ONLINE LEARNING MODALITY: PROS AND CONS

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No pandemic will stop the Department of Education (DepEd) from delivering quality education to the Filipino youth. This assurance captures the mandate of the institution that no Filipino learner will be left behind. The statements embody the affirmative action of the department to combat the learning setbacks despite the situation. For this reason, blended learning is introduced with the banner of online learning, modular learning, radio, and TV broadcasting modalities. However, with the great demand for more interactive learning similar to face-to-face education, limited online learning is suggested by parents in some schools (DepEd, 2020).

Online learning encompasses a range of technologies like web, email, chat, and the like. It helps the students to learn at their own pace and convenience of their time. This type of learning process requires many resources and structural planning. It is the trend in education that provides students and teachers a safer avenue to learn. Thus, teachers enjoy the interactive modality of learning while students learn in the comfort of their homes. This type of modality is applied in two (2) manners. It can be asynchronous or it can be synchronous. To whatever mode it is applied, online learning involves the teacher and learners’ interaction with the use of internet access.

Asynchronous learning is a type of online learning wherein students are given a time frame to complete assignments and quizzes and interactions usually take place through discussion boards emails. The students who benefit from these are the ones who have busy schedules and need time constraints so that they can work on it based on their timetable. However, synchronous learning on the other hand is a simultaneous interaction between teachers and students. It is carried out using the platform of
webinars, video conferences, and chats. It also saves time for the teachers to prepare another schedule for the questions of the students by answering them in real-time. These earned popularity and provided the most acceptable means of learning (Fordham University, 2021; Hrastinski, 2008). It has assured that students can continue their learning in this new normal of education. Thus, providing continuous interaction during these difficult times eases the burden of the students in learning without the direct guidance of their teachers.

Online learning also comes with problems. It stems first from having a low or fluctuating internet connection. The internet connection in the country is not great compared to other countries when it comes to its accessibility. Either one has to pay or one has to look for places where a free internet connection is placed. It affects the students’ education, as it can lose motivation and focus. Thus, it can hamper their education progress and result in poor performance. The second disadvantage is distractions and time management. Studying at home with your younger siblings around or having one babysit the siblings while parents are gone to work can also be a distraction. This example is just one of many that can make one lose concentration in listening to the teacher’s lecture. Last is the limited attention span of the students (Jarman, 2019). This problem is universal and not technical in itself. Self-discipline must be strong enough to be attentive and focused in a regular class setting. With online class happening, short attention spans become shorter since everyone is in their comfort zone, they tend to doze off easily and multitask frequently. With less interaction during online class, one’s attention can be snatched by using smartphones, pets, and deliveries rather than the ongoing class lessons (Amadora, 2020; Friedman, 2020).

During pandemic times, one cannot fathom the anxiety and fear as to what may happen to oneself or the people around, what more one’s education. Different learning modalities have different features having both advantages and disadvantages. To think that online learning is the sole solution for learning problems during the pandemic is
fallacious. Nonetheless, it is more appropriate to affirm that during this time different modality that depends on the situation of the student is an effective means of learning modality. Thus, considering these aspects may bridge the gap of learning and modality. Moreover, it can transform subjects that students find boring into exciting areas to explore and to learn making learning enjoyable and exciting even during this pandemic.

References:


