Assessing characteristics of Online Education and comparing of Traditional Education

Sharareh Khodamoradi [1] and Mohammad Abedi[2]

[1] Department of Agricultural Extension Education, Science and Research Branch, Islamic Azad University, Tehran, Iran
[2]Department of Agricultural Management, Islamic Azad University, Qaemshahr Branch, Iran
*Corresponding author: abedi114@yahoo.com

Abstract: Distance education dictates changes in behavior for both the teacher and the learner. The successful student develops persistence and skills in self-directing work. The successful distance education teacher becomes conversant with new technology and develops new instructional styles, moving from creating instruction to managing resources and students and disseminating views. Administrative and faculty support for distance education are critical to the success of this instructional method. Administrators should take note that the implementation of a distance education program may allow access to a greater number of students. However, the time and work associated with teaching at a distance exceeds the normal requirements of campus-based instruction. Students in distance education settings perform as well or better on assignments, class activities, and exams when compared to campus-based students. Nevertheless, students must maintain persistence and a clear focus to succeed in a distance learning situation. Self-direction, a passion for learning, and strong individual responsibility are important influences on achievement. There are indications that distance education works best for more mature, motivated, well-organized, and already accomplished learners.

Introduction:

When the standardization and the requirements for training by the third millennium will be talking, unconscious form, design and construction to provide context and use tools and indicators to teaching the principles of community-based knowledge to the mind is centered. No doubt these requirements and identify the correct tools and proper utilization of their functions according to accelerate the development expected in the knowledge-based information society will be effective. Such concerns and problems that any country in its development plans in motion to the information becoming a knowledge based society means a society would be faced with the centrality of knowledge, Dealing with existing tools and how these tools are used.

Led the way when dealing with those massive training programs available to speak to the technological tools that we expect to occur that planners and decision makers that planners and decision makers of large structures, especially university education according to the image Access to the development of community information are available on these tools are selected and used.

Massive wave of data produced in today's world it nicknamed the "information age" has all day and through various means of communication in the world will move on its size are added. Other hand, as we're not the world witnessed the development of the role of information communication devices transporting feedback fast and absorb the information around the world, we forget.

Therefore, information and communication as the main lever or two important moves 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.

What is Distance Education?

Distance education is education designed for learners who live at a distance from the teaching institution or education provider. It is the enrollment and study with an educational institution that provides organized, formal learning opportunities for students. Presented in a sequential and logical order, the instruction is offered wholly or primarily by distance study, through virtually any media. Historically, its predominant medium of instruction has been printed materials, although non-print media is becoming more and more popular. It may also incorporate or make use

of videotapes, CD or DVD ROM's, audio recordings, facsimiles, telephone communications, and the Internet through e-mail and Web-based delivery systems. When each lesson or segment is completed, the student makes available to the school the assigned work for correction, grading, comment, and subject matter guidance by qualified instructors. Corrected assignments are returned to the student. This exchange fosters a personalized student-instructor relationship, which is the hallmark of distance education instruction.

Historically, most distance education courses were vocational in nature, but today courses are offered for academic, professional, and a vocational purposes for students of all ages. There are numerous specialized programs, such as those for blind persons and for parents of small children with hearing impairments. Distance education is available in practically any field, from accounting to zoology. Courses are offered in gemology, high school diploma, journalism, locksmithing, child day care management, yacht design, and many fascinating subjects.

Distance education courses also vary greatly in scope, level, and length. Some have a few assignments and require only a few months to complete, while others have a hundred or more lesson assignments requiring three or four years of conscientious study. Since 1890, more than 130 million Americans have studied at DETC member institutions, including Franklin D. Roosevelt, Walter P. Chrysler, Walter Cronkite, Barry Goldwater, Charles Schulz, and many other distinguished alumni of DETC members.

Unlike most distance education courses offered by traditional colleges and universities that are semester and classroom oriented, with courses offered by most of the DETC-accredited institutions you can study any time and anywhere. Distance education is especially suited for busy people who wish to increase their knowledge and skills without giving up their jobs, leaving home, or losing income. You learn while you earn. Many courses provide complete vocational training; others prepare you for upgrading in your present job, without losing wages, experience or seniority. You receive individual attention, and you work at your own pace.

In recent years, technology has played a significant role in transforming the traditional distance education school into a dynamic, interactive distance learning method using toll-free telephone lines, as well as a diverse array of personal computers, video devices, CD and DVD ROMs, online courses over the Internet, interactive devices, and other modern technological innovations. The future for distance study promises to be exciting!

Benefits of Distance Learning:

Benefits and opportunities that distance education provides, include:

- training a wide range of audiences.

- meet the needs of students and students who can not attend in place.

- Possible connection between students and students with cultures, beliefs and experiences are different.

- Benefiting from coaches and speakers who do not live in the country.

Educational methods in distance learning:

Today, under the new system replaced the traditional systems of learning and learning week (ie tutoring methods, lectures) are:

- **Multimedia courses:**

These courses and widely used elements of image, communication, graphics and simulated components, animation and communication elements for guidance and tips, and talk back on course and curriculum issues are held.

- **Enhanced communication mechanisms:**

The mechanism of any texts simultaneously, and asynchronous audio-visual communications to protect you. This case allows students to practice on topics learned will give.

- **Written test:**

thus, question and test via a distributed communication network, are corrected and returned. These exams through video conferencing support and runs**.**

-Virtual Seminar:

thereby different groups of students in different geographical environments linked together makes.

- **Collaborative virtual laboratories:**

the laboratory of the Group's activities are supported. Workshops such as software engineering.

-Smart academic factors:

academic factors that inform intelligent, support and guidance students pay.

Remote educational tool:

distance learning tools and supplies various uses. These tools in four main courses are:

A - Audio Tools:

Audio tools include training such as two-way interactive telephone, video conference, shortwave radio and a strain of tools such as audio tape and radio.

B - Image tools:

including slides, films, video tapes and video conferences.

C - Data:

computers as electronic data are sent and received. Because the data word description for a wide range of educational tools is used.

Computer applications for distance education are varied and include the following:

1- Training to Computer Management.

2 - Computer Assisted Instruction.

3 - through PCs.

4 - e-mail, telegraph, computer conference and the World Wide Web simultaneously.

D - Print:

The main element of distance education programs, particularly in the exchange and delivery system information tools are considered.

Pros and Cons of Online Education

Nowadays it is possible to do almost anything online. Many different types of diplomas, certifications, and academic degrees are available from online learning institutions.

This article discusses both the advantages and the disadvantages of online education.

The Internet has enhanced and changed every aspect of our life, and now it is making inroads into the world of education.

Online education and classes are not just a buzz; they are a new technology that is making a difference for teachers as well as students.

Online Education Pros

Of the many advantages and new possibilities of online education, here are some of the Strengths:

1. Greater flexibility

Online students have more freedom in choosing their programs and schedules. This allows many busy adults to adapt online courses to their already established everyday life of work and family.

For many, this is simply the only way they can study for that degree which will take them farther in their career and life.

2. Saves Time and Money

Online education saves an enormous amount of time and money which in traditional education is wasted on commuting. Commuting is also very tiring, while online education means you can study from home, in a comfortable environment with everything you need close at hand.

Tuition also costs less for most online institutions.

3. Logistics

Traditional education is restricted due to logistical issues; there is only this amount of students who can be in a place at a given time, whereas in online classes, there is no question of paucity of space. As long as the online classes have the necessary bandwidth, an unlimited number of students can study, all over the globe.

Then again, traditional classes would turn up expensive to maintain, because the educational institution needs to maintain a place and its facilities.

When it comes to online education, all they need to do is to set up E-learning tools, an Internet connection and a website where people can learn. While this is not cheap too, but it is definitely cost less as compared to the costs of a place to carry on.

Online Education Cons:

To balance our view of online education, let's consider some of the disadvantages/Weaknesses:

1. Requires Self Discipline

The greater freedom of online classes requires greater self disciplines, but not everybody has it. The comfort of studying from home may also reflect negatively on your motivation to do your best.

Depending on your personality, home can provide as many distractions as traditional campus facilities (designed especially for studying).

2. How well have you learned

With online education, the students have a greater hold on the education process, and that is not always a good sign. For example, in online education, though the teachers set up the audio and video clips with the same dedication, it remains to be seen whether the students study it with the same dedication that they would in a classroom.

3. No Campus Life

Many people remember the college/university as the best time of their lives.

Part of it is the campus life – During and after classes. One of the disadvantages of taking online education rather than traditional one, is that in online education you will not have the atmosphere of campus lawns, corridors and classrooms, huge libraries with real books you can hold. There will be no campus buddies and no campus culture.

4. Internet Connection

Another negative point of online education is that it entirely depends on the internet connection. Though many countries have a robust Internet connection and others are getting it soon, there are still countries, and areas in countries that do not have access to Internet and other enhanced technologies. It would be difficult to get online education in countries that have a limited online presence.

These are just some of the distinguishing points between online classes and traditional classes.

Online Education VS Traditional Education

This article reviews the differences and the pros and cons of online VS traditional education.

Gone is the world where only traditional, campus-based education existed and you only had to choose the university or college you wanted to study in.

Someday, probably in the near future, Online Education will replace traditional institutions. At least, many degree programs will combine the on campus

courses as well as online classes as a standard educational approach.

But for now, the future student has to decide first whether he/she wants to study online or on a campus degree.

Here are some points to consider the pros and cons of online and traditional institutions:

Differences between Online and Traditional Education; Comparison

1. Convenience

One of the most striking, innovative, and unprecedented features of online education is their convenience for almost anyone. Persons busy with careers or families will be able to compose their schedules so that they fit their individual time constraints. This is possible because courses are delivered in the form of electronic-based modules online.

It is also convenient because it requires no commuting, saving a great deal of time and money.

It allows to study from home, with the only requirement being the possession of an adequate computer and internet connection. Basic computer skills only are required to acquire higher education online.

2. Expenses

Tuition costs less for most online institutions. Online education also eliminates the additional expenses usually entailed by traditional "campus life", commuting, and the purchase of study materials.

3. Feedback

Feedback is somewhat better in traditional education. Students can interact directly face to face with both classmates and teachers, which makes feedback easier to understand and faster to get.

Some online institutions do offer chat rooms and video/audio meetings.

4. Accreditation

The credit of online education depends on its purpose and context. If you only have online degree (s) and are just trying to find work, employers may prefer traditionally educated candidates.

If you are already an employed and valuable professional, online learning will be seen favorable as a way to improve your skills, expand your professional knowledge, and thus contribute more at work.

5. Ecology

Online education has obvious positive effect on the environment.

It may not be measurable now, but if online education largely replaces traditional institutions in the near future it will mean that less paper will be used for books and writing material and fewer campuses will be built while the number of students and employed teachers will only increase radically.

Disadvantages of Online Education: Drawbacks to Consider

This article reviews the main disadvantages of the online education.

As online services in general are revolutionizing Internet activity and the business industry – Online Education is becoming increasingly popular.

It is not merely a new trend – for many people it is the only convenient way to acquire education. Online education already provides unique new opportunities which hadn't exist before.

The distance/online Education has not come to replace Traditional Education yet. The number of online universities and colleges is still relatively small and their services are not as well established as the services of traditional institutions.

Online Education – Disadvantages

The following are its 4 main drawbacks one would want to consider -

1. Human Interaction

Online classes means there is not live, face-to-face classroom and office interaction between students and teachers. For many this is highly significant. Consulting lecturers in person and being able to discuss matters in groups, in and outside the class is, for many, an important motivational activity and learning strategy. Moreover, for many programs interpersonal communication is crucial, but it is not easy to seriously practice online. Many people also prefer traditional campus-based education simply for the on-campus atmosphere and the opportunity to meet many people there face-to-face between and during class, conferences, campus parties, concerts, fairs, and various cultural events.

2. Study Materials

Online institutions provide all or much of their material online, which may be convenient, since you have to buy and photocopy less. But while online information in general is, of course, extensive, approved and trusted scholarly academic material is not easily to be found online.

The resources of online universities and colleges are not yet as extensive as those of traditional institutions with their on-campus libraries (and the private libraries of generous lecturers who will always lend you that hard-to-find book you absolutely must have for your paper).

3. No Lab Sessions

Degrees science, especially the natural sciences, require lab hours. Online education as yet cannot provide a substitute for actual hands-on experience that students find in the labs on campus.

Such experience is crucial in general, and it is often noted in particular by employees. One reason why graduates from traditional institutions are

preferred is that they have extensive and relevant lab experience.

4. Difficulties of Self-Discipline

For many a significant advantage of traditional education is that it leaves little room for procrastination. You have to show up on campus and be in class, and for many this is a great motivational aspect and the reason for their eventual success. With online education the student has much more freedom. This can be both an advantage and a disadvantage. For many it is a disadvantage because it encourages procrastination. This leads either to unnecessarily prolonged studies or even failure to fulfill requirements, simply because there was too much freedom.

Corresponding Author:
Mohammad Abedi
Department of Agricultural Management, Islamic Azad University, Qaemshahr Branch, Iran
E-mail: abedi114@yahoo.com

References:
1. Alharthi, Mohammad A (2003). a High quality portal frame work for asynchronous learning networks: intellectual capital aggregation and organization, doctorate thesis, Vanderbilt university.
2. Allison. chlin. & others (2002). an integrated framework for distributed learning environments.
3. Almogbel. Ali N (2002). distance education in Saudi Arabia: attitudes and perceived contributations of faculty, students, and administrators in technical college, doctorate thesis, university of Pittsburgh.
4. Al-saleh, Mary Margaret (2002). a description and comparision of RN_ BSN Nursing student, perception of student _ teacher relationships in traditional and internet distance education.
5. Boltone, sharon Bauer (2002). Developing an instrument to Analze the application of adult learning principles to world wide web distance education courses using the Delphi technique. EdD. university of lousville.
6. Bonk, C., & Graham, C. (eds.). (2006). *Handbook of blended learning: Global perspectives, local designs (pp. xvii - xxiii).* San Francisco: Pfeiffer.
7. Carter, A (2001). Interactive distance education: implication for adult learner, Interautional Media, 28(3), PP: 249-261.
8. Chizari, M, Mohammad, H and linder, J.R (2002). Distance education competencies of Faculty members in Iran.
9. Crossfield, N. L. (2001, May/June). Digital reference: the next new frontier. *Latitudes,* 10(3). Retrieved July 16, 2005, from *http://nnlm.gov/psr/lat/v10n3/digitalref.html*
10. Dodds, T., Perraton, H., & Young, M. (1972). *One year's work: The International Extension College 1971-1971.* Cambridge, UK: International Extension College.
11. Faulhaber, C. B. (1996). Distance learning and digital libraries: Two side of a single coin. *Journal of the American Society for Information Science* 47(11), 854-856.
12. Gandhi, S. (2003). Academic librarians and distance education challenges and opportunities. *Reference & User Services* Quarterly, 43(2), 138-154.
13. Garrels, M. (1997). Dynamic relationships: Five critical elements for teaching at a distance. Faculty Development Papers. Available online at: Indiana Higher Education Telecommunication System (http://www.ihets.org/distance_ed/fdpapers/1997/garrels.htm l).
14. Garrison, D. R.; H. Kanuka (2004). Blended learning: Uncovering its transformative potential in higher education. *The Internet and Higher Education 7 (2),* 95-105.
15. Garrison, R., & Vaughan, N. (2008). *Blended learning in higher education: Framework, principles, and guidelines.* San Francisco: Jossey-Bass.
16. Garrison, J. A., Schardt, C., & Kochi, J. K. (2000). web – based distance countinuing education: a new way of thinking for students and instructors. *Bulletin of the Medical Library Association,* 88(3), 211-217.
17. Grimes, G. (1992). Happy 100th anniversary to distance education. Retrieved August 25, 2005, from http://www.macul.org/newsletter/1992/nov,dec 92/going.html
18. Husler, R. P. (1996). Digital library: content preservation in digital world. DESIDOC-Bulletin of Information Technology, 16(1), 31-39.
19. Jeffres, M. Research in distance education. Retrieved August 20, 2005, from http://www.ihets.org/distance-/ipse/fdhandbook/research.html
20. Katsirikou, A., & Sefertzi, E. (2000). Inovation in the every day life of library. *Technovation*, 20(12), 705-709.
21. Lebowitz, G. (1997). Library service equity issue. *The Journal of Academic* Librarianship, 23(4), 303-308.
22. Lipow, A. G. (1999, January 20). Serving the remote user: reference service in the digital

environment. In *Proceedings of the ninth Australasian information online & on disc conference and exhibition*.

23. Moore, M. (ed.). (2007). *Handbook of distance education*. New Jersey: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates.

24. Oliver, M., & Trigwell, K. (2005). Can blended learning be redeemed? *Elearning, 2 (1),* 17-26.

25. Parrott, S. (1995). Future learning: Distance education in community colleges. ERIC Digest 95-2. Los Angeles, CA: ERIC Clearinghouse on Community Colleges. ED 385 311.

26. Rintala, J. (1998). Computer technology in higher education: An experiment, not a solution. Quest, 50(4), 366-378. EJ 576 392 Romiszowski, A. (1993). Telecommunications and distance education. ERIC Digest 93-2. Syracuse, NY: ERIC Clearinghouse on Information Resources. ED 358 841.

7/20/2019