

Disadvantages of Online Learning among Student

Nor Qurratuaini Noordin

Faculty of Information Management
Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM)
Selangor, Malaysia

Received Date: 11 March 2021

Published Date: 18 April 2021

Abstract.

The advancement technology of modern era lead to the vital of online learning. Online learning defined as learning environment instruction whereas student and teacher are separated by space, time or both through few platforms like videoconferencing, Internet, Information Technology application, etc. This paper aim to seek details about the online learning disadvantages by accumulating online learning disadvantages altogether obtained from previous studies. Some disadvantages affect from online learning are such as no social and class interaction, the tendency of procrastinating and content misunderstanding, digital division, vision problems as well as conditionality of technology available.

Keywords: Online learning, e-learning, disadvantages, weaknesses, virtual education

Introduction

Online learning is an education form, known as independent form and classical education complement. Several forms of online learning are mixed or hybrid learning, online distance learning which equipped with information technologies, learning with information technologies help and learning which technologies being used to encourage the transfer of knowledge. Online learning somehow in some aspect do includes traditional learning enrichment. As example, the teaching visualization used a projector, a computer and a display projection screen. For other word, technology play vital role in the knowledge transfer process (Perić, N. & Rašević, J., 2017).

According to Perić, N. and Rašević, the rapid growth of online enrolments makes universities and colleges realised many students prefer with online over traditional courses. Almost 30% students of higher education experienced and took an online course in 2010. Previous study before discussed online learning benefits in term of time efficiency, lower costs and convenience of personal schedules (Nelson, J.A, 2008). Hence, this paper aim seeks for discovering, analysing and reviewing several articles which discussed the disadvantages of online learning.

This paper discussed total of four disadvantages of online learning. First and foremost, no social and class interaction. This previous study was authored by Asst. Prof. Phatthan Hiranrithikorn (2019) and it was briefly discussed the best explanation regards it. Second research is conducted by Melody W. Alexander et.al. and the second disadvantage being elaborated was the tendency of procrastinating and misunderstanding of content. Next research determined digital division. The research was discussed by Doan Thi Hue Dung (2020). Besides that, Chuanmei Dong, et.al in 2020 mentioned like vision problems as one of the disadvantages of online learning. Lastly, the conditionality of technology available as online learning disadvantage being explained by Nenad Perić in 2019.

Disadvantages of Online Learning

No social and class interaction

Nowadays, the rapid of globalization is becoming faster and same goes to higher education modern world (i.e. online learning). Asst. Prof. Phatthan Hiranrithikorn in his article entitled Advantages and Disadvantages of Online Learning describe both internal and external factors contribute to the success of online learning especially toward higher education environment. Internal factors such as faculty members, student's prior knowledge, policies management, self-disciplinary basic, social behaviour and conditions of working meanwhile health, conditions of family, life goal, targets and perceived opportunities are the examples of external factors. All those factors can result to student's learning satisfaction and accomplishment.

In this case, student under online learning environment are likely to feel the pressure and face many circumstances in order to suit with it. To investigate further, the advantages and disadvantages of online learning through qualitative method research being held. The conducted research method includes in-depth interview involved total 12 informants who experienced with online learning. Half of them are among small business and learning institutions and the other half are policy and academic makers who used with government policy and small business work. The sample group being asked about the online learning pros and cons characteristics details.

The finding of the research shows several disadvantages such as no social and class interaction. Online learning has been resulted into no social interaction effect. Students with the same age such as young students and undergraduate level disable to interact between themselves. Furthermore, the traditional method learning effectiveness cannot being obtained by students as there is no class interaction. Online learning has limited the courses number of teaching online. As instance, skill building, practice and activities within classroom cannot being held.

The Tendency of Procrastinating and Misunderstanding of Content

Post-secondary education such degree program keeps offering and growing on online courses. In the Online Education Eight Annual Sloan Survey documented by

Disadvantages Of Online Learning Among Student

Allen and Seaman, students during the 2009 fall who took an online course reach more than 5.6 million (Allen, I.E., & Seaman, J., Nov 2010). Many educators contribute towards the converting traditional methods into an online format. According to Blakey, L., numerous benefits and positive experiences being reported, such as opportunity to universe student around the world and encourage diverse ideas sharing and collaboration. Yet even with presented benefits, negative impacts give huge effect to administrators and online educators (Dobbs, R. D., Waid, C. A. & del Caren, A., 2009).

Hence, Melody W. Alexander et.al. conduct a research of Expected Advantages and Disadvantages of Online Learning: Perceptions from College Students Who Have Not Taken Online Courses in order to document perception of students regarding the expected online courses advantages and disadvantages. A total of 420 volunteered students in information courses has participated in the online survey method research. The main findings then presented few analyses such as the tendency of procrastinating and misunderstanding of content. Along the increasing and ease usage of communication, students are likely to cheat with other students through email. Misunderstanding content such as assignment direction misunderstanding is a factor which contribute to the frustrating of online learning.

This point also be strongly supported by this article entitled Foster Strengths and Circumvent Weaknesses: Advantages and disadvantages of online versus face-to-face subgroup discourse. It also presented the point of misunderstanding content as a finding result within the research. The conducted research found the participants faced often misunderstanding within their online subgroup discussion. One of participant elaborated that the tendency of misunderstanding in online groups is high. In this case, traditional method of learning gain extra mark for the efficiency since face-to-face sessions encourage student to clarify the message content immediately.

Digital Division and the Lack of Social Skills Among Students

Virtual education being defined as a learning environment involved the separation between teachers and students in term of space, time or both. Applications of IT, the Internet, videoconferencing, resources of multimedia and more act as distribution platform of course contents. Virtual education remains present in the few years and plays a major role toward school and university life. The quality of education and the faced challenged by teacher and the learner become the main concern nowadays.

Therefore, Doan Thi Hue Dung conducted a research investigate the experience of student and faculty regard virtual learning advantages and disadvantages. Quantitative survey method being applied and it involved total 205 students and 16 lecturers among English Languages of Hong Bang International University Department. The finding resulted on digital division issue.

Digital division affect student's online learning and becoming an issue as it brings inequalities among the students. Wi-Fi connection and specific kind of devices are essential digital requirement by students in order to active participate on online learning. The research concluded few analyses and one of them sorting the main devices which often being utilised for their online learning. Smartphones had the highest percentage which is 46%, laptops for 45% and 6% of them were desktops

while tablets were only 3%. Although the highest percentage lead by smartphones usage, students yet still faced difficulties as the given assignments required them to done writing work for learning process. Obtained data from interview also presents student who use smartphone tend to late submit their given tasks and assignments. Besides that, analysis showed that students prefer to proper conduct simple and short tasks on smartphone applications or tasks which required them to only use pens and papers.

Online Learning Shortcomings such as vision problems

The outbreak of COVID-19 (coronavirus disease 2019) has threatened global health, everyday lives as well as people's education. Online learning been promoted as a main solution to replace traditional method learning which is face-to-face to ensure and maintain student's learning environment include young children. Education for young children consumed more awareness and participation of parent in order to proper guide and encourage young children to get used with pandemic. However, Chinese parents had numerous negative beliefs and thoughts toward their young children learning environment during COVID-19 pandemic. Some of them preferred traditional learning rather than online learning for their children early childhood. After conducting both quantitative and qualitative approaches include 3275 parents in Henan Province inland city, several reasons being presented. Several reasons which contribute to negative beliefs was the vision problems by online learning. According to Hatzigianni & Kalaitzidis (2018) and Mertala (2019), most of Chinese parents agreed and shared this point as a concern of early childhood education. Myopia prevalence, recently in China is a vision type of disease have increased rapidly and affected on short-sighted among many young children (Ku et al., 2019).

Guarino in 2018 has supported this fact by mentioning increased screen-time among public has attributed to this matter. Hence, Education Ministry with other seven of national authorities participated on Preventing and Controlling Myopia Implementation Plan among Children and Adolescents in order to control the usage technology by limiting the screen time. Digital designers and programs of online learning been addressed to carefully innovate their future products.

Conditionality of technology available

Recently, information technologies have enlarged its roles in education. Education with the multimedia development able to maximize teaching performance to become more effective, rational, experiential by providing combination written text with music, video, animations as well as sound effects (Vilotijević, M. & Mandić, D., 2016). With the assistance of electronic media, e-learning able to conquer and support two-way process involve students and teachers by using media tool (Simović, D. & Čukanović-Karavidić, M., 2010). However, we must note that e-learning consumed non-instant process of environment. For other word, efficiency of online learning only can be obtained if some basic requirement been fulfilled. Students required to have essential technology requirements such as latest version of web browser computer,

Disadvantages Of Online Learning Among Student

multimedia programs record display, strong connection of internet, etc. As example, videoconferencing required students to have sufficient technology in order to get attached.

Conclusion

Online learning is no longer known as rare thing and it is common for nowadays higher education. Throughout online learning environment, students could enhance advantages and disadvantages which contribute toward their academic performance. Instead continuing discover the upcoming problem or disadvantages of online learning, student should figure out the best solutions for improving themselves in term of discipline and commitment given. Some suggestions by previous study or research could be implemented to improve online learning method especially among the instructor and student. Therefore, Doan Thi Hue Dung suggests several recommendations in his article focuses on the instructor roles. One of the suggestions is the instructor need to monitor well their given formative assessment thus students do not feel unnecessary pressure while having the test. Another suggestion is the teacher must ensure the assessment given should be suitable and applicable to student's hardware equipment include laptop or smartphone hence student could actively participate. In addition, the educators could encourage positive interaction between student by creating more quizzes, contests and group projects.

Nevertheless, a future study regarding the best practices of online learning should be conduct for briefing and encourage student perform well on their academic result. Specific or detail related online learning best practices could be explain and elaborate so the student could gain some ideas and motivation toward their online learning method.

References

Alexander, M. W., Truell, A. D., & Zhao, J. J. (2012). Expected advantages and disadvantages of online learning: Perceptions from college students who have not taken online courses. *Issues in Information Systems*, 13(2), 193-200.

Allen, I. E., & Seaman, J. (Nov 2010). Class differences: Online education in the United States, 2010. Retrieved from http://sloanconsortium.org/publications/survey/class_differences around the use of touchscreen technologies by children under three years of age. Beijing: The Author.

between near visual activity and incident myopia in children: A nationwide 4-yearjet.12649.

Blakey, L. (2010). The proliferation, pitfalls, and power of online education. *Cases on Distance Delivery and Learning Outcomes: Emerging Trends and Programs*. Ed. Deb Gearhart. Hershey, PA: Information Science Reference, 167-189.

British Journal of Educational Technology, 49(5), 883-895. <https://doi.org/10.1111/>

Dobbs, R. D., Waid, C. A. & del Carmen, A. ((2009). Students' perceptions of online courses: The effect on online course experience. *The Quarterly Review of Distance Education*, 10(1), 9-

26. education: A meta-ethnographical synthesis of qualitative research. Computers in follow-up study. *Ophthalmology*, 126(2), 214–220. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ophtha.2018.05.010>. Guarino, B. (2018). China blames video games for poor eyesight, but the evidence isn't strong. Hatzigianni, M., & Kalaitzidis, I. (2018). Early childhood educators' attitudes and beliefs towards technology integration. *Journal of Human Behavior in the Social Environment*, 101, 334–349. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chb.2019.08.003>.
- Hiranrithikorn, P. (2019, October). Advantages and Disadvantages of Online Learning. International Academic Multidisciplinary Research Conference in Berlin 2019 (Pp. 14-17). *Human Behavior*, 101, 334–349. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chb.2019.08.003>.
- Mertala, P. (2019a). Teachers' beliefs about technology integration in early childhood education. *Journal of Technology in Early Childhood Education*, 10, 1–10.
- Ministry of Education. (2018). Education Informatization 2.0 Action Plan (in Chinese).
- Nelson, J. A. (Oct 2008). Advantages of online education. *Home Health Care Management & Practice*, 20(6), 501-502.
- Perić, N. E-learning: Analysis, Advantages and Disadvantages. PaKSoM 2019, p.45-50.
- Perić, N. & Rašević, J. (2017). E-learning: global analysis. [E-učenje: globalna analiza]. *Obrazovna tehnologija*, 2, pp. 145-152.
- Qiu, M., & McDougall, D. (2013). Foster strengths and circumvent weaknesses: Advantages and disadvantages of online versus face-to-face subgroup discourse. *Computers & Education*, 67, 1-11. school, [Informatičko-razvijajuća nastava u efikasnoj školi]. Serbian Academy of education, Teacher Education faculty, Belgrade.science/2018/09/04/china-blames-video-games-poor-eyesight-evidence-isntstrong/.
- Simović, D. & Čukanović-Karavidić, M. (2010). E-education, [E-obrazovanje]. In Proceedings of the third international conference Technics and Informatics in education. Technical faculty Čačak.strong. The Washington Post. Retrieved from <https://www.washingtonpost.com/>
- Ahmad T, Haroon, Baig M, Hui J. Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic and Economic Impact. *Pak J Med Sci*. 2020;36(COVID19- S4):COVID19-S73-S78. doi: <https://doi.org/10.12669/pjms.36.COVID19-S4.2638>
- CDC. (2020, February 11). Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/social-distancing.html>
- Elengoe, A. (2020). COVID-19 Outbreak in Malaysia. *Osong Public Health and Research Perspectives*, 11(3), 93–100. <https://doi.org/10.24171/j.phrp.2020.11.3.08>
- Hasanat, M. W., Hoque, A., Shikha, F. A., Anwar, M., Hamid, A. B. A., & Tat, H. H. (2020). The Impact of Coronavirus (Covid-19) on E-Business in Malaysia. *Asian Journal of Multidisciplinary Studies*, 3(1), 85-90.
- Jones, L., Palumbo, D., & Brown, D. (2020, March 6). Eight charts on how coronavirus has hit the global economy. BBC News. <https://www.bbc.com/news/business-51706225>

Disadvantages Of Online Learning Among Student

Kabir, S. M. H., Haque, A., Rahman, M. M., & Abd, Z. S. (2020). How to Minimize the Impact Caused by Global Pandemic in Malaysia. International Journal of Business and Management, 4(2), 22-29.

Mayo Clinic. (2020, June 16). Coronavirus - Symptoms and causes. Mayo Clinic. <https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/coronavirus/symptoms-causes/syc-20479963>

Pak A, Adegbeye OA, Adekunle AI, Rahman KM, McBryde ES and Eisen DP (2020) Economic Consequences of the COVID-19 Outbreak: the Need for Epidemic Preparedness. *Front. Public Health* 8:241. doi: 10.3389/fpubh.2020.00241

Pettinger, T. (2020, May 3). Economic effects of a pandemic. Economics Help. <https://www.economicshelp.org/blog/161156/economics/economic-effects-of-a-pandemic/>

Ratnasingam, J., Khoo, A., Jegathesan, N., Wei, L. C., Abd Latib, H., Thanasegaran, G., ... & Amir, M. A. (2020). How are Small and Medium Enterprises in Malaysia's Furniture Industry Coping with COVID-19 Pandemic? Early Evidences from a Survey and Recommendations for Policymakers. *BioResources*, 15(3), 5951-5964.

Shakeel, S., Ahmed Hassali, M. A., & Abbas Naqvi, A. (2020). Health and Economic Impact of COVID-19: Mapping the Consequences of a Pandemic in Malaysia. *Malaysian Journal of Medical Sciences*, 27(2), 159–164. <https://doi.org/10.21315/mjms2020.27.2.16>