

# Application of Online Teaching on Adult Education

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**Abstract.** With the rapid development of computer technology, multi-media technology and communication technology, online teaching becomes a new and popular teaching model and method. The application of online teaching on adult education can improve teaching quality and lower teaching costs, thus presenting very bright future.

**Keywords:** online teaching, adult education, application

## 1. Introduction

Online teaching originates from England in the mid 19th century. Entering the 20th century, online teaching combines with telecommunication technologies, computer technologies, satellite network and communication network, and develops gradually into a new modern online education model. Online teaching is the way in which teachers online make vivid courseware to play or store in teaching school through multi-media and students can replay, learn or comprehend the courseware from downloading without limitations on space or time.[1] Then, teaching style is switched from teacher-based in tradition to student-based today. Education institutes place impact on students through studying material and corresponding services.

Governments in many countries have set developing and promoting online teaching as important strategic decisions, and is making and implementing specialized plans.

## 2. Characteristics of Online Teaching

### 2.1. Resources Utilization Maximization.[2]

All sorts of education resources flow through Internet beyond limitation of space and distances, making school education becomes open education which goes over school and radiate into more wide areas. Schools can make use of subject and education resources advantages and spread their best teachers and teaching achievements to the world through Internet.

### 2.2. Learning Behavior Autonomization.[2]

The apparent characteristic of the application of network technologies on education is: anyone can learn any course at any time or place, starting from any chapter. The fast and flexible “5 any” of online education reflects characteristics of autonomic learning and fully satisfies the needs of modern education and lifelong education.

### 2.3. Learning Style Interaction.[2]

All around communications between teachers and students, students and students, through networks shortens psychological distance between students and teachers, and increases the chances and scale of communication between them. The statistics in computers of type, numbers of people, times and so on of

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questions raised by students will make teacher know the difficult points, doubtful points and main problems, then they can guide their students better.

### **3. Advantages Of The Application Of Online Teaching On Adult Education**

With online teaching presenting the characteristics like: strong autonomy, resources optimized, resources shared, rich expressive, learners can choose freely with no time or space limit, creating new teaching mode for adult education.

#### **3.1. Crossing Borders Of Time And Space Of Teaching.[3]**

Online teaching no longer be confined to traditional corresponding education style. The application of network technologies creates Virtual University, Virtual Class and Virtual Teacher, which shortens the distances between teaching and learning. Learners can freely choose what, when and where to learn, as well as the progress of their study. Studying materials are developed by combined efforts of the most excellent subject experts, network teaching designers and multi-media technician, and taught by the most excellent teachers, thus all teaching information, resources and so on are shared.

#### **3.2. Constituting New Relationships Between Teaching And Learning.[3]**

In traditional education, relationships between teachers and students constitute that between teaching and learning. These eternal relationships affect the cultivation of creative mind and ability, and make learners rely on teachers. Online teaching changes those traditional relationships, by means of highlighting the function of educator groups, advanced technologies and information resources, and provides learners the best possible education. Communication between both sides varies from previous “face to face” to present utilization of real-time mutual communication technologies, including information communication technologies, e-mails, virtual dialogue and so on, which makes the relationships more virtual and intelligent.

#### **3.3. Improve Educational Efficiency. [3]**

Online teaching will be connected by teachers, students and multi-media CAI courseware. Students can either learn individually or discuss and communicate with teachers in “virtual classroom”. It presents the characteristics of beyond time and space, mutuality, share, punctuality, independence and so on. Traditional education generally undertakes the form of correspondence, thus lack competence in punctuality and mutuality with online teaching. The characteristics of online teaching make it brings revolutionary influences on the field of education. It offers learners extensive, fast, and cheap modern new education methods that increase greatly the efficiency.

#### **3.4. Reflecting The Personalization Of Studying.[4]**

One biggest drawback of traditional education is that it tries to specify students that are diverse in character, habits and interests with fixed, rigid and single educational modes. While online teaching highlights personalized learning and individual learning. Learners can join the class using different information tools, and search, visit and read many information resources as they will. Besides, they can also learn individually, expand studying environments according to their own ambition or interests, thus realizing studying personality.

#### **3.5. Fulfilling The Needs Of Information Society. [4]**

The need for lifelong education requires that studying must be a constant activity that lasts for lifelong. In information society, increasing new knowledge and technologies put higher demands on the studying of them. Workers must adjust to new society status and try to refresh their knowledge and abilities to meet vocational needs and fast-changing working environments. Online teaching utilize the advanced information technologies, mobile communication technologies and Internet technologies to rapidly refresh teaching and studying materials and satisfy the needs of learners.

#### **3.6. Making Teaching Resources Shared And Teaching Input Minimized. [4]**

Online teaching provides learners the most abundant studying information, changing learning from passively memorizing outer information into actively choosing material for studying. Substantially, online

learning broke the limits of space, time and distances, and school do not have to arrange classrooms, students can avoid the costs of transportation, board and lodging and so on. Then teaching activities are spread to the whole nation even the whole world, and education resources are shared by anyone.

Online teaching is a key part of modern education. Its appearance changes the way of teaching and management, providing more flexible space, more resources and better services, and makes education more efficient, studying more mutual, and gives adult education a brighter future. It becomes a common trend in international education.

#### **4. Problems Existing In The Application Of Online Teaching On Adult Education**

After many years of development, although many achievements, but due to many factors or limitations, there are still many problems as follows:

##### **4.1. Online Teaching Hardware Development Lacks Plantation, Education Funds Irrationally Occupied. [5]**

Generally, while purchasing devices for multi-media classrooms, school do in the same standard provided by bid companies. While the classrooms increase, a whole set of devices must be added, creating a cost that is a burden for not so rich schools. Furthermore, connecting and controlling procedures of the devices are complex and broke down easily. Not all teachers are fully aware of the devices and may misuse them, this may weakens the effect of multi-media teaching, and increase maintenance costs.

##### **4.2. Poor Management Makes Human Resources Wasted And The Effect Of Online Teaching Weakened. [5]**

Presently, almost all adult school set up audiovisual education divisions, which share the same function but the titles. But these divisions now almost develop into device management department. Staffs in the divisions perform the function of looking after the devices while there is no class, opening the door and turning on the devices when there are teaching missions. No role by the staffs is played in modern education. As time pasts, multi-media classrooms and corresponding staffs are getting more and more, less time and energy are poured into the teaching and scientific research, and the advantages of online teaching are not used to promote the development of education and teaching methods.

##### **4.3. Low Utilization Effect Of The Online Teaching Devices Creates Implicit Wastes. [6]**

Here the utilization effect refers not to the utilization frequency of the devices, but the effect of the devices on practical teaching. The role of the devices and courseware are auxiliary, while that of teachers are decisive. Now, that many schools require teachers must use multi-media courseware in the class is a reflect of emphasize of online education and modern education development.

##### **4.4. Conservative Management Ideas Hinder The Cultivation Of Students. [6]**

Presently, most managers focus too much on the maintenance of the devices, while seldom think of making use of them to better serve the students. In reality, no unplanned utilization of the devices are allowed, students are saw as destroyers rather than those to be served. This is most obviously shown in computer lab management. Students we trained are those who nothing but turning on or off the computers, printing words. Therefore we must encourage quality education as well as the idea of serve the students heart and soul, and modify the system and idea of teaching system.

#### **5. Summary**

Online teaching plays a great role in adult education, providing an open platform, and an encouraging studying environment for the students to learn well individually, and gives new birth to adult education. For better development of online education, more research and practice are needed.

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