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# Evolving Regulatory Framework to Optimize Hybrid Education by Collaborating Offline and Online Learning Paradigms in Higher Education

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## Abstract

In higher education paradigm classroom learning and realtime problem solving are viewed as very essential aspects. Students collaborate on projects, assignments with expert guidance from Professors in a Practical Learning. Peer Learning also will be enhanced hand-in-hand. However, industry requirements will be met by the phenomenon called reskilling which has been well achieved through acquiring Online Courses. This is not only for students but also for everyone who want to be a Life-Long Learner. Online Platform act as enablers to provide an enriching learning experience through integration of similar academic institutions, along with teachers and students. Therefore, it is time to respond to the requirement of industries who urge the need of upgrading the knowledge as well developing the skill to optimal extent. This paper discusses various aspects in obtaining knowledge, skill and certification through Online Learning. Further, it states that the process of collaborating offline and online education is need of the hour.

## Keywords

*Online Learning, Offline Learning, Video Lectures, Test Preparation, Certification, Reskilling, Gamification, Carrer Progression.*

## Introduction

Online Learning is defined “Learning modules which can be accessed by individuals through internet enabled devices India’s online education market is steadily increasing” [1]. Enormous sources from industry urges the need of Reskilling for career Progression and effective job role performances.[4] Every student is expected to sign-up for minimum one online course per semester. There are huge number of Online Courses available for free of cost. Alternatively, enormous Courses are available at affordable fees. Online courses are instructor-driven classes, with video lectures, Assessments and Certification.

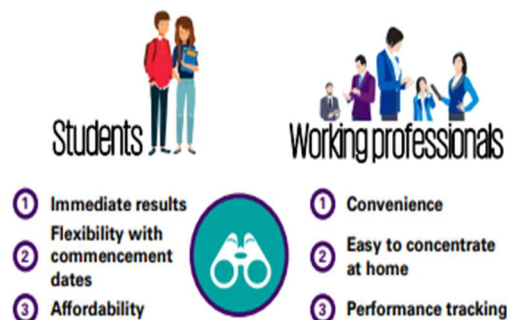
## Objectives

To uncover the scope of Online Education in India. To identify the Process, Strategies, Platform available and challenges faced in acquiring Online Learning and to develop a collaborative mechanism for Blended Learning of both Online and Offline Modes.

## Research Methodology

### Factors influencing Online Learning:

Better Concentration at home, Convenience in choosing the interested Course, Flexibility in time, Reduced risk of Travel Time.



**Figure 1: Key Motivational Factors of Online Learning**

Gamification is one of the best emerging techniques used for Learning.[1] It is a process of applying game mechanism of fun, collaboration, competition and rewards in non-game situations.[2] It increases deeper knowledge acquisition.

**Online Learning Platform:** Adoption of Online Learning is skewed to Conversational skill. Laptop is most preferred device used for Online Learning. Smartphones are also used widely for Online Learning[10]. Quality Education, Relevancy of Career domain, Employability, Entrepreneurship and socio-economic factors are influencing steady growth of acquiring Online Certification Courses.

**Test Preparation:** Online Education include lecture sessions by instructors, printable course materials and assessments. Therefore, the learner has to attend the video lectures and he / she must follow the instructions and prepare well for online test or assessment.[6]

**Challenges:** Lack of awareness about Online Learning, Internet Connectivity issues, inadequate infrastructural facilities such as Laptop, Smartphone, internet and other wearable devices are challenges of acquiring online courses.[12]

**Hybrid Channel:** Collaboration of Offline and Online Learning leads to ubiquitous content and learning. This type of Hybrid Channel approach leads to enhanced learning experience to the Students. Classroom Learning enhances majority of Students who need regular monitoring in Learning process. Face-to-Face teaching and learning cannot be replaceable.[7] It provides various guidance and encouragement for Students who need individual monitoring. However, Self-Study process is also required and needed to be initiated in higher education in order to develop skill for employability.



Figure 2: Compound Annual Growth Rate of Online Education in India

**Employability:** Need to stay reliable in the job market. Employability skills enhanced

**Social Learning:** Casual learning and socio-skill development. Peer\_to\_Peer Learning among students to gain pace.

**Technological innovations in Online Learning:** Big Data and Artificial Intelligence technologies assist to create innovative Online Content, Teaching Pedagogies, Content Delivery Mechanisms and Analytical Assessment Patterns.

**Entrepreneurship:** Capable to initiate start-ups in the business field.

**Digital-friendly government policies:**

The ruling government has launched several programmes under the initiatives such as 'Digital India' and 'Skill India' to spread digital literacy, create a knowledge-based society in India, and implement three principles 'access, equity and quality' of the Education Policy.

- e-Basta (schools books in digital form)
- e-Education (all schools connected with broadband and free wifi in all schools and develop MOOCs – Massive Online Open Courses)
- Nand Ghars (digital tools as teaching aids)
- SWAYAM (MOOCs based on curriculum taught in classrooms from 9th class till post-graduation)
- India Skills Online (learning portal for skill training) In order to establish digital infrastructure, the government has also launched National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) which aims to expand broadband connectivity and faster network.[15]

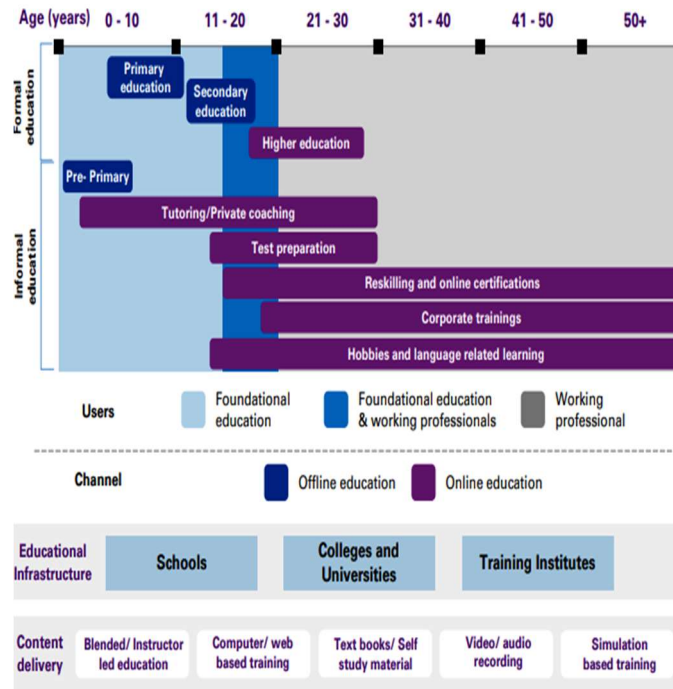


Figure 3: Online Education in India [1]

Content Consumption has been successfully achieved using wearable devices and virtual labs. Data Storage through Cloud enables to access data anytime and anywhere. The e-learning market in India is estimated to be around \$3 billion. The central government's efforts to make digital learning available to students in every corner of the country are also aiding the sector. [5]

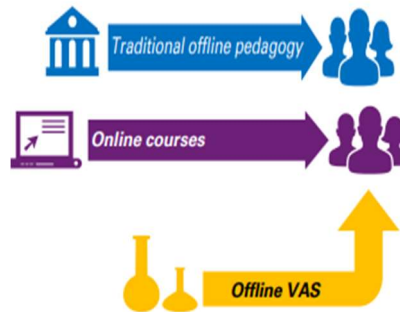


Figure 4: Online Teaching with Offline VAS (Value Added Services)

India has one of the largest higher education systems in the world.

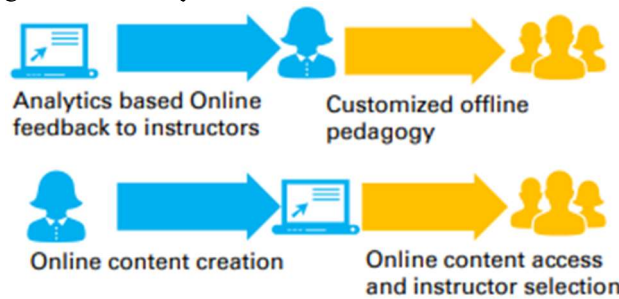


Figure 5: Hybrid Channel Collaborates Offline and Online Learning

### Challenges

Students from rural and sub-urban area find difficulty in availing facilities needed to enter into Online Education arena. Due to socio-economic factors, they are unsuccessful in acquiring digital learning. Inadequate infrastructure facilities such as affordability to buy smartphones/laptop and getting internet connection also some of the barriers. Therefore, proper awareness to be given across the different levels of students from different geographic location. Lack of familiarity with Offline Channels and Lack of Requirement are key barriers in the process of adoption of Online Channel.

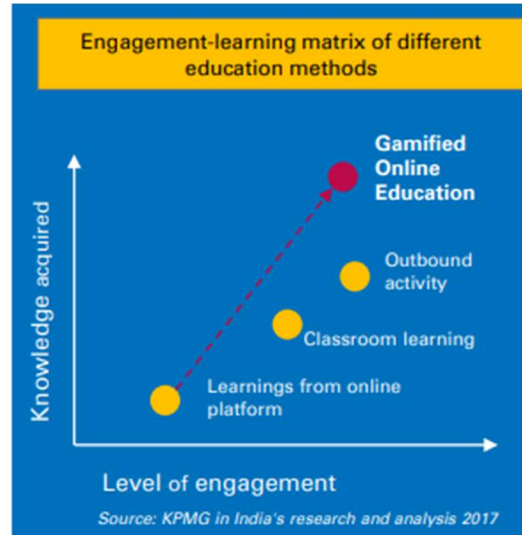


Figure 6: Collaboration of Various Learning Methods

The process of combination of various methods of learning appropriately will yield good learning outcomes. Knowledge acquisition level will be increased. Gamification process of learning certainly yield participatory learning environment amidst students.

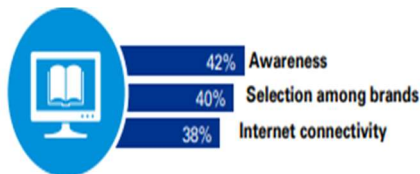


Figure 7: Key Challenges in Online Education

### Conclusion

As government is very keen in achieving Digital India, Educational Sector will definitely witness several positive impacts out of Digital Learning. Tremendous Free online courses have been rolled out by numerous reputed organizations through E-Learning method to empower the students. Awareness to be created so that students shall understand the opportunities available in online platforms. Awareness needs to be increased focussing on the convenience aspect and value added concepts to be sensitized among learners. New age learning techniques can have significant impact on the adoption of Online channel. Value-added services such as Career Counselling and Enhanced Progress Tracking could further increase the adoption of Online Education to greater heights and progress. Collaborative mechanism of Offline and Online Learning is the need of the hour.

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