

# ***Current Situation and Development Trend of Online Education During the Epidemic***

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**Abstract:** At the end of 2019, the COVID-19 emerged. Shortly thereafter, the epidemic spread rapidly in China, threatening the lives and health of Chinese residents and causing a great impact on production, living and social order in China. Students could not return to school on time. The Ministry of Education scientifically and accurately analyzed the situation at that time and issued *the Guiding Opinions on the Organization and Management of Online Teaching in Colleges and Universities* during the Epidemic Prevention and Control Period, which issued a call to the society to “keep teaching while attending classes”. In response to the call, educational institutions across the country have gradually started online classes based on the local epidemic prevention and control situation. The COVID-19 has brought opportunities for education. People’s awareness and recognition of online learning have been increasing, which to some extent promotes the development of online education and increases the proportion of online education in the whole education industry. After the epidemic, people have more deeply realized the importance of social information. In this information age, education should also keep up with the pace of the Times. On the premise of meeting people's needs for education, the people should actively reform the educational mode, combine the traditional educational mode with the new educational mode influenced by information, and promote the construction of educational information. According to this paper, it can arouse people’s thinking and inquiry to a certain extent.

**Keywords:** online teaching, educational reform, educational development, online learning quality

## **1. Introduction**

Our online education began at the end of the 20th century. It is divided into three stages: distance education platform, transfer of training institutions to the front line, and connectivity. At present, online education in China is mainly divided into the following four categories: preschool education, K12, higher education and vocational. According to the *Development Trend of China's Online Education Industry and the Strategies of Investors* and the *Analysis Report of China's Economic Development Plan 2011-2018*, the size of the online education market shows a trend of year-on-year growth [1]. Therefore, this paper studies the status quo of online education during the epidemic. Its significance lies in that, in this information age, education should also keep up with the pace of the Times, on the premise of meeting people's demand for education, and actively reform the way of

education, combining the traditional way of education with the new way of education influenced by information, to promote the information construction of education.

### **1.1. Firmly Support National Policies**

In order to support online education, our government has formulated and implemented a series of policies. The establishment of a national Open University is mentioned in *the Outline of the National Plan for Medium- and Long-Term Reform and Development of Education (2010-2020)* and other policies. The government put forward the concept of “education information network”, vigorously promoted the construction of higher education, established a course resource sharing platform, and constructed a national fine open course. It has played a positive role in promoting the development of education.

### **1.2. Prosperity of Network Platform**

Take higher education for example, now there are more than 20 websites such as Chinese universities, Dingtalk, Good University online, Xue tang Online and so on. The network course platform provides support for the network teaching in universities. More than 600 universities in China have launched “online classes” with more than 8,700 courses, more than 31 million registered users, and more than 31 million students studying online. More than 140 million times. “Wisdom Tree” is a global large-scale credit system teaching service company that provides a platform for course sharing and credit mutual recognition among member universities. After completing the cross-school course selection and learning, the number of member schools has reached 3,000, which has exceeded 1,700.

### **1.3. Support from Network Tycoons and Private Funds**

Network education market prospects are promising, the major Internet companies compete to enter, power investment. For example, Alibaba has launched a series of instructional videos and a range of products on Taobao Live. Tencent has launched “Tencent Classroom” to inject new vitality into online education.

## **2. Analysis on the Quality of Online Learning**

### **2.1. Integration of Online Teaching**

Teaching methods can be divided into “demonstration teaching” and “experiential teaching” according to the way of teaching content transmission. According to the educational object, educational methods can be divided into two categories: one is self-directed, the other is guided by others. Online teaching combines demonstration with experience, and combines others’ guidance with self-study. Online learning can combine the advantages of all learning methods. It can make full use of the advantages of teaching method, such as low cost and time saving, but also can give full play to the advantages of audio-visual method, visual, virtual and so on. It can also create experience method, so that people have a feeling of being there.

### **2.2. Influence of Online Learning on Learning Dynamics**

Only when a person’s degree of worry about life exceeds the degree of worry about study, he will have the motivation to learn, and produce the behavior of learning. On the one hand, incentive can improve students’ survival anxiety, on the other hand, incentive can reduce students’ learning anxiety. By using online teaching, schools can ease students’ worries about learning. Cultivate students’ learning motivation. It is easier for teachers to arrange study time and help students learn. Learning

materials are prepared for students, access to materials becomes more convenient, and many concepts, processes and methods that were previously difficult to understand become easier to understand, thus improving students' learning confidence and initiative. Therefore, online learning can help create a safer learning atmosphere and reduce students' learning anxiety.

### **2.3. Online Teaching Provides Convenience for Teaching**

Network teaching enables students to have a full grasp and choice of learning time and place. Students can choose the courses they want at any time, or they can choose the courses they want. According to their own progress to arrange the learning time, and can use E-technology to timely update the learning content, get information feedback and guidance.

### **2.4. Establish the New Concept of Network Teaching**

Network teaching has produced new educational concepts. Network teaching pays more attention to the teaching result than the teaching process. Compared with learning in the classroom, students' autonomous learning has received more attention. Heavy rather than paper. Compared with discontinuous learning, instantaneous learning has received more attention. More valuable than quick learning [2].

## **3. The Transformation Trend of Online Education in the Era of Epidemic**

During the epidemic, the rapid growth of the Internet online education industry is obvious: in 2020, the online education market scale increased by 35.5% year on year, reaching 257.3 billion, more than seven percentage points more than in 2019 [3]; Online education has also increased to 23%-25%, up from 13%-15% in previous years [4,5]. Even in 2021, when the epidemic has been brought under control, the number of "winter vacation classes" online in primary and middle schools has increased by 380% year-on-year, and online education companies such as homework help and Ape tutoring have also won a new round of financial support. However, the online education industry is still facing its own development dilemma: from the perspective of users' usage scenarios, it is difficult for online education products to cover students' daily learning time at school during the epidemic period, so it turns its attention to the teaching market on weekends and various kinds of medium and long holidays. From the perspective of market competition, the rapid increase of new enterprises makes the degree of market segmentation of online education industry rise sharply, and the profit space of online education is compressed. In addition, a series of unfair competition and charging irregularities in the online education industry have also been closely watched by the discipline inspection commission, which means stricter market regulation is on the way. To be specific, Internet online education products are facing two major challenges in the post-epidemic era, one is the change of the industry's development focus, the other is the change of ideas.

### **3.1. Shift of Focus**

From online live broadcasting to online teaching: Before and after the epidemic, the focus of online teaching has undergone a cyclic change. In the early stage, online teaching was the main form of online teaching, but with the increase of network bandwidth, online teaching has gradually become the mainstream. Offline training institutions such as New Oriental and Xueersi have already established their own online live streaming platforms. Online education institutions such as ape tutoring and homework help take online live streaming as their main business. During this period, more than 100 million students are potential users of the online education industry, which further promotes the development of online live courses. In a short period of more than half a year, the market

value of ape tutoring, which mainly focuses on network broadcast, has doubled. However, as students return to school en masse, it will be difficult for large online courses to cover students' daily use time, so they will have to shift to medium and long holidays and weekends, which means that the market share of live online courses will rapidly decline and competition will intensify. Therefore, in addition to network broadcast, online education enterprises should develop their own personalized learning products.

### 3.2. Change of Concept

The new development concept of “network + campus” requires network education to be “integrated” into campus education. “Internet + school” is not a new concept, but a concrete way to achieve “Internet + education”, and the concept of “Internet + education” was put forward in 2016 [6], and in 2018, the Ministry of Education also took this as the center to develop a more detailed education information 2.0 strategy [7]. After the epidemic, “Internet + school” has once again become a hot topic: on the one hand, the general trend of the comprehensive resumption of classes in the post-epidemic stage has made schools become the main teaching place again; on the other hand, the excellent performance of online education products during the epidemic has made people fully realize the potential and irreplaceable of online education.

## 4. Current Situation and Development of Online Teaching

### 4.1. The Development Status of Online Education in China

By December 2016, the number of Internet users in China has reached 731 million, the network penetration rate has reached 53.2%, and the number of mobile users has reached 695 million, the growth rate has exceeded 10% for three consecutive years. The Internet has changed the way people live and shop. “User”, “education” and “Internet” constitute the industrial chain of “network education”, among which “user” is the core of “education”, “education” is the essence of “education”, “Internet” is “technology”; Each of these factors permeates the entire development process. Online education breaks the restriction of time and space, combines with mobile terminals, realizes the decentralization of learning, and thus makes the educational content more diversified. Statistics show that the number of online education users will continue to increase over time, reaching 160 million users by 2019. With the rapid development of the Internet, the number of its users is also increasing rapidly. With the support of the state for education, the growth rate of online education will continue. According to relevant data, in 2017, the annual growth rate of online education was 27.3%, and its market size was close to 200 billion. If this growth rate continues in the next few years, it is expected to reach 269.26 billion in fiscal 2019 [8].

### 4.2. Trends of Chinese Online Education

#### 4.2.1. Teachers: Dual-track Breakthrough of Thought and Teaching Method

Network teaching is an important part of modern educational technology. Various elements in teaching activities, such as evaluation, and their interactions, have changed. According to the theory of distance education, the application of platform technology makes teaching activities more convenient and rich. Intelligent learning environment allows us to try different teaching methods. While maintaining the traditional teaching method, online classroom can also organize discussion learning and improve students' individual learning autonomy. *The Research Report on the Interaction of Primary and Secondary Online Education* during the COVID-19 Epidemic shows that the interaction index has a very significant positive impact on the interaction effect, and the more

diversified the interaction forms, the better the effect. The report says teachers should combine online teaching with teaching. The characteristics of education, based on the specific teaching content, make full use of network education products, optimize the interactive way, so as to improve the teaching effect. Teachers should clarify teaching tasks, teaching content, teaching methods, progress and other factors in teaching, but also build the corresponding knowledge structure in teaching practice. Secondly, according to the characteristics and functions of online courses, teachers should timely adjust their teaching concepts and teaching methods, and design more open content system. At the same time, they should enrich their teaching methods and evaluation methods, improve the interaction between teachers and students, and make full use of the functions of the platform to create a digital learning situation under the premise of ensuring the quality of teaching content, classroom management and teaching effect.

#### **4.2.2. Students: Self-positioning, Knowledge Structure and Ability Trinity**

Online classrooms are evidence of the advent of social networks. In the age of social network, the connection and social relationship between people are moving from virtual to reality. Now traditional classrooms are moving online. The Internet is often a kind of environment and platform to provide students with a pastime and entertainment. In the network environment, some students have confusion about the self-positioning under the network. In network teaching, students should set up self-consciousness and realize that the ultimate goal of network teaching is to acquire knowledge and development. On this basis, the knowledge framework of network teaching platform is constructed, so that the teaching environment changes, but the essence of teaching and learning does not change. The online classroom is still the real world, still an important way for people to acquire knowledge. When the teaching platform from the classroom to the screen, the prospect of teaching and learning has infinite possibilities, and the transmission of knowledge has become more diversified and rich. Network classroom is just a form of education, its essence is human beings to realize their own development through information technology [9].

### **5. Conclusion**

The emergence of the epidemic has promoted the continuous development and improvement of the online education system, and users' demand for online education has also made the function of online education more and more complete, so that students can communicate with teachers as in class and complete the homework assigned by teachers after class. COVID-19 is both a challenge and an opportunity. This has played a certain role in promoting the development of network teaching and increased the proportion of network teaching in network teaching. The epidemic makes us have a deeper understanding of the importance of social information construction. While meeting people's needs for education, the people should actively reform education methods, combine traditional education methods with new education methods organically, so as to promote the information of education. Diversified education methods can not only equip us with the ability to cope with emergencies, like this epidemic, but also enable teachers and students to integrate into their own learning more quickly with the understanding and skilled use of online teaching. Diversified education methods can also enhance students' interest and enthusiasm in learning, and help teachers to better manage and teach, thus improving teaching efficiency and quality [10]. Internet online education conforms to the development trend of the Times, meets people's diversified learning needs, and is bound to achieve better development. At the same time, the development of online education also needs continuous innovation, constantly keep up with the pace of the Times.

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