, continual developments in instructional design and technology continue to improve the online learning environment and get around some of the drawbacks.

In the end, a number of variables, including the student's motivation, learning preferences, and the caliber of the online course or programme, will determine how beneficial online learning is for undergraduate students.

When used effectively, online learning may be a worthwhile and accessible educational alternative that enables students to learn new things, hone their abilities, and get ready for the future.

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