| **RESEARCH ARTICLE**

Grasp the Trend of Distance Education and Push the Development of Rural English Learning

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| **ABSTRACT**

The research is about online English education in rural areas, which constitutes a relatively new area that has emerged from online education. Due to the superiority of urban regionality over rural areas, the inequality of English education, teacher resource shortage, and the backward thinking of people living in rural areas, rural English education lags behind. However, online education is a new trend in the education industry, and it is also a new opportunity for rural English education. Intuitively, Internet connection solves difficulties for that student who lives in remote areas without roads or funds to pay for tuition to attend a school far away. Therefore, this appears a more straightforward problem is how online English education reshapes rural English education. Aiming to understand this problem, this study principally conducts a research methodology of literature review and contrastive analysis. There has been less previous evidence for online English education. So this research aims at finding a solution to online English classes for this challenging problem of backward rural English education. Finally, the main achievements, including contributions to the field, can be summarized as follows: helping rural students to receive quality English education and promoting the equality of English education in urban and rural areas. On this basis, the concept of social distance should be taken into account when bridging rural online English classes.

| **KEYWORDS**

Online, English, education, rural, city

| **ARTICLE INFORMATION**

1. Introduction

The Health Resources and Services Administration of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services defines the term "rural" as including all population, housing, and territory not included in urban areas. Anything that is not urban is taken into account rural. Different countries have different definitions of "rural. " Rural area, in general, a geographical area could be a region that is situated outside cities and towns. It has low population density and small settlements. Here it refers to the concept in a broad sense and relates to the countryside as opposed to the city.

Rural development typically refers to the method of raising the standard of life and economic well-being of individuals living in comparatively remote and sparsely inhabited areas. Rural development has historically targeted the exploitation of natural resources, just like the development of agriculture. However, changes in international production networks and enhanced urbanization have needed rural communities to look at development from a broader perspective, which has a junction rectifier to a larger concentration on broad development goals. Education, entrepreneurship, and infrastructure play a vital role in developing rural areas. In the case of rural English education, it is still not guaranteed in terms of the quality of education. Instead, the development of rural online English education is an enhancement of the quality of English learning and expansion of resources for local learners.

With the vertical and horizontal development of the Internet, and gradually become a fashion lifestyle, affecting people's lives. In this context, online English training comes into being. It focuses all its energy on the quality of the English learning effect so that people can no longer pay the high-cost publicity, venue rental, personnel management, and other expenses other than English learning. Online English training will gradually become a development trend in the English training industry. It brings favorable circumstances for business people, as well as for rural English education. As for putting Online English classes into rural education, although some attempts have been made to address this issue, it is still limited. Distance education is suitable for rural schools, which helps students receive English education and broaden their knowledge (Banks et al., 2009). So this project still needs to be studied.

Online English classes will play an important role in cross-cultural communication (Virador, 2019). However, compared with online English education in cities, online English education in rural areas needs to be improved. The problem is quite prominent in terms of lacking understanding of online English classes. And the reason is that the spread of new information in rural areas is lower than in urban areas, and people living in the countryside lack relevant knowledge. First of all, because of the regional and financial obstacles, there are still difficulties in message dissemination in the countryside. Secondly, there may be barriers to people do not know how to use it. In 2009, the Department of Census and Statistics Sri Lanka announced that just 20.3% of the 5-69-year-old people with computer knowledge (Adams et al., 2013). Therefore it is necessary to publicize online English classes in rural areas in more detail, which will make people understand it better.

2. Literature Review

Several previous pieces of literature have been proposed to address rural education, some focusing on the education administration system should be readjusted and improved, others on the government back the education in the countryside with money (Hu, 2008). There are also two aspects of the article. In the first place, under certain conditions, adjustment and improvement of rural education not only can coordinate the contradiction of fairness and efficiency effectively but also can make the two promote each other. Then about education funds, this is the basis of improving teaching equipment. On the other hand, this paper addresses the need for innovation in teaching methods and analysis of students, which is so far lacking in the prior research. Few articles analyze students' views on online education. Through the data that "70% of students thought that they were more interested in this learning model and that only 11% of them believed that such learning model would diminish their learning interest" (Gong, 2018, p. 12). And when it comes to answering questions, "rural students were more active than urban ones, indicating that rural students have great enthusiasm for this learning model" (Gong, 2018, p. 11). This shows that rural students like this teaching mode and are willing to participate in it. Consequently, the application of online English classes in rural schools will improve their English teaching quality. Because "the blended-learning mode is more effective than the purely classical or purely e-learning modes of education" (Kurucova et al., 2018, p. 11).

How to make the best use of online English education in rural English education turns out to be even more problematic. Three specific problems about it that should be addressed. First of all, people living in the countryside lack understanding of online English classes. They are backward in their English education thinking. They think English learning is secondary. However, globalization is reflected in all fields of life, especially in higher education (Mostafa & Parvaneh, 2015). It also proves the importance of English. Secondly, rural areas have low performance in online English education. In cities, online English education has been applied to schools, even as an after-school English learning tool. On the contrary, only a few schools in the countryside use it, and most of the school's remote equipment is idle. Distance English education should be a way to improve the quality of rural English education. But in fact, the city is making full use of it, which will lead to a greater gap between urban and rural in this aspect. One more mention, what role should English teachers play in this field? In face-to-face education mode, if a fresh teacher can't cooperate with others in the school, teaching students or loving subjects may not satisfy them, so they may give up the practice, change the school or even lose their professionalism (Hancock & Scherff, 2010). So how teachers lead other people to cooperate and communicate through teaching in the virtual world needs attention.

If the research problem is answered, the benefits will be generated. Above all, online English education is a new way for rural students to receive quality English education. The proportion of teachers and students in the countryside to urban areas is 1: 23 and 1: 19 in primary schools, and 1: 18 and 1: 13.5 in secondary schools, which can reflect the unreasonable system of rural teacher allocation and a large number of unqualified teachers (Hu, 2008). Nevertheless, online learning can find high-quality resources around the world. Another benefit is that it shortens the difference in English education between the city and the country. This is mainly reflected in communication and career. Since the two objectives of grasping a language are to facilitate employment and social intercourse (Kurucova et al., 2018), finally, it overcomes the distance barrier. It is realized through the Internet. Teachers and students can complete teaching in two different places.

3. Research Method
This study was analyzed mainly through a literature review. The researcher found the literature by focusing on distance education and rural education. And its reference date is within the last two decades. The comparative analysis of urban and rural areas in the study was greatly inspired by the articles that the researcher referred to.

4. Findings and Discussion
The approaches to this problem offer two viable solutions, which are to increase the publicity of online English education and encourage college students and relevant professionals to cooperate in it. To begin with, increasing the publicity of online English education. This will increase people's understanding of online English education and then improve the rate of utilization in rural English education. Secondly, nowadays, the most common way is for college students to take part in teaching English as an English teacher in the countryside during their vacation or internship. This can alleviate the shortage of rural English education resources.

The findings of this study have to be seen in the light of the following limitations. The first is the limitation of using a literature review for sampling analysis. The researcher is not able to take into account all the literature. For example, some relevant articles from small language countries may not be properly understood by the researcher due to language barriers. The second is the limitation of solution methods. They are short-time and cannot effectively change the backward situation.

 However, the results have limitations. It can only be regarded as a preliminary conclusion and not an accurate one. Even though it has limitations, it has reference value in rural online education, and it can help people realize that in addition to learning the teaching methods of traditional class education, the teaching method of online education classes can not be ignored. Taking part in distance English education avoids the limitation of distance and time. Moreover, the participation of professionals will make the field of rural English education more professional. Their participation will also help guide the rural people out of backward English education thinking.

5. Conclusion
In conclusion, online English education promotes the field of rural English education, including boosting the equality of urban and rural English education and changing the negative view of English education. It can not be separated from vigorous publicity and the involvement of relevant people to help rural English education to have better development.

5.1 Hope to Increase Support
In order to better promote the online English education program and expand its influence, there must be financial investment and relevant policy support. In this regard, the researcher hopes that the relevant authorities will support and help the smooth implementation of the program.

5.2 Combination of School and Online Classes
The necessity of offline schools cannot be disregarded. The obvious disadvantage of online classes is the lack of individuality and interactivity. The student's growth process and experience should be more of a priority. There is a desire for improved teaching standards and increased teacher staffing for rural English teachers. This is a prerequisite for the effective use of distance learning resources in rural education. Students without teachers will be lost, but students who rely on teachers for knowledge are not really learning.

Conflicts of Interest: The authors declare no conflict of interest.
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