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## Online learning in Higher Education: Perception of Teachers

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### Abstract

The age-old concept of learning is gone where learning took place away from the crowd of towns and cities. The contemporary era has invested in classrooms for studies and education, which remains the most important method of learning. However, with the emergence of the internet, learning has evolved. It is a step forward from human teaching to technological mediums - sharing of content online, often known as online learning. Computers, laptops and tablets have now become a source of transferring educational content to distant places with the help of WWW (World Wide Web). It is an age-old process, but its growth can be seen recently during the last few years. It is the online delivery of information, communication, education, and training. The advancement of technology and the availability of the internet has opened a new era of online learning in India. The future of online learning is very wide because it is one of the simplest sources and medium of learning. The main purpose of this research article is to review the available literature based on online learning. It also focuses on the current situation of online learning worldwide.

Keywords: Online Learning, Teachers and Students

## INTRODUCTION

Twenty first century era has been set apart from rapid changes in many fields like worldwide economy, technology, society, culture and education (Cakrawati, 2017). Information and Communication Technology has changed the practice of teaching and learning process. Learning becomes more adaptable, more individualistic at this point. It gives the facility to the learners to access information from anywhere and anytime.

Learning is part and parcel of everyone's life. But in the contemporary scenario online learning has become very popular in India. And it has become the only way to decrease the knowledge void (Kamal and Illiyan, 2021). Tablets, laptops, smartphones and any other electronic gadgets have started a new trend in the education field and have improved the process of teaching and learning in recent years. On the basis of this, online learning has steadily acquired a place in theory and practice in education (Wang et al., 2021). Most importantly, as per Ministry of Education through online learning gross enrollment ration has depicted a significant increase. Additionally, UGC has approved to give 100% online degree and varied courses to top universities and institutes of NIRF ranking (TOI- Online, 2022). Online learning systems are web-based applications that offer, track, and manage courses over the Internet. This

includes implementing advances in technology to guide, design and deliver the learning materials and facilitate two-way communication between teachers and students (Mukhtar et. al., 2020).

Online learning is beneficial for both teachers as well as students. As it provides new learning experiences to the teachers and students, collect learning resources, facilitates learners' lifestyles, and provide more options for educational access. Teachers are the central part of the learning experience as they design lessons, create learning environments, guide learners, and influence learners in infinite ways, both inside and outside the classroom (Farah and Frayha, 2021). As part of the educational support system, teachers should be competent to emphasize deeper understanding and focus on connecting learners to the real world. Teachers should be able to include the use of assistive technology, problem-based approaches, and higher-order thinking abilities in their learning techniques. Teachers must integrate technologies with content and pedagogy. Thus, teachers must be able to develop the ability to use technology creatively to meet students' learning needs (Cakrawati, 2017). Furthermore, relevant knowledge is anticipated to provide students with skills for a successful job and life, as well as skills for lifelong learning and innovation, as well as literacy, media, information, and technological skills. Therefore, the current study explores the teachers'

perception of online learning in higher education.

### BENEFITS OF ONLINE LEARNING FOR TEACHERS AND STUDENTS

In the existing scenario teachers need relevant, authentic, self-paced, and individualized content. In the current context, access to online learning resources has started a revolution. Online learning has become a great resource for teachers, and it employs a new model of knowledge sharing in which students can learn at their own pace. The following are some of the advantages of online learning for teachers, per the Association for Talent Development (n.d.):

- **Self-paced Learning:** Online learning provides effectiveness and efficiency for teachers and allows them to increase their ability for individual learning styles and curves within the classroom setup. It accounts for self-paced learning and permits the teachers to work collaboratively to achieve the desired aims.
- **Application of Theory:** Through online learning teachers have easy access to information, communicate, exchange, and share their concepts and ideas. It enables teachers to get into the real-world experience through the application of theory via video, multimedia, chat and interactivity through constant learning.
- **Practicality:** Online learning provides an easy platform for teachers in their teaching learning process, monitoring the students' progress, designing curriculum, reduced

workload, create quizzes and tests, question banks etc.

- **The Way of the Future:** It is beneficial for teachers because it allows for greater flexibility in teaching and learning, cost-effectiveness, simple access to new digital learning platforms, and a variety of options to learn from teachers situated anywhere in the globe.
- **Access to Training:** Online learning materials can be used as a medium to train teachers and constantly up their game and thus making them professional developed in their teaching learning process.

Thus, online learning not only empowers the teachers but also boosts them to discover and learn beyond the curriculum that makes learning functional and relevant in the current scenario.

### BRIEF OF LITERATURE REVIEW

The main purpose of the review of the literature is to provide a wider perceptive on a specific study, to see its significance and relate it with other pertinent studies. The literature reviewed was obtained from various journals such as JSTOR, Springer, and Elsevier etc. Furthermore, the literature reviewed by the researcher was from the year 2008 to 2021. Thus, literature reviewed are as follows:

Farah and Frayha, (2021) identified the teachers' perception in context to online learning. The study showed that teachers are very comfortable in online learning and teachers believed that online learning enhances the students learning. Although teachers also revealed that

traditional learning is more valuable and effective for the students. Furthermore, Kamal and Illiyan, (2021) examined quantitative study on teachers' perception towards online learning. The study found that teachers were satisfied with online learning, but they faced various difficulties in the online teaching like conducting online exams, several technical difficulties etc. An empirical study was conducted by Wang et al., (2021) regarding online learning. The study showed that the attitude of the teachers regarding online learning is significant, and teachers support online learning. Furthermore, the study reveals how teachers view, participate, and improve their teaching through online learning. These findings demonstrated that optimizing online learning environments, as well as addressing teachers' basic psychological requirements and mental engagement, can significantly boost their professional development. Alhumaid et. al., (2020) examined the teachers' perception towards online learning. The study indicated that teachers show a positive perception regarding online learning. Yanti et.al., (2017) assessed the perception of the teachers regarding the use of online learning in educational activities. The study's findings revealed that teachers' perceptions of online learning are valuable, and that teachers are convinced with the benefits of using online learning in their teaching learning process. Afzal et. al., (2015) explored a study of teachers' perception regarding online learning in teaching learning process. The study depicted that teachers

show favorable opinion regarding the use of online learning and reveals that the online learning was very economical and efficient for the students.

Almahasees et. al., (2021) studied teachers' perception towards online learning. The study suggested that online learning is very beneficial for teachers but traditional learning is more efficient as compared to online learning. The study also reveals that online learning has many advantages like low costs, convenience, self-learning, and flexibility. The study also recommended blended learning. Rameli et. al., (2020) study revealed that in terms of cognitive, teacher show positive and better attitude but in terms of affective it shows negative attitude. Therefore, teacher had moderate and positive attitude regarding online learning.

#### CONCLUSION

As online learning is a paperless mode of learning. It protects the setting to tons of extent. It has the potential to be an extremely eco-friendly mode of learning. Online learning improves education, literacy, and economic development in underdeveloped and emerging countries. This is very true for nations wherever technical education is very expensive, opportunities are restricted, and economic disparities exist. Due to the wide set of advantages online learning offers to teachers, it has become quite common and appreciated among teachers all over the world. The future of online learning is bright. All we have to support the growth of online learning strategies while also allowing existing online learning techniques to evolve.

Online learning in India has a very bright future. Despite various challenges, the future of online learning is very promising specially country like India. Additionally, if the present growth rate of online learning continues as the same pace in India, it will soon surpass western countries in online learning adoption because of low internet cost, availability of inexpensive and sophisticated, computers, laptop and tablets etc. Thus, the new generation that will emerge, will help bootstrap an even more advanced system (Jayanthi, 2017).

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