Comparative Analysis of Online and Traditional Education

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Abstract. Due to the development of technologies and the situation in the world, online learning has become popular nowadays. This shere is becoming more and more popular. The article analyzes and compares online and traditional education, as it is a really relevant topic. Many people argue what kind of education is better. The authors asked university students what type of education they prefer and clarified what problems students face while studying. We also found out whether the students had experience using online courses or not, what goals and objectives they set for themselves, whether they were comfortable during the courses, what impressions remained, and what result they received upon completing the courses. We also asked students to think and reflect on the question "can online courses replace traditional education?". We analyzed scientific literature, got acquainted with articles on this topic, looked at sites. We also shared our experience with each other, analyzed the survey, listened to the opinions of students. We compared the results paying attention to "pros" and "cons" of online education and traditional education, identified the difference between these two types of education, and made the main conclusions in our work.

Keywords: online learning, traditional learning, students, problems, difference, education

Introduction.

In today's age of modern technology, a large portion of education occurs online. Trying to decide between online learning and traditional classroom learning can be extremely tricky. On the one hand, it's 2020 and most of us have the technology in our pockets to access information on-the go, so why would we commute to a campus college experience, that requires us to go to the same place every week for several years? Yet on the other hand, there's something magical about enrolling in college, buying a new backpack and heading onto campus with a lot of books, and maybe a packed social schedule. It sounds romantic, it feels authentic, and it can bring out the academic in even the least scholarly of us.
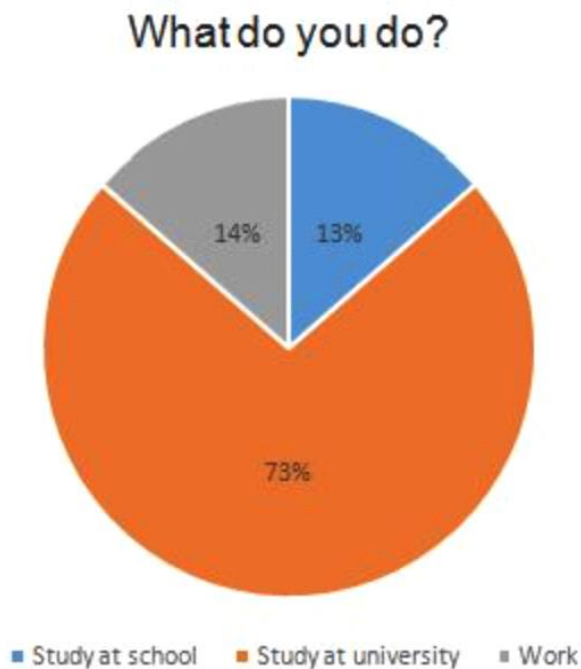
But are online courses better than classroom courses? What are the differences? We will try to explain in this article which is better and if there is a difference.

Materials and methods.

Online education is gaining more and more popularity these days. Indeed, for many students this is the most convenient form of education. In our research we wanted to define the main advantages and disadvantages of this phenomenon and compare them with those of traditional education. To achieve the goal of our work we analyzed the existing information about traditional learning in the classroom and computer-mediated classes, we also conducted a survey to know people's attitude to both forms.

Then we analyzed and evaluated our results and made very important conclusions. We tried to give some useful tips for those who want to study online.
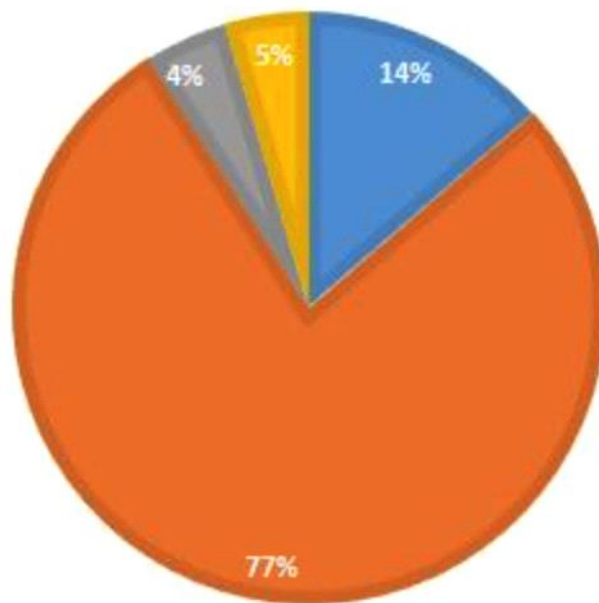
The majority of our respondents study at university (Picture 1). They are between 16-20 years old (Picture 2). Before the pandemic they all studied full-time and thought it was the only way of getting education.

Pic. 1

HOW OLD ARE YOU?

■ less than 16 ■ 16-20 ■ 21-30 ■ 31-40 ■ 40 and more

Pic. 2

Traditional education is familiar to everyone. Our parents and grandparents studied according to this system, which has a lot of advantages.
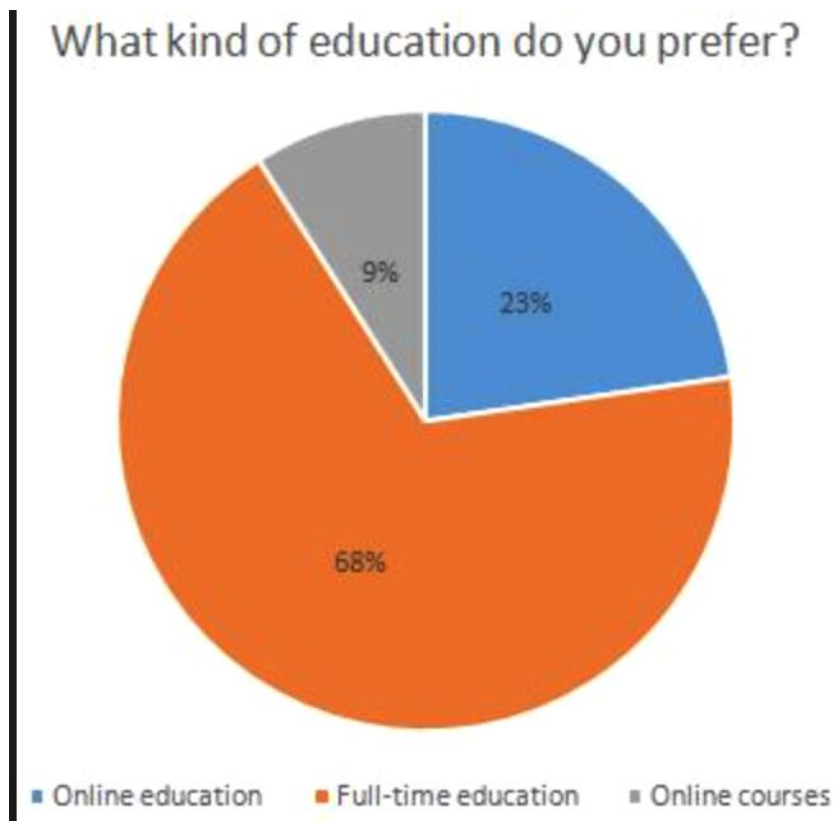
1.Public schools provide access to an education for every child in a community. The Huffington Post notes that by law, public schools cannot turn students away based on academic performance, income level or disability. Every student in the neighborhood is insured to have the same educational opportunities as the neighbors down the street, regardless of their current personal or financial situation. Since education is frequently seen as the great equalizer for society, the availability of education for all is a key benefit these institutions offer.

2.Traditional classroom learning gives your life a structure and routine. With classes taking place at set times and the requirement to meet deadlines and attend classes face to face, it can help you establish discipline. This, of course, is a very useful transferable skill that employees will value when you graduate, so getting used to the ebb and flow of classroom life could hold you in good stead for the future.

3.It's also well known that memories are developed as you study. As a classroom learner, you can throw yourself into college life, whether that means joining the football team, taking part in a play or campaigning with other students for good causes that you believe in. It's all available on campus, which could give you confidence and social life a real boost. It'll certainly make learning more fun!

4.You will also have continuous interaction with students and teachers. Even if it's just a few hours per week, you'll have a schedule that tells you exactly where and when you need to be each semester, and this routine can help you move forward with your studies and stay psychologically balanced.

That is why 68% of respondents prefer full-time (traditional) education. You can see the results in the following picture (Picture 3).

What kind of education do you prefer?

- Online education
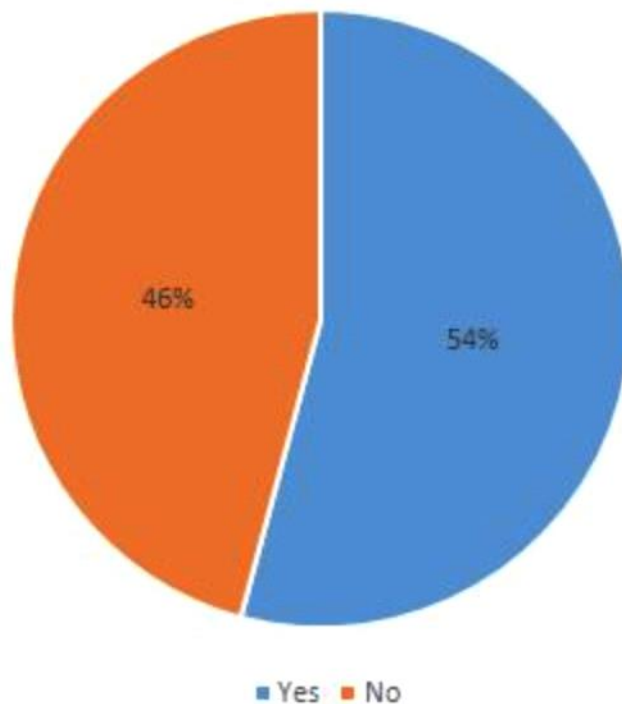- Full-time education
- Online courses

Pic. 3

However, the traditional education has its own disadvantages, which were investigated by us in our research. We also found out advantages and disadvantages of online education. We tried to compare these two systems and speak about the prospects of online education development.

Results.

The purpose of the survey was to identify the students' opinion about online education, online courses and compare it with traditional education. Most of the respondents were people aged 16 to 20 (77%), followed by people under 16 (14%), then people aged 31 to 40 (5%) and people aged 21-30 (4%). Most of them prefer full-time education (68%), followed by online education (23%) and Internet courses (9%). We have already mentioned that people prefer traditional education model more than non-traditional one. But many are confident that the future belongs to online education (54%) than traditional education (46%) (Picture 4).

Can online courses replace traditional education?

Pic. 4

During the research we found out a lot of disadvantages of traditional education, which, in our opinion, lead to such results. Although the form of traditional education leaves good memories and helps us make new friends at school, college and university, it has some negative points, that should be considered in more detail.

1.Punctuality and attendance are important at campus universities. If you're late or absent, it can work against you as your scores can be lowered to reflect this. Equally, if you are required to present something face-to-face and you don't make a good impression, your mark may be lower. Traditional learning is more synchronic — you won't have as much time to prepare your responses, as a tutor could throw something at you in a seminar and expect you to respond accordingly.

2.Class, written paper and exam dates are not flexible. You and your family will have to structure your lives, vacations and social lives around the college schedule for the duration of your studies. Are you ready to make this sacrifice? This doesn't need to be a disadvantage, but make sure you're prepared for the commitment before you sign up.

3.The cost of commuting to schools and the accommodations within the school is included in the traditional learning system. The traveling cost will be more while going to and from the class.

4.Although in traditional education systems students have many opportunities and activities to attend, as well as the chance to socialize, this can be a drawback for some students, causing a lack of focus and other problems. Some school environments may be filled with distractions, such as too much socializing, a loud room, or an uncomfortable atmosphere for a child. Although many

students become accustomed to distractions over time, others may improve their work output and focus dramatically when an alternative solution is offered, such as an alternative schooling option. Thus, many respondents choose online education as it has a lot benefits.

1.One of the biggest advantages of online learning is that you can study from anywhere. Tropical beach? From your bed? Staff room on your break at work? As long as you have an internet connection or a quiet room, you can learn from your laptop. You don't need to spend time commuting every day, or re-locate your entire life to a new area. This could save you considerable amounts of money and stress in the long run, so it is definitely an advantage to consider.

2.Another added bonus of online learning is less peer pressure from other students. You'll be free to follow your own schedule and you won't need to worry about what other students think of your thoughts or learning pace, because learning experience will be more private, unless you choose to talk about it on course forums or social media, of course!

3.Online learning requires daily interaction with technology, from laptops to live-streamed lectures. So even without realizing it, you'll be developing your technical literacy. This is a great transferable skill which will hold you in good stead for the future.

4.Online learning also costs less than traditional classroom-based experiences. A recent study by education analyst Ed Vosganian found out that an undergraduate online degree could cost 50% less than an undergraduate on-campus course. Using statistics from a school in Florida, the study found that campus learning can cost $42,768 per year, whilst online learning can cost just $21,100, when extra costs like textbooks and accommodation are taken into account.

Nevertheless, there are some disadvantages of online education, and students can face a lot of difficulties.

1. All the flexibility and independence of online education means you need to be self-motivated to get results. You will have less social interaction with other students and teachers, so there's a greater possibility for the course to feel isolating.

2.Another disadvantage to consider is that not all majors are available. Courses in business administration, computer science, and health science are readily available online, but if you want to deep-dive into hands-on courses like music or art, you may not be able to do this with an entirely online degree. Change is happening, but not all institutions have made their courses available online yet.

3.It can also be frustrating if you don't understand something and online resources can't help — sometimes it's just nice to be able to pop in to see your course tutor during office hours, or to seek help from fellow students in the campus library or computer room.

4.You can also feel increased pressure to remember you are a student and it is up to you to get your work done. No one else is going to remind you, because your degree will take place inside your laptop (and your mind!) and won't be immediately visible to other people you meet on a daily basis.

Conclusion.

Choosing online learning vs classroom learning is not a simple dilemma. For every example of a successful online learner, you'll find another person who found the responsibility to manage their own time and work-load too stressful.

Learning offline skills and techniques and acquiring knowledge online is the most effective and constructive way to combine online and offline education. Online can't give a student a social status yet. Until now, education received online is not perceived by employers and the market as something significant enough. It will be another decade before people who have grown up in an online environment start making hiring decisions and take into account the skills and knowledge of candidates obtained online, on a par with a traditional education diploma.

It's a good idea to conduct a SWOT analysis before you go any further. Take a large piece of paper, or a new Excel sheet, and write down all your strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats that online learning would provide, then do the same for traditional classroom learning. Once you have both documents side by side, you'll be able to see which method of learning appeals to you more, and which one is a better fit for your current lifestyle and existing commitments.

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