Students' Conflict Attitudes Towards Online Learning and Traditional Learning at Al-Baha University During the Outbreak of Covid-19 Pandemic

Tahany Abdelhady Abdelrazek Kol

ABSTRACT

The recent paper aims at investigating students' conflict attitudes towards online learning comparing to traditional learning at Al-Baha University during the outbreak of Covid 19 pandemic. A questionnaire was used to measure students' attitudes towards traditional and online learning. It is composed of 29 items. The questionnaire was distributed on 238 students online. Data was collected and analyzed using SPSS. The findings showed that students like the experience of online learning as it has many advantages such as saving and organizing their time, getting rid of shyness in traditional classroom, review their lectures through recorded lectures and exchanging information with their colleagues. However, they could not see online learning mode as an alternative for Traditional learning. For them, traditional learning provides them with an appropriate environment for learning, competition and communication with their teachers and colleagues. Online learning can go in parallel with traditional learning but not as an alternative. Recommendation and suggestions offered at the end of the paper.

Keywords: online learning – traditional learning.

Classification: FOR Code : 930199

Language: English

Students' Conflict Attitudes Towards Online Learning and Traditional Learning at Al-Baha University During the Outbreak of Covid-19 Pandemic

Tahany Abdelhady Abdelrazek Kol

ABSTRACT

The recent paper aims at investigating students' conflict attitudes towards online learning comparing to traditional learning at Al-Baha University during the outbreak of Covid 19 pandemic. A questionnaire was used to measure students' attitudes towards traditional and online learning. It is composed of 29 items. The questionnaire was distributed on 238 students online. Data was collected and analyzed using SPSS. The findings showed that students like the experience of online learning as it has many advantages such as saving and organizing their time, getting rid of shyness in traditional classroom, review their lectures through recorded lectures and exchanging information with their colleagues. However, they could not see online learning mode as an alternative for Traditional learning. For them, traditional learning provides them with an appropriate environment for learning, competition and communication with their teachers and colleagues. Online learning can go in parallel with traditional learning but not as an alternative. Recommendation and suggestions offered at the end of the paper.

I. INTRODUCTION

Methods of learning have been varied from a long time, from traditional learning, blended learning and e-learning. Despite this variety, most countries still depend completely on traditional learning, face to face instruction in which teacher or instructor meet his students in one physical place, the classroom. For extra courses or desire for improvement in one or more skills, learners sought to e-learning and specially if their circumstances are not so appropriate to go every day for school or university to have traditional learning. In any case, learners have different options to choose what is appropriate for them.

II. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Suddenly with the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic, and quarantine, students and teachers had to meet online to have their learning. Students at Al Baha University, suddenly found themselves are obliged to have their learning online through virtual classes, upload their assignments on a specific educational platform (Rafed), having oral discussion with their instructor online, and take quizzes and tests online. Most of them have no experience or previous training in doing these tasks. As teachers, we find students as if they are in a dilemma. From this situation, the researcher tried to explore students' attitudes toward online learning in contrast to traditional learning, virtual classrooms in contrast to face to face lecture with the instructor.

<div style="writing-mode: vertical">London Journal of Research in Humanities and Social Sciences</div>

III.   QUESTIONS OF THE STUDY

1. What are the students' attitudes towards online learning?
2. What are the students' attitudes towards traditional learning?
3. What are the good and bad points of online learning from students' point of view?
4. Which mode of learning, online or traditional, is more effective in learning from students' point of view?
5. Does online learning is more effective in teaching specific courses from students' point of view?

IV.   PARTICIPANTS OF THE STUDY

Students at Al Baha University represent the population of the study. 238 students were chosen randomly from college of Arts and Humanities, Al-Baha University, to involve in the study.

V.   INSTRUMENTS OF THE STUDY

An online questionnaire was designed by the researcher to explore students' attitudes towards traditional learning and online learning generally and specifically about traditional classroom and virtual classrooms. The questionnaire includes 29 items. 26 items were designed according to Likert scale, strongly agree, agree, neutral, disagree, and strongly agree. Two items, are essay questions, require an answer from the participants about two good things and two bad things of online learning and virtual classroom. The last item is a choice question, in which participants need to choose between which mode of learning they prefer, online learning or traditional learning. The questionnaire was distributed on the participants online.

Reliability of the questionnaire was measured, and it was high. The value of Cronbach Alpha was (,90). The validity of the questionnaire was also measured.

VI.   LITERATURE REVIEW

With the revolution of technology, modes of learning have been varied, traditional, e-learning, or blended learning) and there is a proliferation of e-learning courses. A lot of people sought to e-learning to improve certain skills and for certain circumstances that stuck their path in regular or traditional learning, they sought to e-learning. Each mode of learning has its pro and cons. But when you have the choice, there is no problem. The problem occurs when you find yourself have to get your education through a specific mode of learning.

6.1 Traditional learning

Traditional learning almost always involves a 'sage-on-the-stage', who is the teacher, communicating with a group of students in a brick and mortar facility. The students gather together in physical classrooms within the facility during a certain timeframe (e.g. 8am-2pm) to learn about specific topics, subjects or get specific hands-on job training and experience. (Robbins,2019) While many schools are incorporating more and more technology into the physical classrooms to enhance learning, handwritten note-taking, along with some assignments and exams are still often required to be completed with pen and paper. The curriculum and lessons are typically based on a standardized and government approved textbook, which the teacher and students work through.

6.1.1 Advantages of Traditional Learning

Traditional learning has many advantages as Robins (2019), and Erstad (2017), and Andriotis (2016) confirmed:

1. Traditional learning allows students and instructors face-to-face learning: so, they get to know each other much better.
2. Traditional learning Creates good routines**:** For many children and young adults, the discipline of following a daily school schedule establishes important routines and sets them up for success as a working adult.

Students' Conflict Attitudes Towards Online Learning and Traditional Learning at Al-Baha University During the Outbreak of Covid-19 Pandemic

14   Volume 20 | Issue 10 | Compilation 1.0

© 2020 London Journals Press

3. Hands-on examples**:** Educators have the chance to provide students with real life examples they can touch and interact with. This is a crucial element for hands-on learners.
4. Teaches good social skills: The idea of being put into a class with people of all different backgrounds and personality types allows for countless social opportunities that you can't experience in an online format.
5. Better for physical health**:** Students are way more likely to get physical exercise if they have scheduled time carved out each day to do so, have a campus gym nearby.

6.1.2 Disadvantages of Traditional Learning

1. No flexible hours: Teachers and students might find the strict schedule of the educational institution difficult to keep if they have multiple commitments or other jobs.

2. Commuting: Driving back and forth to the facility every day takes up a lot of time for both educators and learners. Time and money on gas, vehicle maintenance or public transit will be spent towards getting you to the school.

3. Larger student loans: Piggybacking off of the last point, the loans taken out by students who do traditional learning in-person will be much greater due to living costs (residence or off-campus), commuting and more expensive tuition.

4. Passive listening: When educators deliver a lecture or lesson at the front of the class, students can be left listening passively and the potential for disengagement skyrockets.

6.2 Online Learning

According to Robins (2019) and Andriotis (2016), Online learning is an environment where the participants or students' learning takes place in an online format. A teacher will upload or post content on a learning management software (LMS) and share it with the class digitally. The learning content can be accessed on devices that are connected to the internet.

This online learning content can be accessed at any place, at any time, meaning students don't need to be in the same physical place to take the same course.

In many cases for online learning, the students aren't directly interacting with the teacher or faculty. Many LMSs offer students the ability to interact with teachers via chat room, forums or emails. Some LMSs also offer live online streams where students can engage with the teacher as they instruct on the course in a live setting.

6.2.1. Advantages of Online Learning

According to Dexway Team (n.d), Alsaaty, F.M, Carter, E., Abrahams, D. & Alshameri, F. (2016) and Andriotis (2016), online learning enclose many advantages:
1. Flexibility: Instructors can have their learning in any time and in any place, so this is a good option for those who have commitment of time with family or work.
2. Assessment, online learning can help in changing and supporting the idea of ongoing assessment. (Williams, &et.al, 2006)
3. Students learn more than they do in traditional courses
4. Online courses have increased student retention rates
5. Online learning increases students' interaction with their teachers especially for shy students.

So, there are many aspects that vary in these two modes of learning. These different aspects can be summarized in the following points: classroom discussion (in online learing students share much conversation with their teachers than in (traditional learning.), the learning process learning takes place in groups or individually not just for the whole class in traditional classroom), the subject matter(emphases in the learning or in other words in traditional learning, students learn "what" but in online learning, students learn "how"), motivation (how students feel motivation towards the learning process), teacher's role (teacher- centered learning or student-centered -learning), location of learning (at schools or in

Students' Conflict Attitudes Towards Online Learning and Traditional Learning at Al-Baha University During the Outbreak of Covid-19 Pandemic

© 2020 London Journals Press

Volume 20 | Issue 10 | Compilation 1.0

15

any place) and lesson structure (stable or changeable according to the group dynamics).

There are many studies that have been conducted on online learning or traditional learning and showed many results concerning the effectiveness of online and traditional learning. The study of Elfaki & et.al. (2019) showed that there was a significant difference in learning outcomes besides positive attitudes between online and traditional learners which can be a viable alternative learning method for higher education. It also contributes to the current literature in the area of online instruction and E-learning.

The findings of Stack's study (2015) find that there is not a significant difference in the final exam scores of the students in online and traditional sections of the course. Online students often have advantages on exams including taking exams on an open book environment and with the help of other students in unsupervised environments. The present study minimized opportunities for cheating on exams by calling back the online students to campus to take all exams in a supervised environment. In previous research the reported gap between learning outcomes in traditional vs. online classes may be, in part, an artifact of corresponding differences in the level of cheating.

Alsaaty & et.al (2016) proved from their study that students have different opinion towards online learning and traditional learning and that agree with the results of my study.

Al-Hassan (n.d), In e-Learning courses, learners may have more diverse backgrounds than those in traditional courses. Thus, selecting a learning path that is suitable for an individual learner is recognized as an interesting research area in e-learning systems. The writer wonders about the feasibility of e-learning and the time allocated to it. It is admitted that online learners may be more sophisticated than traditional classroom learners.

VII. METHODOLOGY

The study adopted the descriptive design to explore students' conflict attitudes toward Online Learning and its counterpart traditional learning, traditional classroom and virtual classroom. An online questionnaire including 29 items was distributed on students of Al-Baha University, College of Arts and Humanities, in different levels. The data was collected and analyzed using SPSS program.

VIII. FINDINGS OF THE STUDY AND INTERPRETATION OF THE RESULTS

The finding of the study (as shown in Appendix. 1) show students' attitudes towards the variables of the study. The findings can be analyzed in the light of the questions of the study.

8.1 First. What are the students' attitudes towards online learning?

Students' attitudes have varied between positive and negative towards online learning as it provides them with many privileges, but at the same time, it encloses on some negative sides also. These privileges and negative sides are as following from students' point of view:

1. 46% of students assured that online learning helps them to study at home and so it saves their time and moreover, 36.5% agree that it helps them to organize their time.
2. 52% of students agree that virtual classroom helps them to get rid of their shyness that they face in traditional classroom.
3. 45% of students agree that online learning is good for them in handing their assignment and be sure that the assignments have already been handed to their teachers. Also 49% agree that they could send their works fast online.
4. However according to the percentages of students' responses to the questionnaire, they 41% of students strongly agree that online learning generally and virtual classroom specifically is not good for specific courses such as research methods. They can't follow

Students' Conflict Attitudes Towards Online Learning and Traditional Learning at Al-Baha University During the Outbreak of Covid-19 Pandemic

16 Volume 20 | Issue 10 | Compilation 1.0 © 2020 London Journals Press

their teacher's explanation through virtual classroom.

5. Also, online learning is not good for social life as it prevents them from interacting with colleagues and making friend. 47.5% of students assured that.

8.2 Second, what are the students' attitudes towards traditional learning?

On the other side, students' responses showed that they also had conflicting views towards the second mode of learning, traditional learning as following:

1. 54.6% of students (agree and strongly agree), confirmed that through traditional learning and traditional classroom, they feel comfortable and unpressured.
2. Through traditional classroom, 54.3% of students agree that they can communicate easily with their teacher, face to face and this give them confidence in their level and skills in the learned course.
3. Also, 48.5% of students declared that this mode of learning, traditional learning is so effective as students see each other and can compete to get high grades. Competition is a good trait in the process of learning.

8.3 Third, what are the good and bad points of online learning from students' point of view?

Students mentioned from their experience in online learning through this critical time of the outbreak of Covid-19, what they see good and bad in online learning.

8.3.1 Good things of online learning

1. They can study at home and so saves their time and effort.
2. They have the chance to review their courses through the recorded lectures.
3. It is easy for them to access the lecture content.
4. They can have their learning in any time and in any place.

5. They give them a chance to participate equally, improve their writing by using keyboard.
6. It helps them to get rid of their shyness and write their answers easily without mistakes
7. They can hand their assignments faster.
8. It takes no efforts Using modern technology which is cheap.
9. It Helps them to share information and correct mistakes. exchange files related to the subject to increase learning and understanding
10. It helps you in pursuing your assignment and get confirmation if it is handed or not and check your grades.

8.3.2 Bad things of online learning and virtual classroom

1. There are Pressure and many duties and assignments.
2. The internet creates many problems in accessing.
3. Sometimes, they can't not follow the teacher's explanation.
4. Time of some lectures is not appropriate.
5. In virtual classes, they are not enthusiastic.
6. Sometimes, it costs so much.
7. Sometimes they feel lost through lessons and there is a lack of cooperation from the teacher.
8. In virtual classroom, the sound of the teacher, is suddenly disappeared for no reason and they feel lost.
9. cheating in quizzes or exams, is easy through online learning.
10. There is no free time for some, and sometimes they can feel lazy.
11. Time is sometimes wasted and Teachers keep change classes time.
12. Failure to send homework correctly.

8.4 Fourth: which mode of learning, online or traditional, is more effective in learning from students' point of view?

When students are asked, which mode of learning they prefer, students' responses are varied, (46.5%) preferred traditional learning, (29%)

Students' Conflict Attitudes Towards Online Learning and Traditional Learning at Al-Baha University During the Outbreak of Covid-19 Pandemic

© 2020 London Journals Press
Volume 20 | Issue 10 | Compilation 1.0
17

preferred online learning, and (24.5%) preferred both. Generally, students prefer traditional learning because it is the method of learning they are used to it. But suddenly because of the outbreak of covid19, and the sudden situation they face to have their whole learning through virtual classroom, caused confusion to them. They like the experience of online learning, but they can't depend on it totally. So, when students were asked if they see online learning as an alternative for traditional learning, (45%) of them disagreed, but when they were asked if online learning can be used in balance with the traditional learning and never replace it, (50%) of them agreed. That means they like online learning for its advantages, but they can't depend on it completely. This conflict attitudes even towards online learning has been proved by Hanny & Newvine (2006).

8.5 Fifth, does online learning is more effective in teaching specific courses from students' point of view?

Moreover, they though that online learning is not so appropriate for some courses such as research methods which needs interaction in traditional classroom and also courses that needs practice.

Students' attitudes towards these two modes of learning are sometimes conflicting. They like the privileges of both the types of learning online and traditional. But they can't depend on one type completely to have their education. Also lack of training on how to use some educational platforms to communicate with their teachers, to upload their assignments or doing some online test, due to students' conflict ideas towards the effectiveness of both types learning.

IX. CONCLUSION

The present study aimed at exploration of students' attitudes towards online learning and its counterpart traditional learning during this critical time of the outbreak of covid- 19 at Al-Baha University. The analyzed data got from an online questionnaire revealed students' conflict attitudes towards the two suggested modes of

learning. They preferred each type of learning for its privileges, but they can't depend on one specific mode of learning. In sum, they preferred both modes of learning to go side by side so they can make use of the advantages of both online and traditional learning to achieve best level of learning.

X. RECOMMENDATIONS

The present study recommended to use online learning management in colleges beside traditional learning. Classes are distributed along the term into traditional classes and virtual classroom. Students should be encouraged to submit their assignments through certain online applications.

Students should be trained on how to use online applications or programs for learning through workshops by experts.

Blended learning can be a good solution to start with before moving to online learning completely.

REFERENCES

1. Al-Hassan, A. (n.d) A comparison of e- learning and Traditional classroom Teaching.*https://www.uop.edu.jo/download /Research/members/67_1262_Ahma.pdf* 4th February, 2020

2. Alsaaty, F.M, Carter, E., Abrahams, D. & Alshameri, F. (2016). Traditional Versus Online Learning in Institutions of Higher Education: Minority Business Students' Perceptions. *Business and Management Research*, Vol. 5, No. 2; 2016. URL: http://dx.doi.org/10.5430/bmr.v5n2p31. 3rd March,2020.

3. Andriotis, N. (2016). Online Learning Vs Traditional Formats: The big four Benefits of e-learning. *https://www.efrontlearning.com/ blog/2016/09/online-learning-vs-traditional- benefits-elearning.html.*3rd March,2020.

4. Dexway team (2019). 5 Reasons Why Online Learning is More Effective. Retrieved from https://www.dexway.com/5-reasons-why-onli ne-learning-is-more-effective/ 1st May, 2020.

Students' Conflict Attitudes Towards Online Learning and Traditional Learning at Al-Baha University During the Outbreak of Covid-19 Pandemic

18 | Volume 20 | Issue 10 | Compilation 1.0

© 2020 London Journals Press

5. Elfaki, N.K., Abduraheem, I. & Abdlrahim, R. (2019). Impact of E-Learning vs Traditional Learning on Student's Performance and Attitude. *International Journal of Medical Research & Health Sciences*, 2019, 8(10): 76-82 ISSN No: 2319-5886.Available online at *www.ijmrhs.com*. 29th March,2020.

6. Erstad, W. (2017). Online vs. Traditional Education: What You Need to Know. https://www.rasmussen.edu/student-experience/college-life/online-vs-traditional-education-answer-never-expected/. 10th March,2020.

7. Hannay, M. & Newvine, T. (2006). Perceptions of Distance Learning: A Comparison of Online And Traditional Learning. *MERLOT Journal of Online Learning and Teaching*. Vol. 2, No. 1. *https://jolt.merlot.org/ documents/MS05011. pdf*. 1st March.2020

8. Rashty, D. (2016). Traditional Learning vs. eLearning.http://www.click4it.org/images/f/f 5/Traditional_Learning_vs_eLearning.pdf.10 th, May,2020.

9. Robbins, K. (2019). Online Learning Vs Traditional Learning: Considerations for Educators and Students. Retrieved from https://www.voices.com/blog/online-learning -vs- traditional learning/. 2nd may,2020

10. Stake, S. (2015). Learning Outcomes in an online vs traditional course. *International Journal for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning*. Volume 9, Number 1, https://doi.org/10.20429/ijsotl.2015.090105. 29th, March,2020

11. Williams. D.D., Howell. S.L., & Hersley, M.H. (2006). Online Assessment, Measureme and Evaluation Emerging Practices. *Turkish online Journal of Distance Education*. ISSN 1302-6488, *Vol*:7 (1). Pp 181-184. 6th March,2020.

Appendix (1)

Students' Responses on the questionnaire for their attitudes towards Online and Traditional learning

No.	Items	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	disagree	Strongly disagree	Total
1	Through Online learning, you have the chance to study in your own time.	59	27	42	65	45	232
		24.5%	12	17.5%	27%	19%	100%
2	Through online learning, you are so motivated.	84	55	44	32	23	238
		35.5%	23%	18.5%	13.5%	9.5%	100%
3	Online learning helps you to organize your time and make use of your free time.	61	48	77	32	19	237
		26.5%	20%	32%	13.2%	8.5%	100%
4	virtual classes help you to get rid of your shyness.	79	44	52	34	25	234
		33%	19%	22.5%	14.5%	11%	100%
5	You can follow your teacher's explanation during virtual class and never get lost.	58	56	62	29	30	235
		24%	23.1	27.6	12.9	12.4	100%
6	It is easy for you to communicate with your teacher through virtual classes.	52	52	61	50	22	237
		22%	22%	25.2	20.9	9.9	100%
7	Sending my assignment and my tasks are so easy through online learning.	64	41	62	44	25	236
		27.5%	17.5%	26%	18.5%	10.5%	100%
8	I prefer getting my education through virtual classes.	69	42	51	39	36	237

Students' Conflict Attitudes Towards Online Learning and Traditional Learning at Al-Baha University During the Outbreak of Covid-19 Pandemic

© 2020 London Journals Press   Volume 20 | Issue 10 | Compilation 1.0   19

London Journal of Research in Humanities and Social Sciences

		29%	18%	21.5%	16.5%	15.%	100%
9	Online learning is so effective because I can finish their homework quickly	69	49	53	35	32	238
		29.5%	20.5%	22%	14.5%	13.5	100%
10	Online learning prevents me from interacting with my colleagues.	66	46	69	29	27	237
		28.5%	19%	28.5%	12.5%	11.5%	100%
11	Online learning is not appropriate with courses that need practice and interacting with teacher or classmates.	50	48	75	37	26	236
		21.5%	20.5%	31%	16%	11%	100%
12	It is better to use virtual classes to teach Research method course.	54	56	72	28	26	236
		22.5%	24%	30.5%	12%	11%	100%
13	I prefer getting my education through traditional classes.	64	41	61	34	35	235
		27.1%	17.5%	26%	14.4%	15%	100%
14	I feel more comfortable and unpressured in traditional classes.	84	46	50	25	33	238
		35.1%	19.5%	20.9%	10.5%	14%	100%
15	I understand more my lessons in traditional classes.	78	55	44	32	28	237
		32.8	23.1	18.5%	13.4	11.8	100%
16	I can communicate easily with my teachers in traditional classes.	84	46	50	25	33	238
		35.1	19.2	20.9	10.5	13.8	100%
17	Traditional classes waste my time.	83	47	44	34	29	237
		35.1%	19.7%	18.5%	14.5%	12.2%	100%
18	Seeing my teachers face to face and asking her/ his anything give me confidence in my skills concerning the course.	50	62	55	41	30	238
		21%%	26%	23%	17.4%	12.6%	100%
19	Traditional learning is so effective because I can finish my homework before due time.	53	64	54	43	20	234
		22.6%	27.2%	23%	18.3%	8.5%	100%
20	Traditional learning helps me to make friends.	42	62	67	43	23	237
		17.6%	26.4%	28.2%	18.1%	9.7%	100%
21	Traditional learning helps me to compete with other colleagues.	82	32	55	36	31	236
		35%	13.5%	23.2%	15.2%	13.1%	100%
22	It is not appropriate to use virtual classes to teach Research method course.	47	60	70	37	21	235
		20%	25.5%	29.8%	15.7%	9%	100%
23	Traditional classes are good for Research method course.	54	43	64	47	29	237
		23%	18.2%	26.9%	19.7%	12.2%	100%
24	Traditional classes re more appropriate for teaching essay writing course.	71	44	63	32	27	237
		30%	18.8%	26.5%	13.4%	11.3%	100%
25	Online learning is a good alternative for traditional learning.	63	67	48	32	27	237
		26.9%	28.5%	20%	13.3%	11.3%	100%
26	Online learning can be used beside traditional learning, but never replace it.	84	33	53	29	38	237
		35.5%	14%	22.3%	12.2%	16%	100%

Students' Conflict Attitudes Towards Online Learning and Traditional Learning at Al-Baha University During the Outbreak of Covid-19 Pandemic

27	Mention good things about virtual classes.						
28	Mention two bad things about virtual classes.						
29	Which one do you like, traditional learning or online learning?	109 Traditional 46.5%		70 online 29%		Mix 58 24.5%	237 100%

Students' Conflict Attitudes Towards Online Learning and Traditional Learning at Al-Baha University During the Outbreak of Covid-19 Pandemic

© 2020 London Journals Press   Volume 20 | Issue 10 | Compilation 1.0   21

London Journal of Research in Humanities and Social Sciences

London Journal of Research in Humanities and Social Sciences

This page is intentionally left blank

Students' Conflict Attitudes Towards Online Learning and Traditional Learning at Al-Baha University During the Outbreak of Covid-19 Pandemic

22 | Volume 20 | Issue 10 | Compilation 1.0

© 2020 London Journals Press