

# The Influence of Online Learning Environment on the Effectiveness of Students' Learning

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**Abstract:** Online learning environment exerts impact on learners' learning effectiveness. This paper mainly studies the influence of students' learning motivation, teaching design and online learning platforms on students' learning effectiveness. Finally, it puts forward some suggestions on how to improve students' learning effectiveness from the perspectives of students, schools, teachers and online learning platform.

**Key words:** Online Environment; Learning Effectiveness; Motivation; Instructional Design; Online Platform

## 1. Introduction

Learning environment is a space-time condition that must be relied on in the process of teaching and learning. Learning environment consists of two important parts: learning resources and interpersonal relationship. Learning resources refer to the acquisition and use of teaching materials, cognitive tools, and the application of learning space; Interpersonal relationship mainly refers to the interpersonal activities of "students and students", "teachers and students", "students and administrators", "students and teaching assistants". From the perspective of external environment, the main function of learning environment is to help learners to carry out active knowledge construction activities and promote the generation of certain abilities.

Jonassen, a famous American expert in educational technology, defines the concept of learning environment as the space for individuals or groups to carry out learning activities. Learners can adjust their learning activities, and use information resources and knowledge construction tools to solve problems in the learning process. Teachers, students, tools and technology are all part of the learning environment. The effective interaction between virtual and reality and a good immersive atmosphere are important parts of the learning environment to support learning. Therefore, the design of learning environment should not only pay attention to the interaction and collaboration of various learning related spaces in learning environment, but also pay attention to the convenient and effective creation of education field through deliberate design.

During the outbreak of COVID-19, online courses fundamentally solved the problem of school suspension. It is necessary to explore the basic elements of online learning network environment and how to create a better network learning environment, so as to improve students' learning effectiveness. The research on the influence of online learning environment on students' learning effectiveness can be carried out from perspectives of the students' learning motivation, teachers' teaching plan, network learning platform operation.

## 2. The Students' Motivation and Learning Effectiveness

Learning motivation is a dynamic tendency to stimulate and maintain students' learning behavior and make them achieve certain academic goals, which is composed of learning needs and learning expectations.

According to the source of motivation, students can be divided into two groups. One is the students with internal learning motivation, who will actively participate in learning by virtue of their interest in learning, and the goal of self-improvement. The others are the students with external learning motivation, who usually participate in learning passively because of rewards and punishments. Comparatively, students with intrinsic motivation tend to have more significant learning outcomes. However, some external motives can be transformed into the internal needs of the individual and become the self-motivation of learning. Therefore, teachers and parents should gradually transform the external incentive into the internal incentive, and they should make use of the external incentive to maintain the internal incentive formed by students in a stable level.

Affected by the COVID-19, globally, most of the students can only take online lessons at home. It is obvious that the learning atmosphere at home is quite different from that at school. In the in-person teaching mode, teachers can interact with students from telling their expression, body language and other interpersonal reaction to guide students. In the in-person classroom, the students often idle time when they are not focused, let alone the online teaching which is out of the sight of the teacher. In addition, during online learning, students are faced with computers screens, mobile phones and other electronic devices, and it is easy to feel tired when focusing on the screens for a long time. At this time, students' learning effectiveness depends more on students' self-control ability, that is, students' internal learning motivation. For the students with poor sense of self-control, online learning will only lead to passive learning, which is totally different from classroom learning. Therefore, teachers should try to view online teaching from the perspective that how to initiative students' learning motivation to on-line learning.

## 3. Teaching Design and Learning Effectiveness

Teaching design is to arrange teaching elements in an orderly way and determine reasonable teaching curriculums and plans based on the characteristics of curriculum standards. Reasonable teaching design can improve students' learning efficiency and strengthen students'

abilities in all aspects. Optimizing teaching design can improve students' learning effectiveness to a significant extent.

The biggest challenge of online learning is how to increase the interaction between teachers and students to ensure the quality of teaching. In order to promote the role transformation of teachers and enhance teaching ability, online teaching should not only help students from the aspects of intellectual and moral education, personal and family life, but also guide students to choose appropriate learning resources in the massive and optional online teaching, so as to speed up the progress of teaching. Meanwhile, teachers should be a reliable listener for students to talk, share or ask for help at any time, so as to ensure students can get the immediate feedback. During online learning and teaching during COVID-19, teachers need to make the on-line classroom more interesting, pay more attention to the overall curriculum design, framework construction, resource integration, learning activity design, etc. Moreover, teachers should give full play to their initiative, formulate online learning guidance, and adopt online counseling, answering questions, correcting homework and other teaching methods suitable for online class. Thus, the teaching would be promoted effectively according to the plan. By stimulating students and deliberately designing the teaching plan, students are motivated to participate in classroom teaching and learning, and the teaching effect would be constantly improved. Another challenge is how to guide students to learn effectively. Teachers should make different teaching plans according to students' characteristics and learning styles, instruct students based on their aptitude, focus on supervising students who lack learning motivation. Teachers can also check students' online learning status, and put forward feasible suggestions to improve their learning effectiveness.

#### 4. Online Learning Platform and Learning Effectiveness

E-learning platform is a comprehensive teaching support system offering online teacher-student communication, online homework, online examination and quality evaluation. It aims to help schools control various learning activities and supervise learners' learning status and progress. With this system, supervisors and facilitators can arrange various learning activities and steps.

Therefore, to carry out the work of online teaching and learning program during COVID-19, it requires the support from major online learning platforms. Teachers can select one platform to start their own courses and upload teaching contents. At the same time, with the help of multi-dimensional data statistics of the platform, students' degree of mastery and the application of the knowledge can be obtained, so as to realize the comprehensive control of the teaching process. In the process of learning, teachers can initiate online interactive activities with students, and if the functions of the platform are effectively used by students, students' learning efficiency should be improved. In addition, based on the analysis of learners' online learning behaviors recorded by the platform, as a supervisor, it is necessary for teachers to check the data of platform regularly.

Although the construction of e-learning platform has achieved remarkable results, the concentrated demand during the epidemic period is too large and urgent. In the daytime, the number of users reaches the peak all at once, and students often face problems such as unable to access to the page, being stuck, delay and so on. These problems eventually lead to a negative learning environment, where teachers and students all have negative experience. Therefore, the online learning platform needs to improve their technical level and establish a good learning system.

#### 5. Suggestions on Improving the Effectiveness of Online Learning

##### 5.1 Suggestions to Students

(1) Learners should actively improve self-control ability, ensure good living habits, and arrange learning plans independently. Learners should also apply self-initiative and cooperative learning to home learning. Home learning needs to reduce external attraction and create a favorable learning environment, and learners should reduce the interference of the external environment. Thus, learners could keep focused so as to improve learning efficiency.

(2) Learners should update their concept, and increase the identity of online learning. It is suggested that students should first establish a good attitude and understanding to online learning objectively before starting. Although online courses are different from offline courses, they also have their unique advantages. In addition, students can also learn together through the establishment of class learning group. Through the class learning group, students can share their learning income with each other, cultivate their ability of multi-angle observation and critical thinking, and improve their learning efficiency.

##### 5.2 Suggestions to Schools

(1) Each school should organize all teachers to have online course training in different disciplines, and actively organize online lesson preparation activities according to the curriculum standards. Teachers in all schools should participate in the whole process of online teaching and after-school guidance, and achieve the effectiveness of teaching by making good use of the qualified recording courses from other excellent teachers so as to improve their ability to cope with online teaching.

(2) In order to strengthen teaching monitoring, the school should organize teaching supervisors to enter into the online classroom to do the monitoring. For the satisfaction of online teaching, schools should adopt various ways to comprehensively follow up, timely respond to the problems, formulate improvement strategies for online teaching, promote the further scientific and standardized development of online teaching, and continuously improve the quality of online teaching.

##### 5.3 Suggestions to Teachers

(1) Teachers should adopt different teaching strategies for the varied students. Based on the student data provided by the online learning platform, teachers can sum up the learning characteristics of individual students and student groups, make different teaching plans according

to the characteristics of student groups, implement adaptive personalized teaching, and give timely and appropriate intervention.

(2) Teachers should take different forms of organization and implementation strategies according to the actual on-line teaching. The teaching content should not only make reference to the regular teaching curriculum, but also take the development of students' learning ability and character cultivation into account. Pre-class learning should also be paid attention to so that students can keep up with the teaching rhythm of teachers and find out the advantages of teaching online. Teachers could make full use of online learning platforms as resources, and create a pleasant classroom atmosphere, leading students to think and participate in the classroom activities, so as to stimulate students' initiative in learning. Thus, students' learning efficiency and effectiveness could be improved.

#### 5.4 Suggestions to E-learning Platform:

(1) E-learning platforms should improve the technical level of e-learning platform, upgrade the web page content, provide personalized services, avoid the problems of being stuck and delay, so as to improve the user experience.

(2) The online learning platforms should increase the educational applicability of the platform construction, increase the convenience of communication between teachers and students, and improve the functions of attendance, assessment, supervision, so as to make the platforms adaptable to teaching. Also a good learning ecosystem should be established between online and offline, teachers and students, so as to promote the achievement and effectiveness of students' learning goals.

## 6. Conclusion

The performance of learning effectiveness and learning satisfaction could be better improved by improving the online learning environment including learners' motivation, teachers' teaching design, and the online learning platforms. All the improvement could be achieved through efforts from students, schools, teachers and platforms.

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