



Problems Faced by Students Living in Remote Areas of Pakistan in Online Education

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Abstract: Online education is a form of education that is delivered and administered using the Internet. The present study was conducted to find out the problems of online education faced by students living in remote areas of Pakistan. It is a descriptive research. A self-designed questionnaire was used to collect data through Google Forms. The research questions posed were 1) What are some problems faced by students related to the internet in remote areas? 2) What are some problems due to electricity outage? 3) What are the problems faced by students in an asynchronous learning environment? The findings of the study show that the unavailability of an internet connection is a major issue for online learning. Due to electrical issues asynchronous education is problematic for students in remote areas. It is recommended that the network issue should be resolved in the remote areas. Load shedding in remote areas should be reduced to facilitate online education.

Keywords: Online education, Asynchronous, E-learning

1. Introduction

The internet technology has transformed the education system. It has improved the quality of education by providing quality lectures to the greater audience. The general timeline of online education is provided by the development of telecommunication technology and personal computer. In last four decades there has been greatest development in the field of online education. History depicts that E-learning was first introduced by Robert E. Peary in 1909 when he the arctic explorer, radio telegraphed: "I found the pole". He inadvertently produced e-learning for his listeners by combing the communication technology with explicit learning objectives. However, with the passage of time technology has emerged, new electronic devices and products were developed (N.D. Oye, 2011)The development of the Microprocessor and personal computer has changed the online learning scenario culminating into the present online education as of today. It is an inevitable truth that online education is associated with development of electronic devices, information and communication Technology. Globalization is focused on online education because it will provide better learning opportunity to greater audience which has never been possible previously. Online education encourages using the 21st century tools and pedagogies for learning. Online education has played a pivotal role in the economic and educational growth of industrial nation. Yang opined that many nations are not only handling with shortages of lecturers, but with the challenges of apprising the knowledge

and skills of the traditional teaching force International Journal of Managing Information Technology (IJMIT) (N.D. Oye, 2011)

2. Literature Review

(Alsabawy, 2009) Defined online education to signify any knowledge that is enabled by electronic machine. They however pointed this sense downward to mean education that is empowered by the use of digital technologies. This definition is more pointed by some researchers as any learning that is internet-enabled or web. According to OECD 2005 is defined as the make use of information and communication technologies in assorted processes of learning to carry and improve knowledge in institutions of higher education, and includes the practice of information and communication technology as a harmonize to synchronous class room , online learning or addition the two modes (Valentina Arkorful, 2015).

There are varied traditions of classifying the types of online education. According to (Kadaruddin, 2017) There have been a number of classifications based on the quantity of their commitment in learning. (Kadaruddin, 2017) Separated online education into two essential types, consisting of computer-based and the internet-based e-learning (Valentina Arkorful, 2015).

Large number of Pakistan's base research on online education problems and chances adjustment has been captivated in usual circumstances and perspective, where online education was not necessary way to intensify the learning and modern technology was used by only some national academic institution. Now a day's circumstances are completely opposite from the normal online education (Adnan & Anwar,, 2020).

The internet has turned into one of the most important obtainable resource for research and education for technology based education encompasses the use of the internet and new significant technologies to bring into being resources for students learning and also regulate course. E-Learning, mean to use information and communication technologies to enable the access to online learning resource (Valentina Arkorful, 2015).

Use of internet for learning and teaching purpose is called online education. Online education varies from case to case and course to course. Some universities offer hybrid education partially online and partially traditional (face to face) and some offer complete online classes. Online depends on user who they access it. Online education give us leverage to get quality education anywhere around the world and it pardon us from daily travelling and save the time and cost. Online education enables developing countries student to get quality education which generally they can't afford in their countries. This online learning make user familiar with the information technology which is most important tool in the new global economy (N.D. Oye, 2011).

According to (Kadaruddin, 2017), the computer-based learning comprises the make use of a complete variety of hardware and software usually that are obtainable for the employ of Information and Communication Technology and as well all part can be used in also of two ways: computer-managed instruction and computer-assisted-learning. In computer assisted- learning, to him, computers are used in its place of the usual methods by as long as interactive software as a support tool within the class or as a tool for self-learning outside the class. In the computer-managed-instruction, however, computers are working for the idea of storing and retrieve information to assist in the organization of learning (Valentina Arkorful, 2015).

The acceptance of online education in learning, above all for instructive institutions has several benefits, and given its several advantages and benefits, e-learning is considered among the best methods of education. Quite a lot of studies and authors have given profit and compensation derivative from the acceptance of online education technologies into schools (Ware, 2003).

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These are a few compensations of acceptance of online education obtained from evaluation of literature; online education improves the worth of information and education via simplicity of right to use to a huge quantity of information.

Online education, in spite of compensation it has when adopted in learning, also has some disadvantages. Online education the same as a technique of learning makes the learners go through contemplation, remoteness, as well as not have of communication. It consequently requires a very burly inspiration and time managing skill in arrange to decrease such things (Valentina Arkorful, 2015).

There are many clarifications, explanations, and interpretations, that online education technique may be not as efficient as usual methods of education as promoted. The learning method is much easier face-to-face with teachers when it comes to upgrading of students communication skills, online education might have a unenthusiastic result (Valentina Arkorful, 2015). Although student's capacity has a brilliant educational understanding, they may not acquire the desirable skills to convey their acquired knowledge to others. As tests and assessments in online education are often supervised by proxy, it can be hard, if impossible, to manage or adjust activities such as cheating. Online education may also be subject matter to piracy, copying, amoral, insufficient variety skills, and unfortunate use of duplicate and insert. Online education may unenthusiastically cause collision socialization skills and limit the role of teacher as directors of the learning method. Not all disciplines can successfully utilize online education. For example, technical fields that need hands-on realistic experiences might be more hardtops learn throughout e-learning. Researchers have argued that online education is further suitable in social science and humanities than the fields such as medical science and business where there is the need to build up realistic skills. Online education may also guide to overcrowding or profound use of several websites. This may bring about unexpected expenses both in time and money (Valentina Arkorful, 2015).

Some of the online education challenges which are being discussed by different researchers include mass perception of online education, less computer education and availability of proper internet connection, lack of financial support, with no specific mean of income and the most daunting challenge is not enough recourse to construct required buildings to develop new learning materials (N.D. Oye, 2011).

There is no access to internet in some institutions because of transmission capacity cost which is expensive. Disproportioned distribution of technology makes more students distanced from the use of online education, which more often exceed the average income of one person in a month (N.D. Oye, 2011).

2.1 Internet Access

The price of accessibility of net in developing countries is still on the high side therefore it is difficult for some students to spare the price. For that purpose, authorities should provide internet access free of cost for education purposes (N.D. Oye, 2011).

2.2 Energy Supply

Improper supply of energy and often load shedding in developing countries is major cause of disturbance in online education that effect badly to economy and learning patterns of education. Most of the villages and hilly areas are not having proper access to the electricity which makes it difficult for them to connect to the internet and even do some important chores (N.D. Oye, 2011).

Hundreds and thousands of students crosswise GB and AJK and areas of KPK have no access to online classes they have to travel miles every day because of slow internet service. Students belong to these areas disposed of internet connectivity in the nonappearance of 3g and 4g. They are requesting to the government for the improvement of network. Online education, as well as move home crossway the country, has quickly amplified load on the internet in the Pakistan. Because of online education internet speed is going weak day by day. This cause a lot of problems for students to attend classes, give online presentation, viva exam, submitting assignments and projects on time (Nadeem, 2020).

2.3 Asynchronous Learning Environment

Students get it hard to become accustomed to e learning environment rapidly later than traditional classroom learning. Because of this unexpected change, students are not able to get used to computer-based learning. Students who are studying for all time in traditional classroom are not able to concentrate on online education. This new

learning environment is too difficult for the students of traditional classrooms. They cannot focus on online studies like before (Reporters, 2020).

Numerous students belonging to remote areas are not fully equipped with fast internet connection essential for online education. Because of this they faced many problems like attend the class, give live presentation and also couldn't submit assignments on given time. A weak and fast internet connection plays a vital role in online education. They find very difficult in downloading the lectures, subject related videos etc. (Reporters, 2020)

Computer literacy is the main concern in today's world. it is too much difficult for the first and second semesters students to operate basic computer skills like MS word and Power point. When some technological problem comes out, they are unable to solve it. Sometime they don't know how to login in live classes, how to create the work and how to submitted (Reporters, 2020).

Students began losing hope online if they came across problem in e-learning. Online education needs inspiration to complete work and connect students with their education. Less inspiration is a general challenge for all students (Reporters, 2020).

Studying from home incredible practice. Studying from home things is different for example you might need a classroom, playground, cafeteria, classmate, learners around you to lead and learn. But with online education students have to run the whole things in one room with family members around you. Students can be unfocused without any difficulty by small disturbance (Reporters, 2020).

2.4 Research Questions

1. What are some problems faced by students related to internet in remote areas?
2. What are the some problems that faced students due to electricity outage?
3. What are the problems faced by students in asynchronous learning environment?

3. Methodology

Survey method was used and self-designed questionnaire was used to collect data through Google Form. The data was then analyzed using SPSS 20.

3.1 Population

The data was collected from the 120 undergraduate students of National University of Modern Languages living in remote areas.

3.2 Sampling Technique

In this research purposive sampling technique was used.

4. Data Analysis

Table1: Problems faced by students related to internet in remote areas

S.no	Statement	Mean	Mode	SD
1	Unavailability of internet connection is a major issue for online learning.	4.58	5	.836
2	Students know how to use internet.	3.75	4	.981
3	Students can attend online classes without any help.	3.38	4	1.139
4	Students have to travel long distance to get internet access.	4.50	5	.722
5	Students cannot take their classes on time due to electricity outage.	4.42	5	.740

Table 1 show that the largest mean value is 4.58 which are for statement 1 "Unavailability of internet connection is a major issue for online learning. The second highest mean value is 4.50 which indicate that "Students have to travel long distance to get internet access.

Table 2: Problems faced by students due to electricity

S.no	Statement	Mean	Mode	SD
1	Students cannot submit their assignments on time due to electricity outage.	4.39	5	.781
2	Online education provides self-motivation to Students.	3.02	2	1.527
3	Online education is the need of the day	3.79	4	1.099
4	Rough weather cause electricity failure in remote areas.	4.50	5	.669
5	Online education is good for students.	2.18	2	1.172

Table 2 show that the largest mean value is 4.50 which is for statement 4” Rough weather cause electricity failure in remote areas. The second highest mean value is 4.39 which indicate that “Students cannot submit their assignments on time due to electricity outage.

Table 3: Problems that faced students in learning environment asynchronous

S.no	Statement	Mean	Mode	SD
1	Online education can enhance student’s performance.	2.58	2	1.18
2	Online learning is a modern concept it must be encouraged.	3.78	4	1.19
3	Time management is a difficult task for E learner.	4.18	5	.979
4	Lack of computer literacy is a major issue among online learner.	4.42	5	.643
5	Traditional classroom learning is better than online learning.	4.23	5	1.07

Table 3 shows that the highest mean value is 4.42 which is for statement 4 “Lack of computer literacy is a major issue among online learner”. This shows that the computer literacy is a major problem. The second highest mean value 4.23 “indicate that Traditional classroom learning is better than online learning”

4.1 Findings of the Research

- The findings of the research show that the unavailability of an internet connection is a major issue for online learning.
- Due to electricity issue asynchronous is hard for students in remote areas.

5. Conclusion

Based on the findings of the study it was concluded that the level of online education is not up to mark in remote areas of Pakistan. Students are facing lot of problems due to lack of internet in remote areas. The problems like network and electricity outage are the major issue of online education. Government and concerned departments of the educational institutes must take serious steps to resolve these problems faced by the students of remote areas. These constraints make asynchronous education difficult and problematic for students.

5.1 Recommendations

1. It is recommended that, the network issues should be solved as soon as possible, 4G or higher capacity internet should be provided in remote areas by government.
2. Load shedding in remote areas should be reduced and the electricity system should be improved so that the online classes are not disrupted due to rough weather.

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