ADVANTAGES AND CHALLENGES OF ONLINE LEARNING

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More teachers have been exposed to the advent of technology bringing the possibilities of teaching outside the traditional classroom. Effective teaching strategies are transferring from a regular classroom to the electronic environment. This is online learning.

Anderson (2011) defines the term ‘online learning’ as the use of the internet to access learning materials; as well as to interact with the content; instructor, and other learners. Online learning is also referred as to obtain support during the learning process, in order to acquire knowledge, to construct personal meaning, and to grow from the learning experience.

Organizations across the world are adopting online learning. Similarly, educational institutions are making use of internet for delivery of learning both on physical school and on a distance. Today that the Department of Education has opened its door in a wider use of online learning, it’s a must to be understood the benefits and challenges of it.

According to the research findings of Jefferson and Arnold (2009), online learning is advantageous because it spend more time on difficult concepts; provides reinforcement of information; learners and teachers can ask questions 24/7; and learners may work at own pace as well. Moreover, learners are learning of having more discipline as to their learning motivation; and of course, don’t have to leave home to attend classes.

On the other hand, Anderson (2011) cited the claim of Clark (1983) that technologies are merely vehicles that deliver instruction, and do not themselves influence
learner achievement. Research shows that learners gain significant learning benefits from audiovisual or computer media, as opposed to conventional instruction. However, the same studies also suggest that the cause for those benefits is not the medium of instruction, but the instructional strategies built into the learning materials. In this case, it is important to deal with the challenges of online learning by ensuring all learning materials to be used are necessarily quality assured. It is to be sure that every learning goal is achieved with quality as well.

There can be many obstructions coming in the way of your commitment to learn. It might be technical like connectivity or system problems. Educators and learners should be prepared for all of these interruptions.

Further, there are big possibilities of misunderstanding between learners and the teacher; and there is a delay in response to questions. Similarly, there might be a difficulty in forming relationships (teacher-learner personality conflict) as compared to a face-to-face learning environment (Jefferson and Arnold, 2009).

References:
