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Perception and Seizing Opportunities towards Online Education among Students Fraternity & Faculties

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ABSTRACT: The online education has challenges as well the opportunity to expand students capabilities in higher education. Attention and interaction are objective to every individual and can't be attributed to any platform or mode of learning. Teachers and students have enhanced interaction and creative learning by using chatbox, screen-share, whiteboards, etc. Which are useful for the presentation of images or PPTs. Online classes becoming the new normal and also gave the world the opportunity to make learning more flexible and accessible on a global level.

Difficulties such as converting old fashioned teaching methods for online application, sustaining true student interest and activity, assuring academic honesty and dealing with the technology-related barriers will all be considered. Furthermore, there will be sections devoted to the transformation of faculty members from the classical role of instructors to the facilitators of e-learning, which demands the development of the skills of designing courses with regard to online mode, pedagogy of online classes with information technology. Although there are many difficulties that instructors encounter, nonetheless, there are many important chances to improve their teaching abilities, to make the course reaches to the larger and more diverse audience. The flexibility that online education programs extend to the scheduling and delivery as well. It therefore becomes possible for faculty members to deal with their professional duties, research, service and personal commitments alongside teaching. The main purpose of this paper is a systematic review of the current literature on how faculty members can handle the complexities of the internet education, it's potential benefits and make it contribute to the further development of teaching and learning methods in the virtual space. "One of the most prominent signs that Student could conquer the online classroom is that they are already have a pretty good handle on personal time management. This becomes increasingly important if students have a bevy of other commitments" Mitali Gadhia, Assistant director of academic - University of Massachusetts Global's online campus .Through recognizing and being comfortable for these roles, teachers will be able to act with competence in meeting the challenges of online programs and take advantage of the opportunities brought by online learning in higher education. Ultimately, online Education schemes have their pros and cons it still provide excellent opportunities for professional development, new projects, and collaboration, which combine to create an edifying environment and broad accessible education regardless of their location and backgrounds.

This paper is small attempt towards multi-dimensional perception of the online education among student and faculty members and their progress through professional development.

KEYWORDS: Adaptation to Technology, Time and Workload Management, Collaboration and Networking, Adaptation to Online Teaching.

I. INTRODUCTION

Education has been drastically reshaped by online degree programs. Faculty faces challenges and opportunities during this transition. The paper discusses the complexities of incorporating online education in higher studies and changing roles among teachers in digital environment. However, the revolution does not only touch on the interaction with students but also includes Technology, Time and Workload Management, Collaboration and Networking, Adaptation in Online Teaching which change faculty's roles as well as duties.

II. THE EVOLUTION OF ONLINE EDUCATION

The **evolution of online education** has been a fascinating journey, transforming the way we learn and access knowledge. Let's delve into the timeline of this remarkable shift:

- **1982:** The **Western Behavioural Sciences Institute** pioneer's computer conferencing for a distance education program aimed at business executives.
- **1983:** **Ron Gordon**, Atari's former president, establishes the **Electronic University Network**, making online courses accessible to those with personal computers.
- **1985:** **Nova Southeastern University** in Florida creates the first accredited online graduate program, setting up the first electronic classroom.
- **1986:** The **National Science Foundation Network (NSFNET)** launches, laying the groundwork for the internet and electronic information distribution.
- **1993:** **Jones International University** becomes the first fully web-based, accredited university in Centennial, Colorado.
- **1994:** **CAL Campus** introduces the first online-only curriculum with real-time instruction, known as synchronous learning.
- **1995:** **Western Governors University** is founded by 19 U.S. governors to maximize educational resources through distance learning.
- **2002:** MIT launches the **Open Course Ware Project**, providing free MIT courses globally.
- **2012:** **Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs)** emerge, allowing learners to take classes asynchronously at their own pace through platforms like **Udacity**.
- **2020:** The **COVID-19 pandemic** accelerates the adoption of online learning, with colleges and universities worldwide shifting to virtual classrooms

From its humble beginnings to the current digital landscape, online education has democratized knowledge, making it accessible to learners of all backgrounds

With time, higher education institutions have evolved to include online Courses and degree programs to serve students well as they advance in their learning. On the other hand, this targeted knowledge acquisition is aimed to aid college students in achieving their educational goals. Thanks to the technology and digitization of the internet. In this space and time, students have the convenient opportunity to access a remote campus potentially offered in many countries that also provides comfort and mobility. Online programs in many ways give students much wanted freedom plus the opportunity of meeting people worldwide is astounding. Without a doubt, the means of delivering and acquiring information have undergone changes. Online education today is a subject with different facets. Online education with the components of flexibility, accessibility, and range of learning experiences have revealed the skill development hopes of those who are going to take their education to the next level, with barriers of time and space overcome.

III. STUDENTS PERCEPTION

Challenges in Online degree:

- **Isolation and Loneliness:** The fact that online learning can be very isolating and make some students feel lonely is more than well known, especially for those who are big fans of humanity exchange and communication. Reduced opportunities of engagements with friends and tutors can contribute to this results.
- **Increased Stress and Anxiety:** The flexibility of on line studying can also lead to accelerated stress and tension for a few college students. Balancing coursework with other obligations, navigating era problems, and coping with time efficaciously can all make a contribution to feelings of weigh down.
- **Difficulty Establishing Boundaries:** With online learning blurring the lines between home and school, students may struggle to establish boundaries and find it challenging to "switch off" from academic responsibilities.
- **Lack of Support System:** Students may feel a lack of support compared to traditional brick-and-mortar institutions. Limited interaction with instructors and classmates can make it difficult for students to seek help when needed.
- **Screen Fatigue and Physical Health:** Spending extended periods of time in front of screens can lead to physical discomfort and fatigue, contributing to overall well-being concerns.
- **Coping with Uncertainty:** The ever-changing nature of online learning platforms and tools can create uncertainty and added stress for students who prefer stability and predictability in their academic environment.

Certainly! Online programs offer several benefits that appeal to a wide range of students. Here are some of the key benefits:

Scope of Online degree:

- Flexibility
- Accessibility
- Cost-Effectiveness
- Customized Pace
- Diverse Learning Resources
- Global Networking Opportunities
- Career Advancement
- Personalized Support

Generally, online degree programs give a flexible, accessible and affordable bridge to education for current students and allow a wide range of choices to address learners' needs and preferences. Online programs bridge the gap by allowing the students to interact with their peers and tutors from all across the globe, thus creating a multicultural and global environment of learning. This networking is an invaluable chance to build strong professional relationships and also partnerships that transcend the classroom. Achievement of online education for working professionals might bring about career advancement and increased salary. Online programs make it possible for people who are already working to pursue higher education without leaving their jobs, therefore, they can immediately put their newly acquired knowledge and skills to work. Among these others, such a piece of writing would possibly cover remote learning difficulties with mental health, as well as the tips to help both students and academic institutions to overcome these problems and promote well-being of students in online education.

IV. FACULTY PERCEPTION

Challenges for faculty members:

- **Adaptation to Online Teaching Methods:** Most faculty members are familiar with old-fashioned teaching practices of traditional face-to-face teaching methods. This may be a barrier to the people who are not that conversant with online tools or network. When it comes to online learning being able to use multiple digital tools and applications is expected. Instructors face such problems as a lack of technical knowledge, which in turn impairs their ability to communicate with their students.
- **Limited institutional support:** Developing high-quality online courses requires substantial time and resources. Faculty members may struggle to balance their existing teaching, research, and administrative responsibilities with the demands of creating and maintaining online courses. Limited institutional support or access to training resources can exacerbate these challenges.
- **Student Engagement and Communication:** Building rapport and fostering meaningful interactions with students in an online environment can be more challenging compared to traditional classrooms. Faculty members must employ innovative strategies to promote student engagement, facilitate discussions, Assessment and Academic Integrity and provide timely feedback, all of which require additional effort and creativity Faculty members may encounter difficulties in designing assessments that accurately measure student learning while also implementing effective measures to deter cheating and plagiarism.
- **Technological Competence:** There will be also some faculty members who do not have tech skills necessary for online teaching like the learning management systems, multimedia tools, and remote communication platforms. It is a potential hindrance to the implementation of the effective teaching and communication practice
- **Workload Management:** While online teaching is academic obligations, faculty members may not be able to balance it between conducting research and fulfilling other academic duties.

V. OPPORTUNITIES FOR FACULTY MEMBERS

- **Flexibility and Reach:** Online degree programs offer faculty members the opportunity to reach a broader and more diverse student population. Faculty can engage with students from different geographical locations, backgrounds, and life circumstances, enhancing the richness of the learning experience.

- **Innovative Teaching Methods:** online education gives an opportunity for faculty to explore new pedagogical approaches, incorporate multimedia resources, and utilize technology-enhanced learning tools to enhance the learning experience for students.
- **Professional Research and Development:** Engaging in online education necessitates continuous learning and professional development for faculty members. This could involve acquiring new digital teaching skills, staying updated on advancements in educational technology, and adapting teaching strategies to meet the needs of online learners.
- **Collaboration and Networking:** Online degree programs often involve collaboration among faculty members from different disciplines and institutions. This collaboration can lead to interdisciplinary research projects, joint teaching initiatives, the sharing of best practices in online education, fostering a vibrant academic community and engage in meaningful professional networking.
- **Expanded Reach and Impact:** This affords faculty to include students from different places and have a wider reach since lectures can now be taken online versus being behind the college fencing. This changed delivers an opportunity for faculty to leave a bigger mark by growing sharing their competencies with students who should under stand remote education because of various limitations such as having an educational centre, time constraints, or being physically disabled.

Nonetheless, online degree programs cast various advantages to the students, the great resource for professional advancement, creativity, and collaboration, as a result, they enrich the higher education sector and offer the poor people with a good quality education.

VI. ONLINE EDUCATION MERITORIOUSNESS

The worthiness of an online education largely depends on a couple of things such as personal situation, career aspirations, and specific courses or Institution offering them.

- **Accreditation:** Ensure that the online degree program and the institution offering it are accredited by recognized accrediting bodies. Accreditation ensures that the program meets certain quality standards and that the degree will be recognized by employers and other academic institutions.
- **Career Goals:** Consider whether the online degree aligns with your career goals and aspirations. Research the job market in field of interest and determine if employers value online degrees from reputable institutions.
- **Program Quality:** Research the reputation and quality of the online Course including faculty credentials, curriculum, student support services, and graduation rates. Look for reviews and testimonials from current or former students.

VII. FUTURE TRENDS IN ONLINE EDUCATION

- Artificial Intelligence (AI) Integration
- Adaptive Learning Technology
- Mobile Learning (M-Learning)
- Virtual Reality (VR) and Augmented Reality (AR)
- Ethical AI and Privacy Considerations

VIII. CONCLUSION

Online studies provide the fast-changing landscape for facilitators, which is full of both golden opportunity and challenges. Faculty need to learn how to employ both the known and new technologies, as well as the new methodologies. With regular faculty training and teamwork, the online education can provide a powerful tool for advance learning, considering that the needs of students are frequently changing on the backdrop of the digital revolution. The implementation of online education as an instrument for student development will not only bring quality to the educational experience, but also allow the progress to college level. To wrap up things up, online

education offers distinct challenges and opportunities for students and faculties in higher learning. However, this widens the area of the audience outreach, ability for remote learning, and innovative teaching ideas.

Consequently, the transformation that has occurred inside the field of education as well provides room for creativity, professional growth, and shared experience by the means of new teaching modes. Adapting to constant changing and using all available digital technology can empower faculties only with new skills, but most importantly contribute to the quality of online education experience developed by the teachers.

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