Online Education in the Post-epidemic Era

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Abstract

In 2020, due to the COVID-19 epidemic, many schools have been closed in China. Schools began to offer online courses all around the country. This large-scaled online education means that China is conducting the world's largest information-based teaching experiment and an open educational resources reform, which is an epoch-making event to improve teaching methods benefiting from information technology. What is of vital importance is that it accelerates the change of education concepts..With the reopening of primary and secondary schools, how will online education develop in the post-epidemic era? How can it blend with offline education perfectly? How will it promote educational reform fundamentally?

Keywords

COVID-19; online education; 5G.

1. Online Education Is A Massive Educational Experiment

Steve Jobs once asked, "Why have computers changed almost everything but influenced education little?"Can the massive online education during the epidemic answer Jobs' question?

During the epidemic, online education became a global experiment across borders and regions. However, we have only changed the form of education, but not the content of education. Big data, cloud computing and other technologies have not fully played their roles. With the ideal state of future online education in mind, the online education still has a long way to go.

The online education is a massive educational experiment. Education is future-oriented, but in practicing, the reform on teaching designs or teaching resources has lagged behind. Once the schools reopen, the passion for online education may fade. It is important to find the underlying reasons, such as teachers' lack of knowledge, technology or experience for online education, insufficient resources, limitations of online teaching platform, unjustified evaluation of online teaching, and so on. What we need to do next is to improve continuously so as to enhance the quality of education while blending online education and offline education.

2. The Upgrading of Education Needs the Support of 5G and Other Internet Technologies

There is no doubt that 5G will have a great impact on the future education. During the epidemic, three problems popped out.

1. Hardware is the biggest problem. For either live or recorded classes, hardware technology is far from sufficient and extremely expensive. In the future, the learning scene will be real, which may need further optimization of 5G technology.

2. Teaching resources are in short. At present, the vast majority of online courses only "transfer" the offline content onto the online screen, but there are few exploratory learning and cooperative communication. In the future, the premise of further blending of online and offline is to establish a "learning center".

At present, we have not really made good use of Internet technology. With the support of current technologies, we need to think further how to improve our education and fully realize the integration of online and offline learning centers.

The epidemic has improved users' awareness and acknowledgement of online education. Many people find online education more effective and better than before, which is a great progress. At the same time, online education also guarantees high-quality and efficient implementation of "school suspension", and shows a great social value. As a teaching model, in the future, online education is an important part of education. Whether the online education will rise or fall in the future depends on how students and their parents think of online education.

Online education has its own shortcomings, even though it has many advantages, including convenience, repeatability, broad sharing, etc. If the overall effect of online education is compared to the "barrel", each factor is the board that makes up the "barrel". Taking teachers as an example, online education not only requires teachers to make some profound PPT and dynamic teaching plans, but also demands teachers' competence to control the online courses, which are different from offline ones. It is not easy to cultivate excellent and all-round online teachers. For many factors such as teaching &research, technology and service, as long as one section is not good enough, it will influence the whole online experience.

In order to promote the deeper integration of Internet technology and education, it is necessary to constantly analyze learning content and learners, to recommend more personalized content to students, which will consume a lot of data. The current 4G system cannot support perfectly. The development of 5G technology will provide a very important infrastructure for future education and help education realize personalized and intelligent development. In the post-epidemic era, online education will be constantly upgraded. In this context, every educator should constantly remind himself of the essence and original aspiration of education.

3. The Focus of Future Online Education Should Be to Provide Diversified and Personalized Education

Five functions of future education are as follows:

1. To provide a wealth of high-quality education resources;

2. To start a new learning model;

3. To promote online interaction, such as teacher-student interaction, student-student interaction;

4. To manage the learning behavior and evaluate the teaching effect;

5. To analyze students' behaviors through big data on the Internet to achieve accurate investment in educational content and personalized cultivation of students.

6. It is important to aim the education at obtaining lifelong happiness for students. To be sure, online education is a step-by-step process, with one goal for each step. In the Internet era, it is obvious that students are faster-learners than their teachers and parents. In order to realize the future education as soon as possible, teachers and parents nowadays should pay more attention to developing their own online knowledge, competence and ability. Only with the joint efforts of our government, schools, teachers, parents and students can the future education shape the students to be the ones they want to be.

In the future, project-based learning is the trend, in which students will learn initiatively and actively. Students will constantly build knowledge according to their own interests, and will also experience happiness in learning.

In the future, the walls of schools will be torn down. The current school system is based on the model of industrial production, which emphasizes efficiency over personalization. With this, the online education will go nowhere. Therefore, new learning centers must be established in

the future to provide different learning spaces and options for people with different characteristics and in different age groups. On basis of this, students in the future will have many options. In addition to the variety of learning objects, they can also choose the way of learning, either online learning or offline learning.

In the future, all those who can be teachers, skillful craftsmen, artists and scientists can all become providers of educational resources. Students can choose where to learn and whom to learn from according to their own needs and interests. The government also provides school vouchers which children can use to study in various institutions according to their interests. For children from poor families, the government will give them more school vouchers so as to provide more choices.

At present, learning is separated from employment and career, but in the future, these three factors will not be clearly cut and it will be a lifelong learning process while working.

To do so, there are two main prerequisites:

1. To make sure there are enough high-quality resources. Only if the government provides more high-quality educational resources, can people acquire the knowledge they want anytime and anywhere.

2. To set new standards for evaluating education. It is of great importance to set evaluating standard focusing on competence and abilities instead of on scores and leave more options for students.

The future education is not only about "methods", but about "skills".As far as "methods" are concerned, future education is reflected in three aspects. There is no difference between online education and offline education:

1. The value of learning. Future learning is for innovation and for a healthier and more confident life;

2. The content of learning. The content of learning is to realize the value of learning. Technology helps us do many things that we could not do before, such as teaching children to cook online, or assigning homework at midnight on the platform.

3. Fairness in learning. In a sense, Internet technology helps promote educational equality as well as educational inequality. For example, the effect of online education among students varies greatly among different schools during the epidemic, which may cause new inequality. But Internet technology can help bridge the educational gap by introducing good teachers to all schools so that all students can get the same education.

Learning value can be fully realized while learning content can meet children's future needs. The future education should provide same education for all children, which is the "Method". But the technology is the "Skill", which is two-sided.

The future education will be highly intelligent, personalized and diversified. At the same time, it will also give birth to a variety of teaching forms, such as the current offline experiments, which can be realized online in the future. The varieties of experiments will be more abundant.

In the future, online education should focus on cultivating children's diversity and individuality and teach students in accordance with their aptitude. It is the future trend to build various platforms to meet students' various needs with advanced technology such as big data, knowledge graph, etc.

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