

Students' Perspectives on the Paradox of Traditional vs. Technology-enabled Learning in Higher Education

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ABSTRACT

The educational system has undergone a significant transformation as a result of the integration of technology into the training and instruction processes. The conventional model of education has been the normative approach to education for a considerable amount of time. This model is characterised by the use of classroom discipline, structured pedagogies, and interacting with students in person. Learning that is integrated with technology includes a variety of components, including online platforms, digital tools, and interactive learning environments. This kind of learning has gained popularity as a consequence of advancements in technology. The purpose of this research is to examine the effectiveness of both learning modalities from the perspective of the student, taking into consideration engagement, knowledge retention, accessibility, and overall learning results. For the purpose of determining what students desire, how each technique functions, and how blended learning may be improved, this study employs an interview methods approach. Students believe that studying via technology prepares them to be active participants in a global community. Insights gained from studying students' views may inform the development of information and communication technology infrastructure as well as the design of technology-enabled learning activities across disciplines.

Keywords: *Learning, Technology, Insight, Pedagogies and Integration*

The swift advancement and extensive adoption of digital technology have led to significant changes in individuals' daily lives globally (Asabere, and Enguah, 2012). Technology has become a fundamental aspect of modern life, and the educational system is no exception (Aixia and Wan, 2011). All countries around the world have experienced the impact of the coronavirus, and its spread continues to accelerate. The illness has resulted in numerous fatalities and has divided and disturbed public opinion regarding the global health crisis. A variety of institutions have initiated the provision of their courses exclusively online due to the closure. To ensure the safety of their students, schools made the decision to close due to the elevated risk of viral infections within a highly social student demographic. The prolonged closure of educational institutions has posed numerous challenges for educators and learners alike (Sari and Oktaviani, 2021). During this period, online education began to rise in prominence as an effective means of disseminating knowledge that required minimal effort from both students and instructors.

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The term "online learning" includes a diverse array of methods and resources designed to address the requirements of contemporary students and educators. In light of the impending school closures, several students and educators have expressed their concerns. Due to environmental and ecological limitations, many rural kids may not have the same educational opportunities as their urban counterparts (Periasamy, 2019). Students' intrinsic desire to study and the quality of their knowledge acquisition may be enhanced with the use of cutting-edge instructional and informational technology that make studying more interesting and fun. These days, teachers use strategies like online learning to ignite their pupils' interest in school, and they should like what they do very much. This is made possible on modern educational platforms by means of a well-organized learning process and the capacity to evaluate students' understanding and skills. In order for a teacher to know whether the content they taught was really helpful to their students' learning, the educational literature highlights the significance of student-teacher feedback at various points in the interaction process. It has had a disproportionately negative impact on numerous sectors, including education.

The global spread of COVID-19 has had a profound impact on educational institutions worldwide. We can't continue with our regular manner of instruction since maintaining personal space is essential in stopping the transmission of the COVID-19 virus (Shete, et.al. 2020). All schools and universities throughout the globe have shuttered their doors because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Since March of 2020, students have not been seen in conventional classrooms. As a result, a growing number of students are researching their alternatives, including online education. While many people use the abbreviation "online learning," the full meaning of "online education" is far broader. In the midst of a worldwide pandemic, many people are turning to online schooling, particularly video conferencing tools like Zoom, Google Meet, and even Whats App.

STANDARDIZED EDUCATION

- ◆ Teaching in a one-on-one setting is more successful and gets students more involved in the material since they are in the actual classroom.
- ◆ The conventional classroom setting, which encourages a student-centered approach and creates an atmosphere where students may learn from one another
- ◆ To top it all off, it inspires them to be more competitive.
- ◆ A child's social surroundings in shaping their personality, ethics, and character.
- ◆ In the conventional classroom, the teacher is the one responsible for establishing rules of conduct and giving the pupils a sense of purpose.

ICT LEARNING

There are various benefits to studying online, including:

- Students may include a variety of resources, including videos, PDFs, and podcasts, into their online learning strategy. The main advantage of online education is that students have the freedom to take courses whenever and whenever they choose, at their own speed.
- A wealth of course materials accessible through a website or other online platform;
- The ability to tailor one's learning experience to one's specific needs;
- The development of skills relevant to the real world, such as critical thinking.

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LITERATURE REVIEW

Students in the e-learning experimental group outperformed those in the control group on the course's final test (Elfaki, 2019). The primary results of this research show that traditional learners had much better attitudes and much better learning outcomes compared to online learners, indicating that traditional learning might be a good option to online learning in higher education. A student's level of enthusiasm and academic achievement are greatly affected by the learning activities and resources used in online learning. When used in online education, these tools may really connect with students on a personal level, which boosts their confidence and makes them happier when they get positive reinforcement (Kew, 2020). The most troublesome parts of online education, according to Mahyoob (2020), are problems with connectivity, getting into classes, and downloading materials.

Research Question

- ✓ In light of the recent movement from traditional to ICT-enabled learning, how do college students feel about this trend at COVID-19?
- ✓ The adoption and use of online, ICT-enabled learning presents some problems for students in higher education.
- ✓ When faced with such obstacles, how do students in higher education handle them?

Participants

A sample consisting of fifty students from Ranchi town, encompassing both undergraduate and post-graduate levels, was utilized. The research conducted in this context is qualitative in nature. An extensive interview was conducted to gather the material.

Procedure

Prior to the commencement of the interview, it was requisite for the participants to complete a consent form. Every student, without exception, provided their consent to engage in the study. The researcher provided assurance to the participant regarding the confidentiality of their identity, emphasizing that the data would solely be utilized for academic research purposes. The duration of each interview spanned approximately ten to fifteen minutes.

Interview

A convenience sample of fifty students, comprising 25 undergraduates and 25 postgraduates, residing in Ranchi, was invited to participate in open-ended interviews. This approach aimed to gain a comprehensive understanding of the situation regarding online teaching in their respective institutions. The interviewers used the following questions as a framework:

- ✓ Is the infrastructure sufficient for online classes?
- ✓ In your opinion, the most significant obstacle to online learning is the absence of devices and internet.
- ✓ What percentage of students choose to attend courses online?
- ✓ Are there any other problems you're having with online class bans?
- ✓ In light of this epidemic, what do you think about the effectiveness of online education?

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RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The following are the interview findings that were categorized according to the study question:

RQ 1 : *In light of the recent movement from traditional to ICT-enabled learning, how do college students feel about this trend at COVID-19?*

Participant 1 :- Whether it's a teacher or a fellow student, I know I can always rely on them for assistance. As a student, I can reach out to my instructor over WhatsApp or another platform if I have any issues or worries when I'm at home, and I'll get answers quickly. A more fulfilling experience and a more effective method are only two of the many benefits of this new learning approach, therefore I think others would benefit from using it as well.

Participant 2 :- In my opinion, internet education is completely inadequate when compared to traditional classroom instruction. I can't compare this to being in a traditional school setting since my social life has drastically changed. Everyone at my institution has the chance to tell me what they think and share their thoughts. In this day and age, not everyone is online at the same time. My ideal future educational experience would be a mix of online and traditional classroom instruction.

RQ 2 : *The adoption and use of online, ICT-enabled learning presents some problems for students in higher education.*

Participant 1 :- Online learning, which requires strong communication abilities, is challenging for me to manage. My lack of success in social situations has left me feeling drained, and maintaining my own drive has proven to be my greatest obstacle. When taking classes online, it might be challenging to keep up high-quality communication skills.

Participant 2 :- From an accessibility standpoint, I think that having the right hardware, connectivity, and software is the most critical factor. I do not believe that I am capable of learning well using online means because of my perceived lack of technological skills.

RQ 3: *When faced with such obstacles, how do students in higher education handle them?*

Participant 1 :- Communicating with my teacher is much simpler when I study online as opposed to in a traditional classroom. Thanks to the self-instruction and confidence I get from online learning, I am able to tackle difficult tasks with ease. Going to online courses has really helped me hone my technological abilities, particularly with email and other internet programs.

Participant 2 :- From my vantage point, our lives have been transformed by the epidemic, the economic downturn, and the social turmoil. Aside from the loss of my closest relative, my family is also dealing with health problems and financial concerns. Things like relaxing and spending time with family are now within my reach. Reason being, class attendance isn't necessary for online courses. Therefore, it is very helpful to me throughout this pandemic.

The biggest challenge is getting all students enrolled in virtual classes. Not all pupils at all levels are getting the benefits. A lot of people in rural regions still don't have access to fast internet, even if city dwellers have. Because they don't have the necessary devices or access to a reliable internet connection, many students stay away from online classes. Conversely, there is a serious flaw in the way that this online class is assessed. Everyone who took part in the

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survey felt that they were good at managing their time. According to the student, the lecturer made use of video conferencing to ensure that they fully understood the material. In their opinion, the online explanation was just as thorough as before.

Two categories based on student opinion

Admittance	Confrontations'
Flexibility helped determine how to optimize session lengths, student autonomy in lesson preparation, and video and book choices. We created the Accessibility Curriculum to guarantee that all students can take online courses.	English speakers may utilize the internet more than non-English speakers. Rural residents are more likely to speak their original language, which is typically better than English. Rural areas lack inexpensive laptops, tablets, and smart phones and stable internet connections
Most poll respondents said internet schooling was good. While online courses cost more, they're still cheaper than attending class, buying textbooks, and eating out every day.	Interviewees said their homes hinder them from studying. Vehicles, nosy neighbors, and noisy animals distract.
Most students are becoming better at using internet tools to research topics and verify sources. Students' professional prospects improve with enhanced technical understanding and confidence. Students need excellent digital literacy to adapt to the current learning environment.	Due to the COVID-19 epidemic, pupils are losing interest in school. The number of electives has caused problems for students. Additionally, they must modify material for digital platforms. Distance makes it hard for pupils to communicate with their instructors. This increases their anxiety.
The best approach to schedule online learning. To preserve curiosity, knowledge, and mental agility. Our system lets you learn independently. Using ICT-enabled learning to improve participants' intercultural involvements is modern. Understanding and respecting each other's cultures.	Sometimes students who learn online could lack organization. They are free to choose for themselves whether or not to continue with a conventional schooling. Whether in a virtual or brick-and-mortar classroom, students tend to feel more pressure when they have lessons scheduled..
Self-disciplined students know that putting things off until tomorrow just makes things worse since there will be too much work. To preserve curiosity, knowledge, and mental agility. Our system lets you learn independently. It gives us several options for effective learning settings.	Especially in smaller villages, energy is not readily available, which limits the use of information and communication technologies making online learning harder for families.
As technology improves its ability to gather and respond to quick information, student involvement has increased. Students feel appreciated when they choose their learning. Self-study allows students to work at their own speed and concentrate on topics they like or understand.	Since the epidemic, many higher education students worldwide can't attend online lessons since their families are struggling.

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CONCLUSION

For the purpose of providing a comprehensive picture, this kind of qualitative research makes use of interview analysis. Surveys have shown that students in Ranchi who are pursuing graduate and postgraduate degrees are more receptive to the concept of learning at a distance. The use of technology in the context of flexible learning has emerged as a major topic of discussion in the field of education over the course of the last few years. It would seem that constructivist and student-centered approaches to learning are not compatible with the objectives of enhancing education, producing graduates who possess a diverse set of abilities, and ensuring that the learning process is as effective and efficient as it can possibly be. The adaptability of digital materials is a significant advantage for students to take use of. The fact that they are able to study whenever it is most convenient for them is beneficial to the development of essential skills such as self-management (Huang et al., 2020). Despite the obvious necessity to resist a significant impact on every aspect of their neo-normal lives, the findings demonstrated that students may be successful in online courses.

Presenting information accurately using technological means that rely on high-quality digital content is crucial. Content in higher education should be accessible, relevant, and suitable to students' levels of autonomy, and students should be able to locate their position in the overall learning design. Because most online work demands students to communicate well in writing, the variety of online approaches encourages students to see the digital tools they use as dynamic, expressive, and creative. Slow Internet, among other things, prevents college students from fully using information and communication technologies, as shown in this research. Applying principles of effective learning environment design and online technology to higher education has the potential to inspire students to take risks, explore new avenues of inquiry, and critically assess their own practices. In terms of overall perceptions, both positive and negative, most respondents rated online education as mediocre. Participating students from remote locations rated the quality of their online education as moderate, stating that they were dissatisfied and did not think it was very good. Some of the attitudes and behaviors that online students may need to change if they want to be successful include being unmotivated, fixated on technology, and incapable of thinking and behaving like productive students. Because their professors didn't respond quickly enough and the internet was too sluggish, study participants felt lonely, unmotivated, and unsatisfied. If a student had technical issues, the teachers couldn't fix them. According to the results of the poll, most students see online education in a good light.

IMPLICATIONS

This research is useful for college students interested in online education since it summarizes the present status of the field. Through seminars and training programs, college and university students may change their attitude towards online learning. The government-sponsored online content delivery courses may help educators in rural locations learn more effectively. Perhaps the study will shed some insight on the factors that have contributed to the meteoric rise of online education. Blended learning might be a good option for future course teaching. Students with mixed or bad experiences should have their thoughts and experiences recorded qualitatively.

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Conflict of Interest

The author declared no conflict of interest.

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