

## ROLE OF ONLINE EDUCATION IN TODAY'S WORLD

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### Abstract

The field of education has seen a drastic change in the past two decades. The changing scenario of world economy and advancement in information and communication technology has resulted in the beginning of many new trends in education. Modern day education is all about innovation, accessibility, and suitability. From kindergarten to university, students are encouraged to learn through interactive and practical tools. Higher education is more career-oriented today than ever before. With advent of ICT, Online education is preferred because of its extendibility and expediency. It allows learners to set their own study time and duration without compromising on their present commitments. Online learning is cost effective and it carries great worth for jobseekers.

**Keywords:** online, online education, education

Online Education has many benefits in world trends and has positive impact in our life. An educated person is an asset for any country. In today's world, human capital is considered the best national resource. On one hand, he can explore better opportunities for himself, and on the other hand, the entire nation would get benefited from his works. This enables people to take better advantage of the resources available online. We have more than 1 million registered schools and 18,000 higher education institutions. However, 4 percent of children never start school, 58 percent don't complete primary schools, 90 percent don't complete secondary school and only 10 percent go on to college. What is going to happen to the 90 percent I do believe that online education helps people get access to a world-class learning experience when traditional higher education is simply not possible due to financial or personal constraints. Some may also suffer from physical or mental disabilities that make learning in a classroom impossible. For these students, online courses, specialisations and degree programs can offer an incredible opportunity to continue their education and build careers for themselves

### Objectives

All programs offered through the online education have following objectives: To allow students to complete degree requirements at their own pace; To enable students to successfully meet coursework requirements without classroom attendance; To develop an individualized program of study for each student; To provide students with the most comprehensive and current information available in their field of study; To utilize evaluation materials which require the student to demonstrate the effective integration of concepts and skills; To make available to students all materials necessary to successfully complete their degree requirements, and to give students access to faculty members who can provide assistance and guidance when necessary; To develop the students understanding of the language and information specific to their discipline; To enable students to effectively integrate concepts and skills across functional areas; To instill in students the value of life-long learning; To encourage students to take advantage of life-long learning opportunities; It exhibits the potential to democratize education in our country which has been wrestling with the paucity of infrastructure and qualified faculty to cater to its budding student base. Taking this

into perspective like the launch of SWAYAM on India's Independence Day (15<sup>th</sup> August 2016) proves to be the most opportune platform.

SWAYAM (Study Webs of Active-learning for Young Aspiring Minds) to provide quality and affordable education to its citizens, which can be accessible on an anywhere, anytime basis. This has opened up new avenues for the massive knowledge-seeking community, liberalizing it from the shackles of finance and time constraints which nip the desire to learn in the bud. **Also,** The assimilation of MOOCs in the educational setup is a welcome step. It has rejuvenated the education spectrum with innovative teaching learning methods through online lectures, interactivity sessions, discussion forums, profound explanations, and concept-driven assessments. The leverage of social interaction on the internet also propels intellectual engagement with peers and mentors in a focused environment. The competencies of MOOCs platform should be harnessed such that it harmonizes with the traditional education methods and creates an ecosystem wherein the overall education standards reach its epitome. However, it is a daunting task to achieve the goal of inclusive education through the online medium as lack of internet connectivity and infrastructure impedes its implementation. However, with the connivance of the government, industry, and universities, the goal of creating an exemplary education system that we envisage can be achieved.

### **Characteristics**

Growing Trend of Online Learning: While World Wide Web has redefined the practices and procedures in almost every area of life, it has certainly brought revolutionary changes in the field of education. The success story of online education is a significant example as it is serving the people from various different backgrounds. Everyone from mid-career professionals to housewives can earn degrees and diplomas in their selected fields through online schools and colleges. Online education is preferred because of its extendibility and expediency. It allows learners to set their own study time and duration without compromising on their present commitments. Online learning is cost effective and it carries great worth for jobseekers. It is noteworthy here that traditional methods of teaching and learning still carry great importance; it is only their integration with new technology and strategies that have introduced many new trends in education. We should also consider the fact that current trends in education are constantly evolving, so more directions will emerge in the future. We need to embrace the change as it happens, because this is the only way to remain connected to the world of knowledge. The field of education has seen a drastic change in the past two decades. The changing scenario of world economy and advancement in information and communication technology has resulted in the beginning of many new trends in education. Modern day education is all about innovation, accessibility, and suitability. From kindergarten to university, students are encouraged to learn through interactive and practical tools. Higher education is more career-oriented today than ever before. The barriers of time and age have also been removed, while geographical boundaries don't matter anymore. These revolutionary trends have benefitted those people who want to get practical knowledge for their personal and professional growth. Here highlighting some of the most popular trends in education that can help to become the innovative leader the world needs today.

**Career Oriented Approach:** Educational institutes are more focused now to prepare their students for the job market. Most of the students prefer schools and universities that are associated with specific disciplines. There are business schools for people who want to make it big in the corporate world and fine arts colleges for people who want to explore new dimensions through the medium of art. A lot of emphasis is placed to prepare the curriculum according to the demands and practices of the selected field, and students are guided according to a well-defined career pathway. Apart from this, students are synthesized with the environment of their chosen field through apprenticeship programs and practical training.

**Activity-Based Learning:** Students are encouraged to contribute to learning process through participation in different activities. Be it a second grade classroom where knowledge is discovered through a sport or fun quiz, or mock trials at Law schools where students can get real life experience of court proceeding. Role-playing, case studies, projects, presentations and several other tools are used to make the education process interactive and productive. In higher level studies, role of instructor is also changing from that of an authority in knowledge to a facilitator for students who promotes seminar-like environment in the classroom.

**Changing Patterns in Student Assessment and Evaluation:** Many new trends are introduced for assessing the performance of students and evaluating their level of knowledge and skill attainment. From classroom assessment to grading system for exams, everything has become more transparent and error-free because of the use of technology. Computer-based assessment is encouraged in most parts of the world, which saves a lot of time and effort. Students also appreciate new patterns of evaluation, as they guarantee them foolproof results.

### **Importance and Benefits of Online Education**

Everyone can access Education no matter the location: When people choose to pursue a study program in numerous cases they need to move to another city, away from their home, family and friends. Meanwhile, there are countries where gender issues prevent young women from accessing education. In such cases, online learning helps to eliminate border and barriers, both social and physical. Online courses are great solutions to the challenges that these people face as they are provided with high quality and on their own place and time.

**Comfort and Flexibility:** It happens to young students to find themselves into a highly competitive learning environment. Some people like this as it motivates them to work hard but there are others that feel overwhelmed. No matter the fact that failure is essential to success, there are persons that can't bear failure among others. Meanwhile, it is easier to accept it at home. This makes people comfortable.

**Sharing Knowledge with others:** Its common that when we learn something new we feel the need to share it with others. This is another purpose of education, sharing knowledge .So thousands of students can get benefitted by online training.

**Advantages and Disadvantages of online education:** Online education does not require students to travel to school as one can easily study from a computer connected to the internet. Another advantage is that a student can access learning materials from any point so long as there is an internet connection. Online education also improves a student's skills in internet use. The students are also able to acquire updated information through the internet. This makes it easy for them to complete

and submit their assignments in time. Online education is comfortable for students as they can study from anywhere they wish as opposed to those who have to study in classrooms. It is also possible for communication among students and between student and faculty. Online education has various disadvantages too. Students cannot meet their tutors or teachers like those who study in classrooms. Time management is also a disadvantage. Online education requires proper time management. Thus, the mode of study may be preferred for institutions of higher learning as opposed to secondary and primary level education.

### **Succeeding in online Education**

To succeed in online education, ensure you choose an ideal university and course online. This is to avoid pursuing one among the many dubious courses and universities that may be rejected by job employers. Ensure you are saving money. One of the aims of online education is saving money. The other most important thing is to ensure that you maintain communication with your school faculty and fellow students. The key issue is proper time management that helps you to manage your time so you complete and submit assigned tasks in time. This also ensures that you read all study materials to avoid missing exams and also failing in exams. It is also essential to ensure maximum use of available technology, for example, the online libraries.

### **Conclusion**

Online learning is one of the upcoming trends in the education sectors all over the world. This is a mode of learning whereby learning is done through the internet. With modern and improved technologies, this mode of learning has been made easier. In e-learning, there are no classrooms. The students study from a place that is most convenient for them. They can acquire learning material online. The study and learning materials could be audio, texts or notes, videos and images. This mode of study is preferred for higher learning institutions. However, the mode of study has its advantages and various disadvantages too.

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