FUNDAMENTALS OF ONLINE EDUCATION AND
ITS WORKING MODEL

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ABSTRACT OF THE THESIS

Fundamentals of Online Education and Its Working Model
by
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This thesis is focused on a detailed study on functioning of online education. The last two decades have seen a tremendous increase in students enrolling for online education and it have become a big hit among all the students. With the continuous and nonstop growth and innovation and extension in multimedia and IT sector, online education is growing at a very fast rate.

Students are finding it a flexible, easily accessible and credited option to gain education. These online degrees have started being recognized all over and is helping in increasing the educational level and getting higher paid jobs. Over the past few year world is witnessing a great rise in the educational level because of growth in online education.

This thesis will help all those students who lack the confidence and knowledge about online education and are still hesitant to take it. This thesis will try to break that ice and will not only give more light into the working of the online education but also brief about advantage and disadvantage of it.

In other word this thesis will cover: (1) Efforts made by the online education institutes to add more value to it and make it famous worldwide, and (2) Demonstration of a working model of Web based application developed in JAVA that helps the online education to interact with the corporates which helps them to expand their business.
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Motivation: The reason behind doing research on online education is being an employee of Bridgepoint Education which operates two famous online education institutes Ashford University and University of Rockies. It gave me immense motivation and curiosity to dive into and learn more about the history and the gradual evolution of online education.

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 NEED FOR STUDY

Higher education credentials have always stood up, it is required for career enhancements, personality development, guiding roles in both large and small scale organization. Rapid growth of the Internet is leading many educational institutions to offer a large variety of online courses/programs in wide range of fields. As online educational system is becoming increasingly popular and legitimate in society and corporate world, there is now a need to examine its benefits and drawbacks as well as its functioning driving the justification and design behind its foundation.

Information, communication and technology are the crucial topic of the 21st century. Whenever three are integrated they have created wonders. Because of the integration many wonders have occurred in the computer based education, internet based education and web based education [1].

The very important question is how come the learning or teaching technique of online education which is completely different from what has been followed for so many years has been able to replace it? I will put some efforts through this thesis to give light to it.

Day by day more and more online educational institutes are emerging and online education degrees are becoming increasingly popular as these institutes are providing affordable higher education with advantages of flexibility and easy accessibility among many. Literally, students can earn their entire degree at home, by studying when it’s convenient for them. So in other words gaining education is not limited to four walls anymore. This amazing innovation has allowed for greater access to schools and highly demanded specializations that may not be available close by.

Online education has not only helped those who strives for better education but has also contributed a lot of other great factors to the society and made getting education in a very easy way. Even after having so many advantages a big number of students are still afraid to take online courses.
It is with the intention to help prospects who wants to go back to school or start it with online education can refer to my thesis. This thesis will be covering everything you want to know about online education.

Facts analyzed from different sources about online education are as follows:

- Over five million students took at least one online course during the fall 2010 term. A 15% increase over the number reported the previous year [1].
- The 15% growth rate for online enrollments far exceeds the 2% growth of the overall higher education student population [1].

In order to determine the quality standard and the process of the online education my study will be based on:

- Internet-based education is becoming the predominant technology in online education.
- Online education has allowed the learning process to occur at any place and at any time.

Those who lack familiarity with online education concept are mostly suspicious about it and think that it has either low standards or even no standards. Some of educators remain skeptical about distance education. They always believe that learning is inherently a social process. Many world recognized professor believe that “same-time same-place” interaction leads to successful education. Therefore, when it comes to online education more research is needed about quality and values.

1.2 **Online Education Background**

Initially online education was used to supplement existing classroom requirements, for example professor posting assignment online, student submitting it online, viewing class schedules, grades, paying fees and many more but over time, online classes have become the primary form of interaction and information because of the number of advantages it holds and its increasing standards and values. Students who opt to take online courses can obtain Bachelors, Masters or Doctoral degrees.

Online educational became popular day by day because of its convenience and flexibility. More than 3.9 millions of Americans are taking some or the other form of online classes over internet. Online education is benefiting mostly students who have a job, family
responsibilities. There are many reasons why student are opting for online education, see Figure 1.1 [2] for one of the motive behind online education.

![Figure 1.1. Motive behind online education. Source: Google Images. Images of Online Education, 2011.](https://www.google.com/search?q=images+of+online+education&hl=en&prmd=imvns&tbm=isch&tbo=u&source=univ&sa=X&ei=pIhzT7qsBHa7WQa73oG4Bw&ved=0CHIQsAQ&biw=1600&bih=799, accessed Sep. 2011.)

For many students getting just a bachelor’s degree is far more than sufficient and opens the gate for much more opportunities. No doubt online education has come so far in the race. The number of people taking advantage of online education is increasing almost at a rate of 13%. According to reports the employment rate of students with a master’s degree is double as compared to those having high school degree. See Figure 1.2 for growth of employment.

More and more people are turning towards online education because of its benefits over traditional education and the most important is the flexibility to take class any time and any place. It allows working professional or people having hectic time schedule to earn a degree. A recent study also shows that there is a gradual increase in the performance of the students going for online education over traditional education and the most important reason for it is the interactive and easy accessibility of it.

However, there are still many students and teachers who have little experience with online learning and find themselves uncomfortable with the whole idea and prefer campus.

Online education essentially involves taking courses presented over the internet, student just needs to get the login details, login using the information and then study the notes or they can also attend the online lecture presented by the instructor. These lectures can be taken synchronously (in real-time) through webcams and chat rooms, or asynchronously through e-mail and discussion boards or recorded videos.
Web camera technology is fairly new as compares to the recorded videos. Many high schools, colleges and universities offer online courses and degree programs to distance learning students and working professionals. Colleges offer these kinds of services to remain popular among students who faces problem in attending classroom. By taking courses over the Internet, you can save money on typical college costs like room and board, have a flexible schedule, work at your own pace and take classes that is not available close by.

Blended programs also exist, which combine both in-class and online coursework. Students just need to check online for available courses and figure out which suites them best according to their need and requirement and go for the best offered course.

As entire world is trying their best to go green and paper free. With this motive education institutes are also playing their part and acting as a responsible part of the society by offering education online.

The purpose of this thesis is to introduce some of the basic characteristics of online education. It is written in considering students and teachers who are new to this and looking for some suggestions and advice about how to make it more enjoyable and wanted to make full use of it. In this thesis I will try to put some light on the bright side of the online education and why it’s gaining more and more popularity and more and more students from different age group.
1.3 Why Online Education Emerged

The concept of online education began around the same time the Internet became widespread. With the entire world transforming into computers, education system also remained untouched. In the beginning, some debated the effectiveness of online education compared to campus based, however, as technologies advanced and empirical studies verified the educational benefits of such programs, more schools took advantage of internet [3].

It began with professor asking to submit the assignment through Floppy, CD’s, pen drive where they used to grade the assignment afterwards and return back the device. Later to this the submission process started taking place online itself. Students were give accounts where they can submit their assignments. Slowly and slowly it spread to online schedules, online information, and grades.

Traditional classroom setting doesn’t appeal to everyone. Many students don’t like attending primary education because of the same routine of sitting in class, listening to professor for an hour and worry about tests, quizzes, and homework assignments regularly. Online universities have stayed from this model because they understand that people are different and they learn in different ways. Other than flexibility, online courses are set up so that students can learn at their own pace.

Reports have actually suggested that many students don’t feel comfortable in a classroom. After few minutes they get diverted towards something or other and wait for the class to end soon. Besides the uneasiness of being in a crowded classroom, they felt overwhelmed because of the daily pressure

Unlike schools on a traditional term system, online universities have a unique schedule. Should a prospective student decide to enroll at a traditional institution, he/she may have to wait months for the current term to be completed before the next one begins. With online universities, classes typically start once every five weeks, year round. If a student is admitted to an online university right after classes have started, he/she would only have to wait a few weeks before the next session. Also, because classes start every five weeks, students don’t have to stress about missing the deadlines of the application or the classes being fully booked. In traditional school there is only certain number of students that can enroll into a class depending on the capacity of the classroom. Online universities offer many
duplicate courses, and full capacity is rare. However, should this happen, the next session is mere weeks away.

Because of constant change in the world, courses regularly have to be updated and new courses needs to be added as well. Traditional schools can take months or years to add courses vital to today’s needs while the flexibility of online universities allows for courses to be updated in a matter of days or weeks.

In the past, working adults weren’t able to advance their careers because of time restraints, working overtime, business travel, and caring for families. Online education takes away those time restraints by offering a completely virtual learning experience. Working adults can now continue their education, earn higher degrees, and earn more money by attending courses that primarily take place over the Internet.

It is a big hit among the working women’s as well who wants to pursue higher education but cannot do it because of the dependent family. For some the actual reason of going to online school is because the physical school might be far or out of reach depending on the physical location. Keeping all the need aside, online education is also helping a lot in keeping the environment clean as lot of Gas is saved as students need not to travel to their school and also helping the traffic flow.

At the end, everyone is very well aware of the fluctuating economy. When economy goes down most of the working people tends to increase their educational level so that once the economy is back to higher they can utilize their knowledge and can get benefit out of it. The best option at this hard hitting time is to go for some online courses which can be finished quickly and student can earn some sort of certification as well.

See Figure 1.3 for reasons why students are opting for online education. See Figure 1.4 for why faculties are diving into online education.
Figure 1.3. Factors to go to online school.

Figure 1.4. List of motive for faculty.
CHAPTER 2

BACKGROUND OF ONLINE EDUCATION

With the launch of World Wide Web which changed the way information can be transferred from one place to other, this gave a complete different dimension to the world and people started dreaming far beyond the expectation. This allowed people all over the globe to communicate with each other in a way that were never imagined before. No occupation remained untouched from this evolution and held true for education as well. Over period of time internet started serving as a new means of communication between instructors and students. In the following paragraphs I will cover a brief history of online education [3].

Before 1960s mostly distance learning was accompanied through mails or telegraph [4]. In 1960s University of Illinois scientists begin their experiment in full fledges in order to establish communication between two different standalone computers. This attempt resulted in first ever virtual classroom [4]. It was actually more like a classroom system with few linked computer terminals. Students were able to see simple presentations while at the same time listening to the voice of the professor who is talking from a distant place. It was not actually an Internet-based learning system but it is considered as a root and foundation for scientists and developers to enhance the technicality of this first system. Through this attempt online education evolution was enabled and grew to live in the Internet world.

The progress and development in the field of internet has helped online education to gain the success which it has achieved today. Slowly and slowly online education is at a place where it is giving a tough competition to the traditional schools, and has forced some of the professors to look for some other occupation. This gradual growth in online education was mostly visible in developed nation like United States. Other developing nations were still untouched from this change.

2.1 FIRST 10 YEARS OF ONLINE EDUCATION

The history of online education extends back further than you may think. The first virtual class room was created in the 1960s. Scientists from the University of Illinois
connected few computer terminals via LAN and tried to create a online classroom [4]. This provided the student to access informational resources along with listening to a professor whose lectures were brought in remotely, via some form of television or audio device. This was not a fully fledged online learning as we see today but definitely it was the beginning of distance learning and the utilization of computer resources for educational purposes [4].

One by one every university quickly began to take advantage of these new resources by offering distance learning courses, using computer networking for information and resource sharing, and more.

In the 1980s company started emerging using computer based programs to train their employees. This program was severely improved with the invention of internet which gave a different dimension to the way information was communicated [3]. Using this technology companies started training employees living at a distance place and found it a very reasonable effort with lot of advantages as employee can go through the videos at their convenience.

By the mid 1980s, college resources frequently started using online access to course information, materials and started posting exams outcome online.

Then a breakthrough came when online courses itself began emerging in the late 1980s, but with very less success. This technology at the same time was being used by major corporations to trim their training budgets. While businesses began with software training programs, the largest corporations started utilizing online tools to minimize software distribution costs

In 1989, the University of Phoenix became the first university to offer Bachelor’s and Master’s degree programs through the Internet. The target audience was working adults who were unable to find time to attend day or evening classes or lived too far from the nearest university campus. Although this method of delivery was convenient, it did have its limitations. Computers weren’t nearly as fast and reliable as they are today, web browsers were limited in functionality, and Internet connection speeds were very slow, making the transfer of information very time-consuming. While the concept was there, these limitations often made online education a frustrating process.
With the internet media and resources developing at its full fledge and their introduction in the online education helped a lot for the online education to improve and became more popular and easy way.

2.2 Growth of Online Education

As years passed, the possibilities of online education to become more realistic with advancements in technology increased. Over time computer processor speed vastly improved and web browsers became more user-friendly, making online education more widely available. However, the biggest impact for online education students was the improvement in Internet connection speeds. See Figure 2.1 for the growth in online education.

![Figure 2.1. Growth of online education.](image)

Once high-speed Internet became readily available, the promise of online schools started to become a reality. Internet access, in combination with web-related software, created exciting opportunities for online schools as they could offer more degree programs, communication options, and course content, with an increased demand in online education, more and more universities started with implementing this idea.

See Figure 2.2 for comparison between online versus traditional schools.

Benefits of online education are many depending upon the type of student you are. It might be best if you just don’t like the whole idea behind the traditional school, if you don’t like sitting hours attending lectures. If you want to follow your own pace. See Figure 2.3 for some of the benefits of Online education.
Figure 2.2. Online versus traditional schools.

Figure 2.3. Factors behind online education growth.
CHAPTER 3

DESIGN PROCESS - HOW ONLINE EDUCATION WORKS

3.1 EVERYTHING STARTS FROM ONLINE PORTAL

At the heart of any online education is a website or portal through which students can submit their application and apply for the course they are interested in. Each time a new application is submitted to the system, admission counselor gets notified through email. An admission counselor (AC) will review the application of the student and will contact student in case they need any further information from them. Once the application of the student is approved they are ready to start with their respective classes.

Each student is given a login detail which they use to access their classes and this act as a common platform where professors can interact with their students. It may also contains chat features, private messaging system, and forum to discuss your views one to one communication that allows students to contact the instructor and others who are taking the class as well. Most online portals also feature a notification area that is visible to the student each time they log in. This notification helps the instructor or the organizer to share some information with the students.

Many portals also contain download section from where students can download class supplements, audio or video lectures from the instructor and other useful material.

3.2 SUBMIT AND RECEIVE ASSIGNMENTS ONLINE

Instructor posts the assignments in the notification area or in a dedicated thread of the online portal’s forum. Online classes will have a syllabus and a notification area that updates whenever new assignments are posted, giving students an easy reference to make sure that they haven’t missed any new postings. Assignments can either be submitted to the instructor through a personal email address or through a secure inbox built into the system itself.
3.3 Class Participation

Many online universities use group chats and online forums for the interaction of students and instructors that would normally take place in traditional universities. In some online universities, there are constraints of minimum number of forum posts or the number of times you logged in and read the online book may be required to earn a class participation grade. This type of constraint is mostly set by the instructor based upon their preferred online teaching style. So we cannot generalize that every online class has this type of constraint.

3.4 Online Classes with Physical Components

Though many online education opportunities allow students to complete all of their coursework online, some classes may have physical components attached to it as well. These components can include required lab work or workshop time, group trips or specific lectures that they are required to attend in person.

The most important actor of every online education is the student, before these students start the online classes they are called prospects by many online institutes. Seconds comes the enrollment advisor (EA) or AC, they guide the prospects to choose the proper course and helps to bridge the gap between prospects and online school. Each of the prospects is assigned to one of the EA and that EA helps the student regarding any issues related to course. Once the student login to the classroom he gets to interacts with the instructor if he wants to. Instructor helps the student in problems related to the course material. Instructors also grade student’s assignment and exam and posts regular updates and important notifications online. See Figure 3.1 for Actors involved in Online education.

1. Student’s  2. Enrollment Advisor
3. Online Classroom  4. Instructor’s

Figure 3.1. Actors in online education.
3.5 Border View of Functioning

First of all these online education system gets student seeking degrees information from some 3rd party with which the online education has tie up and gets it in some format, sometimes a web service is also used to perform the sending of the data. This 3rd party distributes this information to all the online education system they are tied up with. At this stage students are called prospects, after receiving the data, EAs starts contacting the prospects. After calling and confirming the credentials of the prospects students are asked to sing in. Students are asked to sign up for appropriate courses through some online portal. Through the online portal here the student has to provide all the detail information. After the registration process is complete and students are accepted into the program, the real work begins.

Interaction is always a key component in any learning experience, and this has become one of the most pervasive constructs in online education. In fact, there exists a belief among many who likes online education that online education provides a feature of interaction that is absent in the traditional classroom. This interaction is generally created through e-mails and chat rooms. Unlike traditional classrooms where students faces difficulty finding time to go to the class and interacts with professors or other students in order to complete assignments, online education allows the student to interacts whenever they want at their own comfort level. High level technology is being used in online education that helps in performing this interaction easily in either synchronous or asynchronous way.

Students begin their course work by logging into the online classroom. Each student will be allocated unique username and password for logging into the classroom. Once they are in their required classroom, they will learn by reading assignments, asking questions, and receiving instructor feedback. Some courses even offer forums and/or chat rooms where students can gather, with or without the instructor, to discuss assignments. Finally, students are graded on homework assignments, final projects, and test scores.

Online chat can consist of typing, listening and watching in other words audio and video both facilities can be incorporated in online chat.

Some of the Online Institutes allows instructor to use a white board, PowerPoint presentations, and film, video, and audio clips.
Different programs require different levels of computer and/or Internet knowledge. Therefore, it is vital students take the time to speak with potential instructors, previous college students, and even the computer tech department to get a better understanding of the teaching methods and technology used.

Online instructors, like those teaching traditional courses, bring to their courses their own personal experiences, teaching objectives, and preferred methodologies. In addition, the institution’s technology and technical support also influence learning experiences. Some courses are text and content-focused, while other courses emphasize more technical skill and interaction with technology.

If students do not take the time to understand how the courses are designed, they could end up in a class that is too technologically advanced and suffer academically.

Figure 3.2 shows the prospects filling application that is received by the ACs; they review it and contact back to the prospects if they feel the student is a good fit.

![Figure 3.2. Flow of registration.]

Figure 3.3 shows the actions done between the prospects and the instructor for assignments and Figure 3.4 for Exams.
After the student starts the class he needs to maintain some attendance few of the online schools drop the student if a certain required attendance is not met. So student should always be careful and should keep a track of the attendance. Some of the online system actually keeps track of the student learning by tracking the number of pages visited as there may be smart students who just come and sit online opening some other windows. Mostly student also needs to submit certain number of assignments and at the end of the course or at a regular interval and may have a final exam.
CHAPTER 4

COMPARISON BETWEEN ONLINE AND TRADITIONAL EDUCATION

Following chapter will cover understanding the plus and minus of online education covering which of the students are more interested in taking online education and why after making so many efforts online education still facing lot of challenges.

Online education, also known as distance learning or e-learning, the reason why online education differs from traditional education are:

1. Students are not required to visit an actual classroom and listen to an instructor face-to-face.
2. Nor they have to take print out of their assignment for submissions.
3. They just need to upload their assignment and can also give exams online.
4. In some of the online Education system you might need to login at a specific time that mean your class might have some fixed schedule and you professor and you have to login at the same time.
5. In this time you can share what the professor is teaching via voice and video conferencing. The most common function used in online education is electronic mail (email) that allows students and teachers to send messages to each other. In addition, most networks also provide conferencing capabilities that let participants conduct multi-person discussions either in real-time (often called “chats”) or on a delayed basis (asynchronous).
6. Learning and teaching online is much different than a traditional classroom experience (even when used as part of a conventional class). Since most communication takes place via written messages (or files), writing skill and the ability to put thoughts into words are paramount. People who have poor writing skills may be at a disadvantage in an online environment.
7. Mostly there are no entrance exams before getting admissions into these online degree classes, the only requirement is the students have a High school degrees. Multiple courses of various areas are offered ranging from Undergrad to Masters and also these degrees holds value as of other schools.
8. No professors are required, only if the student has some doubts then they can contact the professor and then they can communicate one to one.
9. Online education does offer many courses like architecture which cannot be completed entirely off campus so the online education supports by conducting some of the lectures on campus.

10. Most of the time student feels like short of time for attending the classroom and interacting with the professor or other students in order to finish the assignments.
CHAPTER 5

FEATURES OF ONLINE EDUCATION

5.1 ADVANTAGES OF ONLINE EDUCATION

Online education is truly about student convenience. Students can check in, work on assignments, and turn them in when their schedules permit, not when the deadline says. You certainly can never blame the college syllabus because most online education programs are generally completed by students at their own pace.

Online education means students no longer have to:

- Leave their current work to attend college [5].
- Take some time off from hectic work schedule to attend a specific course of their interest [5].
- Mothers don’t have to find a babysitter [5].
- Pregnant woman mostly have to take year off to get back to the colleges again, and once they lose the touch they just don’t want to go back to the college. By continuing on online education they remain in touch of studies.
- If you met with an accident and needs time to recover and doctor advice you to stay at home, at this time you won’t want to stay at home for months and do nothing. You would definitely prefer to take some courses online.
- Spend hours in rush hour traffic or drive 20 to 50 miles to the nearest University.
- Spend precious minutes looking for a parking space in and around the university as the parking fee is also not less these days [5].
- Waste some more minutes walking from one class to another.

Advantages include:

- So you missed enrolling in one of your favorite class in school now, you need to wait till the semester gets over, but in online system each courses are offered every month so you don’t have to wait for six months [6].
- Online learning provides people to take classes at your own ease even from home. This means you can work on your classes around your schedule [7].
- You can work on the assignments whenever you have free time.
- On the other hand online education is also not entirely free flowing in its schedule. Those who have very less free time have often complaint about not able to complete
their assignment on time. Do not assume that with online classes you don’t have to work hard. Online classes just give you freedom and flexibility to do assignment. Online classes still have deadline and due dates. You can not just sign up for a class and assume that you can finish it whenever you want. You always need to follow a schedule in order to be successful in online course [7].

• You can still maintain a regular life. Online learning means you can still work a full time job. You can go to work in the morning and can work on the assignment and can go through the online classes in the evening [7].

• You are working and prefer taking evening classes; what if your job requires you to move overseas very frequently. In this case you might have to drop the idea of studying. No if you want to take online classes. As you just need internet connection to use the online classroom.

• Save a lot of gas and money.

• Access to resources: links to online resources, including interesting people and updating these resources.

• Online assessment and feedback: valid reliable, easy to use, responsive and speedy feedback, easy to download and submit online.

• Increase in IT skills: the opportunity to use and extend existing IT skills.

• Interaction with other learners: online and other technologies and approaches which support and promote interactions between learners as well as between teacher and learners.

• Communication: processes which encourage co-operative and self-directed learning by the learners themselves, as well as teacher-directed learning.

• Ease of use: processes and design features which avoid problems such as confusion, excessive download time for resources and other information, unclear learning structures and excessive cost to the learner.

• Well-designed, interactive and up-to-date learning resources and assessment materials, which use plain, succinct and clear, English.

• Physically challenged students can take a full advantage of online education.

• With online education everything is online ranging from your classroom material to your assignments to you exam. This has contributed a lot to make the world paper free.

• Apart from these Online education in the run to be the best are offering a number of benefits/Discount to the students like Military Discounts, Veteran Discount, Corporate Discount, Army/Navy, etc.

• There are many students whose dream is to study in the top ranked colleges but because of the past grades they gets rejected. All the big colleges are open for online courses and do not put so many constraints for getting into it. This way aspiring student can also fulfill their dreams [7].
5.2 DISADVANTAGES OF ONLINE EDUCATION

Everyone’s different. And because everyone is unique individuals, we all have distinct learning methods that best help us complete our educational pursuits. Some of us learn best through online material, while others have excellent memories and find that reading from text books help them best. If you’re going to spend your precious time and hard earned money getting an education, then you’re going to want to make sure you learn by the best methods possible. A growing trend for pursuing higher education today is through online learning.

The advantages of online education can become the disadvantages if you are not the right candidate for online education. The flexibility of planning your own schedule in online education could be the disadvantages for you if you are a type of person that can’t manage your time probably between your work, family and study. Initially you might get attracted towards the idea of sitting and studying at a relaxed pose at home. What if you can’t manage time and can’t follow schedule if not imposed. If you are this kind of person, a pre-plan schedule may fit you well, letting yourself to study at your own pace with your own schedule may causes you fail to complete your degree program.

As most of online learning materials are in text format, if you are not comfortable with this format and prefer to listen to the lecture instead of reading it. Then, it will become the disadvantage for you and you need to reconsider your decision before you choose online education to be your degree pursuing channel.

Are you able to communicate well through chats and discussion forum? You must understand that these media are the key communication channels in online learning environment and you must be able to adapt to it else it will become a disadvantage for you. Other than all the above there are few more disadvantages which I have tried to include:

- Limited available courses. Not all the undergraduate and graduate courses are offered through online education. Due to lack of knowledge and experience the creator of online education could not provide all courses online.
- Fraud Courses. Many online courses are not accredited and hence aren’t valid. There are numerous online institutes which are not accredited by government agencies. Beware of these institutes.
- No interaction. There is almost zero percent of interaction that holds between the student and professor which is sometimes needed. You aren’t in a classroom and don’t have the opportunity to hear questions and discussion from other students. This
isn’t always an issue, depending on the subject of the online education course you are taking, but it could be an important factor in deciding whether an online education is the best option when seeking out opportunities for learning new skills or gaining new training. There are defiantly courses which do need continuous communication and guidance from the professor and hence is not very successful in online education.

- No Driving force. When you go to traditional class room you are forced to keep up with your instructor’s assignment schedule or the risk is of failing the course. There is a kind of competition develops between students and they work hard to perform better. But with the online education there is no one checking your progress. As you don’t know who else is taking the course you don’t feel the competition.

- No Guidance on schedule management. After attending tradition classroom you actually learn how to do time management. You know which task needs how much time and you know how much in advance you should be preparing for it. But in online system you take it little casually and perform task at your own convenience.

- Technology dependency. The most important thing required for student to attend online class is a computer and internet connection. However people in regional and far flung areas still don’t have access to this commodity. In spite of the fact online education suits best for them, It is quiet expensive for them to purchase a computer. This creates a difficulty where a student cannot consult or discuss a technical problem occurred to him as he may not find anyone from his area.

- Difficult to transfer the credits. Be careful if you are planning to transfer your online course credits into existing or future program of study. Most of the big schools do not take the credits earned by the online education.

- Isolation from classmates. Some of the students just enjoy studying in a classroom with friends and love to interact and discuss on the problems related to the course work. Those kinds of students might face problem if thinking of online courses.

- Listening capabilities gets effected. Good listeners are always good speakers when you sit and listen to the professor your all the senses work together and contribute to increase the level of your understanding. While when you are sitting at home and just reading online material you might not use all of your senses.

- Online education systems are still treated like a diploma mills by large percentage of people. Many feel these institutes are just focusing on money making and do not actually care about the growth and progress of the students.

5.3 Efforts by Online Education

Online learning—for students and for teachers—is one of the fastest growing trends in educational uses of technology. In the erg to remain in business and to keep enhancing for the better, online education have started providing wide range of discount and have worked a long way to improve their services and have made the functioning smoother and more transparent. From wide range advertising to various discounts Online education have always
work on to become better and better over the last few decades. The list of discounts online education systems being offering are:

1. Military/Veteran Discount
2. Corporate Discount
3. Employees Discount

Apart from above discounts Online Education systems are pushing hard on advertising themselves. Universities like Phoenix and Ashford are putting almost 20% of the revenue on their advertisement and making all efforts possible to become known worldwide.

Figure 5.1 [8] and Figure 5.2 [9] show the level of advertisement is playing. Figure 5.1 images are taken from University of Phoenix website and Figure 5.2 is from University of Kaplan.

![Figure 5.1](https://www.phoenix.edu/about_us/about_university_of_phoenix/history.html)


These online institutes are not leaving any stone unturned to allure students, some of the institutes have also come up with an advantage system where student will be given an option to compare the cost and the total time of completion of any course of the competitive colleges and will send the students as a bar graph which can help the prospects to decide better. Figure 5.3 [10] shows the marketing strategy used by one of the online schools. It compares the cost of its courses against some of the big schools and shows the comparison.
Figure 5.2. Form of advertisement used by Kaplan University. Source: Kaplan University. The World Needs Talent, 2011. http://online.kaplanuniversity.edu/Pages/campus-online-learning.aspx, accessed Nov. 2011.

They sometime also send your chances of getting employment as compared without getting degree. All the information online schools shares with the students’ needs to be 100% accurate. This helps the student to thing accordingly.

Figure 5.4 [10] shows the comparison of the time it takes to complete one course by an online school against the other. This way the online school can give confidence to the student that they are not charging the student anything more. All the online schools which are using the data of other school needs to make sure that all the data is accurate and updated. They are not allowed to show any false data.


Most of the online institute is trying their best to make them known worldwide. Some of them have tie up with Google for marketing and advertisement.
5.4 Types of Students

Distance education, starting with the Open University, has a long history of serving isolated and remote learners. Today, in addition to serving the learner who lives far from campus, distance education is aimed at part-time students, time-strapped adult learners, women with kids and students working full-time while earning degrees.

Students are typically older than traditional undergraduates. If we notice age profile of students, whether men or women, it suggests that most of them will have family commitments. It is unlikely that they would be willing or able to leave home to attend a full-time, campus-based course. For online education you don’t really have to be a full time student. Hence distance learning primarily attracts women with children. 66% of the adult online education market is female, and 80% of them have children.

Adult students mostly ranging from 25 to 39 years of age currently represent nearly half of students enrolled in higher education as they have greater work and family responsibilities that prevent them from attending school full time. These adults understand the importance of education and want to upgrade it by any means possible. The most important reason for their choosing an online course is their lifestyle.

Another important cause for students selecting online education is the increasing cost of education and the lack of financial aid available for those students who would like to attend full time. Thus, students may be forced to choose an online course for financial reasons.

With the demand of excellence and ever changing technology has forced lot many working professional to go back to school and online school is best among all as it suites most of their requirements.

Most of the corporate and companies believe the idea of continuous growth of their employees and wanted them to adapt and learn the new technologies as they comes and get used by masses. Some of the employers also pay for the courses which suits their interest. See Figure 5.5 for different types of students.
5.5 CHALLENGES

No matter online education is trying each bit to make them successful in each and every sector and also offering incredible opportunities for those who want to start or want to return to the school. But as it is said success is not achieved without challenges or difficulty. There are couple of challenges which they still trying to work around. These include:

1. **Low percent of prospects**: Large percent of student and masses still feel that online education is not credited enough to compete with big universities. One of the other reason is also many don’t feel it real without going to the school.

2. **Practical problems**: Because of online feature, online education is not able to offer many courses which involves continuous guidance from professor or requires lab work or practical trainings involved.

3. **Not approved by government**: Online education is actually banned in many of the states by the government in order to promote the traditional schools and universities. Student from these states are not allowed to enroll into any online courses.

4. **Money driven**: Few of the online education system just to make more business and money are just offering students degree without proper validation and checks. Many online universities are just making the exams simple so that the student can clear it easily and they can get more students.

   Many still feel that online education is just on the principle to make money. On thoughts like education should be readily available to those who needs it and at an as low price as possible online education still not considered as a genuine reason to sell education.

5. **Learning Style**: For some students the idea of online education just does not click. It’s hard for many to think education beyond 4 walls and without continuous professor guidance. As professors are always given a very high respect and
considered as an inseparable part of education since old ages. Taking them out of education is not yet easy for many.

To some extent, it is the responsibility of the school to either address this issue or acknowledge it in their marketing materials. If you learn best from a lecture or a personal demonstration and guidance then online education is not the best option for you and you still need to think about it.

6. **Costly**: Most of the online education programs being offered are expensive. Because of the cost incurred in maintenance and evolving the system to cope with changing world it’s hard for the online education to keep its cost low. This results inspiring students taking loans and going into large debts to complete their education.

7. **Isolation**: Study is always a fun and interesting and engaging when you interact with friends and professor. That’s why few students feel that studying at home all alone makes them feel isolated and gives a lonely experience. In classroom study, if the student faces any problem he might consult with his friends or professor but in online education student does not even know who must be taking the same course along with them.

8. **Technology**: Many students who are from remote areas and have not yet adapted to fast growing technology still feel the heat of the technology based education to a large extend. Depending heavily on technology they fail to maintain a constant pace in it. Large number of those students drops the class after feeling hard to maintain.

Other than the above challenges faculty training and support is another critical challenge of quality of online education. There is a difference between roles instructor play when they teach online and when they teach in traditional schools. They definitely require good training and support to completely understand and get adjusted to the whole online education concept [11]. See Figure 5.6 for understanding the attendance of students over the period of course. Its not always true that all the students starting for online education completes it. Few of the student starts disliking it after some times and tend to drop out of the class.

**5.6 Conclusion**

The challenges mentioned above do not necessarily overshadow the prospects of distance learning and its advantages. But every prospects student should decide on their own terms and priority just how these challenges will impact their study experience.
Figure 5.6. Students continuing in different weeks.
CHAPTER 6

HOW TO CHOOSE SCHOOL

So you have decided that you want to start the school or go back to school again, what you do next is do a small research. You can get all the information required to find out which online school is best for you. You can decide upon comparing your requirements of course fees, timeline, schedule available and others.

There will be a number of school details provided online which can actually make you crazy. So just not reply on the information provided online but also find it out from students experience and market value of the school also evaluate the courses offered by the school. The section below will help you to make a wise decision.

6.1 LOOK AT YOUR CHARACTERISTICS

You know yourself better than anyone else knows you. Do you have the patience to sit and listen to the online lecture for almost 1 or 2 hours, can you maintain the schedule no matter its online course or not. Are you capable of working on assignments and problems without discussing it with others? Thinking that you need to be completely self-driven is not 100% correct; some of the online education does impose hard deadlines and classroom exam as well.

You should have a clear understanding of what it is and what you want to achieve and you know that earning a degree will help you that. Second thing you should test. Do judge yourself on the skills of internet familiarity, computer usage; most of the online institute keeps it fairly simple to use their online materials but basic skills of computer and internet needs to be applied. You understand the necessary time commitment required. If you can do all the above then you can go ahead and select one of the good colleges.

6.2 ARE YOUR REQUIREMENTS BEING FULFILLED?

Once finalized on the decision to take course online, look at your requirement which field you are interested in, which course you should take, what is your prime interest?
• Do find out the accretions of the school, discuss it with people who have already took courses in that institute. Students experience will help you guide in the best way.

• Look at the statistics. You can find out which of the college is giving best result in terms of jobs. Everyone gain education to get a decent job so doing a research on the outcome of jobs being grabbed by students will help you to decide.

• Cost of the course. All online institutes do not charge same. Depending on your budget you should look for the school.

6.3 CRITERIA TO JUDGE QUALITY OF ONLINE EDUCATION

Students will also want to consider different criteria to judge the quality of online education, such as:

• Students performance
• Course completion rates
• Student placement in the job
• Students satisfaction levels
• Instructor’s reviews
• Frequency of the course taken by students
CHAPTER 7

A FEW BIG NAMES IN ONLINE EDUCATION

Six of the largest contributions to online education come from the following and a quick review of the first two are presented below:

1. University of Phoenix
2. Ashford University
3. Kaplan University
4. Capella University
5. Strayer University
6. University of Rockies

7.1 UNIVERSITY OF PHOENIX

In 1976 when first generation Apple was firing Dr. John Sperling a Cambridge educated economist and professor saw an opportunity of online study and seized it to help the working adults. From that time there was no stopping for University of Phoenix, one after another it was accredited by different government body and now University of Phoenix tops on the chart of most successful in the online education business [8].

University of Phoenix offers numerous associates, bachelor’s and master’s courses that can be taken individually in a wide variety of subjects. Whether you’re looking to transfer to another educational institution, grow your knowledge professionally or personally, you’ll likely find one or more courses that will suit your needs. You have the freedom to both work and earn your degree. Being a working adult used to mean you were locked into a life of 9 to 5. And if you wanted to earn a degree, unfortunately, most classes were only held during the day, forcing you to choose between putting food on the table and furthering your college education [8].

Today, the only thing you have to decide is when, and how, you go to school: online or at a local campus.
7.2 ASHFORD UNIVERSITY

Bridgepoint Education’s high-quality academic institutions, Ashford University and University of the Rockies, are both regionally accredited by the Higher Learning Commission, a commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. Accreditation by the Commission provides assurance to prospective students that Bridgepoint’s institutions have been found to meet the commission’s stated requirements and criteria [12].

You can attend classes at a location near you and interact with other working adults who are juggling the same demands and working toward similar goals. You can attend classes at one of our more than 200 campuses and learning centers throughout the country.

Or you can do it all online after your work day is done. You will still get the same built-in support and rigorous education that you would if you physically attended a campus. Our online programs are accessible in most countries around the world and you have online resources available to you which enable you to access research materials, tutorials in Math and Statistics and writing resources.

The accessibility of our degree programs and our resources doesn’t mean that our degree programs are any easier, it just makes it possible for you to go after the education you want and the self-improvement you are looking for [12].

Figure 7.1 depicts the profit gained by big names in online education and shows University to be on the first place followed by Kaplan, Devry and then Ashford University.
### Top Pell Grant Schools

10 for-profit schools with highest Pell Grants.  
(Source: U.S. Department of Education)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Profit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>University of Phoenix</td>
<td>$1,042,372,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kaplan University</td>
<td>$211,302,730</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DeVry University</td>
<td>$207,064,910</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ashford University</td>
<td>$162,195,320</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virginia College</td>
<td>$92,495,763</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strayer University</td>
<td>$88,078,568</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instituto de Banca y Comercio</td>
<td>$86,890,443</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Intercontinental University</td>
<td>$83,139,589</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colorado Technical University</td>
<td>$81,615,604</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keiser University</td>
<td>$64,597,004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South University</td>
<td>$54,436,122</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 7.1. Profits by different schools.
CHAPTER 8

INTEGRITY IN ONLINE EDUCATION

Those who manage online education always have a question in mind how to find out the student taking the online class is the expected one as there is no way to prove that online. As it is very easy to fool the computer and for being an online education you just needs to follow online instructions. As online education have not made any efforts to work on finding the authentication of the student when they are taking the class online, this leaves a big question about the authentication and integrity of online education. This is one of the reasons many section of people do not value online education [13].

8.1 CHEATING AND ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

The most common concern in the mind of the critics is how to make sure the student giving the exams submitting the paper is authentic one in other words how to trust students that they are acting honestly. In the fast growing technology age the ways to fool the computer is limitless and that might be one of the drawbacks of internet which haunts the online education all the time [13].

The other point to be noted is these concerns are not uncommon in campus based study also; students who want to be dishonest can do it at anywhere. What matters is the intention of the student, do they really wants to learn or just gets some degree without working hard for it or without gaining knowledge in it.

8.2 INTEGRITY OF THE INSTRUCTOR

Work of instructors in online education is very limited, but still they do exist in online education as students sometimes needs guidance when they face some difficulties over the course. Apart from students, instructor’s integrity is also questionable. Instructors can move with their own speed thinking no one will be questioning about it. This can be because of lack of experience or interest. Hence it’s a very important requirement to keep checking the interest of the instructors as well [13].
8.3 Money Bias

Prospects student should be very careful when selecting online institutes and should not opt for those who are in this business only because of money. It is not unethical to make profit but adding profit to education is little not expectable as the world is trying their best to provide free education to the needy people same time charging huge amount form them is not a best idea.

Integrity in online education is very complex issue. It is always important for prospect students to think about this before selecting any institute for online education [13].
CHAPTER 9

ACCREDITATION

Accreditation is the process of evaluating the standards of education provided by any educational institute is called accreditation. This is more like evaluation done by external body to determine if certain standards are met or not. This evaluation is mostly done by the government agencies so that the results are untendered and legitimate. Government does this evaluation so that it can be transparent to the student where the institute is lying in order to meet the standards. This helps the student to pick the school according to their requirements and standards. This also helps the student to distinguish between legitimate schools and fake schools.

Accreditation is also the process by which institutes measure their effectiveness against a set of common standards and it’s a process each school needs to undergo to evaluate the quality of the courses and programs they are offering. This helps the school to find out where they are lacking and also areas of improvement. This also helps the prospects, public and many interested parties (corporate) to find the legitimacy of the institute. Each prospect before enrolling into any of the courses offered by the online education should check for the accreditation as once they complete the course or program where ever they will be applying for job there it will be checked again. The accreditation level of different course offered by same school might varies. The criteria mainly include the material offered for the studies; the educational and experience level of the instructors, job opportunities after the student gets graduated from the school, school’s reputation build over time etc.

This accreditation is done by the government side. If a school is unaccredited it should always mention that in its website or should inform to the prospects before they apply. If a school is accredited from a non-government agency is should state the reason behind that too. Many small and newly developing schools tend to get the accreditation done by the public agencies which are not very strict and give higher ranks easily. Students before enrolling needs to find all the details about the school they are enrolling for.
Many government agencies also provide ranks to each school depending on standards of the education provided by the school. This also helps the student to know more about the school. Each school is ranked differently on the courses they are conducting, educational level of the professors taking the course. For example the same school might not be as good as in engineering as it is in management. So accreditation is sometimes provided on the basis of the courses offered as well. Please make sure you check it before enrolling.
CHAPTER 10

ALLIANCE ONLINE SYSTEM

Online schools are offering all types or degrees ranging from associates, bachelors, masters and doctoral programs in the disciplines of business, education, psychology, social sciences and health sciences.

Each online educational system is trying their best to enroll more and more students to make more profits. Other than providing high standard education they are also giving many benefits to students like free access to online books, job interviews after degree completion, more credit transfer, employment benefits, military benefits, etc.

The main objective of these online schools are to catch prospects who cannot attend regular colleges, the reason for this might be that the prospects are:

1. Working
2. Housewife
3. Old in age
4. School is far

In this implementation I will be implementing one of the important kind of benefit application that the online educational institutes will be offering to the prospects is providing them discounts if the student have work experience in any of the employer with which the institute has tie up with. By doing this the online institute gets the following benefits.

1. Easy way to attract more prospects/students.
2. Get some benefits from corporate as it’s a good way to advertise for them.
3. For this, the online institute will in turn advertise for the corporate through their website and in return will get benefits from the corporate as well.

10.1 ACTORS INVOLVED IN APPLICATION

The different people involved in the application process are as follows:

1. Enrollment Advisor (EA)
2. Admission Counselor (AC)
3. Corporate Representative (CR)
4. Marketing Representative (MR)
5. Student

10.2 ROLES PLAYED BY ACTORS

EAs and ACs are the actors actually using this application. They will maintain all the entries like insertion, deletion updating etc. They will be communicating with the MR to start any new process. MR in turn will keep in getting contracts from different corporate.

CRs will be initiating the contract process. They will provide the starting date and the ending date of the contract that will be helpful in creating a corporate entry. Once the EA or AC will confirm to the CR that there entry is now available on the portal, CR will go and check the online portal. It’s the job of the CR to periodically check their entry on the online portal. If the entry of the corporate does not exist at the time when the contract is valid dishonesty case can be registered against the online school.

Once the agreement is about to get over the CR can revise the actual profit made through this decision and can make decision to extend the agreement or not. If CR thinks to extend the agreement then he has to contact the online school. AC can go to the tool and can extend the end date.

10.3 PROCESS

The process has four steps.

10.3.1 Online Institute Approaching Corporate

Online universities will approach corporate and will find out if they are ready to get into an agreement with the universities. Online university mostly has a marketing department which takes care of this. This department sometimes also does an advertisement for the corporate interested for this deal. After discussing they agree to do an agreement.

10.3.2 Agreement is Signed

After they get agreed they sign up a contract with the university. In order for corporate to get in the list of the online portal they have to sign an agreement with the online education which has a start and an end date. The corporate entry will always be visible in the
drop down till the agreements get over. Student can select the corporate if they have worked for it in the past.

**10.3.3 Student Selects the Corporate on the Online Portal**

All the corporate which are active at a certain time will be shown to the prospects during the time they fill the online application, there will be provision for other also so that the student can type if the employer for which they worked is not present in the list. This way the Admission counselor can track prospects that have chosen the corporate from the list and provide them benefits.

**10.3.4 Application is Reviewed by the Admission Counselor**

So once the prospect fills the application it is reviewed by the Admission counselor and if the prospects have entered any entry of the employer in the employer page, they will verify the employment history and then will provide the required discount to the prospects.

**10.4 DATABASE SCHEMA**

Alliance system for online education uses MS SQL Express 2008 R2 as the database to save the corporate details. Whenever user saves or update the data it will be reflected in the database.

**10.5 ARCHITECTURE**

Alliance system for online education follows Model-View-Controller (MVC) architecture design pattern. MVC is a classic design pattern often used by applications that require separate domain logic from the user interface, permitting independent development, testing and maintenance of each. The MVC separates objects into following three categories: See Figure 10.1. The SWT GUI system, for example models almost all interface components as individual MVC systems.

**10.6 MVC OVERVIEW**

The basic control flow of the MVC architecture is as follows:

- User interacts with the system via graphical user interface that is the view.
• The controller converts the input event sent by the view into an appropriate user action, which is understandable, by the model.

• The controller changes or requests the model, resulting in a change in the model’s state.

• View is automatically notified about the changes in state by the model, which requires screen updates.

10.7 FEATURES OF APPLICATION

Features of the application include:

1. An intranet where the Admission counselor can add/update and deactivate any corporate entries available. Each addition of the corporate on this system will be reflected on the online system used by the student.

2. Detailed explanation of operations the admission counselor can perform

3. Search through name, dates and by status.

4. Select and get the details of it.

5. Update the data associated with the corporate.

6. At any point of time, admission counselor will never delete any corporate, they can only deactivate so that the deactivated corporate will disappear from the online application.

7. They can extend the agreement by changing the end date.

Figure 10.2 demonstrates the UI of the application which is used to enter details of the corporate interested to get into the contract with the online education.
10.8 COMPARISON WITH THE OLD SYSTEM

Earlier this need was fulfilled manually by the ACs. They used to call and confirm the employment history of the prospects. After this, the student has to send document supporting their employment. With the new system where they have tied up with the corporate they can directly contact the corporate to find out the employment history of the student.

The old system was time consuming and not efficient. ACs always took time to complete this task. The chances of them making mistakes were high. There were no ways for the corporate to get in touch with universities for their promotion. By new ways of promotion this has become very easy.

10.9 BENEFITS FOR WORKING ADULTS

As online university knows that most of the students coming to take courses are working adults who always have some prior work experience. They thought of giving some benefits to these students as they almost cover their 50% of business. This has actually attracted lot more working students.
10.10 Conclusion

With the world just away from one mouse click there is no system which is untouched from automation ranging from post offices to rental cars to whatever you can think of. The same change was brought in Education where small usage started introducing back in 1960s with more and more progress in terms of flexibility and transparency going on over the time. At the same time Online Education is contributing toward making the world paper free and giving a great share on saving trees. Same time classroom education cannot get vanished but with the fact the way online education is progressing in every term there is no stop to it.
CHAPTER 11

CONCLUSIONS

After the detailed study on online education, the following conclusions were reached:

- Tremendous growth in the field of online education can be expected. With the nonstop innovation and development in the field of Computers and IT there is no stop to online education growth. Time is valued more than money now. No one wants to spend long hours reaching to school and attending classes. Inclusion of more and more multimedia resources is making online education very flexible, user friendly and popular as well. To avoid becoming monotonous online education is constantly evolving and introducing changes in the style and the format and trying continuous to evolve so that the student don’t gets bored out of it.

- A recent survey on higher education in USA stated that more than 2.35 million students enrolled in online education [11]. The survey also stated that many big institutes are planning to get more and more online courses after seeing the large acceptance by students.

- Study and if experts are to be believed, says in the next five years the number of students getting enrolled into the online education is going to get increased by five times.

- This growth will be mostly seen in the developed nation like USA, UK.

- Online education won’t be witnessing much growth in the developing countries like India, china etc. The main reason is there are still large percentage of people who has not adapted to the idea of studying at home using computer and earning a degree.

- Because of the expected growth in the online education there is a tremendous growth in students applying for online education for bachelors and master’s degree.

- Students in online education are performing fairly better than those in the traditional face to face environment. Learning outcomes for students who engaged in online education exceeded those of students receiving face-to-face instruction.

- Combining Online and traditional way of study is providing a better result as compared to implementing separately.

- The effectiveness of online learning approaches appears quite broad across different content and learners types.

- Online learning appeared to be an effective option for both undergraduates and for graduate students and professionals in a wide range of academic and professional studies.
• The practice of providing online quizzes and assigning homework’s seems to be more effective than followed by traditional schools. Including more interactive media like sound, presentations makes the online education more interesting and also giving better results.

• Online education can be enhanced by giving students control of their interactions with media and computer. Studies indicate that manipulations that trigger students are effective when students pursue online learning as individuals.

• Today’s youth and students are well matured. They understand the importance of education and do not need much of guidance in the form of obligation to complete the assignments on time.

• Students are relying very much on online media for knowledge gaining purpose. With the advancement in Internet students prefer watching online videos or reading post by talented peoples on specific field they would like to know about. Many times in traditional schools where maintaining attendance is not compulsory many students prefer not to attend classes and prefer studying by their own.

• Gaining student trust is very important, this online education can only do by working on their standards of education provided and they should not forget that students are their client.

• Online education has lot of scope and we can see a lot of space for growth and improvement. They should keep trying to improve the standard and should try to gain more and more accreditation which can help students to believe more and more on them. This will help them to gain more students and students can be more tension free once they start relying on online education.

• They should focus more on getting recognized by corporate world so that once the student get the degree it won’t get harder for them to get employment.

• Steps are being taken to maintain the standard of online education; Most of the online education has started conducting an orientation program or kind of screening to filter out students based on their performance as well as putting more efforts to find the background of student applying for the course to find out their authenticity.
CHAPTER 12

FUTURE ENHANCEMENTS TO THE SYSTEM

As with any system there is always room for improvement. Same applies to online education. Let me first cover enhancements to the application.

Currently we have the system which can perform addition, updating and provide a wide variety of search on a lot of criteria.

One of the most important tasks while building this software was to make it generic and useful to non-technical users. So people, who do not have great experience with computer science and software, can use this without messing with the code or parameters they do not understand. But as any software, here is a list of future enhancements that can be considered and implemented to make this software better, more versatile and useful:

1. Need to create a service that will provide the details of corporate interested in doing this merge. There can be a provision where the AC’s can get list of corporate entry directly from internet and they can use their contact information in order to contact them. This will ease the job of the AC’s who currently do a research on the corporate entries and then contact them.

2. One drawback of this application is this is static application. Once you insert any corporate entry it won’t be present to view instantly. You need to close the system first in order to start updating it. You will be able to see the inserted record only through the manage button, not for the search option instantly. This is the biggest disadvantage of Core java which does not support dynamic purpose. A future enhancement can be using Ajax capabilities or JWT to include dynamic features to the application.

3. User has to type the date manually and system only takes dates in YYYY/MM/DD format and this can lead to manual typing error which the system is not handling properly. Inclusion of a build in calendar can further enhance the capability of this application. This will save time as well as remove any typing errors.

4. More error handling and exception can be included so that the system does not accept corrupt data. This can be done using JAVA exception handling.

5. A new email notification system can be created which can send emails to the ACs or EAs notifying them about the corporates coming closer to the end date.

In the following paragraphs I will cover enhancements that can be introduced into online education.
Every online institute should not forget that their main motto is to provide education to the mass and should not convert their motive into just money making. They should always think about the benefits of the student first.
**BIBLIOGRAPHY**


