

**IAO**

March, 2020

# ACCREDITOR

**Featured**

**LOCKDOWN  
OR NO  
LOCKDOWN? –  
BLENDED LEARNING  
WILL SAVE THE DAY!**

**5 E-LEARNING  
TRENDS  
THAT WILL  
SHAPE 2020**

**VIDEO CONFERENCE  
VS LIVE STREAMING**

– WHAT TO CHOOSE FOR ONLINE CLASSES?

**Exclusive**

**IN  
CONVERSATION WITH  
DR. FUZULI ALIYEV  
HEAD OF FINANCE CHAIR AT  
BAKU ENGINEERING UNIVERSITY**



**FEATURED  
ACCREDITATIONS**

**INSTITUTES DISPLAYING  
COMMITMENT TOWARDS  
QUALITY LEARNING**

# Editor's



# Note...

It is an undeniable fact that such unexpected events in history have always caused public health crises, global economic upheaval, and widespread uncertainty. Corona Virus, initially a trivial disease, has recently turned into a global pandemic that has taken the world by storm. The pandemic has swayed the economic and social infrastructure all over the world, causing an air of gloom.

Just in a matter of a few weeks, street food vendors have learned to deliver 'street food' online. Such is the impact of this outbreak; it is turning things around for everyone. However, there's still a lot of confusion in the education sector. Teachers are in a perpetual dilemma of whether to start important courses or not since it is still unsure if the lockdown is going to be lifted or not.

During the initial days of the virus outbreak, schools were first to shut down. In that time period, teachers moved their classes to zoom and students are finding it both amusing and productive to study in their most preferred mode. As I said earlier, the virus has turned things around for everyone. Especially for teachers who were never a fan of Online classes, even they have gone digital with their ways of teaching.

However, how long is this going to continue? Can online education work in the long run? We are discussing some beneficial tactics for online learning during COVID-19 in our recent magazine. We also bring interviews, a list of freshly IAO accredited institutes, and much more.

**Jeff Wright, Editor in Chief**



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With the beginning of the new year 2020, a lot of new educational trends were introduced. Safe to say, 2019 was the year when online learning/distance learning thrived. Technocrats and educationalists were quite glad about new developments in the educational sector. A lot of progress was made which was attributed to new technological developments and discoveries. Although, this progress was not only attributed to technological development but the cooperation and coordination of teachers as well.

## 20.

### **VIDEO CONFERENCE VS LIVE STREAMING – WHAT TO CHOOSE FOR ONLINE CLASSES?**

**Online learning** or e-learning is not a mere trend anymore. It has become a need of time due to several reasons. Despite being a second option for years, tables have now turned with online learning being a primary learning mode.



# LOCKDOWN OR NO LOCKDOWN? – BLENDED LEARNING WILL SAVE THE DAY!

During the initial times of COVID-19, the world momentarily stopped. Businesses were closed down and people were locked inside of their houses. Although, learning did not stop. Classes went completely online and students continued their learning on the internet. Once lock down was extended, almost all the schools followed suit, and learning went completely digital. It was a pleasant change to see as technology acted as an ultimate crutch for education in times of need. Although, there have been several speculations that lock down is going to be lifted and life will go back to normal. Schools managements are already eager to continue normal education and proximate learning. Although, proximate classes may never be the same, thanks to technology.



**No** matter how smooth proximate learning or face-to-face classes are, technology made a lot of things easier for students and teachers during the lock down. Online learning incorporated help from applications and software that made complex tasks simpler. Now that things are going back to normal, it may be a little difficult for teachers and students to completely let go of digital methods of learning. Schools, colleges, and other educational institutes may go into a hybrid mode and adopt blended learning. If you are a teacher who wants to make digital methods a permanent part of your class, then here's what you can do to implement hybrid learning.



# 1. Flipped Classroom

**One** key feature of online learning is the responsibility division between students and teachers. Online learning is all about self-motivation as you are not under the strict supervision of a teacher. This feature makes students more self-aware of their performance and allows teachers to focus on different weak areas of students. In a flipped classroom, teachers can implement the same thing face-to-face with students. It is a classroom model used in hybrid learning where teachers play the role of mentor and guide, but not a leader. Students are required to explore the basics on their own at home and seek the help of teachers for further discussions in the classroom. This method is meant to reduce the engagement gap between teachers and students as it promotes open-ended discussions. Not only that but teachers ultimately get more time to focus on other students who are struggling with their lessons.

It is an extremely convenient and time-saving method of learning which requires technological assistance. Teachers can assign a topic to students on which students are required to study through the help of the internet and books. Students can also seek the help of teachers through email or other modes of communication chosen by teachers.



## 2.

# Usage of Multimedia

**Using** multimedia modes such as videos and images is not only a convenient thing to do, but it is extremely effective. Scholars believe that modern students learn better when lessons are presented in the form of graphics and visuals. There are many teachers who are already using flashcards and notes with images so that students find it easier to learn. It is for the same reason that YouTube lessons have become so famous among the students. These lessons are short, simple, and graphical in nature, all features that modern students like in their learning. Teachers and students will save plenty of time by using such methods in the classroom. Teachers can either make their own lesson videos or recommend pre-made video lessons on the internet for students. Instead of using blackboard, switch it up with allowing mobile phone devices in class and send out visual flashcards. If you are not comfortable with students using mobile phones in class, then send out your images and videos a day ahead so that students can study those at home. This will be a sort of flipped learning method as well incorporated with images and videos.





### 3. Promoting Student Engagement

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**The** best thing about Hybrid learning model is that it promotes student engagement which is an essential part of a thriving classroom. Teachers can use the power of technology and apply it in a proximate classroom to achieve the best results. Game-based learning is one way to boost student engagement with one another. Teachers can assign an online quiz or quest in the classroom and divide students into groups or teams. This type of fun activity will not only boost student engagement, but will educate them about teamwork, boost their competitive side, and increase their knowledge. It is an ideal method that teachers can use in a hybrid classroom model.

Experts believe that schooling culture is going to change a lot post-lock down. It is for their own good that teachers dig out best practices that will keep proximate classes interesting and educative for students. Teachers may want to start preparing for changes that are to come and cook up some new techniques for post-lock down learning.

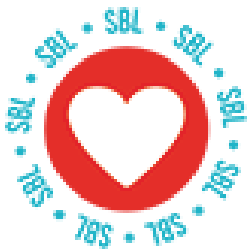
Monthly Announced

# Featured Accreditations

*Reputable institutes around the world acquire accreditation from IAO to be recognized on global level. IAO evaluates institutes based on a global education criterion to ensure high quality education for all. This issue features stories of educational pioneers that acquired accreditation from IAO.*

A group of four students walking on a path. From left to right: a man with headphones around his neck, a woman looking at a book, another woman holding a folder, and a man with a bicycle. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with trees and a fence.

#1



## SCHOOL BEYOND LIMITATIONS

**School Beyond Limitations** is a unique project to ensure online learning of students aged 10-18. The school has employed skilled and capable teachers who understand the complications and particulars of online learning to ensure student learning. They focus on personal development of their students and keep their interests and hobbies in mind before preparing a course. School Beyond Limitations goes beyond basic learning and prepares student for the battles of life.

#2



## THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY OF PEACE

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#3



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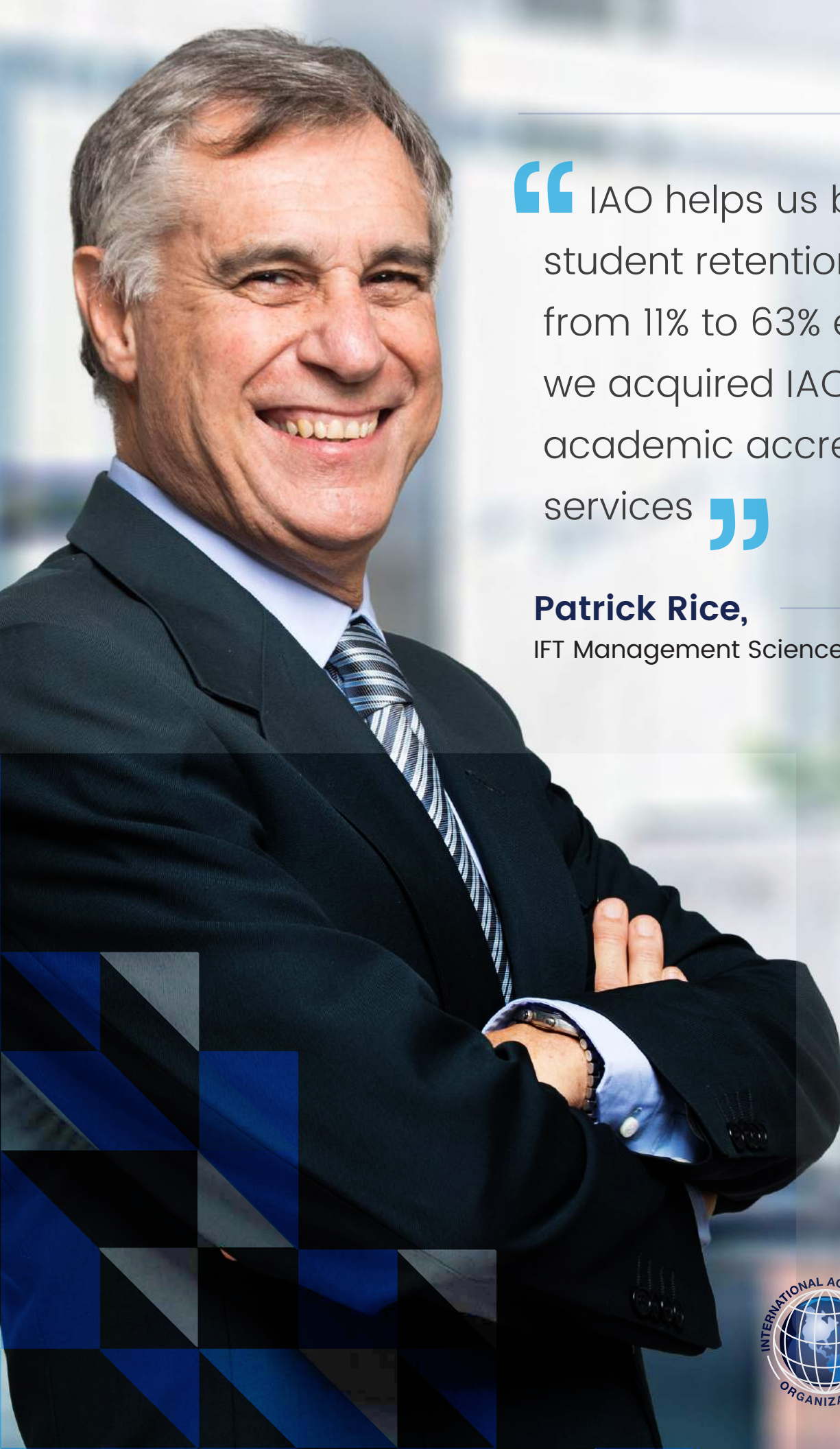
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**Patrick Rice,**  
IFT Management Sciences School



**IAO**

**Exclusive**

**IN CONVERSATION  
WITH**

# **DR. FUZULI ALIYEV**

Head of Finance Chair at Baku Engineering



## **Academic Life:**

**Q: Could you please walk us through your academic background and achievements? Your extensive and varied experience can be a source of inspiration for many; please share the highlights and milestones of your professional journey.**

After completing my Master's degree in Azerbaijan, I decided to continue my education and build my career in Academia. Azerbaijan is a former Soviet country and so doctorate education still remains centralized. Thus, I did my Ph.D. education in Turkey and received a Finance Ph.D. degree from Istanbul University. After completing Ph.D., I started working at the Baku Engineering University School of Education

and Administration Finance Department. In 2019, I conducted 8-month post-doctoral research at the University of Central Florida Finance Department with a prestigious Fulbright Visiting Scholar Program. Now I am head of Finance Chair at Baku Engineering University.



## **Experience:**

**Q: Currently heading the institute, what are some of your long-term and short-term goals for the education system?**

I am currently the Head of Finance Chair where I coordinate Finance bachelor and Financial Management graduate program. Our long-term goal is to build a modern, convenient, accessible, and global education environment where local and international students can realize their full potential and goals. The summary of the short-term goal is to equip students with such appropriate skills and competencies that will meet the requirements of the labor market.





**Q: What do you think your biggest challenge is working in the education industry at such a key position?**

I think the biggest challenge in the education of CIS countries is attracting good professors to work at education institutions. We had so many brilliant professors, but as a result of brain drain, they have moved to other higher-paying countries. The financial condition of our university is not good enough to bring those professors back home. On the other hand, high professional professors tend to work in an industry that pays higher than universities. So, the biggest challenge is to employ and inspire high professional professors in the education sector at home.

**Q: During your entire career, which milestone felt most accomplished and why?**

I think the Fulbright Scholarship funded by the US Department of State is an important

milestone in my academic career. This prestigious scholarship is awarded to about five researchers per year in my country, so there is very stiff competition for awards. I am happy to be a member of the U.S. government-sponsored exchange program alumni family.

**Q: Educationists are advised usually to share their experience and learning. What method of information-dissemination would you say is most effective for this purpose?**

We organize teaching in both ways; lectures and tutorials. I believe the practical approach and case-based teaching in tutorials are the most effective in social sciences. Practices include simulation games, visiting fields, production sites, etc. In my classes, I encourage students to discuss, present in front of the audience, take part in group works, etc. to empower them with soft skills other than the professional ones.



## Interest & Opinions:

**Q: Recently, there have been many reports and trends of students opting for alternate methods of education such as distance learning, diplomas, short-courses, etc. instead of traditional degrees. What's your view on this?**

As a result of globalization, students now have many ways of learning. Although distance learning saves more time and money for students, I think on-campus education now is more important for students to socialize and integrate. In the modern world, the internet has taken everything to the virtual world, so students should go to campus classrooms – real-world to communicate and interact. In the near future, robots will take most jobs, we should organize our education in a way that our products-students be able to compete with automatization in the labor market.

**Q: As an educator, what's your perspective on the current education system in your region and how do you think it can be improved or revolutionized, if required.**

As a relic of the Soviet Union, the higher education system in my country remains centralized. That is bachelor program curricula, courses are defined by government. Courses that will be taught is defined by regulating authority. Only small elective courses are up to higher education institutes. I think this situation should be changed, universities should be free to build a course of study and decide what courses to put in the program.



# IAO

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# 5 e-Learning Trends that will Shape 2020

**With** the beginning of the new year 2020, a lot of new educational trends were introduced. Safe to say, 2019 was the year when online learning/distance learning thrived. Technocrats and educationalists were quite glad about new developments in the educational sector. A lot of progress was made which was attributed to new technological developments and discoveries.

Although, this progress was not only attributed to technological development but the cooperation and coordination of teachers as well. There was a huge shift among teachers as they became more inclined and flexible towards online learning. Teachers' professional development also become a norm among educators which resulted in birth of a new group of modern teachers. At the beginning of the new year, all the educationalists were looking forward to the technological changes and development that would take place. Although the unfortunate circumstances due to COVID-19 may have sped up the process of technological development in the educational sector.

Traditional ways of learning such as face to face/proximal learning are rare sites as they have been replaced with distance learning. The developments that educationalists were looking forward to are finally here. Here are a few e-learning trends that are going to shape 2020;

# 1-Micro-learning



**Micro-learning** is a learning trend that is going to dominate the educational scene at a higher level. It is a digital form of learning that makes it easier for slow learners and digital natives to understand things in an easier and better way. It is a holistic approach to learning which breaks down major concepts into minor ones. In micro-learning, complex concepts are packed into tiny packets, which makes it convenient for students to learn and implement.

Any type of digital method that is not time-consuming, simple, and convenient falls into the category of micro-learning. For example, using flashcards, videos, images, etc. It is one of the ideal methods to teach digital natives as various researchers have proven that digital natives have a short attention span. Micro-learning focuses on small learning units and incorporates short term courses that make it ideal for students who find it hard to commit and focus for a long period of time.



## 2-Gamification

**Just** a few years ago it would have been considered nothing less than a joke that games could be a part of serious learning. Although several researchers have proven that even video games are beneficial to boost competitive sides of students and help them perform better in class. With the assistance of these research papers and some insight from educationalists, a modified version of gaming has become an important part of modern learning.

Gamification is an eLearning trend that blends education and gaming together to help students reach their full potential. In this trend, teachers incorporate different gaming activities to teach students in a light-hearted yet competitive way. For example, quizzes, teaming up students, adding prizes, levels, etc. There are many teachers who are replacing the concept of grading with levels to implement the trend of gamification.



## 3-Mobile Learning

**The** entire purpose of modern e-Learning trends is to make education more accessible and convenient for all. In the 21st century, there is nothing more convenient than having access to information just a tap away. Mobile learning is another e-Learning trend that is the ultimate choice of students. Students and teachers all over the world are now using mobile phones for learning purposes. It took some time for teachers to understand that mobile phones are not just devices that are responsible for student distraction but are capable of much more than that.

During COVID-19 teachers are using mobile phone applications such as Remind to communicate and interact in a better way with students. Sending updates regarding online classes has become easier. Not only that, but there are many mobile phone applications that are helping teachers and students to stay productive during the trying times of COVID-19.



## 4-Video-based Learning

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**As** mentioned earlier students of the modern age have a limited attention span. They find it hard to endure long lectures and lose interest in a snap. Learning methods that are quick and make things easier are usually preferred by these students. It is for the same reason that the students of the modern age prefer to learn in visuals and graphics.

Flashcards have become a recent trend as they are short and simple. Video learning is even easier and convenient for students, which is why it has become one of the hottest trends of the Year 2020. Many teachers are recording their lessons whereas others are recommending pre-recorded lessons available on sites such as YouTube. This is convenient both for teachers and students as it saves time while having a high impact in regards to learning.

There are several other e-Learning trends that are getting the attention of educators and experts. We are going to discuss a few more trends in-depth in our coming articles.



# Ending Notes

**Q.** Please share your philosophy of the ideal education a person can achieve regardless of its methods and processes. E.g. it could simply be a moment of enlightenment or a life-long struggle to gain perspective, how would you like to describe 'the best education or lesson' one can get.

I think the best education one can get is the learning from there that will follow him/her through his/her life. We cannot certainly distinguish between proper and improper education. It is relative and changes with the lifestyle, vision, and needs of people. So, I think the best education is what is lifelong and most useful. People should be inspired to learn and encouraged to do new things.

**Q.** Thank you for taking the time to answer a few questions for IAO Accreditor. Do you have any parting words of wisdom for educationists and students?

The quote by Benjamin Franklin that I put on the first page of my first quiz was: An investment in knowledge pays the best interest.

I also truly believe in the famous quote by Aristotle: Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all.



# Video conference vs live streaming – what to choose for online classes?





# Video Conference

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**Video** conference has been around for a long time. From a business conference to class lectures, video conference has been the top choice of many professionals. Many educational institutions used video conferences to conduct their online sessions. Here are a few benefits of video conference in Education.

1- Video conferences are ideal for small settings and classes. It is simpler for teachers to explain their assignments to the students as there are fewer parties involved in a video conference.

2- If you are a teacher who is all about class communication and engagement, then you may like video conference better than any other option. Video conference involves a limited number of students who are all connected at the same time; therefore, the level of communication is of high quality.

3- Keeping track of attendance and attention is comparatively easier in a video conference. Teachers are well aware of the presence and connection of students and can ask questions regarding the topic under discussion. This transparency results in high-quality class learning and boosted student performance.



# Live Streaming

**Live** streaming in education is still comparatively new which is why not many teachers are using it to conduct live classes. It is entirely different from video conferencing as it doesn't have a limited slot for people who can join. One person can start a live video stream and as many people can join the session with no hassle. Here are a few features and benefits of live streaming in education.

1- As opposed to video chatting, live streaming is ideal for large settings. As mentioned earlier, there's no limited slot as to how many people can watch a Live stream, therefore, as many people can join. University or college teachers can conduct their classes on live streaming platforms, as student numbers are usually high in colleges.



**2- Students** are always looking for an easier and simpler way out. When it comes to attending online lessons, video conferencing may seem like a long-drawn process to them. On the other hand, live streaming platforms usually have a simpler process that requires no login, whatsoever. This feature of live streaming would help boost class attendance and student retention rate in online courses. Live streaming requires only one person (Teacher) to go out of the way in order to set the stream, the rest is made easier for students.

3- Live streaming may not be as engaging as video conferencing is, but it is capable of producing the same engagement as there is in a traditional classroom. Live chat allows students to ask their questions mid-lecture or after it so that teacher can skim through the questions and answer them once the lecture is over.

Considering the current situation of COVID-19, almost all classes have gone online. Although both modes have their own benefits, it has become harder for teachers to conduct lessons through video conferencing when there are so many students in one class. Under such a situation, live streaming seems like an ideal option that is not only time-saving and hassle-free but is effective and practical as well.

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