

Online Classes and Traditional Classes in adult education

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Abstract: Imagine a future without campuses and classrooms. Instead there will be academic cyber-space and scholarly chat rooms. Accredited academic programs world-wide will be given via the Internet, producing an unprecedented global number of world experts in every field. This is not yet the case today, but online schools are already offering great opportunities where none existed only a few years ago. Higher education is becoming easily available to people who would otherwise never even dream of it – Adults who work full time, family people, people from remote countries all over the world converging in world-class learning centers. Because online education is still a new field, it is important to know exactly what it can and cannot offer you.

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Introduction:

Information and communication as the main lever or two important move in developing wings, we learn. Meanwhile, proper utilization of the capacities of these two valuable and effective indexes in the general development concept for any society and the principles of a critical need is considered. With a view to clarifying this issue can be paid in the best way to create a platform for developing data standards and access to a knowledge based society, what really can be. To achieve a clear and practical answer in this area before all the existing definitions and indicators mentioned placed.

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.

Distance learning is a hot subject today, but is it really for you?

It is best not to hurry when choosing a college or university, lest you find yourself a victim of hype.

Online courses are a new revolutionary way of

providing education. Even traditional institutions are increasingly incorporating the Internet e-learning online interaction means and software tools into their programs.

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.

Virtual classrooms vs. real classrooms

There are two camps around this issue – Those who love attending campus-based lecture and those would rather stay at home. Virtual education means there are no campuses and no classrooms. For those who prefer to be at home and are comfortable with cyberspace this is a virtual paradise. For those who are technophobic, get confused by online multi-media, and who prefer direct human contact this may be a veritable digitalized hell. But the amount of people who are uncomfortable with technology and the internet is decreasing exponentially. Most people are addicted to the internet. And video communication is becoming standard nowadays, allowing top-quality group video communication online.

The benefits of Taking Online Courses: Why should you take it Online?

Let us consider the advantages of taking online classes:

1. Recognition:

First things first, online courses are widely accepted and sought after by employers. It is not something that people shun away from. In fact, a research conducted by DETC has revealed that more than 70% of employers look forward to recruiting people who possess online degrees rather than their traditional counterparts.

2. Being your own boss:

Traditional education requires teachers to impart education to students and monitor and evaluate their performances as well. If you are one of those who hate being nagged by someone, then online courses are meant for you. You can study on your own and keep yourself motivated without the interference of any one.

3. Accessibility and comfort:

Online courses are a respite for all those who hate functioning in a preplanned and methodical way.

Online classes enable students to study whenever they want to and from where ever they can. They can study from within the comforts of their homes. Further, online courses suit working professionals the most.

4. Reading and not listening:

Online courses require students to study referring to online textual content sent by universities. Thus, they can escape the monotonous lectures and long classrooms hours yet be well acquainted with the study materials.

5. Individualistic minds at work:

Online courses are the best for those who hate social interactions and love to be on their own. The courses alienate all sorts of distractive elements that may be present in a traditional classroom. Thus, a student can enjoy his/her peace of mind.

6. Resource center:

Online courses enable students to refer to notes or relevant study material by visiting the archived section. This is not so in traditional classrooms. If a student misses a class lecture, he/she misses the study content as well.

You would now surely agree that **accredited online courses** have the same worth as the traditional ones.

Conclusion:

Distance learning is expanding and examples of it are increasing dramatically. Fewer than 10 states were using distance learning in 1987; today, virtually all states have an interest or effort in distance education. Distance learning systems connect the teacher with the students when physical face-to-face interaction is not possible. Telecommunications systems carry instruction, moving information instead of people. The technology at distant locations are important and affect how interaction takes place, what information resources are used, and how effective the system is likely to be.

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.

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.

The key to success in distance learning is the teacher. If the teacher is good, the technology can become almost transparent. No technology can overcome poor teaching which is actually exacerbated in distance education applications. When skilled teachers are involved, enthusiasm, expertise, and creative use of the media can enrich students beyond the four walls of their classroom.

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