Like many other aspects of our lives, the ongoing pandemic has fundamentally changed the manner in which education is imparted to students. In this post-COVID world, students are obliged to continue their studies through online classes, whilst being at home. Online classes are quite different compared to physical classes. Students need to attend their classes at campus in the traditional education system. However, in the online system, they can pursue their degree from home.

Online education poses several challenges for students such as limited interaction with teachers. In contrast, students can form a better relationship with their teachers in physical classes. Online Classes limit the social activities and interaction of students with their friends and classmates leaving a gap in the student’s social skills. On the other hand, physical classes allow students to collaborate and share various ideas.

Although the modes of imparting education may have changed the teaching methods have not changed much. In both online and physical classes, teachers usually use whiteboards and presentations to explain topics to students. Similarly, homework is assigned to students in both online and physical classes. Students are also required to attend the lectures in both online and traditional system of education.

There is a significant difference in the cost of online and physical education. The tuition fees of online programs tend to be considerably less than that of physical programs. The accommodation also becomes an additional expense for students who choose to pursue their degrees away from home. On contrary, students who pursue online education don’t have to bear accommodation expenses.

Even though Online education seems to be the only viable solution for the continuation of the education system in the current pandemic, its practicality is questionable in third world countries like Pakistan because of the unavailability of basic infrastructure for high-speed internet and other such facilities. On the other hand, teachers do not require the aid of the internet in physical classes. Moreover, the availability of gadgets for children is also a major problem since a major portion of the population belongs to the lower-middle class segment of the society who can’t afford such expensive gadgets for their children.

In short, Online classes and physical classes both have their merits and demerits. Physical classes are more enriching yet expensive. In contrast, online classes are more affordable but lack to provide the same hands-on experience. The inaccessibility of high-speed internet is also a major problem for students of rural areas and third world countries. In the ongoing pandemic, online classes have become the new norm. Stakeholders such as government, academics, and school associations should play their role by improving the facilities provided to students and enabling them to continue their education in these trying times.