

Some universities offer online courses as an alternative to classes delivered on campus. Do you think this is a positive or negative development?

Recent decades have seen a significant change in the educational system at universities, as many of them give this opportunity to qualification seekers to pursue their studies in a virtual learning method in exchange for attending classes. Personally, I think the advantages of e-learning classes outweigh its downsides.

It must be said that, more people could receive higher education by means of this option. For example, adults having a great deal of responsibilities, especially men or women working full time, and mothers (who are) in charge of raising their offspring as well as doing house chores, could highly benefit from distance learning to continue their education, since they can more easily save their time, decreasing the cost of tuition fees. By the same token, the elderly and disabled craving for tertiary education can enjoy online courses, because there is no need to commute long distances to attend the university, which makes them extremely exhausted. This means that they can boost their knowledge, obtaining academic qualification without **much difficultiyes**, whenever and wherever they want.

However, with all merits said above, there are some disadvantages in this regard. Firstly, students miss out on a social environment with lots of opportunities for discussion, which is the teacher-student and student-student interaction of conventional classes. That way, students would not be able to participate actively in the discussion unlike in a traditional lecture done in a classroom, where a highly competitive studying environment will be created, and as a result, they will be encouraged to put their endeavor into studying to get high scores. Furthermore, the nature of virtual learning urges the necessity of self-regulation of students to follow the courses, hence most of the participants find it hard to comply through an online basis.

In conclusion, I would argue that despite the fact that there are some benefits associated with attending ~~academic atmosphere in~~ traditional classes, we cannot ignore the great advantages of internet-based courses, especially, as ~~it~~ they ~~benefits~~ a wider proportion of individuals in society.