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**Title**

**ROLE OF ONLINE EDUCATION IN INDIAN  
RURAL AREA**

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**ABSTRACT:**

Online education courses follow the same principles of teaching and testing as classes and books, they offer more features to enhance the retention of the material, often at a less expensive cost. Online education is a combination of learning services and technology to provide high value integrated learning, anytime, anyplace, and anywhere.

In online education, students are no longer restricted to locally available courses and programs. This is particularly beneficial to rural students who might not otherwise have access to specialized courses that can enhance their career readiness.

This paper concentrates on the online education scenario in Indian rural area, scope of online education, online education tools, benefits of online education, and future of online education. A few suggestions have been made to use online education for informal and vocational training, which is highly effective for a developing country like India where a majority of population is living in rural areas and has received almost negligible formal education.

**KEYWORD:** E-learning, Online education, Rural area, Technology-delivered instruction, Web-based training.

**INTRODUCTION:**

Online education is the unifying term to describe the fields of e-learning, web-based training, and technology-delivered instruction. Delivery of the digital content is the main characteristic of online education. Various components of online education include content delivery in multiple formats, management of the learning experience, and a networked community of learners, content developers and experts. Technology enabled learning facilitates enhancing the speed and quality of learning to cope with the new challenges of information explosion and thereby to meet changing needs of the users.

If online education reaches the rural areas of India, it would be much faster to educate people. One major problem faced by India is that almost all highly skilled professionals are based in bigger cities that deny the rural population from getting educated through them.

### **OBJECTIVE:**

- To explore the scope of online education.
- To examine the online education tools.
- To study about the benefits of online education.
- To study the future of online education.

### **SCOPE OF ONLINE EDUCATION:**

The reason behind the increasing scope of online education is the present competitive environment. Students can join a course anytime from anywhere where internet is available. As per our convenience, we can attend lecturers and classes any time. Access of course material is easy i.e. 24 hours available. Online classrooms also provide us team learning with the help of chats and newsgroups. Here we can focus on topics that we want to learn and skip over material that we already know. By this way we can easily save our time.

Online education provides vital services to students like competitive exam preparation, career counseling, personality tests, online degrees, diploma, and certificate courses. Some online portals in India are also conducting mock tests for various competitive examinations like engineering, medical, management etc. For example, the Indiatimes group has introduced the Mindscape test center where one can appear for mock IIT-JEE exams online for making self-assessment. The Gurukul Online Solutions, apart from providing various courses, set up a Jobs and Careers Centre™ (JCC), which not only provides job-oriented vocational education in a variety of domains, but also provides career enriching courses via online education. They also offer Live Virtual Classroom connectivity to over 175 cities across India.

### **ONLINE EDUCATION TOOLS:**

- Twitter :- Twitter is a social networking and micro blogging service which lets us send and get messages known as tweets. Tweets are text posts that can be only 140 characters and are sent to subscribers also known as followers. Tweets can be sent or received from



Twitter website, SMS (Short Message Service), or apps (applications) for smart phones. It currently has over 100 million users.

- Delicious :- Delicious is a social book marking online service for keeping, sending, and finding webpage bookmarks. The free service has over 5 million users and more than 100 bookmarked URLs.
- YouTube :- YouTube is for online video file sharing that lets people upload, share, and watch videos. You can watch movie clips, TV clips, and music videos, as well as unpaid videos. Most of the videos on YouTube are uploaded by regular people but some big media corporations post material also.
- Google Reader :- Google Reader is an online aggregator, that can read Atom and RSS feed on the web or offline.
- Google Docs :- Google Docs is a free, Online Office suite made available by Google. It lets people to make and edit documents online and collaborate in real-time with other people.
- WordPress :- WordPress is a free CMS (control management system) source; used mostly for blogging it has a lot of features that use plug-in architecture and templating systems. It is the most popular blog software around nowadays.
- Slideshare :- Slideshare is a slide hosting services that is web-based and lets users to upload, look at, comment on, and share slideshows made with presentation software. It is the most popular slide hosting services on the web.
- Google Search :- Google Web Search is an online search engine and is the most popular search engine on the internet. Google get hundreds of millions of search everyday through its many services.

### **BENEFITS OF ONLINE EDUCATION:**

- Students are given the opportunity to choose from various schools, programs and courses which are not available in the area where they live in. This is especially beneficial for

those who live in rural areas that only have one or two educational facilities, which most of the time, offer limited course and program options for students.

- Online courses offer flexibility to students. Because they can attend classes and courses whenever and wherever there is a computer and access to the internet, they can easily plan out a schedule that would work for them. Because of the flexibility offered by online education, not only undergraduate students, but also individuals who already have full-time jobs or other commitments are able to take supplementary courses and even earn their college degrees online.
- Online education allows a more student-centered teaching approach. Because every student has his or her way of learning that works for them, getting an online education may help in ensuring that each lesson or material is completely understood before moving on to the next, which in turn, could result to better learning.
- Online course materials can be accessed 24 hours a day. This means that students can easily read and review lectures, discussions and other materials relevant to their course. There are some students who find it a bit difficult to understand spoken material in a typical classroom setting because of a number of disturbance, dullness or exhaustion. Because they can simply access the material online once they are prepared to learn, students are able to take in and understand the material a lot better.
- In an online setting, a student is marked present if the student has actually participated in the virtual classroom discussion. This encourages students to interact, increasing the diversity of opinion as everyone, and not just one or two students, is given the opportunity to share their thoughts.
- Online education offers a lot of savings because there are no additional costs for transportation and accommodation. Online education programs and courses also cost a lot cheaper than courses that can be taken in a traditional school.
- Online course offer the opportunity to students to connect with the most renowned professors and lecturers in the world.
- Making use of the tools and resources available in the internet to attend classes, research information and communicate or interact with other students can help in learning the

skills an individual needs in order to adapt with the present and future technology that is used in the business world or in the industry he or she is interested to work in.

- Because online instructors usually come from different locations across the globe, students are exposed to knowledge shared by the instructors which cannot be learned in books. Through online chat, email and newsgroup discussions, students and teachers can discuss concerns related to the material without having to wait for office hours.

### **FUTURE OF ONLINE EDUCATION:**

Online education has grown incredibly in recent years. The traditional classes still outnumber the virtual classes but the number of online course offerings is increasing day by day. As we enter the new millennium, educators are facing a challenge unlike any that has come before. The Worldwide Web has completely changed the way in which we educate students. Despite the new challenges that we continue to face every day, the primary goal remains the same: to construct a learning environment in which the student feels comfortable, study at their own pace and easily affords the course. The future of online education will offer students an alternative to the traditional classroom.

In the case of online education Internet and multimedia supported interactivity has been the primary medium and it is only increasing with more personalized teaching methods being incorporated in the future mode of this education. Curriculum and teaching methods will be customized for each student allowing even more flexibility in education. This means that students will not only have the liberty to decide how and when they want to study, but they will also be able to customize the study programs and course structures themselves.

### **CONCLUSION:**

Education is essential for every one. The increased rate of literacy will push the nation towards development. Online education is a useful way to provide education. Considering India's rural areas, problems create difficulties to implement the online education system but strategies can be developed and implemented. Before the actual implementation of online education system, the

understanding of different components and their functions is necessary. A policy should be developed to implement the functions and to maintain the quality of system. The development of online education is not only a matter of economic and social change, but also develop the rural area of India.

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