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## ONLINE TEACHING – A CHALLENGE FOR A TEACHER

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### Abstract

*There has been a technological transformation in the field of education. E-learning is gaining momentum day by day. In such a technology-driven scenario, online teaching has become a challenge for the teachers. In this digital era, the coming generations are quite adept at handling, managing and working with technology. Even the younger kids and toddlers are able to operate the smart phones and other modern gadgets. Thus, these gadgets have been embedded with the daily routine of the modern lives. The paper aims to describe the challenges faced by teachers as well as students on online classes in the present context.*

**Keywords:** *online, Information and Communication Technology, technological transformation, teachers and students*

Recently technology has crossed the threshold into every field of life. It has changed everything our daily routine. This revolution has intensely entered in the education too. Education has undergone a revolution in the era of Information and Communication Technology. The use of smart boards, hybrid or blended learning, flipped classrooms and digital libraries has become a part of teaching learning processes. Due to this, most of the teaching and learning processes in the classrooms are changing from traditional style to techno style where students play an active role. To handle this change, the role of a teacher becomes more challenging and consequently requires attention. The aim of this paper is focussed on challenges for teachers as well as students on online classes.

Nowadays, online education has grown rapidly. In near future the faculty and students will be engaged in online teaching learning process in their career. From economics point of view, the higher education institutions and students will continue to take advantage of studying online. From an institutional point of view, online learning is reasonable to increase student enrolment and profits without investments of infrastructure.

Online Learning can be defined as “A course where most or all of the content is delivered online. Typically have no face-to-face meetings” (Allen & Seaman, 2003, 6). As there is no need for physical presence in the classroom, online learning has is possible to a much larger population. According to Johnson and Aragon (2003) an effective online learning environment requires a combination of the following seven principles:

1. address individual differences,
2. motivate the student,
3. avoid information overload,
4. create a real-life context,
5. encourage social interaction,
6. provide hands-on activities,
7. encourage student reflection (Johnson and Aragon, 2003, 34)

They think that students differ in their ability to process and apply information and the above characteristics will help them to learn efficiently.



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### Advantages of online teaching

#### ➤ Work from anywhere

Unlike in the traditional classroom, the teacher manages to convey their knowledge without being present at the same place. This means teachers can work from anywhere. This means that the student can attend the classes from anywhere in the world and at any time, as long as they have access to the internet. Online classes can be attended by several people at the same time. Therefore, the content taught by online teachers can reach to broader people as compare to face-to-face teaching. It is even possible to record the lessons and then make them available on a digital platform.

#### ➤ Anyone can teach online

To become a face-to-face teacher, you need a certificate in a specific subject, such as English, social sciences, law, and so on. It is necessary to specialised in a specific area. But if for example you have skills in crafts, cooking or music, you can create your online course and teach online without teaching degree. You can share your knowledge in a self-motivated and clear way on the internet. The most important thing is that you must be master in the topic, so that you can create a course and actually enjoy teaching it.

#### ➤ Creating varied content

The role of online teacher is to attract the attention of those who are watching their classes so that the person sees all the content from beginning to end. In addition crafting eye-catching videos, with interesting and well-explained information, the teacher can develop different types of materials for the students, mainly with the support of educational technologies.

#### ➤ Possibility of making improvements

In a traditional classroom, there is a schedule and a class plan that needs to be followed, so it's quite difficult to change the method or what is going to be taught, especially during class. Every teacher has the duty to keep on studying and remain up-to-date with teaching techniques. The difference here is that with online classes, these improvements can be applied as soon as the teacher receives the feedback. If you want to direct the learning experience, online classes follow a schedule. But those who create content for online courses can always modify something if they realize that the material provided is not so complete and attractive as it could be for students.

### Challenges in Front of Teachers

In any teaching learning process, a teacher is at the centre. In this digital era, a teacher has urged many challenges and responsibilities in addition to his/her prior role to keep pace with the changing technologies and changing teaching learning environments. In online teaching, teachers are facing new challenges which are as follows:

#### ➤ Reliable access to technology

Before starting online classes it is necessary to assess whether students can appear on online classes for the reason that in every home reliable internet connection or devices for students to use may not be available. At initial stage email and message to parents can solve these issues so that teacher can prepare to accommodate such students ahead of time.

#### ➤ Arousing students' interest

The classes should be made interesting to the students so that they desire to continue learning. In online class the teacher is not able to know what actually the students are doing. There are distractions on the part of the students which the teacher is unaware. For this it is necessary to create well-structured, interesting lessons to keep students' focus on the content. If teachers create an effective online learning environment, it will lead students' interest towards learning. Students will become actively involved in the course.

#### ➤ Develop activities

Creating activities is one way to make the class interesting and to know whether the student have



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understood the topic and to can find out which point to revise. This is because, when assessing students' responses, the teacher can understand which questions haven't been answered yet and can think in that direction. So it's important to construct some evaluation system.

### ➤ Diverse Students

Students have now got access to internet. As a result, students have become more knowledgeable, more Competitive and more demanding from their teachers. It has changed the way in which students understand any concept. Therefore, it is important to find out the types of learners enrolled in the online course in order to design the appropriate interaction system.

### ➤ Mode of Communications Skills

In traditional communication skills like of reading, speaking and writing are rational and clear. Now there is a need to add social media communication skills. These skills include ability to create a short YouTube video, conducting Webinars, creating online digital library, preparing online documents, the ability to reach out through the internet to a wide community of people with one's ideas, to share information appropriately, to give and take feedback. Teachers have to add his/her knowledge beyond limits with effective communication skills.

### ➤ Positive Attitude:

Teachers should develop a positive attitude towards online teaching. Teacher should not take online class as an obstacle rather think it as an innovative teaching process. Teachers should have will power, strong determination and the positive approach towards becoming techno-friendly and see that its execution has made the learning process more interesting, diverse, comfortable and also suitable.

### ➤ Feedback:

All online learning requires timely Feedback. Feedback in the form of assignment, quiz short paper will help the students to keep on track with deadlines. The teacher can send messages and reminders throughout the semester to keep students connected to the course. To help students attain their goals, the teacher should create a structure that is based on learning, exploring, watching and applying technique. This will prepare students what they have to do from time to time. In this structure they will read their textbook, learn by PowerPoint, watch related videos or explore websites, and apply what they have learned in various methods. In other words thoughtful writing assignments should be given to the students. In reflective writing students do more than just accumulate information. They will try to understand what they are learning.

## Challenge of the Student

As this concept is new to the teacher in the same way it is new to the students. For students there are following challenges:

### ➤ Readiness to accept the change

Online learning is new to students as well as to the teachers. Students need to make adjustments to their studying habits in order to be successful as online learners. Faculties have reported the lack of student discipline as a main barrier to online learning. As teachers give up some of their control over instructional events, students must be willing to accept some of the responsibilities assumed by teachers. Many students are not prepared for online learning method, which may in part account for high obliteration levels online learning (Henke & Russum, 2000). As Dawley noted,

Often, they have been educated through years of skills and drill where an emphasis was placed on memorization and testing of knowledge. After many years of working with this transmission model of teaching, students, become comfortable with the process. They understand what is expected of them as passive learners, and they developed skills for effectively mastering the content. Cognitive psychologists



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refer to this process as the automation of procedural knowledge” (Dawley, 2007, p5)

### ➤ Isolation

Learning from home can be lonely. Without classroom environment and the company of their friends some students can begin to feel a strong sense of isolation that slowly hounds their desire to learn. If the student is inactive some instruction may be missed and could not be collected from friends at that very moment.

### ➤ Lack of motivation in online learners

One of the major problems of online education is the motivating students to participate in the course. Social networks can be used to increase attention and interaction in online classes. For example, facebook can be used in online education. However it is natural that online teaching will be harder for our students as they are used to classroom teaching to support learning. And at home there are many distractions and expert support isn't always possible.

### Findings:

1. Online learning should encourage and support a student centered environment.
2. Technological issues can be address by frequently asked questions.
3. Critical thinking skills of students will increase.
4. Teachers should become techno-friendly and be quite comfortable in using it.
5. Proper interaction is possible when the courses are well planned and interaction options are explained.
6. Planning prior to the beginning of a course is necessary. Well planned courses allow the student to focus on learning and, thereby, receive the greatest benefit from the course.
7. The effectiveness of an online course is also dependent upon the connection between teachers and students.
8. It is compulsory for students to participate in the learning process of online classes.
9. Clear planning and instruction will minimize confusion and will limit the number of messages and phone calls.
10. Proper motivation is needed for online class.
11. Feedback plays an important role in online teaching-learning process.
12. Online group discussion should be encouraged.

Thus teachers should provide a way to integrate online class and allow students to be active participants in the learning process. Both teachers and students need to be prepared for the changing role that the online teaching-learning has brought. Rational use of online teaching would lead to evolution to the knowledge society in the globalized world and would also create better teaching and learning environment in the society.



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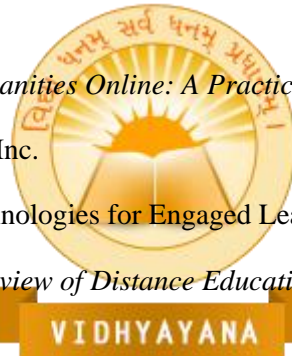
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