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The Challenge of Online Education to Educational Equity and its Solving Strategies

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Abstract: As an emerging form of education, online education provides learners with more flexible and extensive learning opportunities, but it also brings a challenge to educational equity. Under the influence of resource allocation, regional differences and technological gap, learners' access to high-quality educational resources is unbalanced. To solve this problem, we need to start from multiple levels. The government should increase the investment in online education resources and formulate relevant policies to ensure educational equity. Online education platforms should improve the openness of educational resources and use advanced technologies to narrow the educational gap between regions. Teachers and educational institutions need to constantly improve the quality of teaching and cultivate learners' independent learning and collaborative learning abilities to adapt to the characteristics of online education. Only with the joint efforts of all parties can we truly realize the universal benefit of online education and promote educational equity.

Keywords: Online Education; Educational Equity; Resource Allocation; Solution Strategy.

1. Introduction

With the popularization of Internet technology, online education has gradually become an emerging force in the education field. It breaks the traditional education mode and provides learners with a more flexible and convenient way to learn. However, while online education brings convenience to people, it also brings new challenges to educational equity. Regional differences, uneven distribution of resources and technical gaps lead to the imbalance in learners' access to high-quality educational resources. To address these challenges, strategy studies will require multiple levels. The government should increase the investment in online education resources and formulate relevant policies to ensure educational equity. Online education platforms should improve the openness of educational resources and use advanced technologies to narrow the educational gap between regions. Teachers and educational institutions need to continuously improve the quality of teaching and cultivate learners' independent learning and collaborative learning abilities to adapt to the characteristics of online education. Through this study, it is hoped to provide a useful reference for promoting the universality of online education and realizing educational equity.

2. Online Education Challenges Educational Equity

2.1. Regional Differences and Uneven Distribution of Resources

Regional differences and uneven distribution of resources are one of the important challenges facing online education. Due to the differences in economic development level, educational basis and policy environment in different regions, the distribution of educational resources is extremely uneven. This regional inequality further aggravates the complexity of the issue of educational equity.

In economically developed areas, online education resources are rich, schools and families have better hardware and software conditions, students can enjoy high-quality educational resources. However, in less developed areas, due to financial and technical restrictions, many schools lack the necessary educational equipment and network conditions, which makes it difficult for students to receive the same quality of education as in developed areas.

In addition, the uneven distribution of resources is also reflected in the urban and rural differences. Schools in cities tend to have more educational resources, including excellent teachers, advanced teaching equipment, and rich curriculum resources. In contrast, schools in rural areas face many difficulties, such as a shortage of teachers, poor equipment and a monotonous curriculum. This makes rural students face more barriers and challenges when receiving online education.

In order to solve the problem of regional differences and uneven distribution of resources, the joint efforts of the government, online education platforms and all sectors of society are needed. The government should increase its support to less developed areas and rural schools, increase its investment in education, improve hardware facilities and strengthen teacher training. Online education platforms should actively expand their business in less developed areas, provide more high-quality educational resources, lower the threshold of learning, and benefit more students. At the same time, all sectors of society are encouraged to participate in educational public welfare undertakings, and support the development of education in poor areas through donations and voluntary services.

Only by gradually narrowing the regional differences and the uneven distribution of resources, can we truly realize the universal benefit of online education, and promote the fair development of education and the harmonious development of society.

2.2. Technology Gap and Digital Barrier

The technology gap and digital barriers are another important challenge for online education. With the rapid development of information technology, people with

advanced technology and equipment and network conditions can more easily access online education resources, while those with weak technology may face digital barriers, which further aggravates the phenomenon of educational injustice[1].

At the home and school level, some students have difficulty to effectively participate in online education due to the lack of necessary technical equipment and network conditions. Even though online education platforms provide rich resources, it is difficult for students to enjoy high-quality education services due to insufficient equipment, poor network conditions or technical barriers[2].

In addition, digital barriers are manifested between different regions and different social groups. In some areas, due to the low level of economic development and the imperfect network infrastructure, it is difficult for students to access the Internet or access online education resources. At the same time, there are differences in technical levels between different social groups, and some elderly or people with lower skills may face greater digital barriers.

In order to solve the technology gap and digital barriers, a series of measures need to be taken. The government should increase the investment in the network infrastructure, improve the Internet penetration rate, and pay special attention to the network access problem of the poor areas and vulnerable groups. Schools should strengthen the equipment and update of technical equipment, to provide good learning conditions for students. At the same time, technical training and guidance for students and parents will be provided to help them better adapt to the online education model. Online education platforms should simplify the registration and use process, provide a variety of learning methods and learning resources to adapt to different technical levels, and reduce the impact of digital barriers[3].

By removing the technology gap and digital barriers, more people can be involved in online education and improve the penetration and equity of education.

2.3. Unbalance between Education Quality and Teachers

The imbalance between education quality and teachers is another important challenge for online education. Although online education provides more learning opportunities for students, the quality of online education is uneven due to the imbalance of educational resources and teachers[4].

First, the difference in the quality of education is reflected in different online education platforms. Due to the lack of unified standards and regulatory mechanisms, some online education platforms may have problems such as low curriculum quality, outdated teaching content or improper teaching methods. This not only affects the learning effect of students, but also may mislead students' learning direction and interest.

Secondly, the imbalance of teachers is also one of the key factors affecting the quality of online education. Some online courses may be taught by teachers with little experience and expertise, resulting in low quality of teaching. In addition, due to the uneven geographical and resource allocation, some excellent teachers may be concentrated in some areas or schools, making it difficult for students in other regions to enjoy quality educational resources[5].

In order to solve the imbalance of the quality between education and teachers, a series of measures need to be taken. The government should strengthen the supervision of online education platforms and formulate strict quality assessment standards to ensure that the quality of courses and teachers are qualified. At the same time, we will increase the investment in online education, provide more training and further study opportunities, and improve teachers' professional quality and teaching ability. Online education platforms should actively introduce high-quality educational resources, establish a perfect course audit mechanism, and ensure the quality and timeliness of course content. In addition, the platform should also strengthen the training and evaluation of teachers to improve their teaching level and professional quality.

By improving the quality and faculty of online education, it can further promote the realization of the equity of the education, and ensure that more students can enjoy high-quality educational resources and services.

3. Strategies to Address the Equity Problem of Online Education

3.1. Policy Support and Input at the Government Level

Policy support and input at the government level is one of the key factors of online education to promote educational equity. As the maker of education policy and the distributor of resources, the government has an important influence on the development of online education and the realization of educational equity.

First of all, the government should strengthen the policy guidance for online education, formulate relevant laws and regulations, and standardize the development of online education. This includes clarifying the status, qualification requirements of online education, curriculum quality standards and other aspects, to provide legal guarantee for the development of online education[6].

Secondly, the government should increase the investment in online education and improve the supply of educational resources. By setting up special funds and providing financial subsidies, we will support the construction and operation of online education platforms and encourage the sharing of high-quality education resources. At the same time, we will strengthen educational support for poor areas and vulnerable groups, improve their learning conditions, and narrow the educational gap between regions and groups.

In addition, the government should also promote the development of education informatization, improve the network infrastructure, and improve the coverage rate and access speed of the Internet. This will not only benefit the popularization of online education, but also promote the development of distance education and digital learning, providing students with more diversified learning methods.

Policy support and input at the government level also need to pay attention to teacher training and educational research. The government should increase the investment in teacher training, improve their information literacy and online teaching ability, so that they can better adapt to the development of online education. At the same time, educational and scientific research institutions and universities are encouraged to carry out relevant research on online education, explore the laws and modes of online education, and provide scientific basis for the optimization and development of online education[7].

To sum up, the policy support and investment at the government level are of great significance for online education to promote educational equity. Only with the joint

efforts of the government, schools, online education platforms and all sectors of society can we promote the healthy development of online education and achieve the goal of educational equity.

3.2. Improvement of Teaching Quality of Teachers and Educational Institutions

The improvement of teaching quality of teachers and educational institutions is one of the important links of online education to promote educational equity. As the implementer of education, the teaching level and quality of teachers directly affect the learning effect and growth of students. Therefore, improving the teaching quality of teachers and educational institutions is of great significance to achieve educational equity.

First of all, teachers need to constantly improve their professional quality and teaching ability. With the rise of online education, teachers need to master the basic skills and methods of online teaching, such as the design and production of digital teaching resources, the design and implementation of online courses, etc. At the same time, teachers also need to pay attention to the subject frontier dynamics, update the teaching content and methods, and improve the teaching quality and effect.

Secondly, educational institutions should strengthen the training and further training of teachers. The educational institution will improve teachers' online teaching skills and curriculum design skills by holding regular training and seminars related to online education. These initiatives will ensure that teachers are equipped with the necessary knowledge and skills to effectively deliver online courses. In addition, educational institutions can also cooperate with universities and research institutions to jointly carry out scientific research projects of online education, explore the rules and modes of online education, and provide teachers with more abundant learning resources and professional development opportunities.

In addition to the improvement of teachers' personal ability, educational institutions also need to establish a sound teaching quality evaluation and monitoring mechanism. Through formulating scientific and reasonable evaluation standards and methods, teachers' teaching process and effect are regularly evaluated, and problems are found in time and improvement measures are taken. At the same time, educational institutions can also introduce third-party evaluation institutions to conduct objective and fair evaluation of teaching quality and promote the continuous improvement of teaching quality [8].

In addition, teachers and educational institutions also need to pay attention to students' learning needs and development. The educational institution will take students as the center, paying attention to their learning progress and feedback. By doing so, the institution will be able to timely adjust teaching strategies and methods to improve students' learning effect and satisfaction. At the same time, teachers can also provide targeted teaching services for students with different needs through online tutoring, personalized guidance and other ways to promote the personalized development of students.

To sum up, improving the teaching quality of teachers and educational institutions plays a key role in promoting educational equity in online education. Only by continuously improving the teaching level and professional quality of teachers, establishing a perfect teaching quality evaluation and monitoring mechanism, and paying attention to the learning needs and development of students, can the goal of educational equity be truly realized.

3.3. Responsibilities and Actions of Online Education Platforms

As the provider of online education, online education platform plays an important responsibility and role in promoting educational equity. The platform not only needs to provide high-quality educational resources and services, but also needs to pay attention to the issue of educational equity, and take a series of measures to narrow the educational gap between regions, groups and individuals.

First of all, online education platforms should actively expand their business scope and cover high-quality education resources to a wider range of regions and groups. Educational institutions and organizations should collaborate with local governments, schools, and other stakeholders to improve the accessibility and penetration of educational resources. By developing online education programs tailored to different regions and groups, they can ensure that quality education is available to a wider audience regardless of geographical constraints. At the same time, the platform can also use the advantages of the Internet to break geographical restrictions and provide equal learning opportunities for students in different regions[9].

Secondly, online education platforms should pay attention to the educational needs of vulnerable groups and provide targeted support and services. For example, for students in poor and rural areas, the platform can provide free or preferential educational resources to lower the learning threshold; for students with disabilities, the platform can provide barrier-free courses and learning tools to protect their learning rights and interests. In addition, the platform can also provide more learning opportunities and help for the vulnerable groups by carrying out public welfare activities and volunteer projects.

Online education platforms should also strengthen the audit and management of course quality and teachers' qualifications. The educational institution will establish a perfect course audit mechanism to ensure the quality and timeliness of course content. Additionally, measures will be taken to strengthen the examination and training of teachers' qualifications in order to improve their teaching level and professional quality. At the same time, the platform can introduce user evaluation and feedback mechanism, allowing students to evaluate and feedback on curriculum quality and teacher teaching, and promote the continuous improvement and improvement of curriculum and teachers.

Finally, online education platforms should pay attention to students' learning needs and development, and provide personalized learning services and support. Through big data analysis and artificial intelligence technology, we can understand students' learning habits and needs, and recommend suitable learning resources and paths for them. At the same time, the platform can also provide online tutoring, answering questions and other services to help students solve problems and difficulties in learning [10].

To sum up, online education platforms have an important responsibility and role in promoting educational equity. Only by actively expanding the business scope, paying attention to the needs of vulnerable groups, strengthening the management of curriculum quality and teacher qualification, and providing personalized learning services and support, can we truly realize the universal benefit and fairness of online

education.

4. Conclusion

As an emerging form of education, online education provides a convenient way for people to learn, but it also brings new challenges to educational equity. To address these challenges, strategy studies will require multiple levels. First of all, the government should increase policy support and investment in online education, formulate relevant laws and regulations, standardize the development of online education, improve the supply of educational resources, and pay special attention to the education support of poor areas and vulnerable groups. Secondly, online education platforms should actively expand their business scope, cover high-quality education resources to a wider range of regions and groups, and pay attention to the educational needs of vulnerable groups, and provide targeted support and services. The platform should also strengthen the audit and management of course quality and teachers' qualifications, and provide personalized learning services and support. In addition, teachers and educational institutions should constantly improve their professional quality and teaching ability, establish a sound teaching quality evaluation and monitoring mechanism, and pay attention to students' learning needs and development. To sum up, only the joint efforts of the government, schools, online education platforms and all sectors of society can promote the healthy development of online education and achieve the goal of educational equity. Solving the problem of online education equity requires long-term efforts and continuous improvement, and requires continuous attention and active participation of all parties.

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