

Chapter 17

Strategies and Practices for Instructors in Online Open Elective Courses: Teacher Lessons

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ABSTRACT

The importance of online open elective courses (OOECs) in contemporary education is examined in this study, along with the difficulties teachers have when instructing them. Despite the advantages of OOECs—accessibility, flexibility, range of subjects, and individualized learning—teachers still have challenges in maintaining student

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engagement, supervising big classes, guaranteeing high-quality assessment systems, overcoming technological problems, and encouraging diversity. This study's primary focus is on the tactics and best practices that educators can use to overcome these obstacles and increase OOE effectiveness. This work is important because it has the potential to improve the caliber of online education. It responds to the growing need for online education, provides teachers with the resources and information they require to improve student learning outcomes, trains them in research-based techniques, and works in tandem with

INTRODUCTION

In contemporary times, online open elective courses have become a game changer in our ever changing educational landscape by driving the way students learn and grow academically. These courses, which give room for students to delve into topics outside their main area of study, are very important in ensuring customized education is embraced and lifelong learning is promoted. In addition to expanding educational opportunities, online open elective courses have also been instrumental in democratising education globally by offering a variety of theme options and eliminating geographical limitations as well as time table constraints.

The importance of these programs lies in the fact that they can cater for different learner preferences and needs. Flexible and accessible online study spaces are increasingly becoming more evident with advances in educational technology. Recent research shows that the need for individualized educational experiences that suit their busy lifestyles perfectly aligns with modern learners' desire to learn anytime from anywhere (Hollis et al., 2022; Kim & Lee, 2023).

Additionally, the diverse range of open elective courses offered through online platforms provides a variety of learning opportunities to meet different interests and academic objectives. This variety serves as a source of enhancement for education perspectives of students and also promotes a culture that is exploratory and intellectually curious. In light of recent studies, allowing students freedom to choose electives based on their personal interests can lead to increased involvement and contentment with their learning (Bawa, 2023; Parker et al., 2021).

However, there are some difficulties experienced by instructors in providing good online open elective courses. There are several obstacles educators must overcome when it comes to sustaining high levels of student engagement across diverse populations while dealing with large scale cohorts as well as quality assessment and feedback. Solving these problems require out-of-box strategies and best practices that are responsive to specific demands posed by online teaching (Cruz et al., 2023; Zhou et al., 2023).

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