

Advantages and Disadvantages of Distance Learning

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Анотація:

У роботі досліджено проблематику дистанційного навчання. Визначено та проаналізовано усі переваги та недоліки дистанційного навчання.

Ключові слова: дистанційне навчання, переваги, недоліки, студенти, інтернет.

Summary: *In the article the characteristics of distance learning are studied. This paper presents the overall analysis of advantages and disadvantages of distance learning.*

Key words: distance learning, advantages, disadvantages, students, the Internet..

To do or not to do - that is the question that plagues most students who are contemplating pursuing an education through distance learning. Over the years, distance education in various forms - distance learning programs from open universities, online programs and so forth, have helped realised the educational aspirations of students who could not attend full-time and campus-based classes. [1]

Students often have apprehensions over opting for higher education via distance learning, as they lack clarity about the pros and cons of this mode of education. It's a good idea to understand the advantages and disadvantages of pursuing a degree through distance education before you decide if you want to go for this mode.

The transition to distance learning during the coronavirus pandemic is seen as a natural pedagogical experiment, which became more manageable for all participants of educational process in autumn 2020. Comprehending work experience in spring, as well as training in the field of informational and communication technologies (ICT), allows the teacher not only to expand their capabilities when working online, but also to experiment with using different digital tools (Teams, Zoom, Moodle, Kahoot), analyzing their application success and the reasons for difficulties occurred. Recently, many of us have begun to wonder what are the advantages and disadvantages of distance learning. The reason for this was the coronavirus. However, even without this, distance learning is developing rapidly with the spread of the role of the Internet in our lives.

Advantages of distance learning

1. Greater flexibility. With the help of distance learning programs, students can take and take the desired courses from anywhere using a computer and Internet connection. A higher percentage of those who enroll in distance education are actually working people. Distance learning allows such students to find a convenient time to study without interfering with their already busy schedules.

2. No trips to work and to university. Distance learning takes place online, which means that students do not need to spend money and time on trips to and from the venue. Students can take lessons and complete assignments without leaving home. Most institutions that offer distance learning programs give lectures and tutorials through online video conferencing.

3. Significant savings. The cost of educational programs on the Internet is usually lower than those offered in conventional institutions. Running an online course or program also eliminates the cost of traveling to work, renting an apartment, and / or getting food. This means that distance learning is a cost-effective option for both students and parents. In addition to the convenience of taking the course at home, students will have a great opportunity to save more on tuition.

Disadvantages of distance learning

1. Lack of social interaction. Studying in a real institution gives students the opportunity to meet in person and communicate with people from different places. Distance learning restricts students only to Internet-based classes and learning materials. Although students can interact through chats, whiteboards, emails and / or video conferencing software, this experience cannot be compared to a traditional school.

2. High chances of distraction. Without personal interaction with teachers and other students, those studying in the Internet program may find it difficult to keep track of their coursework and assignments. This is because there are no constant reminders of expected tasks and / or deadlines. You just need to be motivated and focused to be able to successfully complete the course.

3. Sophisticated technology. Any student wishing to enroll in a distance learning program must invest in a range of equipment, including a computer, webcam, and a stable Internet connection. There is absolutely no physical contact between students and teachers, as instructions are delivered via the Internet. This excessive dependence on technology is the main disadvantage of distance learning.

4. Doubtful trust in Internet degrees. Despite its convenience and affordability, distance learning is still not the best option for many due to the lack of quality teachers.

Like any kind of educational program, distance learning comes with a host of pros and cons. Before you enroll in any kind of distance learning program, make sure to carefully consider these in order to be sure you'll be getting an education that meets your personal needs, strengths and career goals.

Differing to what most of us feel, the advantages are much greater than the disadvantages in distance learning.

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