

## The Effects of Internet on Economics Teaching

Sun Xiu

Dianchi College of Yunnan University, Kunming, 650000

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**Abstract:** With the development of modern information technology, Internet has been continuously used in teaching. On economics teaching, Internet plays an important role on enriching the teaching method, and acting as a platform of information collection and teaching achievement promotion for teachers. It is also a platform for students to learn and practice, which promotes students' learning initiative and comprehensive ability. Students can participate in practical courses and communicate with teachers. So it is necessary to make full use of Internet on economics teaching.

### 1. Introduction

With the development of modern information technology, Internet technology popularized in China, which not only promotes the development of Chinese economy, but also promotes the reform of economics course teaching. Economics is one of the most important majors in Chinese universities, which asks students systematically master basic economic theories and relevant basic professional knowledge, understand the operation mechanism of market economy, be familiar with national economic policies and regulations, and understand the history and current situation of economic development at home and abroad. Economics Courses in China at present basically are microeconomics, macroeconomics, political economics, international economics, econometrics, financial economics, labor economics, industry economics, etc. The teachers majored in economics should understand the academic dynamics of economics, and have ability to use quantitative analysis methods and modern technical means for social and economic investigation.

In the traditional teacher-centered teaching mode, the purpose of teaching is just complete the teaching content. Teaching contents and teaching methods are relatively conservative that only happened in classes. Teacher would not guide students to learn how to obtain, selection and application of information. The teaching method cannot adapt to the change speed of new knowledge under the development of the information. The traditional teaching mode cannot meet the economy society needs and cannot cultivate the students' creativity. E.g. the teaching of economic history has the problems of unreasonable textbook writing, unreasonable curriculum setting, single teaching method and disjointed teaching and scientific research<sup>[1]</sup>.

Internet contains global network of switches, routers, and other network equipment by a common set of protocols, which has various links, a wide variety of servers, and countless computers and terminals. The Internet has the following characteristics: the pluralism, openness, virtuosity, concealment and uncontrollability of network culture<sup>[2]</sup>. It can send information to thousands of miles away. It is the basis of the information society that can be used to collect, store, retrieval, analysis, application and evaluation all kinds of information. Internet is like a "double-edged sword"<sup>[3]</sup>. On the one hand, the development of Internet technology has brought new challenges to the teaching of humanities and social sciences, including political science. On the other hand, the Internet is a strong support for improving teaching and improving teaching quality. The application of Internet in undergraduate teaching mainly focuses on distance teaching and virtual teaching, which plays a key role in overcoming the shortage of traditional teaching and saves educational costs. The application of modern information technology can not only enrich the teaching form and realize the sublimation of the teaching process, but also helps students to simulate the economic behavior so that they can further test the economic theory. In the age of cloud information, the acquisition of economics knowledge is rich, convenient and free<sup>[4]</sup>. With Internet, numerous users can share

teaching resource database at the same time, promoting the dynamic development and utilization of educational resources<sup>[5]</sup>. It has been recognized as unique advantages that the function of modern education technology in optimizing teaching process and improving classroom teaching efficiency in recent years. In particular, some advanced educational concepts and modern educational technologies combined with advanced scientific and technological achievements can quickly send students to the frontier of subject knowledge. It broadens the time and space of study for students, and greatly makes up for the psychological limitations of students.

## **2. The Role of Internet Technology on Teachers' Teaching**

The complete teaching process includes teaching and learning. As a platform for collecting teaching information, Internet technology is also a platform for communicating the teaching methods and teaching results for teachers.

### **2.1 It is the Platform of Information Collection**

The role of Internet on economics teaching mainly is that it can enrich the teaching content and the collection of relevant data. The teaching content and cases of economics need to keep pace with the times and be constantly updated. Beside, teachers teach economics theories from a broader and more acute perspective that needs to pay attention to the current political changes at home and abroad at any time. Internet provides abundant text, pictures, video resources and comprehensive materials for teachers. Teachers can use Chinese and foreign electronic journal database to broader vision and learn more economics theory. The policies and measures published on the government websites are helpful for teachers to be familiar with the government work process and understand the government behaviors.

### **2.2 It is one of the Main Teaching Methods**

Compared with traditional sources information, teachers can transform common materials in daily life into information-based learning resources, such as picture, video, audio-visual and animation images materials with the help of Internet. Internet has all kinds of information resources, and combines with subject teaching content. Internet runs through multimedia courseware making and presentation, course training guidance, teaching case collection, network classroom and other links. Documents, pictures, web pages, audio and video resources related to the course can be used as teaching materials, and relevant courseware and teaching plan can be used as teaching reference. It changes the traditional subject teaching content, and makes the teaching materials "live". By using the Internet where information resources crossing the boundaries of time and space, teachers can use the teaching software. It is a main teaching method on nowadays. Teachers also can teach more students at spare time on live.

### **2.3 It is a Platform for Teaching Achievement Promotion**

Internet as the medium, can promote the application of course teaching achievement. Teaching achievements refer to the educational and teaching programs that reflect original and novel practical teaching laws, which have obvious effects on improving the teachers' teaching level and the quality of education and realizing the training objectives. Internet is one of the most influential ways to promote teaching achievements. It can promote teaching ideas, teaching methods, teaching materials, papers and other course teaching results. Resource sharing is one of the most advantage of Internet which can help form an open teaching environment that promote the teaching reform and improve the teaching quality. Teachers can form teaching ideas and teaching methods into papers through discussing and researching among peers on Internet.

## **3. The Role of Internet Technology on Students' Learning**

Internet technology can not only help teachers improve their teaching level, as a friend of students, it is also a learning platform for students to participate in teaching, complete homework, and improve

their initiative.

### **3.1 It is a Platform for Students to Learn and Practice**

Apart from helping to enrich and update the teaching content, Internet is also a friend of students which can provide a platform for students to learn and practice. With the Internet students can do many things, such as, reading extracurricular, writing paper and collecting information. Under the protecting premise of the knowledge rights and interests, students' course reports and other contents published on website can effectively guide students to learn from each other. As result, it forms an open learning environment. Internet is used most frequently and effectively in students' course training and paper writing. The study contents form into the multimedia, Journals, books, online databases and moocs, which have become important channels for students to acquire professional knowledge in addition to classes. It breaks the limitations of time and places. With Internet, students' learning content becomes more colorful, more epochal, more close to life. Students can interact with each others, even with the software. The use of interactive learning software can show the learning content, intuitive operation demonstration, which is the second class of students. After learning certain content, the software will show correct answers after answering the questions.

### **3.2 Students Can Participate in Practical Courses**

In the traditional economics teaching, students only can experience and summarize some economic laws through a very limited number of examples. It is difficult for students to guess the correct answer without the guidance of teachers. The economics teaching under modern information technology can overcome this limitation. By using the powerful Internet computes where a lot of data can be enumerated, students can understand economics rules easily, so that they can master the economics theories and find the correct answers. For students who majored in economics, traditional practical teaching mainly includes social investigation and graduation practice. With the application of modern information technology, students can simulate operations on computers, laptops, ipads, mobile phones and other modern information technology devices. With Internet, they can play different roles, make decisions, and finally collect decision results to form corresponding macro and micro data. They also can review the enterprise decision, convert the decision result and invert the decision. In this way, the knowledge of economics can not only be presented twice, but also can help students to fully understand it.

### **3.3 It promotes Students' Learning Initiative**

The traditional class teaching system lacks the personality traits on cultivating talent. The students just learn what the teachers taught. Learning is not a process in which teachers transfer knowledge and information for students to absorb, but a process in which learners actively construct the meaning of knowledge. Only in the context of sufficient information can students have the space to choose and process, and only information related to students' life experience it can promote the idea construction of students. With the development of information technology, computer is introduced as a tool of tutoring education. It can help students to build higher learning strategies and learning ability. Teachers have more opportunities to observe classes, and teach students "learning to learn", what causes the student to be the center of the changing from "teaching" to "learning". At last, it effectively inspires the students' interest in learning. Students can learn what they like at anytime in anywhere through the help of Internet.

## **4. The Role of Internet Technology on the Communication between Teachers and Students**

As a platform, Internet enriches the interaction tools for teachers and students, promotes teaching and learning, and promotes the students' comprehensive ability.

### **4.1 It Enriches the Interaction Tools**

Information updates on Internet is very fast. People can interact with each other, and people can communicate with information, which greatly saves many papers and has the effect of energy saving

and environmental protection. Internet as the interaction platform has gradually become the most popular and convenient way for teachers and students to interact with each other, such as face-to-face communication, E-mail exchanges, etc. It is able to exchange information without space restrictions, which helps students to report problems and teachers to timely answer the questions in time. Other chat tools, like Facebook, weibo, renren, QQ, blog, BBS, circle of friends, make the interaction between teachers and students more frequent and smooth. Besides, there are a large number of Internet users and a large amount of information on the website. The information mainly exists with video, pictures, texts and other forms, which not only meets the personalized needs of everyone, but also improves the efficient and rapid dissemination of information through resource integration.

#### **4.2 It Promotes Teaching and Learning**

Students use the information under the teacher's guidance to accept the learning task. Using modern information technology, teachers and students can work together to complete the task. So that it can get feedback to develop teaching and learning. Internet not only enables students to quickly understand their own learning situation and deepen their learning experience, but also enables teachers to obtain learning feedback information and timely take remedial measures. It makes the teaching process closer to the teaching goal, and realizes the stratified teaching and personalized teaching in a real sense. This also reflects the essence of a teacher -- teaching knowledge and explaining doubts. In addition, the whole process about questioning and answering questions can be operated anonymously, which not only protects students' privacy, but also increases the effectiveness of the questions and realizes the win-win situation of teaching and learning.

#### **4.3 It Promotes the Students' Comprehensive Ability**

The mastery of modern information technology can not only cultivate students' ability to acquire, screen, judge and analyze information resources, but also play an important role in the improvement of their thinking and creativity. Internet teaching platform is a relatively complete supporting environment that can comprehensively and effectively support teachers' teaching and students' learning. At present, web-based teaching platform is widely used. Teaching platform is an open platform that supports the communication among students, teachers and administrators. It can cultivate students' ability to analyze and solve problems in the teaching process. Through using Internet, students can improve their ability of using and processing information. At last, self-study and independent research can greatly improve students' learning enthusiasm and innovative thinking ability. The purpose of teachers is to cultivate innovative talents with creative consciousness, creative thinking, creative personality and creative skills. The most important thing for innovative talents is the ability to learn new knowledge, acquire new knowledge and apply new knowledge. Students can discover new problems and concepts, master new methods and ideas, and constantly improve innovation and creativity by using Internet.

### **5. Conclusion**

Traditional teaching is generally teacher-center teaching mode that teacher dominates lead everything for students, and students do what teacher told so that they neither solves the problems by themselves. The teachers initiatively seldom consider students' cognitive process. By using modern information technology, teachers can make full use of online resources and can greatly improve the efficiency and quality of teaching. Students can learn more knowledge at anytime in anywhere. It changes and enriches students' learning methods, expands learning time and space, cultivates students' good habits of independent learning, cooperatives learning and inquiry learning, and cultivates students' modern consciousness about collecting and processing information. Internet also has the function of dynamic display and monitoring, which enables students to track the results through the equipments. As college teachers, we should develop teaching and learning methods through integrating the internet technology into subject teaching, and making full use of the characteristics of abundant network information, timely dissemination, convenient reading, strong

interaction, and activate textbooks in order to comprehensively improve the quality of education, and promote the sustainable development of students' comprehensive quality.

But we also need to pay more attention to the following problems when using the Internet. First is respect others' copy rights and standardizes. The development of Internet provides more convenience and resources for college students and teachers to complete course papers and course training. But at the same time, plagiarism and citation without explanation are increasingly common. Rich network resources can broaden students' horizons and provide more perspectives for thinking. However, without thinking, students are deprived of the right to think independently by cobbling together all kinds of network materials, failing to achieve the purpose of curriculum training and contrary to the purpose of higher education. Second is the security of modern information technology. Some paid information on line will cheat visitors into paying constantly. We should strength network security awareness, and avoid information leakage which will cause the loss of property and rights. Third is using the Internet must in the correct way. Internet makes our life colorful, but it will bring trouble to us if we use it in incorrect way, like spreading virus or using it illegally. We should take responsibility on what we do with the internet. Finally is paying more attention to the need of students. Different student has different hobbies and abilities. In the specific teaching process, we should pay attention to teaching according to merit and teaching because of different needs<sup>[6]</sup>.

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