

ACTUAL PROBLEMS OF MODERN TEACHING METHODS IN THE DISTANCE EDUCATION

Z. Jumanazarova ¹

(Scientific supervisor: Ashurova Nigina Alimdjanovna)

Abstract:

The given article examines the current issues related to modern teaching methods in distance education systems. It describes the lack of personal interaction between teachers and students, insufficient student engagement, technical problems associated with access to equipment and the internet, as well as issues with the quality of education and assessment. Solutions to these problems are also provided to enhance the effectiveness and accessibility of distance education for all students.

Key words: distance education, the COVID-19, problems, prospects, the learning process, students

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Distance learning is an educational process involving telecommunication technologies aimed at providing learners with the opportunity to acquire the required information without direct contact with the teacher. The learning process can be synchronous or asynchronous and may serve as an independent form of education or a supplement to traditional forms (face-to-face, blended, distance or external).

Distance learning serves not only students but also professionals seeking to enhance their skills, as well as individuals unable to physically attend traditional educational institutions. Learning from home offers comfort, flexibility, and reduced fatigue, eliminating the need for commuting or dealing with traffic.

In recent years, active processes of educational technology development have been underway worldwide, with one manifestation being distance learning. In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic, affecting the entire world, and subsequent quarantines prompted the digitization of education. Many educational institutions, including schools and universities, had to quickly adapt to new conditions and transition to distance learning.

With the rapid advancement of technology and the widespread accessibility of the internet, distance education has emerged as a vital component of contemporary learning. Despite its growing popularity, however, there exist inherent challenges that impede its efficacy, alongside promising opportunities for further advancement in this realm of education.

Today, many universities and major corporations around the globe are adopting this approach to enhance the skills of their workforce, saving significant sums annually. Distance learning offers both organizational and economic benefits. Unlike traditional education, it doesn't require physical classrooms, boards, or desks, significantly reducing overhead costs. Instead, financial resources are primarily directed towards developing educational materials

¹ Jumanazarova Zulayxo Boynazar qizi, Student of Samarkand State Institute of Foreign Languages

and supporting internet connectivity, resulting in cost savings. Clear and comprehensive educational materials are paramount for maximizing student benefit.

So, what exactly is needed for effective distance learning? It involves an online interaction between instructors and students, facilitated by various tools such as communication platforms, distance learning resources, digital and traditional textbooks, audio-visual tutorials, online lessons, electronic libraries, assessments, and multimedia materials. Actually, access to a computer with internet connectivity is essential.

With distance learning, students are freed from the necessity of daily commutes to physical campuses. This flexibility also extends educational opportunities to individuals with mobility constraints, those living in remote areas, and working adults seeking to balance their professional and educational commitments.

Moreover, distance learning empowers adults to pursue education and skill development without disrupting their careers. They can even undertake multiple courses simultaneously, further optimizing their learning journey. Research indicates that distance education can be as effective as traditional methods, if not more so, as it encourages self-directed learning and engagement with modern technologies.

This mode of education effectively addresses resource shortages, as students receive study materials electronically, eliminating the need for physical textbooks. Additionally, the accessibility of distance learning is unparalleled. It eliminates transportation expenses and bureaucratic hurdles for international students, making education more inclusive and attainable for diverse populations.

Furthermore, evaluation in distance learning typically involves online assessments, alleviating the stress associated with traditional exams. Overall, distance learning offers a cost-effective, flexible, and accessible educational solution, supported by modern technology and tailored to meet the diverse needs of learners in the digital age.

Let's consider what problems teachers and students face during distance learning:

1. Limited personal interaction: A primary obstacle in distance education is the absence of direct interaction between educators and learners. Traditional forms of communication, such as face-to-face lectures and in-person discussions, are often replaced by digital interfaces, leading to a sense of detachment and hindering meaningful engagement.

2. Inadequate student engagement: Distance learning environments frequently struggle to captivate students due to the passive nature of instructional materials. The reliance on static resources like pre-recorded lectures and text-based content can diminish student involvement and motivation, thereby compromising learning outcomes.

3. Technical hurdles: Access to reliable technology and internet connectivity poses a significant challenge for many learners pursuing distance education. Disparities in hardware, software, and internet infrastructure can create barriers to participation and inhibit equal opportunities for all students.

4. Quality assurance: Ensuring the quality of education in distance learning settings remains a concern, as the absence of standardized assessment criteria and oversight mechanisms may result in variations in instructional quality and learning experiences across different platforms and institutions.

5. Assessment and feedback constraints: Effective evaluation of student progress and provision of timely feedback present logistical challenges in distance education. The lack of face-to-face interactions complicates the assessment process, potentially compromising the accuracy and depth of feedback provided to learners.

Distance education makes it possible to implement two basic principles of modern education – “education for all” and “education throughout life”.

Systematic measures for distance learning are being implemented in universities across our republic. The faculty of the International Islamic Academy of Uzbekistan is actively involved in this process. In this learning system, heightened personal responsibility and accountability are observed among both instructors and students, positively impacting the assimilation of new educational programs. Within a brief timeframe, our students have adeptly acquired skills such as gathering information from the internet and independently completing assigned tasks remotely. Furthermore, offline training sessions are conducted for academy students according to a set schedule, during which students are encouraged to actively participate in debates on various thematic issues. Additionally, academy students partake in international online olympiads and competitions, consistently achieving commendable rankings.

Let us list the prospects for distance education:

1. Interactive technological integration: The integration of interactive technologies, such as virtual reality (VR) and augmented reality (AR), holds immense potential for enhancing student engagement and facilitating immersive learning experiences in distance education settings.

2. Personalized learning platforms: Advancements in artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning algorithms enable the development of personalized learning platforms tailored to individual student needs and preferences, promoting adaptive and self-paced learning experiences.

3. Real-time collaboration tools: Real-time communication and collaboration tools facilitate synchronous interaction among students and instructors, fostering active participation, peer-to-peer learning, and immediate feedback in virtual learning environments.

4. Social media integration: Leveraging social media platforms as supplementary learning channels enhances connectivity and community-building among learners, enabling collaborative learning networks and knowledge-sharing communities to flourish.

5. Data-driven insights: Harnessing data analytics and learning analytics techniques empowers educators to derive actionable insights from student performance data, facilitating evidence-based decision-making and continuous improvement in instructional design and delivery.

In conclusion, while contemporary distance education confronts various challenges, it also presents promising prospects for innovation and improvement. By addressing existing limitations and capitalizing on emerging technologies and pedagogical approaches, educators can optimize distance learning experiences and unlock its full potential as a versatile and inclusive educational tool.

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