COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF ONLINE AND OFFLINE METHODS OF TEACHING-LEARNING

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ABSTRACT

The Covid-19 has affected all the spheres of life. It not only transformed the lifestyle of mankind but has not spared the educational system as well. The imposed lockdown has brought the education into stand still position. The pandemic created fear in the minds of the young students who were losing hope in their future especially in regards to education and attending classes. No one ever was prepared to face this testing situation that needs to be tackled with creative and critical thinking. The imposition of lockdown has totally locked the classrooms and the Educationists were seriously thinking of solutions provide education at home through Online methods of teaching- learning. Every teacher was a computer literate but wasn't prepared to conduct Online classes. The Online mode emerged as a boon to teachers, students and educational institutions. Though due to pandemic, the offline mode was replaced by the Online mode of education, still it could not completely replace it. Both the Online and offline methods of teaching-learning have their own set of merits and demerits. This research paper is an attempt to study the Online and Offline Methods of Teaching-Learning. It also aims at making a comparative analysis of Online and Offline Methods of Teaching-Learning in regards to the Undergraduate students.

Keywords: Covid-19, Pandemic, Offline Methods of Teaching-Learning, Online Methods of Teaching Learning, Technology and Education.

The Covid-19 has affected all the spheres of life. Education came to stand still position during the pandemic lockdown. It not only transformed the lifestyle of mankind but has not spared the educational system as well. The pandemic created fear in the minds of the young students who were losing hope in their future especially in regards to education and attending classes. The imposition of lockdown has totally locked the classrooms and the Educationists were seriously thinking of solutions provide education at home through Online methods of teaching-learning. The Online mode emerged as a boon to teachers, students and educational institutions. Both the Online and offline methods of teaching-learning have their own set of merits and demerits. The comparative analysis of Online and Offline Methods of Teaching-Learning would be evident in the upcoming paragraphs of the research paper.

Offline Education is also known as the Traditional Education. The traditional method of teaching-learning is untouched by technological advancements. Offline education is also

known as "the traditional counterpart to online education and the original method of learning that allows students to have regular face-to-face interactions with their peers and teachers" (https://leverageedu.com/blog/online-classes-vs-offline-classes/). Offline education is original mode of education which has face to face communication with both the teacher and students. In the past the old traditional methods of teaching-learning were given importance and so there was no need to conduct Online classes. The Offline mode of teaching-learning is the Teacher-centric method that give supremacy to the Teacher. The traditional methods of teaching-learning used to take place in the classroom. It was confined to the four walls of classroom and the teacher becomes the source of knowledge. The teacher used to use teaching aids to create interests in the classroom. There was laboratory used for science and technology students. The teacher used various methods of teaching such as narration, explanation, memorization, dramatization, role play, brain storming, practical, experiments, etc. In Offline education the teacher gets full control of the class, she tries to help the student wherever he or she is stuck. She can monitor the students' progress and can intervene as and when required. She can develop healthy group discussions, debates and have educational games in the class with the students.

There is a continuous discussion concerning whether the traditional teaching method is still effective or ineffective, "while one cannot ignore the drawbacks of the traditional model, its advantages are equally felt" (https://graphy.com/blog/traditional-method-of-teaching/). The traditional method of teaching-learning has immense scope for active learning of the students in the classroom. Students learn through personal interactions, conversations and discussions with their fellow students as they get an opportunity to work in group as a team. This creates an active and conducive learning atmosphere and helps them develop their communication skills, oratory skills, presentation skills, listening skills, creative skills, etc. There are "numerous teaching methods, most of the traditional methods used in class can be applied equally efficiently online" (https://creately.com/blog/education/online-teaching-methods/). It develops their interpersonal relations with the peer groups and the teachers. It helps students in having hand-on training in the laboratories and enables the student to have direct contact with the teacher.

Online Education is the counterpart to Offline Education. Technology is at the core of the modern method of teaching which is also known as Online Education. It was not a novel thing, but its role came to light only during the pandemic outbreak. Though it has been given more preference with the emergence of technology but still it cannot replace the holistic aspect of the Offline education. It has changed the way the education was delivered in classroom setting. Online education has a flexible instructional method of teaching-learning. The students get easy access to all the educational resources, notes and study material sitting at home.

During the pandemic when the educational institutes were shut down, that time the only ray of hope was the Online teaching-learning. It was difficult for educational institutions to cope up with the pandemic situation. I would acknowledge the efforts of the Mr. Kamlesh Pradhan and Mrs. Manasi Pradhan, the Management, Satish Pradhan Dnyanasadhana College, Thane, Maharashtra, India, who tried to be a saviour to thousands of Teachers, Students and Educational Institutions by organising a Five-day 'Faculty Development Programme' (0th May to 3rd June 2020) and a Seven-day 'Student Development Programme' (30th June to 6th July 2020) to educate all and to uproot the fear of Online Teaching-Learning. These

programmes were undoubtedly successful and benefited nearly 30,000 teachers and students across the globe. On one hand the teachers were guided how to use Online apps, new methods for teaching and to make their PPTs interesting and on the other hand the students too were facilitated to use their android mobile phones or laptops for learning purpose with a stable Internet connectivity.

Online education has become more flexible and higher education is available at your "fingertips without affecting your daily life activities" (https://collegevidya.com/blog/what-is-online-education/). Online education provides an excellent opportunity for those students who are unable to attend traditional classrooms for education. It facilitates them to relax and learn in their own comfort zone either at home or elsewhere as per their wish. The students are flooded with unlimited educational resources and also enables them to value time. Online learning also "offers a great alternative for students who are unable to enroll in traditional programmes and allows them the freedom to study at their own pace" (Aishwarya). Most of them consider the Online education as the future of learning. When one keenly observes both Online and Offline education, he/she is able to make a comparative analysis between Online and Offline methods of teaching- learning, such as:

1. **Mode of Education:** In Online classes, teachers can effortlessly educate their students through virtual classrooms. Students can simply access numerous learning materials from anywhere. Online classes offer teachers with a number of Online teaching-learning tools such as ppts, videos, audio, motivational speeches, games, puzzles, animations, virtual whiteboards, virtual conference rooms and live chats with the students. On the other hand, Offline classes provide students with a real-world learning environment within the four walls of a classroom. It permits students to closely interact with their peer group and teachers. It enables them to participate actively in group discussions, presentations and debates. They also get the benefit to participate in recreational activities like art and physical education which contributes to the overall development of the student.

2. **Methods of Teaching:** The Online mode has digitalised tools and methods of teaching. The teacher makes use of all available resources including textbooks, e-resources, Online video lectures, webinars, etc. in the teaching-learning process. She follows several pedagogies, including live classes, Online sessions, presentations, seminars, flipped classrooms, class blog, google classroom, Microsoft Excel, PPT, animations, etc.   The teacher uses video conferencing tools to connect and communicate with students across the globe. She can incorporate an Online whiteboard to make her classes even more engaging. Online whiteboards help to virtually match the in-person classroom experience shared between teachers and students as they provide the teacher with an infinite canvas, shape libraries to create different diagrams and charts, pre-made templates, sketching, typing, image import options, etc. The Offline mode has the traditional methods of teaching. In the physical classroom, the teacher uses various methods of teaching such as narration, explanation, lecture, Story-telling, memorization, dramatization, role play, brain storming, practical, experiments, etc. The teacher has full control on the class, she has freedom to choose the methodology and determines the course curriculum. She solely relies on the textbook in the Offline class.

3. **Time Management:** In the Online classes, students face a huge challenge of time management as they tend to get distracted by a multitude of tasks and they lack a proper schedule. Moreover, students are required to stay logged in to their Online classes for an extended period of time. This may at times allow students to visit their social media apps such as Facebook, WhatsApp, Instagram, etc., which would be a distraction to them. In the case of Offline classes, students have to adhere to a strict timetable that has been set up by the teachers. Besides, since there is synchronous learning, students will be required to complete their work and projects in a time.

4. **Accessibility:** In the Online method, the student can access to the classroom, study materials, resources from anywhere across the world, provided he/she should have a strong internet connectivity. The student can learn sitting in his home safely without spending time and money behind travelling to the location of his educational institution. In the offline method, the students are required to travel to the location of their educational institution. Teaching takes place in a fixed location, i.e. physical classroom. Certain students may need to travel far to reach their respective educational institutions. The travelling may cause a great deal of inconvenience and there might be chances where the student is unable to reach in time.

5. **Cost and Time:** The Online method is cost-effective and time-saving as the student can save his money and time spent in travelling to his educational institute. In the Online education, the student has no burden of paying for his uniforms, transportation, and extracurricular fees. Thus, it has significantly reduced the expense and made education more manageable and reasonable. The offline method is more expensive than Online education and consumes more time.

6. **Flexibility of Classes:** In the Online method of teaching-learning, the main highlight is on the flexibility of classes for the students as it permits students to set their own learning pace. They get access to recorded videos and online reading material. It also helps them to easily attend their class as per their convenience. Due to Online learning environment, the students are having the power to design their own learning environment that best suits their needs. They are also privileged to get enough time to understand and digest the study material and complete their work in their own pace without any pressure. Online classes have a flexible schedule, whereas Offline classes have a fixed and strict schedule. In Offline method, students are obligatory to attend their classes on time. They are having no access to any pre-recorded videos or notes. Hence, it is a mandatory for the student to follow the strict schedule which is set by their educational institute.

7. **Interaction/Communication:** In the Online method, the communication happens digitally. There is a scope for sufficient amount of interaction between students and teachers. Online classes permit students to get in touch with their teachers anytime. Online classrooms also allow two-way communication which significantly influences students. Student-teacher interaction in Online classes may be both synchronous and asynchronous. In Offline method, communication happen face-to-face in the classroom, where the student can learn with his peers in the real classroom. In Offline classes, teaching is synchronous. There is active communication between students and teachers which allows for active discussions and debates in classrooms. It allows students to get their doubts cleared and receive quick feedback.

8. **Practical/ Theoretical Learning:** In Online education, there is no scope for practical as it is purely theoretical and takes place entirely online. This barely allows students to take part in the practical aspects of learning which is a vital part of education. Subjects like sports, physics, chemistry, biology and zoology require students to be physically present to attend the experiments in the labs and also to actively participate in it but Online education does allow it. In the Offline classes, there is an environment that combines both theoretical and practical aspects of learning. This contributes to the overall cognitive and skill development of the students and thus groom the personality of the students. Practical learning allows the students with clear understanding.

9. **Pace of Learning:** In the Online method, students largely determine the pace of learning. Online classes provide the advantage of self-paced learning, students may not have a proper schedule and may surrender to the routine of rescheduling. The student can avail the benefit of pre-recorded lectures, that allows the students to learn at their own pace at any time without the presence of the teacher. In the Offline method, teachers largely determine the pace of learning.

10. **Location:** In Online method there is a virtual classroom that is created by using apps such as Zoom, Webex, Google Meet, Ms Team, etc., whereas in Offline method, there is a physical classroom, laboratory, playground, etc.

11. **Encountering Technical Issues:** In the Online classes, students usually encounter challenges because of technical issues. They at time are unable to access their classroom, webcams, microphones, study material, e-resources, headphones and computer/laptop. It is mostly caused due to poor internet connectivity and faulty instruments. In the Offline classes there is rarely any technical issues as the teacher is using other methods of teaching. Both the students and teachers are not required to be proficient in using technology. Most of the teaching-learning takes place in the physical classroom where the teacher is more involved in the active teaching and learning, so there's no technical issues.

12. **Long-Term Screen:** Online education requires consistent extended periods of time spent logged in. Long-term screen time causes learners a lot of trouble and is bad for their health especially the eyes. In Offline class, we have different subjects and the teacher uses different teaching methods to make the learning of students interesting. It doesn't hamper the sight of the students and also prevent them from feeling fatigue.

13. **Individual Attention:** In Online classes, it is difficult for the teacher to give individual attention. Whereas, in Offline classes, teachers give each student their undivided attention, and helps them to excel in exams. The students gain a better understanding of all the subjects taught in the classroom and also get an opportunity to clear their doubts.

Though due to the technological advancement, the Online method of teaching-learning is given importance but still it cannot replace the holistic aspect of the Offline method. Thus, one can say that Offline method is preferable as it provides a stimulating environment to the students to learn with their peer group in the real classrooms. It allows the students to ask questions, resolve their query, solve tasks, and receive personalised feedback from their teacher.

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