ONLINE EDUCATION
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Abstract

Usage of Online education has been increasing significantly in higher education in recent years. The rapidly developing education system will certainly require the organization of online courses in the future in Uzbekistan's higher education institutions. Implementing online education as an alternative to traditional education requires to do research. This study considers online education, synchronous and asynchronous lessons, which are the types of internet-based teaching. The objective of the article is to suggest organizing online classes effectively. Moreover, the advantages and disadvantages of online education are analyzed.

Keywords. Online education, synchronous lessons, asynchronous lessons, advantages, and disadvantages.

It is no longer uncommon that majority of universities in developing countries offer online education along traditional face-to-face lessons. Indeed, according to Oana-Maria Pastae (2020), flexibility and easy access to learning, being the most popular features, have resulted in a significant increase in students' preference for distance learning in the last five years. Williams (2002) also claims that internet-based education is the fastest growing form of education as well as being increasingly popular among university and even high school students. Building capacity for online learning is highly likely to be a requirement in response to current race of development in education system. Even so, online education has only recently begun to explore Uzbek educational system due to Covid-19 pandemic, which in turn requires doing extensive research on the topic.

Conducting as effective online lessons as face-to-face classes is always under continuous discussion in academic world. O'Neil (2005) assures that successful online lessons are perfectly attainable without any interference of the instructor's and learners' distant locations. While acknowledging the potential of online education, Rossett (2002) argues that its establishment requires several commitments and resources and, most importantly, a proper organization. To implement "proper organization", the features of online lessons ought be born in mind while developing syllabus and lesson plans; the quality education is to be the goal for both teachers and learners; and, surely, adequate technical support is needed before the lesson takes place.

An Uzbek scientist, Mannanova (2019), states the following 4 factors contributing the effectiveness of online education: a) technical factors: the learner should have a computer, video camera, internet, etc.; b) technological tools: introduction of innovative pedagogical

technologies; c) functional factors: ensuring the learner's functional inclusion in the educational process, i.e. adaptation; d) motivational factors: high desire to learn.

After reviewing related research works, it is assumed that desirable results could be obtained if synchronous and asynchronous online lessons are integrated, so that there would be an opportunity to take advantages of both. That is to say, online course should not be fully synchronous or asynchronous. Both types of lessons are requisite so as to make online lessons further practical, engaging and effectual. In doing so, it should be admitted that both types of lessons have strengths and weaknesses. According to Saifurov (2005), students who actively apply the Internet for education purposes will have the following opportunities: to establish communication, to observe the changes and development of new information technologies, to learn synthesizing the information received through the Internet into a whole, to learn using various search engines. Another advantage would be the increase in technological literacy of students who take online classes.

Furthermore, synchronous online learning has some advantages such as, the presence of interaction between students and the teacher, the possibility of automatically answering students' questions, the organization of discussions, and allowing other students to express their opinions by turning off the microphone of dominant students, and finally, the possibility of saving time by answering students' questions simultaneously.

Nonetheless, fixed timetable could be a disadvantage of synchronous education since it is a challenge for students who work and study at the same time. Another more serious drawback is the technical problems that may arise during live video conferencing like unstable internet connection, or sudden impairment in of the microphone, speakers and camera. In live discussions, the chaos and noise might be aroused as students speak at the same time. The abovementioned positive and negative aspects of synchronous online education is summarized in the following table:

☐ Advantages of Synchronous Online Education	☐ Disadvantages of Synchronous Online Education
☐ Getting feedback automatically	☐ Fixed schedule
☐ Simultaneous interaction	☐ Low internet speed for video conferencing
☐ Live discussions	☐ Technical problems during live lesson
☐ Giving other students a chance by muting the dominant student's microphone in the discussion	☐ Chaos occurs in discussions as a result of all students expressing their opinions at the same time

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In asynchronous online classes, the absence of a fixed time and place is a special advantage for students who lead a hectic lifestyle. These students can study during their spare time, and students with families do tasks in their free time from child and house chores. Moreover, students can use materials in different formats as information usually is in video or audio format, as well as in written form. Students can keep these materials on their computers; can read them again to revise at any convenient time. Finally, individual feedback for the completed tasks is another powerful positive feature of asynchronous online education.

On the other hand, the asynchronous online lessons have a few disadvantages. One of them is that the learner falls into a state of isolation due to the lack of opportunity to participate actively in discussions, as a result, interest in learning may decrease which leads to demotivation towards learning. In this type of education, the physical absence of the teacher in the lesson, the inability to provide answers to questions, and late feedback cause difficulties for students who are not accustomed to studying independently.

Advantages of Asynchronous Online Education	Disadvantages of Asynchronous Online Education
Flexibility	Late feedback
Convenient	The absence of live communication
Getting feedback individually	Lack of physical presence of the teacher
A chance to revise content any time	Isolation of the student

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