IS ONLINE LEARNING EFFECTIVE?

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An increasing number of students are choosing to take their coursework online due to the incidence caused by the pandemic. The typical classroom setting risky and susceptible to spreading the virus.

Although the quality of education that Schools can offer is definite and tested. In this day and age, we are starting to grasp the opportunities and advantages of technology, especially with education. Now with the covid-19 pandemic raging throughout the world, Institutions of higher learning are being forced to reconsider how they want to provide services and courses to their students. After all, even as the world seemed to have taken a halt, the time is actually still ticking and the more it does, the greater the losses are for them and for the students.

Web-based instruction, as compared to natural classroom instruction, has made it possible to provide classes all over the world using a single Internet connection. Online learning presents numerous benefits over traditional schooling, but it also has some drawbacks, such as a lack of social interaction. Nonetheless, it appears that many students are choosing online education as a tool of acquiring a degree.

As a significant number of students seek online learning, computer-assisted learning is transforming the instructional landscape. Higher education institutions are increasingly extolling the benefits of Web-based education and are fast adopting courses online to satisfy the demands of students all around the world.

Online education is not a new phenomenon, contrary to popular opinion. The University of London in the United Kingdom, have launched the first communication and distant learning educational materials in the mid-1800s. Due to the obvious lack of internet, the mode in which people back then manage distant learning is through snail mail or postal services. This kind of learning strategy only reached the United States in the late 19th century. Distance learning courses have unquestionably improved in speed and accessibility as a result of technological advancements; now students all over the world can take sessions from the comfort of their own homes.

But the question still remains, however, how effective is it? Well, that seemed to depend on which course or skill needs to be studied. There are courses and topics that can be effectively taught online. These are the ones that are mainly theory based and do not need practical applications. Many online instructors and students have found that online courses work well for courses that include textbooks, notes, or tools that can be accessed from anywhere and installed on personal computers to allow students to complete tasks. Excel, Geographic Information System (GIS), and Photoshop applications are just a few examples. As part of their course work, students can readily download them from the school's library portal to their personal computers.

On the other hand, courses that require in-person instruction and application, i.e. technical courses, are not as effective. Part of these course is application of theory that requires students to be in school and with supervision of a skilled instructor.

However, the effectiveness of online classes still highly depends on the capability of both the teachers and students to function remotely. Some people are not adept in learning online, even for topics that can be taught online. Which can be attributed to the type of learner they are. Tactile learners, often called kinesthetic students, understand through doing or experiencing things. They enjoy becoming involved by acting out events or touching and handling objects to better understand topics. These learners may find it hard to sit inaudibly and often thrive at athletics or like dancing.

8 April 2022

In conclusion, the effectiveness of learning, online or physical, still varies according to many factors involve. If a number of things come together favorably, online learning can be beneficial.

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