

How online education affects Chinese primary school students under COVID-19?

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Abstract. In this article, the main content to discuss is how online education affect primary school students in China at the pandemic period. The article primarily introduce how online education are adapted under COVID-19 pandemic. The essay also illustrates the benefits and limitation of online education. There is no doubt that online education brings convenience on achieving 'distant learning'. And online education also helps children to access more resource from the internet. Numbers of limitations mention as well. Younger generation may have lack of self-controlled abilities. They might be abstracted by the internet too. Also, the grades of online testing cannot be ensured because of opaqueness of networked examination. At last, the article analyzes the satisfaction to 'online education' among students in terms of experience, feedback and harnessing of online platforms. Most of students provide the optimistic side of 'e-learning'. For this article, the purpose is to measure whether online education did the useful world on students' schooling and curriculum.

Keywords: Online education; Online schooling; Off-line education; COVID-19, primary school students.

1. Introduction

The world is overwhelmed by COVID-19 at the end of 2019. Meanwhile, citizens had to pause working due to serious situation of pandemic, especially for students. Since the outbreak of epidemic, approximately 850 million students all over the world were forced to interrupt their curriculum and schooling [1]. During the lock down period, based on the policies of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, many countries decided to implement 'Home study' while utilizing networked platform such as Zoom, Face Time to provide online courses for students and teachers instead of face-to-face curriculum. And e-learning patterns have been applied globally in an achievable way. For instance, in Finland, the local government has specially trained schools and scholars on how to manage online education platform, reformulated the regulations and solution for the distant semester at the same time. [2] In addition, online education also significantly impacted Chinese students. At the beginning of 2020, nearly 180 million primary and secondary students started participating the online lessons [3]. Not only do the emergence of online platforms allow them to achieve 'isolated learning', but also to receive the 9-year compulsory education that students in China must undergo. Chinese government offered a lot of financial and mental supports in order to encourage people to create national platforms for domestic students. After that, DingDing, Tencent Meeting and other applications become the necessary tools for achieving online tutoring for now. Students are able to harness the software to keep in touch with teachers and peers although they a long way from each other. Thanks to the provision of online education platforms, the school could carry out teaching plan normally.

Based on the above discussion, online education is the popular way among students. There is many researches about online education, but people may still don't have the clear and accurate recognition of how online education affect children. For this essay, it is mainly focused on how online education affects Chinese elementary students and families. Made the comparisons with off-line learning, despite the cutting-edge development and convenience of networked classroom, it is worth to note that the limitations of online education, whether the online teaching could operate with high-quality or not, how many percentages of academic knowledge could primary school understand by e-learning, whether elementary schools' students have self-control in using electronic products during online learning period... These potential issues will be discussed in a future article.

2. How online education has affected Chinese primary school students at pandemic period?

2.1 Difference between online education and offline education

Networked education demonstrated the contribution of technology in terms of teaching and schooling [4]. Compared online education with offline education, they have many distinctions and different impacts for students in China. In terms of how these two teaching models are ‘executed’, the main distinction is that online oral discussion is ‘interactional’, which means that students and teachers could interact in the online classes [5], while offline education seems to be more authoritarian. Offline education is also called ‘traditional classrooms’, which represents the teaching patterns before the population of internet [6]. Although some advanced technologies have already applied to assist academic studies, some scholars still claim that schooling has to proceed at the same time and location as well. And according to research by Utami and Firdaus [7], this type of educational pattern means outside the network, it also means that offline education is classic teaching method and for students without skillfully harness of network or electronic facilities, such as computers, laptops, iPad and so on [8].

The explanation of offline is totally opposite with online. The online education could be interpreted as ‘internet-based learning’ or ‘web-based learning’, which is not limited by time and space [9]. The tools of networked learning are based on electronic devices (e.g. Cellphones, tablets and so on). Online learning also utilized network to study which contained ‘accessibility’, ‘connectivity’ and flexibility [10]. Thus, based on the online informational delivering systems [6], tutoring and learning could be operated separably. Meanwhile, networked teaching changed the ways of transmitting academic knowledge to students by using multimedia in order to create a novel channel to replace traditional classrooms [11]. Basically, online education could combine students and teachers together and carry out the courses by supporting of network interaction [12]. Furthermore, at 21st century, based on Alghasab [13] and Cortest [14]’s research, the data reflects that the demand of online teaching have ascended continuously. Due to the outbreak of the epidemic in 2020, online teaching has been widely used, and face-to-face education has all changed to implement online conference, which might force some teachers and students to get in touch with electronic products and online educational platforms.

2.2 The advantages and limitation of online education for students

Contemporarily, advanced technology plays an important character in global education. It has to be said that online education brings a lot of advantages to people. First of all, online courses could achieve ‘distant learning’, which means that students are able to study online with their tutors and classmates no matter where they are. During the pandemic period, distant learning has become an essential path for students connected with schools and tutors. Networked education seems to be more convenient for students to communicate with their teachers. Also, it is easier for schools to interact with students’ parents. For instance, in China, it is common for primary schools organized family meeting after monthly evaluation in order to provide daily performance of children to parents. Due to serious novel coronavirus, the local government forbidden people to attend off-line activities. Therefore, face-to-face meeting were replaced by online conferences. Elementary students and parents could directly participate in the parent-teacher association and contact tutors through the online education platform, and parents can know the performance of children at any time without going outside. In other words, the implementation of online education not only achieve ‘distant learning’ in which benefits students, but bring convenience to parents as well. Secondly, online education is not just for curriculum, students have opportunities to attain some professional knowledge or articles through internet as well. They could directly absorb some useful information without any traveling to the destination [15], which means that students are enable to enjoy both networked lessons and sufficient online resources too. Thirdly, online education as a brand-new teaching method, it has another obvious advantage for domestic students. Compared with off-line

study, e-learning can save more time. For families, they don't need to spend times on picking up and dropping off their young kids because of online curriculum in the lockdown period. For children, especially for Chinese students, as usual, they are forced to get up very early avoiding be late to the class. Students could wake up later if they attend online classes. Also, they don't have to utilize the short breaks between classes to go to different buildings waiting for classes.

According to the evaluation and research from Horspool [16], even though more students prefer to participate online courses, some factors make some barriers for e-learning (e-teaching). There are several problems worth to be discussed. It is important to notice that how many percentages of knowledge students can absorb. To be honest, online education cannot pledge that primary school pupils with young age will not be distracted by other things on the internet during academic period, such as electronic advertisement, computer games and so on. For elementary school students, most of them don't have a very sophisticated sense of right from wrong at this young stage. Thus, they seem to be easily influenced by things on the internet that have nothing to do with studies. Meanwhile, because of not being able to teach face-to-face, if children have any questions to ask, teachers cannot ensure that they can provide the solution immediately. It might be a difficult process for tutors to explain to younger scholar through a screen what they don't understand yet. Relatively limited communication may result students in accumulating more and more problems which cannot be solve at the short period due to isolation at home [16,17]. Although, students could easily connect with teachers through the online educational platforms, interaction and response between teachers and students become a serious issue to figure out. In other explanation, the feedback (students-teachers) of courses cannot be guaranteed. Additionally, for primary schooling, obviously, some subjects are only suitable for offline teaching. There is no doubt that it is critical for elementary school students to keep health. Doing sports are essential for young scholars in which explained that why Chinese schools set P.E. classes for students weekly. Online curriculum is hard to complete P.E. classes for students. Physical education teachers cannot assign tasks to student though the online platforms, and there is no way to supervise all who can cooperate with teachers to complete the course. And for science classes, students lost a lot of opportunities to do the experiments because all of people have to stayed at home due to COVID-19. When it turns to monthly exam, it is obvious that online testing possesses many limitations. The authenticity of academic results can be served as a significant problem. Schools and teachers cannot assure that whether students cheat on exams or not, all rely on students' initiative and consciousness.

2.3 The satisfaction of students to online education

The evaluation of online education from students cannot be neglected. Students' satisfaction is the statement to evaluate whether they are disappointed or enjoyable of online curriculum, which could be analyzed from different aspects. In common, students' satisfaction contained the learning experience and recognition of values of online courses. And students' satisfaction has intensive connection with the quality of online courses [18], interaction between students-content, the utilization of electronic devices and the results of their academic grades [19,20]. From different researches, there are following details to describe students' satisfaction with online instruction and aspects of improvements:

2.3.1 The experience of students taking online lessons

Based on the research [21], the data illustrated that nearly 70% of students hold a view that online courses saved large amount of time for them, while achieving the flexibility of lessons. Because of usage of multimedia, 12.9% think they could receive better explanation or instruction from the function of online platform, for example, power point, replaying, recording etc. In other words, compared with offline education, they enable to attain permanent materials through internet. 18.9% of young scholars ensured that they have better experience when they took online courses.

2.3.2 The ease of using online educational platform and facilities

According to the Chen, Xia and Jia's reports [22], they demonstrated that online platforms play an important role on students' satisfaction of distant leaning. There is no doubt that the operation of online educational platforms has crucial impact on students' satisfaction. If the platform is simple and convenient to use, students' overall satisfaction with online education will increase. On account of their research, almost 90% of platform users think they have a delight experience of using different online platforms to access different classes and resources due to easy operation.

2.3.3 The motivation of students

Online education, as an innovative method of learning, has positively affected students. Basuony, M, A.et al. [21] mirrored that online assignments, such as recording videos, maybe efficiently improve students' interests. Also, a completely brand-new approach to education and feedback than previous encouraged students to study harder. Basuony et.al. reflected that 'based on her experiment, the coefficient of motivation is 0.332, which means that if motivation from students improves one percent, the satisfaction of students will increase nearly thirty-two percent.'

Most of students hold a view that they have a happy and excellent period during isolating period by using online education platforms. They found that online teaching is an innovative method which could efficiently catch their attention. And when it turns to homework, they have opportunities to access electronic devices which might encourage them to work more and study harder. There is no doubt that most of students give the positive comments on their networked experience and the latest teaching pattern.

3. Conclusion

To conclude, the main propose of the article is to discuss how online education affected primary schools' students in China at the pandemic period, and what online education brings to Chinese primary schooling students. According to the analysis, it is obvious that online education has both positive and negative impacts on children's curriculum and schooling. For positive aspects, online education could efficiently implement 'distant learning' for students, which means that children are able to attend course as usual although they are far away from each other. It is essential for all of the students when they were isolated at home. Furthermore, e-learning also provides lots of convenience to families. E-learning strengthen the relationship among parents and teachers. Teachers could offer feedbacks on the educational platform directly without organizing any 'parents meeting'. And parents enable to attain the information about the daily performance and academic achievement of their children. For online education, it also included online searching and self-learning. Children access to more opportunities to attain various types of information from the internet. For example, they could discuss something confused online with global scholars. In other words, online education provides a platform to help children to receive more useful knowledge for the schooling. However, every coin has two sides, online education possesses some limitation for elementary students as well. Primary school students might be distracted by internet, such as networked advertisement, computer games and so on. Due to the young age, they may have lack of abilities of self-controlling. It is quite hard for them to pay attention on studying for a long period. Also, even though online curriculum might be more interesting than the offline because of usage of brand-new teaching method, like PowerPoint, kahoot, tutors cannot ensure that how much knowledge did students understands. Meanwhile, the interaction between students and teachers seems to be a serious problem to solve. Online education is 'one-way' communication, teachers are difficult to interact with their students when they are studying. Test limitation cannot be neglected neither. The supervision from teachers couldn't be achieve. Therefore, the results of the test are worth to prove by children's performance.

In this reviewed essay, it also mentioned the difference between online education and offline education. The main distinction is the teaching models and tools. Online education is to educate students by utilizing some cutting-edge technics and websites or electric devices, which means that

online education is teaching based on the internet or network. For off-line education, this type of teaching could also be served as 'traditional classes', teachers harness oral(speaking) and written to transmit knowledge to students rather than using different facilities or technology. In addition, the feedback is a vital part of schooling. Based on the research finding from the authorized, the satisfaction of students to online lessons has been demonstrated. The essay discussed from three distinct dimensions, experience of online courses, the ease of online platforms and self-motivation of online education, respectively. They all hold a positive view of online education. Most of the subjects think they have a delighted experience of online schooling and educating. They also claim that it is easy for them to operate technical devices. Online education, as a novel method of teaching, students have been motivated for a short period because of more interesting teaching methods than previous.

For now, networking becomes the undivided part of daily life, and online education makes crucial contribution for promoting schooling in normal way due to serious COVID-19 issue. To be honest, online education has already to be the most popular way to tremendous of educational institutions. And it has become a new mainstream of teaching, not only primary and secondary schools, but some famous colleges as well. Although the online education plays an important role on schooling nowadays, it is obvious that it cannot totally replace the 'traditional classroom'. The combination of two teaching methods seems to be an efficient path for schools to tutor various types of students. Take the advantages of online educating and avoid the limitation in order to find the most suitable educational methods for students.

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