IS ONLINE EDUCATION BETTER THAN OFFLINE EDUCATION?

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ABSTRACT

This article discusses online and offline education, examining the conveniences offered by both, as well as the challenges and shortcomings faced in each mode of learning. Solutions to these issues are also explored.

Introduction

We live in the 21st century, an era of technological advancement. These developments are designed to facilitate and assist humanity in many ways, and education is no exception. The educational process has been transformed thanks to technological innovations, leading to the rise of online education alongside traditional offline learning. This shift became particularly significant during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2019, which forced students—from school children to university students—into remote learning.

Literature Review and Methodology

Today's educational demands push for new approaches that lead to qualitative changes in education. This has brought about innovations in learning methods. In Uzbekistan, developing the educational system and reforming the process of preparing qualified specialists is considered a top priority. For students to apply what they've learned in practice, they must consolidate their knowledge in a timely manner, integrate it into other subjects, and systematize their learning. This ensures educational effectiveness.

Studies show that online education is not inferior to traditional education in many respects. According to research from American universities, 77% of teachers believe that online education is equal in quality to traditional education, and sometimes even superior. The effectiveness of a course largely depends on the learner, as distance learning requires more discipline and self-regulation.

Online education organizers can invite teachers and professionals from various cities and countries to conduct lectures or workshops, which enhances the credibility and quality of the education and the diploma received.

Many people believe that online education will never replace traditional education. However, some argue that online education can be more effective than traditional methods, comparing skepticism about online learning to preferring horses over cars when they were first introduced.

Nevertheless, online learning also has its limitations. The biggest drawback is its constraints on students' social skills and collaboration opportunities. Face-to-face learning helps foster emotional communication between teachers and students, placing learners in a better academic environment. However, traditional education also has its disadvantages.

The main issue with conventional

education is the use of a "one-size-fits-all" teaching approach. In any classroom, there will always be students who lag behind or who are ahead of their peers. Even the best teachers may find themselves asking, "Should I slow down to ensure more students understand the topic, or should I stick to the curriculum and move on?"

Online education addresses this problem by allowing for individualized learning, adjusting to the pace and needs of each student.

Challenges in Online Education

While online education has many advantages, it also presents some significant challenges:

1. Difficulty focusing on screens: One of the main issues with online learning is the difficulty students have in maintaining focus on screens for extended periods. Teachers must therefore make their lessons clear, engaging, and interactive to help students stay attentive.

2. Technological barriers: Another major challenge is internet access. Although internet coverage has improved in recent years, some rural areas still experience connectivity issues.

3. Feeling of isolation: Students often learn a lot from being surrounded by their peers. However, in online classes, there is minimal physical interaction, which can lead to feelings of isolation.

4. Teacher training: Many teachers only have a basic understanding of technology. Sometimes they lack the necessary tools and resources to conduct online lessons effectively.

5. Screen time management: Parents are often concerned about their children's extended screen time, as it can negatively affect their health. Prolonged periods in front of a screen can lead to poor posture and other physical issues for students.

Conclusion

There are both positive and critical views of online education. Some prefer traditional learning methods, while others see online education as more effective. Comparing the two has become a common practice, but it is incorrect to treat online and offline education as mutually exclusive. Both formats have their strengths and are suitable for different circumstances. It is clear that each has its advantages, and both can be effective in their own ways.

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