

Research article

Teachers' Perspectives of Online Learning vs. Offline Learning: A Case Study from West Java

Aditya Wicaksono*, and Lestari Setyowati

Universitas Negeri Malang

ORCIDAditya Wicaksono: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8748-9018>**Abstract.**

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, the education system has undergone dramatic changes. The teaching and learning process is no longer done in a usual classroom setting; instead, it involves virtual meetings and online classes. This paper intended to describe the opinions of English teachers in Geeta School National Plus, in Cirebon, West Java about the advantages and disadvantages of the online and offline settings, and the possibility of combining the two systems in their school. The research used a case study design. The participants were two English teachers in Geeta School National Plus. The data were collected in May 2021 through offline and online interviews using the Google Meet application. The data were analysed qualitatively. The results showed that the teachers agreed that online learning is the best possible solution during the COVID-19 pandemic. Yet, they also agreed that there is a wide opportunity to apply a blended-learning system in the school in accordance with the government rules. This implies that the school or the government need to provide adequate supporting facilities to ensure successful implementation of blended learning.

Keywords: blended-learning, education, online, offline setting

Corresponding Author: Aditya Wicaksono; email: aditya.wicaksono.1902216@students.um.ac.id

Published 28 March 2022

Publishing services provided by Knowledge E

© Aditya Wicaksono, and Lestari Setyowati. This article is distributed under the terms of the [Creative Commons Attribution License](#), which permits unrestricted use and redistribution provided that the original author and source are credited.

Selection and Peer-review under the responsibility of the iNETAL Conference Committee.

1. Introduction

The online education system has become a new adaptation in student learning in recent times. As reported in Kompas.id, 24 July 2020, the Minister of Education and Culture issued a Circular, namely SE Mendikbud 4/2020 concerning the Implementation of Education Policies in Emergencies for the Spread of Covid-19. One of the contents in it is the learning process from home. Several provisions are regulated, including the basic spirit of courageous learning, focus on learning from home, learning activities and assignments while learning from home, and the role of the teacher in providing feedback [1].

It has not been easy for everyone to change their way of learning thoroughly. At some point, both teachers and students had a hard time adjusting to the brand new

OPEN ACCESS

environment. As seen by students with a habit of traditional education, online education might be something that they despise, as they feel like it lacks a lot of things needed in a learning system. Many think that online learning is not a great way of learning, we should keep in mind that confusions and mistakes in online learning occur at times, especially during the early stage of online education. According to researchers [2], while this prevailing downside of online education is very common to be found and quite plausible to happen, it leads to the consideration of whether online education is an acceptable way of learning compared to traditional learning system.

The differences between the two educational systems, which are quite distinctive, will be discussed in this paper. However, the two disparate systems have several overlapping things that might be closely like each other. According to the researchers [3], the effective and proper use of online education in stomatology can help improve teaching effect significantly, but it is impossible to replace the traditional classroom. Therefore, the importance of this study is to find out whether the online education system is compatible with the traditional one or not. Research comparing online versus face-to-face learning is mixed, with results ranging from online superiority to no difference to face-to-face distinction. According to researchers [4], analyses comparing the two systems lead to minimum benefits; hence the common ground of both systems needs to be discovered. Once the common ground is achieved, the main concern of this paper would be answered. Another reason why this research is necessary is to reveal that neither of the education systems is better than the other, as each method has its own strengths and weaknesses.

In this study, the authors chose Geeta School National Plus as the object of the research site. Geeta School National Plus is the first National Plus School in Cirebon City, West Java. Geeta School National Plus provides academic levels starting from Playgroup, Kindergarten, Primary, and Secondary which work under the National Curriculum by speaking and teaching in English. In addition to developing the national curriculum, Geeta School National Plus is also enriched with educational materials with Cambridge standardization in science and mathematics, also adopts several Montessori learning methods that meet several aspects: Language, Mathematics, Culture, Sensorial, and Practical Life Activities. Thus, Geeta School can rest assured that it has prepared students with the right skills to work hard, be determined and strive to graduate successfully with excellent results in both academic and non-academic fields.

The purpose of this paper is to describe the teachers' opinion about the compatibility of the online education system and the traditional education system. To achieve the objective, the authors would need to compare the advantages and disadvantages of

both systems and decide if there are aspects that one of the systems has that can be solved by the other. However, as mentioned in the citation above, there is no superior system between the two, leaving space for development to mix both methods to achieve a good education system. The mixing of the two learning systems is considered effective to be applied in the future. Blended Learning is a flexible approach where in the program design there is a mixture of various times and places used to carry out learning, it combines the best aspects of online learning and structured face-to-face activities. To avoid the risk of forming the research paper into a comparative study, an in-depth review of both education systems will be produced by the author, including several suggestions on how to use each system's advantages by forming a blended way of learning. It would later be discussed whether blended learning is a good solution or not. The author counts the standpoints mentioned earlier as there is still a tiny amount of research on this topic that is conducted and published. In addition, the paper is aimed at deciding whether a mix of both education systems is appropriate to be undertaken. Hopefully, this research paper can help to find a fair solution to the education limitations and problems that people face during these challenging times.

2. Methodology

Research is done for the importance of developing new ideas and topics to either confirm or reject any theories. Lowry [5] states that research designs and data collection methods are needed to understand the topic taken for research. This research uses qualitative approach focusing on a case study design. This hence means that the researchers need to collect and analyse the primary data resources. Any data is done through qualitative research helps researchers understand a deeper description towards the feelings, opinions, and experiences from the chosen participants [6]. Besides that, qualitative research helps researchers get a better insight of the existing phenomenon. Primary research can be done through various ways including, observations, interviews, as well as surveys.

The participants were two English teachers in Geeta School National Plus. The instruments used to collect the data was interview both online and offline. The data collection was done in May 2021. The researchers did a face-to-face interview in Geeta School National Plus Building and an online interview through a video conference via Google Meet. Google Meet itself is a platform from Google to allow Google users the ability to communicate with one another for the sole purposes of real-time meetings

done online. The second interview, which was done online, was done on Saturday, the fifteenth of May in 2021.

There are two females taken into subjects to intervene with the research in order to gain insights from both genders. Two female subjects are in their 40s. The first female subject, aged 46 years old, has gotten her bachelor's degree on Economics Education and is now working as the Director of Education for Geeta School National Plus. Meanwhile, the other female subject, aged 41 years old, has gotten her bachelor's degree on English Literature and is now working as an English Teacher at Geeta School National Plus.

3. Results and Discussion

3.1. Advantages and disadvantages of online learning

From the result of the interview, there are agreements and contradictions towards the progress made from learning online and learning through the conventional way. The results taken from the two interviews done by the authors are written down below.

“A significant difference from online education and the traditional education system is that the online education system is a new method it uses, namely without face-to-face between teachers and students and conducted via video conferencing along with teaching materials while the traditional education system is the education system that we have been using since first, done in the presence of face to face during teaching. Both have advantages and disadvantages; online education and traditional education must go hand in hand to improve the quality of education that students get. We never close our eyes to the presence of online education, but we are also not against traditional education. Therefore, in the future I think the mixed learning method will be suitable for use.” TW (data 1).

The first subject has said that there are advantages and disadvantages taken from both ways of learning. The school itself has implemented the old traditional face-to-face teaching and learning method ever since. Since the online education system is a new method implemented in Geeta School National Plus, the first subject said that students and teacher must be able to focus on any progress made through online learning. This is arguably the right thing to do as the world of technologies itself has not been explored. According Gupta & Khairina [7], there have been some learning inequities in Indonesia. One of the learning inequities found between Indonesian students is that there has been a challenge to get the online learning method distributed evenly in Indonesia due

to the Indonesian's lower purchasing power as an economical effect of the COVID-19 pandemic. Besides that, the traditional way of learning-and-teaching method has been adapted evenly through all regions in Indonesia. Hence, the progress of online learning should be able to be implemented as soon as possible while using the face-to-face method. The first subject suggested that all Indonesian schools should be able to build a system where there is a mixed learning method as it is more suitable to be used.

“Based on what we have experienced in the past of year, online learning certainly has advantages and disadvantages. The concrete thing in the advantages of online learning is that it can be accessed from any location and is global. Online learning eliminates time and place restrictions with the characteristics of traditional classes by using asynchronous communication mode and learning materials can be designed in a multimedia and dynamic way. But on the other hand, there are also disadvantages of online learning. The first thing is the lack of interaction between teachers and students and even between students themselves. This lack of interaction can slow down the formation of values in the teaching and learning process. Therefore, I think blended learning can be a solution to that problem, which is a mixed learning system between online learning (via internet media) and also face-to-face learning (face to face with teacher), who can make teachers is able to monitor student progress. Then the drawback that becomes a big point here is that not all students have adequate internet facilities (perhaps this is related to the problem of quota fees). We can minimize it by providing quota assistance every month, this is according to the agreement between us and the parents which is included in the tuition fee, and I think that it can answer the problem as well.” TW (data 1).

The first subject also added about the advantages and disadvantages of online learning based on what they did during this pandemic. They say that online learning has advantages and disadvantages. An example of the advantages of online learning, according to him, is the flexibility of time and location in learning that can be accessed anytime and anywhere. But behind these advantages there are also disadvantages, namely the lack of interaction between teachers and students which can slow down the formation of values in the teaching and learning process. This is supported by the results of research which states that, In comparison with the contemporary mode of education, e-learning might result in being less effective due to the absence of face to face encounters with instructions or teachers. Since in e-learning method, assessments are generally held online which reduces the possibility of restricting illegitimate activities such as; cheating, plagiarism etc. [8]. Then, the big problem in online learning is the

availability of internet facilities owned by students, this is related to the cost of internet quotas used in online learning.

“Of course, online education methods have various advantages over traditional education methods. However, that does not mean that this online education method is perfect and has no flaws. This technology-based teaching method still has flaws as well as traditional education methods as it should be. However, following lessons in class as usual is very necessary for a student. This is because, in this way a student is able to recognize the teacher well and be able to take responsibility for learning activities at school. One advantage that cannot be replaced is, with this traditional educational method, you as a student can communicate directly with the teacher or teacher which will indirectly help improve your communication skills.” KA (data 2).

The second subject said that both learning methods have their own advantages and disadvantages. She claimed that the online education method is far from perfect as students have no way to interact with one another through direct touch or in a face-to-face method. This hence explains why one of the advantages of the traditional educational method is students are able to communicate in a direct way with teachers and friends.

This can be supported by the findings through a study made by Li et al. [9] that had claimed that students tend to concentrate and participate more if the teaching method is done through traditional classrooms. However, research made by Li et al. [9], has also claimed that e-learning courses have more intentions to let their students and teachers engage more if compared in traditional classroom as e-learning courses allow both teachers and students as subjects to think in a more creative way. The level of confidence is found higher through e-learning courses if compared to traditional classrooms. She has also said that the traditional learning method allows both students and teachers to be able to concentrate more on the improvisations of each communication skills. From her results, it can be assumed that she agreed that online learning should be done if the traditional learning method's values can be achieved through online learning.

The second subject also said that interaction is one thing that the students are lacking in the online class. Implicitly, she has proposed that traditional courses are better if compared to online learning as online courses are only concentrating on the distribution of teaching materials as well as the environment of both students and teachers. This can be said to be true as there has been a higher level of feeling unmotivated during online classes found during a study made by Gustiani [10]. Students are experiencing

lack of motivation towards learning during the COVID-19 pandemic as there is little-to-no ambition to learn new knowledge and enjoyment to experience the new online learning method. This lack of motivation is caused by external regulations such as avoiding compensation of being absent by attending online classes as well as poor environmental condition that some students have such as poor supporting facilities.

The second subject also state about the 'flaws' in online education. One of the 'flaws' that she mentioned was poor direct interaction between the student and the teacher. Other disadvantage of online learning is the internet access. Research conducted by Firmansyah [11], states that the obstacles in the implementation of online learning are: (1) a weak internet connection or network, especially in certain areas; (2) the need for a large internet quota; (3) the ability is still low in terms of information and technology (IT) both from teachers and students; and (4) the design of the online learning model is not appropriate so that students have difficulty in understanding the material. Likewise, according to the research of Sadikin et al, [12], online learning has special challenges, the location of students and lecturers being separate when carrying out causes lecturers to not be able to directly supervise student activities during the learning process. This will then have an impact on the smoothness of learning itself.

Internal factors play a big role towards students' motivation as Artino [13], Keller [14], Wighting et al. [15], and Yukselturk & Bulut [16] have argued that learners who successfully done their learning process online have constant personalities that made them able to drive their activities of learning. Students that use the online learning method tend to have their own awareness to learn educational materials that lead to a study that found a combination of self-determination, personal interest, belief, ambition (in a form of intrinsic motivation) are the keys to participation of online learning [17]. However, the presence of punishment makes students feel the lack of motivation as these punishments given to students lead them to have to be able to study learning activities by themselves [18]. Besides that, the external factors found during the process of online learning such as the insufficiency towards learning facilities make the students feel unmotivated.

Hence, the results shown above leads to a conclusion that mixed online methods should be introduced to students. The mixed online method, also called as blended learning, is where students can participate in both online and offline learning. In this method, only half of the class can attend the offline learning, while the other half studies remotely. This is due to the fact that students need to be able to communicate directly with one another which make their interests towards study rise. On the other hand, the learning process still needs to be done according to the physical distancing

regulations. The authors also believe that blended learning is the solution to the gap between traditional learning and online learning. It is due to one of the effects that can be predicted to happen, where there will be high level of motivation as a generally higher acceptance of educational materials by students done through the process of teaching by teachers. In other words, the author think that blended learning is worth to be applied in this uncertain times to help the students get their studying spirit back.

4. Conclusion

Results shown above support mixed online learning method to be implemented in schools. Students should be able to access their study materials quickly which hence explains on why it should be available for them at all times. Another factor that should be counted as important is that students need direct communication in order to feel that they are anticipating in the classroom. Students should be able to develop their communication skills as it is one of the important issue to be learnt through the traditional teaching method. Not just direct communication, students should also be provided with enough supporting facilities by either the government or the school as they will hence feel exist through the participation successfully done by each student during teaching sessions. As online learning itself is still far from perfect, it should be considered to be expanded as it is the future of the learning process done by students. If not, then the world of education will not be able to follow the progress made by the development of technologies during the digital era.

Teachers should be able to explain their materials in an acceptable and efficient way by developing their ways of delivering the educational materials. This way, students will hence feel attracted to learn which will make higher level of motivation as a result. Besides that, this will also increase the creativity skills that both teachers and students have to discover more towards the relevant educational topic in class. For further research, it is recommended for other researchers to do a quantitative research towards the topic as there will be reliable data that can be availably used for other studies in the future. Besides that, it is also recommended for students to find their self-determination. If not, they will tend to face the consequences of punishment which only will lead them to feel no longer motivated to follow online learning sessions. Overall, every student should have enough patience to wait for the COVID-19 pandemic to be done as this will make them feel more motivated towards their own studies.

References

- [1] Chryсна, M. Kebijakan pendidikan formal anak pada masa pandemi Covid-19. Kompas.id; 2020 Jul 24. Retrieved from: <https://kompaspedia.kompas.id/baca/paparantopik/kebijakan-pendidikan-formal-anak-pada-masa-pandemi-covid-19>
- [2] Yang, D., Wen, M., Howley, I., Kraut, R., Rosé, C.: Exploring the effect of confusion in discussion forums of massive open online courses. In: L@S 2015 - 2nd ACM conference on Learning@ Scale, pp. 121–130 (2015) <https://doi.org/10.1145/2724660.2724677>
- [3] Hong, Y., Li, X., Lin, Y., Xie, J., Yan X., and Lin, Z, (2020): A comparative study of online education and traditional offline education during COVID-19. DOI: 10.21203/rs.3.rs-61593/v1. Retrieved from <https://www.researchsquare.com/article/rs-61593/v1>.
- [4] Singh, S., Rylander, D. H. & Mims, T. C. (2012). Efficiency of online vs. offline learning of inputs and outcomes. *International Journal of Business, Humanities and technology*. 2(1), 93-98
- [5] Lowry, L. (2015). Bridging the Business Data Divide: Insights into Primary and Secondary Data Use by Business Researchers. *IASSIST Quarterly*, 39(2), 14. <https://doi.org/10.29173/iq779>
- [6] Rahman, M. S. (2017). The advantages and disadvantages of using qualitative and quantitative approaches and methods in language” testing and assessment” research: A Literature Review. *Journal of Education and Learning*, 6(1), 102-112. Retrieved from <http://dx.doi.org/10.5539/jel.v6n1p10>
- [7] Gupta, D. & Khairina, N. N. (2020). COVID-19 and learning inequities in Indonesia: Four ways to bridge the gap. *World Bank Blogs*. <https://blogs.worldbank.org/eastasiapacific/covid-19-and-learning-inequities-indonesia-four-ways-bridge-gap>.
- [8] Arkorful V, Abaidoo N. The role of e-learning, advantages and disadvantages of its adoption in higher education. *International Journal of Instructional Technology and Distance Learning*. 2015;12(1):29-42.
- [9] Li, F., Qi, J., Wang, G., & Wang, X. (2014). Traditional Classroom vs E-learning in Higher Education: Difference between Students’ Behavioral Engagement. *International Journal of Emerging Technologies in Learning (iJET)*, 9(2), pp. 48–51. <https://doi.org/10.3991/ijet.v9i2.3268>
- [10] Gustiani S. Students’ motivation in online learning during Covid-19 pandemic era: A case study. *Holistics Journal*. 2020;12(2):23-40.

- [11] Firmansyah F. Motivasi belajar dan respon siswa terhadap online learning sebagai strategi pembelajaran di masa pandemi Covid-19. *Edukatif: Jurnal Ilmu Pendidikan*. 2021;3(2):589–597.
- [12] Sadikin, A. ., & Hamidah, A. (2020). Pembelajaran Daring di Tengah Wabah Covid-19: (Online Learning in the Middle of the Covid-19 Pandemic). *BIODIK: Jurnal Ilmiah Pendidikan Biologi*, 6(2), 214-224. <https://doi.org/10.22437/bio.v6i2.9759>
- [13] Artino AR. Motivational beliefs and perceptions of instructional quality: predicting satisfaction with online training. *Journal of Computer Assisted Learning*. 2008;24(3):260-270. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1365-2729.2007.00258.x>
- [14] Keller JM. First principles of motivation to learn and e3-learning. *Distance Education*. 2008;29(2):175–185. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01587910802154970>
- [15] Wighting MJ, Liu J, Rovai AP. Distinguishing sense of community and motivation characteristics between online and traditional college students. *Quarterly Review of Distance Education*. 2008;9(3):285–295.
- [16] Yukselturk E, Bulut S. Predictors for student success in an online course. *Educational Technology & Society*. 2007;10(2):71–83.
- [17] Knowles E, Kerkman D. An investigation of students' attitude and motivation toward online learning. *Insight: A Collection of Faculty Scholarship-Student Motivation*. 2007;2:70-80.
- [18] Ryan RM, Deci EL. Self-determination theory and the facilitation of intrinsic motivation, social development, and well-being. *American Psychologist*. 2000;55(1):68–78. <https://doi.org/10.1037/0003-066X.55.1.68>