# VIRTUAL EDUCATION

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Virtual education refers to instruction in a learning environment where teacher and student are separated by time or space, or both, and the teacher provides course content through course management applications, multimedia resources like the internet, videoconferencing, etc. Students receive the content and communicate with the teacher via the same technologies.[1]

## Characters of virtual education

Virtual education is a term describing online education using the Internet. This term is primarily used in higher education even though this method is being used to teach schools or even illiterate farmers located in remote rural areas.It is not taught in a traditional classroom face-to-face manner but through some substitute mode that can be associated with classroom teaching. That means students / people do not have to go to the real classrooms to learn but still they have the feeling of real classrooms. Virtual courses – a synonym with online courses – are courses delivered on the Internet.

## Modes of Instruction

Many virtual study programs are mainly text based, using HTML, PowerPoint, or PDFdocuments. Student and teacher are able to communicate live using the following methods; voice, text chat, and emoticons, using a standard

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50 minute schedule or a block schedule that is similar to a college or university. Online animations, tutorials, videos, and labs are used to enhance and support the effectiveness of the virtual classroom.

## Virtual Classroom

A virtual classroom is a learning environment created in the virtual space, to improve access to advanced educational experiences by allowing students and instructors to participate in remote learning communities using personal computers; and to improve the quality and effectiveness of education by using the computer to support a collaborative learning process. The concept of virtual classrooms is a manifestation of knowledge revolution.

## Hypertext courses

Structured course material is used as in a conventional distance education program. All material is provided electronically and can be viewed with a browser. Hyperlinks connect text, multimedia parts and exercises in a meaningful way.

## Video-based courses

They are like face-to-face classroom courses, with a lecturer speaking withPowerPoint slides or online examples used for illustration. A video-streaming technology is used for this. Students watch the video by means of freeware or plug-ins.

## Audio-based courses

They are similar but instead of moving pictures only the sound track of the lecturer is provided. Often the course pages are enhanced with a text transcription of the lecture.

## Animated courses

Enriching text-oriented or audio-based course material by animations is generally a good way of making the content and its appearance more interesting. These animations help understand key concepts and also allow for better retention of learning.

## Web-supported textbook courses

These are based on specific textbooks. Students read and reflect on the chapters by themselves. Review questions, topics for discussion, exercises, case studies, etc. are given chapterwise on a website and discussed with the lecturer. Class meetings may be held to discuss matters in a chatroom, for example.[2]

## Modes of Communication and Interaction

Students in virtual education acquire knowledge in a uni-directional manner. Discussions of problems solving exercises, case studies, review questions, etc. help the students to understand better what they learned before. This learning is delivered at the students pace, not instructed live by a teacher. Students still acquire the content via real life instruction. A real teacher in real time delivers virtual classroom instruction. The virtual classroom teacher uses the computer screen as the board delivering instruction by using videos, PowerPoint's, or pod casts but still have opportunities for immediate teacher feedback and input while logged into class. Students can also interact with other students via notes, texts, and emoticons. Electronic media like a discussion forum, chat room, voice mail, e-mail, etc. are often employed for communication in both synchronous and asynchronous courses.

Homework assignments are normally submitted electronically, e.g. as an attachment to an e-mail or uploaded to the LMS system in a view complete. When help is needed, lecturers, tutors, or fellow students, or a help desk are available, just like in a real university. The difference is that all communication goes via electronic media.

## Referances

1. Kurbel, Karl: Virtuality on the Students' and on the Teachers' sides: A Multimedia and Internet based International Master Program; ICEF Berlin GmbH (Eds.), Proceedings on the 7th International Conference on Technology Supported Learning and Training – Online Educa; Berlin, Germany; November 2001, pp. 133–136.

2. Loutchko, Iouri; Kurbel, Karl; Pakhomov, Alexei: Production and Delivery of Multimedia Courses for Internet Based Virtual Education; The World Congress "Networked Learning in a Global Environment: Challenges and Solutions for Virtual Education", Berlin, Germany, May 1 – 4, 2002