

**PERCEPTION ABOUT ONLINE EDUCATION AND DIGITAL  
INITIATIVE IN ONLINE EDUCATION**

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**ABSTRACT**

The use of web portals significantly changed how individuals live their lives and carrying out everyday activities. Technology breakthroughs have caused significant changes in the world of education. The new way of using technology to aid in student learning is called online learning or e-learning. It is one of the instruments that came out of information technology and is used in many colleges and institutions nowadays. Due to the involvement of both teacher and the students, online learning involves two-way communication. Universities and schools are both embracing online learning. The next stage in the education industry is an increase in the growth of online learning and education. The goal of this study is to better understand how both teachers and students view online learning. As the study is based on secondary sources, research papers are exploratory in character. This essay also discusses the emergency curb that online education provides for COVID-19, as well as digital activities in the education industry and highly regarded online learning programmes in India.

**KEYWORDS:** Perceptions of teachers and students, online learning, digital initiatives, and COVID-19.

**INTRODUCTION**

The physicality of the teacher and student is crucial in the traditional classroom model. A crucial component of learning in this setup has been considered to be engagement between both the teacher and student. But this paradigm has been questioned by improvements in educational delivery methods. Modern education delivery methods like online learning and distant learning, which promote education globally, are facilitated by advancements in information technology (IT).

Connecting students with distant resources is what is meant by online education. It can also be described as a formalised teaching and learning system because it can be learned through electronic media and the internet and does not need specific locations for education. It is media-based, virtual, or nonblocking and assisted by some instructional systems. It also improve students' learning experiences and performance, with the use of e-learning and communications technologies (ICT) to deliver educational content when instructors and students are separated by time or distance or both. Learning is just no longer limited to the four walls of the traditional classroom structure. The higher education sector (schools and colleges), which offers distance learning courses, has embraced online education more frequently, but now both primary and secondary schools have done the same. The majority of Faculty of have a positive attitude toward online education and teaching technologies like video conferencing lectures, therefore it

was determined that they were in favour of the blended learning approach with e-learning. According to a study, university lecturers use a variety of tools and hybrid learning strategies. In order to boost online education in India, the government has also started a number of projects. The development of online learning apps by private companies like BYJUS (for primary level learning), UNACADEMY (for higher level learning), and many others is expanding beyond just schools and colleges. These businesses offer great online instruction for competitive exams to students in both schools and universities.

### **SCENARIO OF ONLINE EDUCATION**

Since the previous few decades, the use of online education has been quietly increasing. Early on, e-learning was a challenging endeavour because so few significant educational institutions chose to use it. As technology advances, internet connection becomes more widely available, awareness of online courses grows, and enrolment in online courses rises steadily. The ministry has also begun steps to support India's online education system. The Prime Minister introduced a number of online programmes in 2015 as part of "Digital India," including MOOCS, SWAYAM, SWAYAM PRABHA, and others. These initiatives alter the educational landscape. . These applications are also used by schools and universities to improve the curriculum and to switch the emphasis from old-fashioned teaching methods to more contemporary, scientific ones. Online education has gained popularity among students since 2015 because to growing online education programmes and alluring online courses offered by colleges.

By solving the demand-supply gap for both students and corporate personnel by providing individualised learning outcomes, e-learning platforms are gradually transforming the Indian educational environment. KPMG predicts that by 2021, there will be 9.6 million users in the Indian virtual learning market, up from 1.6 million in 2016.

Despite the popularity of online learning in the academic institutions (universities + colleges), there is a change in primary education as well, with schools embracing certain online learning and activities. Recent initiatives for school education include e-pathshala and others. These enable primary level schooling to have access to books, notes, and live sessions. Additionally, several private institutions support online education, i.e. BYJUS App, the top-ranked learning application for elementary school instruction

### **Distance learning**

The primary components of distant education, often known as distance learning, involve the physical segregation of educators and pupils throughout the teaching process and the use of a variety of technologies to enhance student-teacher and studies have shown a link. Students have flexibility with distance learning.

### **Blended Education**

Blended learning is a type of teaching that blends traditional place-based classroom techniques with online educational resources and chances for online participation. Both instructors and learners must be present physically, and there must be some degree of found that student over time, location, path, or location. The use of online resources in this learning process is crucial.

Models for flipped classrooms and project-based learning both boost student productivity and alter the learning environment in the classroom.

**Mobile applications**

The education sector benefits greatly from technology. Students are using a variety of online education applications (mobile apps) as internet connectivity rises for their online education. Students should be able to access all classes, courses, and videos online from their mobile devices thanks to these apps. Mobile apps may be conveniently accessible anytime, anywhere, and replace the use of laptops and computers. Students use a variety of learning apps, including Byjus, Unacademy, Gradeup, Diksha, E-pathshala, and many others.

Online education serves as an Emergency brake on the whole education industry when the COVID-19 pandemic spreads throughout the entire world. Students and teachers in this situation can only communicate their educational and learning viewpoints through online education. Due to this pandemic, there is no other method for students to complete their education but online. Schools, colleges, and institutions are all closed as a result. During COVID-19, the government also began a number of measures to advance and promote online education.

Vidyadan 2.0	Launched on 22 April, 2020 by Union Ministry of HRD on Diksha portal To contribute e-learning content For both school and higher education Bring together academicians, organization and e-learning content
YUKTI Portal	Launched by MHRD specially of COVID-19 Young India combating COVID with knowledge, technology & innovation 2 way communication channel To continue high quality learning environment
ZOHO classes	Announced its Swadeshi Sanklap Mobile app enables schools and colleges to connect with students online Provides courses, broadcasts, live classes, shares assignment Provides free to all government schools in India and free up to 100 students.
BAHART PADHE ONLINE	Launched on 10 April, 2020 by HRD minister A week long program campaign in New Delhi for crowd source ideas to improve online education ecosystem of India To invite best brains in India overcoming constraints of online education

	10 april-16 April week long program
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**DIGITAL INITIATIVES IN ONLINE EDUCATION**

SWAYAM	<p>9<sup>th</sup> July 2017 by Ministry of Human Resource Development                  Based on three cardinal principle access, equity and quality                  To take best teaching resource to all                  Education from 9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> , undergraduate and post graduate                  Concerned with national coordinators such as AICTE, IGNOU, NPTEL,UGC, CEC and many more</p>
SWAYAM PRABHA	<p>It is a group of 32 DTH channels which runs 24x7 for the students                  High quality educational programs using the GSAT-15                  Everyday new content for at least (4) hour which repeated 5 more times                  Students from 1<sup>st</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> and UG and PG level can get access                  Top education bodies NPTEL,IGNOU,NCERT,UGC and NIOS which provide content to INFLIBENET</p>
e-pathshala	<p>November 2015 by Ministry of HRD under NME-ICT                  Promote self learning, among students                  Web portal and mobile app developed by NCERT                  Listed on UMANG app                  Free of cost( education material, including textbooks, audios , videos and periodicals )                  School teachers and parents are also keep check and have access too</p>
VIRTUL LABS	<p>Initiative of MHRD and GOI under NMEICT                  12 IITs which aim to disburser online classes and study resource                  700+virtual experiments are designed to promote aspirants to study</p>
SHAGUN JUNCTION	<p>ONLINE                  Department of school education in the GOI and all States and UTs launched several e-learning platforms                  Main aim to facilitate both teachers and students a platform to interact.</p>
DIKSHA	<p>National Digital Infrastructure for Teachers                  From 1<sup>st</sup> class to 12<sup>th</sup> class                  For both teachers and students requiring learning material                  Unique app requires to scan QR code available in the book                  Provides more than 80000 e-books                  Available in multiple languages.</p>

NATIONAL LIBRARY	DIGITAL	Run by Ministry of MHRD under NMEICT Provide content pursuing to schools students and higher education students
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**TOP PRIVATE COMPANIES AVAILING ONLINE EDUCATION****BYJUS**

Over 42 million registered members, this is the largest platform in the world for students. Think and Learn Private Ltd.'s most well-known trademark is the learning app. Byjus Ravindran at Bengaluru launched Indian educational internet and digital learning in 2011. For kids in grades 4 through 12, this app provides a thorough math and science learning programme. Additionally, it offers test prep classes for competitive exams including the JEE, NEET, and IAS. The greatest teachers in India are included in the app's classes. The group is devoted to improving learning's effectiveness and engagement. The newest edition of the app includes free "Live Classes" taught by the top instructors in India.

The BYJU'S learning platform is not just for the best students; it has been created to make "any" learner fall in love with studying.

This app is used for education by more than 42 thousand students. They use the app for 71 minutes on average each day to learn, and 93 percent of parents said their kids' grades improved as a result of using it. App that parents and students both highly recommend. At \$5.4 billion, it was the most valuable edtech company in the world.

**UNACADEMY**

An online knowledge base for multilingual education is what Unacademy, an e-learning platform, seeks to create. The platform, which is situated in Bangalore and was created by Gaurav Munjal, Roman Saini, and Hemesh Singh, links qualified teachers with students from various places who are looking for high-quality education. With 400 professors covering 20 test categories, especially competitive ones like UPSC, IIT-JEE, UGC NET, and CAT, this app boasts a community of 3 million+ members for its Plus channel, 13 million+ students, and 250 million+ views on its own YouTube channel. Sorting Hat Technologies Pvt Ltd is the official name of the business. This software uses business to customer (B2C) marketing. Due to the fact that it primarily offers courses for competitive tests, this e-learning platform relates towards the higher education sector.

**ADVANTAGES OF ONLINE EDUCATION/LEARNING**

1. The ability to work from any location at any time is the most alluring perk of online education. Students are able to access the classes and study materials through online education at any time and from any location.
2. Diversity is a result of online learning. Online learning allows students to take a variety of courses, whereas traditional students are frequently restricted to local lecturers and courses.
3. Expands the chances for teachers because online learning is likely to result in greater student engagement. Using technology, they can experiment with different teaching methods.

4. Online learning encourages self- and community-directed learning while also providing services at lower prices.
5. Establishes the virtual setting.
6. There is an increase in social connection between teachers and pupils.

### **DISADVANTAGES OF ONLINE EDUCATION/LEARNING**

1. There are too many distractions because there are no in-person lectures to remind you of the looming task.
2. Online courses may be fake because many websites that offer them without being approved by educational authorities have been registered.
3. The absence of technology and web accessibility is a major downside.
4. Online workshops and courses that call for practical experience are not possible.
5. Students who learn online may have co-teasing feelings and a lack of engagement. Social isolation results from this.
6. The lack of face-to-face interaction in online education will have an impact on students' feedback.

### **CONCLUSION**

There used to be regular classrooms for education solely, but things have changed and the amount of online learning is growing daily. Due to a lack of knowledge about the programme and limited technology accessibility, there shouldn't be a significant increase during the early stages of online education. The funding for this industry has increased as a result of online education. Many students have the ability to take different courses from various universities around the world thanks to online courses. Due to its many benefits, online learning is preferred by students over offline approaches. Teachers perceive blended learning and e-learning differently because they also have a favourable attitude toward e-learning.

To encourage online learning in India, the government also launched a number of initiatives. As part of the "Digital India" concept, the government began a number of measures in 2015 to support e-learning.

Due to the closure of all educational institutions during the COVID-19 scenario, online education serves as a "emergency curb" and is the only way for students to continue their studies at both schools and colleges. According to numerous studies, the COVID-19 uses an online method for 90% of instruction. However, there have been several oversights in this educational system to date. Poor internet accessibility and smartphone accessibility are also issues that need to be fixed. To conclude, it can be claimed that the popularity of online learning is growing. Education is now more accessible to all students and learners thanks to e-learning. The majority of teachers and students are happy with the virtual learning offerings, and that this will continue in the future. As a result, the economy undergoes a digital change. As students and teachers become more happy with online education services, learning is shifting from traditional classrooms to flexible digital classrooms. Market segmentation and tool diversity show how diverse all of the learners' interests are in this. The scenario surrounding COVID-19 has seen an increase in e-

learning students, which will likely lead to further promotion of this education systems in schools and institutions. E-learning is a time-saving, more accessible (learning is available to all), and environmentally friendly instrument for education. The educational (future economy pillar) industry keeps expanding thanks to many efforts and the internet, which helps students learn new skills and boosts the economy.

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