

## ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF DISTANCE LEARNING

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**Abstract:** Distance learning has become an essential way of studying at present time. This approach of studying has got advantages and disadvantages. The most vivid advantage of distance learning is that time of studying is flexible, there is no limitation of geographical location as well, time of your studying is not also required to be exact. Besides, cost of the courses through conducted in distance is much cheaper than full-time payment of studying.

**Key words:** pursue a job along with studies, save money and time, learn at your own pace, self-disciplined and self-motivated, gaining recognition, automatically recognized, hidden costs, complicated technology, quality of faculty compromised, credibility of degrees, lose out on networking.

**Introduction.** First of all, there is not enough communication between teachers and learners that may cause some problems with social communication. Besides, as there is no opportunity to check everyone in personal fulfilling the tasks one may try to cheat in distance learning period. One may face with the challenges related to net connection. That may cause big inconvenience for the ones who wish to study in distance.

**Discussions and results.** 1. You can pursue a job along with studies: A major chunk of students who actually opt for distance education are those who don't want to give up their jobs but want a higher education, too. Distance education comes as a blessing for such students. You can study on the weekends, when you're back from work or even in the middle of the night.

2. You can save money: For any given program, the fee of a distance education degree (online or otherwise) may be much more affordable than the fee of a regular on-campus degree. Students who are looking for economically viable options can go for a distance learning program.

3. You save time: There's no time wasted in going to and from college, no time wasted waiting for a bus or train. In a distance learning program, your classroom is right in your bedroom - the study material on your desk or the e-material on your computer. Students who don't have enough time on their hands can turn to distance education as an option and pursue it from the comfort of their homes.

4. You can learn at your own pace: The prospect of going back to classroom education can be intimidating for many of us. Asking a question or revealing that you are unable to grasp a concept in class can be quite embarrassing for many students. Distance education comes to your rescue here!

5. You can study whenever, wherever: Except in scenarios where you have to attend an online tutorial at a given time or a lecture through videoconferencing, you can pretty much study whenever you want to, wherever you choose to. You need not be stuck in a classroom, but can go study in your garden, on your living room couch or in the comfort of your own bed.

6. Gaining recognition among employers: Distance education over the years has finally found some acceptance and recognition among employers, which is an encouraging sign. As long as the distance learning program is accredited, you need not be worried. In India, all distance education programmes that are approved by the Distance Education Council (DEC) stand automatically recognized for the purpose of employment to posts and services under the Central Government. Disadvantages of distance learning

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1. Chances of distraction high: With no faculty around for face-to-face interaction and no classmates who can help with constant reminders about pending assignments, the chances of getting distracted and losing track of deadlines are high. You need to keep yourself motivated and focused if you want to successfully complete your distance learning course.

2. Hidden costs: Although the cost of a distance education program is usually cheaper than a regular program, there can be hidden costs involved. For example, if your distance learning course is offered online, you might have to incur some initial expenses like installing a computer and getting a reliable Internet connection.

3. Complicated technology: Overdependence on technology can be a major drawback in distance learning mode of education, especially when the learning takes place in an online environment. Any malfunctioning software or hardware can bring an ongoing class to a standstill and interrupt the learning process. Similarly, if a student is not computer and tech savvy, his learning experience can be dissatisfactory.

4. Quality of faculty compromised: Often considered to be the lesser cousin of regular education, distance education is often plagued by lack of enough good quality faculty members. In other cases, even if the instructor is good, he or she may not be comfortable with teaching in an online environment. Sometimes the technology might not do full justice to the delivery and design of the course. A student loses out in all these scenarios.

5. Questionable credibility of degrees: Even though distance and online education is starting to get recognition, there are still a lot of fraudulent and non-accredited degrees being offered. With the increase in the number of distance/online programs, the number of scam operators are also rising. This affects the credibility of recognised distance learning degrees among employers.

6. Lose out on networking: The advantages of pursuing a regular programme go beyond just interaction with teachers and good course content. MBA graduates from premier business schools (B-schools) in India would vouch for the fact that the opportunities to network with established alumni, renowned faculty and industry heads go a long way in paving a secure career.

Notwithstanding its many inconveniences, distance learning provides students who wish to have greater comfort and versatility in pursuing a course many more learning choices. The key advantages of distance education are that they allow students to use minimal financial resources to access various learning tools. The use of video conferencing tools makes online learning even more immersive. This increases the ability to gather information on a specific topic and to preserve it.

**Conclusion.** Distance education limits social interaction, requires the use of complex technology, and some employers perceive it negatively. Any student who wants to register for a diploma or graduate degree should balance between advantages and disadvantages in order to decide if it is the right option. Distance training will usually be the perfect option for students working.

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