



## A comparative analysis of online Vs offline education system with reference to Covid-19

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### Abstract

After the catastrophic Covid-19 pandemic, educational institutions around the world were forced to replace physical classrooms with online alternatives. To lessen the spread of influenza (Covid-19), people are enrolling in online classes. Online courses have rapidly become the norm in higher education. Despite its many advantages, online learning still has its limitations and should not be seen as a replacement for time spent in a classroom. The current study provides a comparative analysis of the differences between traditional classroom training and online study. More research has revealed the benefits and drawbacks of both online and traditional education. It has been found that online education cannot completely substitute traditional classroom learning.

**Keywords:** online learning, offline education, covid-19, classroom training

### Introduction

As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic in the early 20th century, distance education became widely available to people all over the globe. Through this research, we hope to gain a better understanding of the relative merits of online and conventional classroom settings for higher education. Since college students have a hard time adjusting to the various online learning formats, researchers have established that their online encounters are dull and lifeless. Even though a number of students have switched in the online courses, but traditional teaching methods are still preferred medium of education in India. In a world where computers do the majority of the work and classes are virtual, most students believe that online learning tools will give them a leg up in school. Combining traditional classroom instruction with digital resources has been shown to be most effective for pupils. But for students who have to depend on distance learning, online education is the preferred method for them. Several students still believe that online education is the only viable choice for reducing their time in learning. Therefore, it can be concluded that Covid-19 pandemic led educators and students to keep up with the online education. Some of the drawbacks of online pedagogy include general lack of concentration, instruction problems, technical problems, and so on. The main difference between an online course and one taught in a conventional classroom is the teaching method used. In contrast to online education, which makes use of digitalized resources, offline education typically makes use of more conventional teaching tools and techniques. The remainder of this paper is segregated in six parts: part second analyses the relevant literature related to the study. Third part explains about the online and offline learning. Fourth part depicts the similarities and dissimilarities between online and offline education. Fifth part concludes the study and sixth shows the limitations of the present study.

### Literature Review

In the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic, all educational institutions face difficulties in accomplishing their goals and objectives. Schools all over the world had to forsake their

old ways of teaching and learning as they adapted to the new realities brought on by the pandemic (Lakshman *et al.*, 2021) <sup>[2]</sup>. Following the indefinite closure of educational facilities around the globe, a standardised strategy of providing education via the internet was developed (Gonzalez *et al.*, 2020) <sup>[3]</sup>. In the midst of a pandemic, the study of Qazi *et al.* (2020) <sup>[1]</sup> suggested that governments and other policymakers should concentrate to increase the access of digital education. Due to the Union Government's plan to lock down the entire country in 2020, schools all over our country had switched to online education (Muthu prasad *et al.* 2021). As internet infrastructure and accessibility have improved, it's become obvious that online education provides more options than classroom-based education (Biswas and Dey, 2021) <sup>[4]</sup>. In recent years, Webex meet, Google Meet became the platform to conduct the lectures and webinars as the preferred pedagogical vehicle for online education. If current trends continue, online education may one day supplant the formal education system. Previously, it was a part of informal education (Mishra *et al.*, 2020) <sup>[5]</sup>. Online education has several benefits, such as flexible, convenient, financially viable, and more. These prevalent methods of teaching are fraught with pros and cons, and for years academics have argued over which is better. However, it is generally agreed that no educational method can replace traditional classroom teaching (Mishra *et al.*, 2020) <sup>[5]</sup>. Students learn from classroom discussions and the development of critical thinking skills that accompany them. To evaluate the relative merits of online and offline learning in higher education Padmalini Singh *et al.* (2021) <sup>[6]</sup> questioned one hundred students in India, Indonesia, and Malaysia. The research showed that traditional classroom training is better performed whereas digital class is the only alternative (Singh *et al.* 2021) <sup>[6]</sup>. Debasish Biswas and Chanchal Dey (2021) <sup>[4]</sup> explored the pros and cons of both online and traditional education for pupils in India. Due to the fact that both choices have advantages and disadvantages, deciding between them is difficult. Traditional educational organizations will always require offline, face-to-face classrooms. Some courses benefit greatly from the

incorporation of online learning as a supplemental method of instruction. For their study on the effectiveness of online teaching and learning methods, Sheba, Preethi, Hepsiba, and Darius (2021) [7] surveyed 450 college and university students. It was found that online learning is effective when we use tools like animations, PPTs, and video lectures (Darius, 2021) [7].

### **Online Vs offline learning**

Through online learning, students anywhere in the world have access to educational resources created and shared by the teachers, researchers and many more. Students now have easier access to online classroom trainings, thanks to the internet and virtual learning environments. Instructors in online education have access to a wide variety of media including audio, video, virtual whiteboards, animations, live chats, and virtual meeting rooms. Because of the flexibility of online education and learning, both teachers and students can access course resources 24/7 from any location. Online education is a wonderful option for students who are unable to physically attend classes due to factors like distance or disability. Learning in this manner also trains students to manage their time and work independently. Students can go at their own pace by using these online techniques.

The term "offline learning" is used to describe the more traditional method of education in which pupils meet with their teachers and classmates in person. Traditional classes will not completely disappear even though online education can be the future of learning. Offline learning is not affected by issues with technology, like online learning. Students in a traditional offline classroom learn to work together and interact with one another as they complete projects with their peers in the same physical space. In particular, offline learning allows teachers to more closely monitor their students' responses and progress, as well as observe and supervise their behavior, so that they can better cater to the requirements of each learner. This could make it more accessible and useful.

### **Similarities and dissimilarities b/w Online and Offline Education**

Students and teachers can be found in both virtual and brick-and-mortar classes. The goal of all of these approaches is education. The classroom plays a crucial role in both online and offline learning, with the former employing a virtual classroom and the latter a physical one. Through the use of virtual classrooms, students now have greater access to education and knowledge than ever before. With the proliferation of digital learning tools like audios, videos, virtual whiteboards, animations, live chats, and virtual conference rooms, online education has become increasingly digitised as a way of instruction. In contrast, offline learning allows students to gain knowledge in a more natural environment, through interactions with teachers and peers in person.

Offline education can better meet the needs of each individual student because teachers can more easily monitor and control student behavior and keep tabs on their answers and progress. However, teachers can't monitor their pupils' progress or control their behavior in a virtual classroom. Because of the flexibility of online learning, students in these settings often demonstrate greater independence than their face-to-face classroom peers. Students are more likely to pay attention during offline education than during online

education because of the personal nature of the exchanges. Online courses are less effective in developing students' social skills than those taken in a classroom environment. The individualistic character of online education prevents students from engaging in healthy competition with one another. However, offline study is often more exciting and difficult. Online learning is more convenient for students because all they need is a computer and access to the internet.

Technology has quickly become an integral part of our life. We are really fortunate to be living in a modern civilization that values a wide range of technological innovations. Technology has several advantages and has significantly impacted the educational process. Nowadays, students can choose between studying online and in a conventional classroom. They have the option of attending in-person lectures at a university or taking the course entirely online. It is important for students to consider all of their options, since some may be better suited to their needs than others. While the content being taught in both online and brick-and-mortar classrooms is comparable, there are significant differences in scheduling, communication, and the actual learning processes itself.

The two alternatives are very different from one another due to the time difference. Work is typically assigned for the week or on certain days for online classes. It is also based heavily on the required reading for the course. Students have complete flexibility in completing assignments up until the deadline date. A student who is unable to attend class on a given day because of a conflict with job, extracurricular activities, or health concerns can nonetheless fulfil course requirements by accessing course materials online. For a parent with a job and other responsibilities who is also attempting to get through school, an online learning environment may be preferable. Traditional class hours may appeal to some students because of their familiarity with the format. This will ensure that they stick to the schedule and are kept accountable. In order to succeed academically, some pupils require a strict attendance policy. There are also a variety of approaches to classroom communication to consider. Face-to-face instruction with extensive lectures and explanations is preferred by certain pupils. If a student didn't get everything said in class, for instance, he or she could take the initiative to schedule extra time with the instructor to ask questions and get clarification. Some students would rather read the textbook and complete the work on their own time, without having to constantly interact with the teacher. If you're a student with limited time but still need some extra assistance, this is the perfect solution. If a student has anxiety, for example, they may feel more comfortable communicating with the teacher or other students through email or class discussions than in a one-on-one setting.

Both online and offline classrooms stress the need of memorizing material for tests and other assessments. Many students find that listening to teachers and taking notes is the most helpful aspect of a traditional classroom setting. The format of an online course differs greatly from a traditional one. To learn what they need to know for class, most students turn to their textbooks and the internet. They can absorb the data through reading and then apply it to their work. While both settings present the same information, certain learners may benefit more from one setting than the other. Some students thrive in more

conventional classroom settings, where they may listen to lectures and then write down what they've learned. Some pupils are more successful when they may read the material at their own pace. The student's academic growth and development are central to their efforts. You can select whether you learn better in a traditional classroom or an online one based on your own preferences and characteristics. Online courses are a good option if you don't want to be tied down to a strict schedule, want a low volume of interaction, and find that you learn best when you may control the pace. On the other hand, a traditional classroom setting may be ideal if you learn best from lectures and notes and thrive when interacting directly with your classmates and professors. Students are free to choose whichever method best suits them, with the understanding that their decision will not affect the content they are learning. The goals of both online and traditional classes are the same, but there are important differences that might help students succeed. Modern technology has made it possible to do a lot in a short amount of time. Today's students can profit greatly from the ubiquitous presence of technology in almost every aspect of life, including their education. This paper compares and contrasts two aspects of online and conventional education. Assignments are a common feature of both systems. Everyone in a classroom setting or in a virtual one needs to be assigned reading or homework. In traditional classrooms, students are expected to volunteer to speak in front of the class and answer questions from the instructor, but in online classes, students are expected to participate in class discussions by posting questions and responding to those of their peers.

The use of textbooks in both contexts is another similarity. According to Leaf Group Education (2021), textbooks used in both online and traditional classrooms are identical. Reading, writing, and testing are timed to maximize efficiency. The same amount of study and memory retention is required for both digital and physical books. According to research conducted by the University of the Potomac in 2020, 67% of educators agree that digital media and textbooks are integral components of today's classrooms. As was previously established, both online and traditional educations share a common reliance on textbooks and assigned reading.

On the other hand, classrooms facilitate both formal and informal opportunities for socialization and connection building. However, answers in online learning typically take the form of a conversation, whether through text, e-mail, or scholarly debate. According to Stafford Global (2020), this is the most glaring distinction between the two methods. Learning in a classroom setting typically involves more face-to-face time with instructors and classmates than the self-paced study at home. There is typically little physical response and widespread dissemination in online learning. In conclusion, both online and traditional education has two features: assignments and textbooks. Social interactions and the cost of education are two other key distinctions between the two systems. Therefore, the effectiveness and quality of education received either online or in a classroom will vary from one student to the next.

### Conclusion

It was decided that students would be more focused and efficient if they participate in educational activities away from their electronic gadgets. There are some clear benefits

for students in the midst of the current Covid-19 epidemic that make online education a viable alternative to traditional classroom teaching. To ensure that all students have access to a stable internet connection, colleges and universities must collaborate on these projects. Teleconferences as a mode of distributed instruction is one example. If private organizations provide the facilities and the government provides the support, then instruction and learning can continue efficiently and without interruption. It has the potential to revamp the teaching process completely. The study's main conclusion is that pupils in higher education institutions benefit more from face-to-face classroom learning than they do from distance/online learning. The impacts of online education and the standardized testing system have caused a significant drop in students' dedication to their studies. They consistently achieve high marks across the board in all of their internet tests.

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