

Digital Skills and Research Methods
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Executive summary

The online and the virtual process have taken a lot of trolls over the world due to the COVID-19 process. Even the process of education has been turned into an online process. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the online process has been taken as a means to provide education. However, there are a lot of impacts on the students due to this online learning process. In this assignment the impact and how this online process is affecting the students will be explained.

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Component 2

Introduction

The current situation of the pandemic has affected the education process of the whole world. In order to avoid the physical touch and connection, the practice of the physical lecture has been changed to the online process. The virtual process of the online process has been accepted as the online way to provide the students with the necessary education in the ongoing pandemic. However, there are many problems, good points as well as the impact of this online process on the students. The process of online lectures and education process have had good as well as bad effects on the students. In this assignment, the impact of the Virtual learning environment will be discussed and analyzed.

Impact of Virtual Learning Environment

The virtual learning process is related to the online process of the learning and the education process. Due to the current pandemic situation, the whole process of education has been shifted to the online process. This is one of the best ways that can be used in the process of providing education to the people. The use of zoom and google meetings has increased with the process of online lectures and working process. However, there are a lot of impacts on the process, and they are as follows (Cheung and Piliouras, 2019).

More interesting

The use of the 3D models and design has increased in the virtual learning environment which is making the learning process for the students a lot more interesting. The various designs and templates used in the presentation for the online lecture have helped a lot in the process of making the online lectures a lot more interesting. To make the online lecture a lot more interesting the teachers are using the best of these techniques to grab the attention of the students (Chyr *et al.*, 2017). Due to this virtual learning environment, it has become easy for the teachers to share any kind of videos and documenters with the students during the lectures which making the process of learning a lot more effective and interesting for the students. At the being of the online lecture, the students were not able to have a lot of interest in the online lecture due to the sudden change in the learning process. Hence to grab the attention of the students the teachers were very advised to use the design and the 3D models in the online lecture. This has helped a lot in grabbing the attention of the students and making the process of learning and teaching a lot more interesting. This is one of the impacts of the virtual learning environment.

Flexible to attend the lectures.

The process of the online lecture has allowed the student to attend the lecture from anywhere and anytime. This is helping a lot in the process of attending lectures a lot more. The students are finding it easy to attend the lecture from wherever and whenever they want. However, this is one of the plus points of the online lecture process. Any one of the students can attend the lecture from anywhere and anytime if they have a mobile phone and an internet connection (Raspopovic *et al.*, 2017). This has resulted in a good attendance of the students. Students are attending the lecture and doing all the necessary assignments allotted by the lectures and the teachers. This flexibility of the online process has impacted the attendance of the children as well as their academic studies. It can be said that at the time of the physical lecture the study process seemed to be very rigid but now due to the online lectures it has become quite flexible and interesting for the students.

No face-to-face interaction.

Due to the online process, there is no face-to-face interaction between the class and the students. The teachers and students are all bounded to the buttons and the working of the same. It has been seen that due to the online process of the lectures there is no interaction between the classmates and there is not a lot of interaction between the teachers and the students. This is also affecting the students and their confidence. There are a lot of students who are shy and not very confident to come up and speak in front of the whole class. This is affecting a lot to these kinds of students. They feel it is very difficult to unmute their buttons and talk in the online lectures (Zhao et al., 2020). This physical distance is putting off a lot of student mood. The enjoyment and the communication that the students use to get in the physical lectures are not provided in the online process. Students need to have the mental state and satisfaction of talking confidently and freely in online classes. This freedom and enjoyment are however not very much given to the student because of this online edutain process. This has impacted the communication process of the students. The students are losing their skills of communication due to the online education process (Chang et al., 2020). This will hamper a lot of the students when they must attend physical lectures or must communicate with anyone in the future. Hence one of the impacts of the online education process is on the communication skills of the students. Hence this is also one of the impacts on the online learning process.

Increasing students' technical skills

Many a time in the process of the online lectures there is a lot of glitches and challenges in the online lectures. There are a lot of technical issues that pop up here and there in the online process of education. To overcome most of these issues the students have started developing their skills in the process of working and developing. To overcome all the digital and the technical issues the students are learning a lot of ways to overcome them. This has proven effective in the process of increasing the digital and technical skills of the students. Also, the process of learning and education has become mostly all online (Dong *et al.*, 2020). The student is asked to prepare their presentation as well as type out the assignments. Which gives them a lot of knowledge of the technical issue. For overcoming these issues, the students are trying a basic troubleshooting process that has helped a lot in the process of developing their technical knowledge and skills. This is also one of the impacts of the online learning process.

Effects on the health of the students

The effects of the online process have mainly been seen on the health of the students. It has been seen that due to the online process the student's health is getting affected a lot. Mainly the sleeping habits of the students have been hampered due to this process. Many of the students

are from a foreign place and due to the change and the difference in the time most of the time the students must sacrifice their sleep. A bad sleeping habit is having a lot of problems with the health of the students. The students need to have a night of more sleep for their good and healthy habits (Pei *et al.*, 2019). This is one of the worst effects of the online learning process on children. Also, the long lecture has made the students sit in front of their laptops and phones. This is affecting the student's eyesight as well as their body position. The posture of the student's body has been affected a lot due to the online process. This is one of the biggest and the worst effects of the online learning process on the students. The health and the well-being of the students are one of the important things for the students. However, due to the online process, this is getting affected a lot.

Distraction

There are a lot of distracting factors in the online learning process that are affecting the attendance and the concentration of the students. Due to the different noise and another factor the students are getting a lot of distraction while working in the process. One of the major distractions in this process is the notification from the other social media sites. Students are addicted a lot to other social media sites and while the online lecture is going on the effects the pops of the notification are distracting the students (Alqurashi, 2019). As well as the noise in the background is also affecting the concentration of the students. It has become very difficult for the students to concentrate on the lectures with the other noises in their surroundings. Also, the different backgrounds of all the students in the zoom lecture have become one of the major distractions of the students. All these factors are affecting the concentration of the students and their working process in the same way.

All these seem to have the major impact on the students from the virtual learning process even in the University of Wales Trinity Saint David London Campus. All the students at the university have shared their thoughts and ideas through the service, and these are the major impacts on the students due to the online learning process.

Recommendation

The safety and the well-being of the students is one of the important things that need to be taken into consideration by the University. They need to make some changes in their pattern of the online learning process. The university should give flexible hours and working processes for the students. It is very necessary to make sure that the students are not having a bad impact due to the online lectures. They should try and make the learning process easy for the students (Muljana and Luo, 2019). Also, the University should come up with tricks and tactics

that will help a lot in building and an interactive section as well as communication among the students. There are a lot of technical glitches and problems that arise at the time of the online lecture. So, the teachers should record the lecture and share it with the students so that they can overcome the things that they have missed. Also, the students can use this lecture as their study material. This is also one of the things that can be adopted by the organization in the process of learning (Baticulon et al., 2021). Apart from this the teachers should encourage the students that are shy and ask them to come up with new ideas and speak in the online lectures. This will be of great help for all those students who are very shy to speak up. All these recommendations can be implemented by the employees in the process of making the online learning process a lot more effective and productive without giving anyone any kind of harm.

Conclusion

Online learning and a virtual learning environment are the only means of providing information and education to the students. It has been seen that due to the online process of learning there is a lot of impact on the students and their skills. At a point where the online process is having so many plus points, there are also some of the major bad effects of this online learning process. As much as this process has developed the interest and the attention of the students it is also harming their health and the University needs to make sure that they are using all the recommendations in the process of making the impact a lot better.

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Appendix

Appendix 1: Questionnaire

No	Question
1.	How has the online learning process benefited you?
2.	Is the process of the online process is having any kind of effect on your academic scores?
3.	Do you find the online lecture interesting?
4.	Does the online process I helping in better understanding?
5.	How do you overcome the technical issue in the online process?
6.	Have you think the technical issue are helping you to get more knowledge about the technical stuff?
7.	Do you find the online class interactive? If not, why?
8.	What do you think about the communication process of the online lecture?
9.	Is there any kind of impact on your health due to the online process?
10.	What is your major distraction in the online learning process?
11.	What are the changes that you will want to make in this online process?
12.	Do you find the online library useful?
13.	How many times have you used it?
14.	Do you prefer online lectures over the traditional process?