

## Is Online or Homeschool an Effective Way to Learn?

The learning process can be divided into traditional education in an educational institution and distance learning. The latter form has recently become widely popular due to the development of technology. Besides, the COVID-19 pandemic is driving the increased interest in distance learning. However, there is controversy about whether this form of training is sufficient enough. This essay aims to examine online and homeschooling in a historical and contemporary context and to confirm the thesis that such activity is at least equivalent to a standard type of education.

Homeschooling is not a new concept that has appeared only in modern realities. In contrast, before the formation of general education institutions, learning often took place at home with a tutor, especially in wealthy families (Brewer and Lubienski, 2017). The transition to the current education system was carried out for ideological reasons and considerations of increasing efficiency (Brewer and Lubienski, 2017). However, at the moment, statistics show an increase in the number of children moving back to homeschooling. In 2011, in the United States, this number reached 1.77 million, accounting for approximately 3.4% of the total number of children in the country (Ripperger-Suhler, 2016, p. 1). A stable quantity of people choosing this form of education may indicate that it is quite effective since it has not yet been completely abandoned. Besides, among the 1.77 million, no specific racial or gender tendency was found, nor was there a difference in the wealth of families (Ripperger-Suhler, 2016). This fact indicates that a wide variety of people uses this method, and this diversity indirectly confirms its effectiveness.

This parameter can be confirmed not only indirectly but also using statistics. In recent years, there have been several attempts to assess the performance of homeschooled children. This is mainly due to society's notions of this type of learning and the fears that are associated

with it. First of all, parents often worry that the lack of a suitable learning environment and communication with peers will negatively affect academic performance. However, statistics show that homeschooling children tend to score higher than students in public schools (Brewer and Lubienski, 2017). Finally, the Home School Legal Defense Association notes that colleges have recently become much more interested in homeschooling students (Brewer and Lubienski, 2017). These facts very clearly show the overall effectiveness of properly implemented distance learning. Simultaneously, it does not matter how skillful teachers are the parents themselves. With the proper selection of the educational institution and teachers, the child will be able to study even better than in a public school due to a more comfortable environment.

Finally, as an additional example, it's worth considering the current COVID-19 situation, which has forced many students worldwide to switch to distance learning. Although these conditions are stressful for students, statistics generally show more positive results. As noted in the article, the main problem of distance learning is the increased costs associated with the purchase of additional equipment and the provision of a stable Internet connection (Bahasoan et al., 2020). However, with proper implementation and a responsible approach from both teachers and students, distance learning can be an effective alternative to standard teaching. Besides, this is facilitated by a more comfortable home environment, the absence of the need to spend a lot of time on the road, and the active use of popular multimedia tools and services.

Thus, it can be concluded that distance learning is at least a worthy equivalent to traditional education. In some cases, with proper training, such a method can even give superior standard results. This is primarily due to the essence of homeschooling, rooted in the history of humanity. These results are confirmed by both historical statistics under normal conditions and extreme tests in the realities of a pandemic. The only requirement for this method's success is the

careful preparation of the necessary equipment and means of acquiring knowledge, be it online courses or the choice of a tutor.

## Reference List

- Bahasoan, A.N., *et al.* (2020) 'Effectiveness of online learning in pandemic COVID-19', *International Journal of Science, Technology & Management*, 1(2), pp.100-106.
- Brewer, T.J. and Lubienski, C. (2017) 'Homeschooling in the United States: Examining the rationales for individualizing education', *Pro-Posições*, 28(2), pp.21-38.
- Ripperger-Suhler, J. (2016) 'Homeschooling: An alternative to traditional school', *The Brown University Child and Adolescent Behavior Letter*, 32(4), pp.1-5.