Pros and Cons

Advantages of Online Tutoring Platform

**1. Flexibility and convenience**

With online tutoring platform, instructors and students are able to access the content at any time from any place. With this flexibility, the platform increases the availability of learning environment for students who are constraint to attend on-site learning [1]. According to the survey of University of Illinois at Chicago Masters of Health Profession Education Program in [2], online learning allows their students to participate in the Master’s program, which would have been prohibited if not because of online courses due to personal circumstances. For instance, some of the factor that may constraint learners from attending on-site learning are on-site programme are too far from home, work-related constraint such as employment and family demands such as childcare [2]. It is clear that online courses provide greater availability to both students and instructors compared to traditional approach of onsite learning, primarily due to the the flexibility of course schedule and location. Furthermore, online learning enables instructors to handle more students as it is not limited by physical spaces and attention needed to be given to student. [1] also state that the learning quality in online learning environment is equivalent compared to face-to-face learning while handling more students.

**2. Cost effective**

Compared to traditional way of learning approach, online learning is more cost effective.

- Cost Effective

- tuition was lower and expenses related to travel and lodging could be avoided

- assembling and disseminating instructional content more cost-efficiently, or

(From *A qualitative study of physicians’ experiences with online learning in a masters degree program: Benefits, challenges, and proposed solutions)*

**Disadvantages:**

1. Asynchronous communication environment

* challenges for communicating clearly, collaborating, sharing the workload, and establishing relationships
* difficult to understand others’ points of view or had their own points misunderstood
* the lack of face-to-face interactions impeded relationship building, with adverse consequences ultimately for learning, completing tasks, and satisfaction

2. Technical issues

* inadequate computer hardware or software, insufficient computer and typing skills, and slow or unavailable internet access at home, work, or while traveling
* reported difficulties tracking, viewing, and responding to long, complex discussion threads

References:

[1] Means, B., Toyama, Y., Murphy, R., Bakia, M., & Jones, K., “Evaluation of evidence-based practices in online learning: A meta-analysis and review of online learning studies”, *US Department of Education*, 2009

[2] Dyrbye, L., Cumyn, A., Day, H., & Heflin, M., “A qualitative study of physicians’ experiences with online learning in a masters degree program: Benefits, challenges, and proposed solutions”, *Medical teacher*, *31*(2), e40-e46, 2009.

[3] Appana, S., “A review of benefits and limitations of online learning in the context of the student, the instructor, and the tenured faculty”,*International Journal on ELearning*, 7(1), 5, 2008.

*A qualitative study of physicians’ experiences with online learning in a masters degree program: Benefits, challenges, and proposed solutions* <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/01421590802366129>