

## Assessing Online Classes and Traditional Classes

Mohammadreza Ghaffari

Department of Communication, Damavand Branch, Islamic Azad University, Damavand, Iran

\*Corresponding author: [allahyari121@yahoo.com](mailto:allahyari121@yahoo.com)

**Abstract:** This article will focus on the disadvantage of taking Online Classes. Online education is not exactly a trend yet, but it is becoming increasingly popular. The reason for this is that it offers new opportunities where none existed before – Many people wouldn't have been able to acquire the necessary higher education without it. However, like all things in life, taking Online Classes has some drawbacks and disadvantages as compared to the traditional classrooms. Teachers must be involved in planning the systems, trained to use the tools they provide, and given the flexibility to revise their teaching. Federal and state regulations will need revision to ensure a more flexible and effective use of technology. Connections have been established across geographic, instructional, and institutional boundaries which provide opportunities for collaboration and resource sharing among many groups. In the pooling of students and teachers, distance learning reconfigures the classroom which no longer is bounded by the physical space of the school, district, state or nation. [Mohammadreza Ghaffari. **Assessing Online Classes and Traditional Classes.** Nature and Science 2011;9(8):14-16]. (ISSN: 1545-0740). <http://www.sciencepub.net>.

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### Introduction:

Distance education is a method of education in which the learner is physically separated from the teacher and the institution sponsoring the instruction. It may be used on its own, or in conjunction with other forms of education, including face-to-face instruction. In any distance education process there must be a teacher, one or more students, and a course or curriculum that the teacher is capable of teaching and the student is trying to learn. The contract between teacher and learner, whether in a traditional classroom or distance education, requires that the student be taught, assessed, given guidance and, where appropriate, prepared for examinations that may or may not be conducted by the institution. This must be accomplished by two-way communication. Learning may be undertaken either individually or in groups; in either case, it is accomplished in the physical absence of the teacher in distance education. Where distance teaching materials are provided to learners, they are structured in ways that facilitate learning at a distance.

Archived video footage and virtual real-time lectures, online assignments and presentations, electronic academic material, multimedia as part of classrooms – all these have been part of higher education for a while now.

However, Online Education means taking entire degree program online, via your laptop. This means an entirely new experience, yet not everybody is ready for it.

Taking Online Classes via Online education program requires specific learning skills, which some people lack.

### *The Pros of Online Classes*

The key advantages of using an online class are –

#### **1. Time flexibility**

For some people there is nothing worse than getting up before 9 in the morning. Traditional higher education often requires just that. But with online education students have the possibility to adjust schedules to their life, rather than adjust their life to predetermined schedules.

Other people benefit greatly from it too: parents, full-time employees, and anyone else who for this or that reason is too busy to attend traditional classes.

#### **2. Geographic flexibility**

Online institutions make possible something unprecedented: it no longer matters where you live. You can live in one of the world and study daily at an institution based in another without ever leaving your native country, or even your room, for that matter.

Even in terms of local travel online education is a revolution: there are no more bus, train, or car trips, no traffic jams, no being late for the bus/train, no time and money spent on travel.

#### **3. Class Notes**

Not everybody knows how to write great class notes. Online courses provide electronic transcripts of every lecture. This is great for anyone who has short attention spans or does not like to write during lectures.

#### **4. More educational means**

Much more so that in traditional classrooms, online education incorporates online multimedia possibilities into instruction.

#### **Possible cons of online classes include:**

What are the Disadvantages of Online Courses? Here are some –

#### **1. Credits:**

Not all online course credits are transferable to traditional degree programs!

## 2. Require self-discipline

Excellent self-discipline and time management without the aid of strict schedules, attendance requirements, and personal communication

## 3. Lack of interpersonal interaction

No interpersonal relationships with either teachers or students; only via email, message boards, and other online means of communication.

## Online Classes VS Traditional Classes: Comparison between the Two Methods

Nowadays it is not enough to choose the university you want to learn at. Today, you have to first decide whether you want an online degree or an offline/traditional education.

Online education is a growing force in the field of additional and higher education. It is probable that in the near future, within a decade or two, online education will be the global standard.

Considering the differences between these two methodologies of education can provide you the basic knowledge and even surprising opportunities.

## Conclusion:

Distance education places students and their instructors in separate locations using some form of technology to communicate and interact. The student may be located in the classroom, home, office or learning center. The instructor may be located in a media classroom, studio, office or home.

Distance education delivers classes (live or pre-taped) to students in their home, office, or classroom. It is used by K-12, higher education, continuing education and business. As the cost of delivering quality education increases, institutions find that limited resources prevent them from building facilities, hiring faculty, or expanding curricula. They are using distance education to maximize resources and are combining their assets with others to produce programming. Distance education is offered internationally, nationally, regionally, and locally over all forms of conferencing technology.

The student may receive information via satellite, microwave, or fiber optic cable, television (broadcast, cable or Instructional Television Fixed Services (ITFS), video cassette or disk, telephone - audio conferencing bridge or direct phone line, audio cassette, printed materials - text, study guide, or handout, computer - modem or floppy disk, and compressed video. Recent rapid development of technology has resulted in systems that are powerful, flexible, and increasingly affordable. The base of available information technology resources is increasing with dramatic speed. Much has been learned about connecting various forms

of technology into systems, so that the ability to link systems is growing. Most distance learning systems are hybrids, combining several technologies, such as satellite, ITFS, microwave, cable, fiber optic, and computer connections.

Interactivity is accomplished via telephone (one-way video and two-way audio), two-way video or graphics interactivity, two-way computer hookups, two-way audio. Interactivity may be delayed but interaction provided by teacher telephone office hours when students can call or through time with on-site facilitators. Classes with large numbers of students have a limited amount of interactivity. Much of the activity on computer networks is on a delayed basis as well. Possibilities for audio and visual interaction are increasingly wide.

Challenges which faced the early users of distance education are still with us today. If distance education is to play a greater role in improving the quality of education, it will require expanded technology; more linkages between schools, higher education, and the private sector; and more teachers who use technology well. Teachers must be involved in planning the systems, trained to use the tools they provide, and given the flexibility to revise their teaching. Federal and state regulations will need revision to ensure a more flexible and effective use of technology. Connections have been established across geographic, instructional, and institutional boundaries which provide opportunities for collaboration and resource sharing among many groups. In the pooling of students and teachers, distance learning reconfigures the classroom which no longer is bounded by the physical space of the school, district, state or nation.

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