Challenges and Opportunities to Explore New Things in Virtual Class

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Abstract

The paper shows the challenges at teacher-student and technological levels that should face the University to enter virtual education: the teachers' battle to the technology and the teaching method change; the students' resistance to take the responsibility of their learning process in an active way; and the technological challenges that implies the three levels of virtual education (totally virtual, half-virtual and virtual support to face-to-face courses). Virtual education is a teaching-learning process based on the principles of active pedagogy (the student should take the responsibility of a frequent and effective participation), with the characteristics of distance education (during all classes, or most of them, the students and the teacher will not meet personally, although this could happen in a virtual space), and with the possibility of synchronous or asynchronous interaction. In the international arena, virtual education grows every day, offering programs in basic and secondary education, as well as undergraduate and postgraduate degrees. Today it's possible to take virtual courses at some of the most popular universities in the world, which certifies the credits that the student acquires at the end. Many other universities, sensitive about the distance problem of many of their candidates, and of the schedule difficulties in others, have begun to implement virtual programs with the purpose of reaching those students that can't assist to their campus.

Key words: synchronous, Asynchronous, virtual, Challenges, opportunities.

A virtual classroom is an online teaching and learning environment where teachers and students can present course materials, engage and interact with one another, and work in groups together. The key distinction of a virtual classroom is that it takes place in a live, synchronous setting. Online coursework can involve the viewing of pre-recorded, asynchronous material, but virtual classroom settings involve live interaction between instructors and participants.Online education has grown in popularity and accessibility, attracting students. with its schedule-friendly format

options. These formats can be grouped broadly into two categories: synchronous and asynchronous.

Synchronous learning is online or distance education that happens in real time, often with a set class schedule and required login times. Asynchronous learning does not require real-time interaction; instead, content is available online for students to access when it best suits their schedules, and assignments are completed to deadlines. Programs can also use a hybrid learning model, which includes a blend of both formats.

Synchronous learning happens in real time. This means that Students and instructor interact in a specific virtual place at a set time. In these courses, instructors commonly take attendance, same as they would in a lecture hall. Common methods of synchronous online learning include video conferencing, teleconferencing, live chatting, and live-streamed lectures that must be viewed in real time. The main advantages of this learning is to explore new ideas, things and different tools for assessment. Through this method, students and instructors have an active participation, interactions with peers and instructors. Those who are in an initial stage of transition from traditional classroom to an online class, they prefer this synchronous learning method. This method has givena dynamic learning to the students. If they have any doubt, they have an option to post their queries in Question Column. They also get various answers from the peers and they never interrupt the class. Synchronous method provides regular interaction with professors and also provide opportunities for face-face discussion and individual guidance.

Some disadvantages also we are facing in this synchronous method. If our life requires far-reaching travel and we often find ourselves completing coursework in strange places like coffee shops, airport terminals, and hotel lobbies, synchronous learning might add to learners stress. The constant search for a wireless signal becomes even terrible when they're on the clock for a videoconference, lecture, or even an exam. For synchronous learners, technical difficulties like spotty internet, crashing hard drives, and dying batteries creates more stress.

Asynchronous learning happens on their schedule. While their course of study, instructor, or program will provide materials for reading, lectures for viewing, assignments for completing, and exams for evaluation, learners can access and satisfy these requirements on their own schedule, so long as learners meet the expected deadlines. Common methods of asynchronous online learning include self-guided lesson modules, pre-recorded video content, virtual libraries, lecture notes, and online discussion boards or social media platforms.

The advantages of this learning is flexibility. In these programs, materials are freely available – usually within a set period, like a week or two. Learners can access them when they are free. Materials can include text-based lecture notes, self-guided, interactive learning modules or pre-recorded lectures. Learners can complete their work on the train travel and they listen lecture during household work. This learning gives the materials that learners can complete them at their own convenience.

Another important authorizing features asynchronous learning is the set the pace. If you are the quick learner, it is easy for completion. It also give a new knowledge, learners can review information, take notes without worrying about falling behind their classmates or missing key points in lecture. If a major motivating factor for learners in choosing online education is affordability, fully asynchronous programs are among their best options. Online learning options like massive online open courses (MOOCs) often carry a lower price tag because they don't require daily attention from instructors or administrators. Instead, students work through the content themselves, with only occasional interaction with instructors through email or social media. Self-guided modules, video tutorials, and virtual libraries all offer learners the chance to pursue their education with minimal oversight and expense. While most of these programs don't lead to degrees, there are some that do, and they can also include certification opportunities.

If learners like the personal touch and do their best when learners feel like people are actually listening, asynchronous learning can be a lonely experience. Social media and email simply aren't a substitute for real-time interaction. Asynchronous learning is also far less collaborative that its counterparts: Opportunities to discuss, debate, and network with classmates and professors are scarce. Asynchronous learning is great when learners want to pick up skills quickly, but if learners' looking for enrichment of discussion, feedback, and social interaction, asynchronous learning likely isn't for learners.

There will always be people who will vastly prefer in-person learning to digital learning. Some tutors and students may be uncomfortable with the idea of either delivering or engaging with a course that is taught entirely from a virtual classroom.There are ways to manage this. Most virtual classrooms are designed to be used spontaneously. Most students and staff are likely to be extremely comfortable using tech of this kind. However, some staff and students won't be as confident using digital tools and may need additional support to get started. One such obstacle is the fact that the people are used to human interaction during the teaching – learning interaction. It could be a problem to adapt to it by people who are not familiar with applications such as Word, Excel and PowerPoint, etc., There are many people who do not have access to the internet and even if they have, they may not get the speed. This would make access to the online classes difficult and also make it difficult to download or upload files.

There are so many problems are faced by the learners as well as the instructors. But we should see the bright side of opportunities in virtual classes. It increases the skills of the students and teachers. Spelling, multiplication tables, and topic sentences are all still extremely valuable skills for students to learn. But digital skills, those skills specific to using digital technology, may now be just as important for creating successful students for beyond graduation.

Digital skills are absolutely critical for helping students learn, problem solve, create, grow, and succeed. And they're needed everywhere, not just inside classrooms but for many pursuits outside them, including communicating with peers via social media; and exploring creative outlets like writing and designing. Students should use digital tools to share information

and ideas clearly—not only with their peers in the classroom but with peers from different cultural backgrounds.

Teachers use technology in their day-to-day lives. These teachers don't leave their technology at work. They use it for everyday activities like shopping, banking, and making plans with friends. Teachers have a growth mindset. Having a growth mindset means that they are capable of learning and growing and that things can – and will – get better with effort and practice. Teachers who are getting the most out of technology are willing to work, and occasionally be uncomfortable and uncertain, to grow themselves and their students.

Digital age teachers attend conferences. They do a ton of learning on their own and during professional development sessions provided by their district. However, when they can attend an education conference, they jump at the chance. They understand that conferences allow you to not only learn new skills but also introduce you to new technologies and possibilities. They see themselves as co-learners. It may be hard for some to conceptualize, but teachers in the digital age see themselves as co-learners in the teaching and learning process. As they facilitate learning experiences and activities for their students, they learn new teaching strategies and methods along the way. After each lesson, the student and the teacher both walk away with newly constructed knowledge.

Teachers run towards their weakness. They can't be the best at everything, as a teacher who will always have areas of weakness. They don't hide from their shortcomings, they embrace them, always looking for ways to improve and sharpen their skills.Teachers, in this digital era, are intellectually curious. They, just like the generations that came before them, are intellectually curious. They love to learn new skills, strategies, and concepts. They are just in love with the idea of teaching and learning. Mainly, because of the sense of fulfillment that the examined life gives them.

Another aspect in virtual classrooms, building instructor presence relies heavily on the feedback that you provide to students. You will use different mediums to communicate with students online than you did in physical classrooms. For instance, teachers will typically engage with online students by sending emails, providing audio recordings of comments, and setting up live video calls. But the quality of feedback matters more than the medium that delivers it. By providing effective feedback, teachers will have a powerful method for keeping students on track to meeting their personal, professional, and academic goals.Effective feedback goes beyond confirming correct answers. It also encourages students to further their understanding of concepts while establishing structures for you to facilitate their learning.

Virtual classrooms are undoubtedly much easier for students to learn new subjects and skills. Online learning makes it possible for working professionals, people with busy home lives, or people with fewer financial resources to learn new skills and grow their knowledge.For colleges and universities that are trying to grow their brand presence and attract more students, offering

online courses delivered through virtual classrooms can be a smart way to reach more students who aren't in their geographic area.

Most educators are now using collaborative applications and online content tools to teach and communicate with their students. Organizations are now following the concept of blended learning, it means, bringing together the best traditional and online learning practices. To address the issue of poor network, enabling students to download course materials on their own time. The methods of using multimedia, game based learning, discussion forums will increase the students focus on learning. Education has taken a significant leap with internet, breaking classroom obstacles and introducing new courses for up gradation. Our country needs to take the virtual classrooms to each and every sphere of education to take our country to the next level as far as learning, knowledge and skills are concerned.

References

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