



Having completed my degree in an online learning environment has enabled me to adapt to new technology faster, improve my problem-solving skills and time management skills, and build independence and self-discipline. All these skills have helped prepare me for the labor market.

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Online Learning

As digital integration deepens, online education becomes pivotal in lifelong learning and inclusivity. It enhances learners' experiences by making education more accessible, eliminating physical barriers and enhancing collaborations. It also enables educational institutions to foster a self-directed learning approach essential for learners navigating the future workforce.

The Foundation remains committed to working with various sectors, aiming to advance online learning and enhance the education ecosystem. This spotlight summarizes an outcome paper on Online Learning from the Al Ghurair Thought Leadership Series.

Data Snapshot

- ◆ **65% of 7000 higher education students** from 17 countries globally indicated that they want aspects of their learning experience to remain virtual after the COVID-19 pandemic ([McKinsey & Company, 2023](#)).
- ◆ The **global online education market** is forecasted to **grow from USD 217 billion in 2022 to USD 475 billion by 2030** ([Facts & Factors, 2023](#)).

Challenges with Online Learning

Online learning in higher education is hindered by multiple barriers, such as:

- **Resistance to change** among educators and faculties challenge progress.
- **Lack of inclusivity** in digital resources that widens the digital divide.
- **Insufficient digital training** and capacity building for educators and faculties.
- **Limited frameworks** for designing and delivering **quality online learning**.

Moving Forward with Online Learning

Launching rigorous and high-quality online programs requires planning and investment in technology, curriculum development, and faculty training. This includes:

- ✓ **Conducting market research** before launching programs.
- ✓ **Complementing online programs** with real-life modelling.
- ✓ **Developing adaptive assessments** to measure success.
- ✓ **Enhancing collaborations** among education stakeholders and industry.

For more insights on strengthening the ecosystem for online learning in higher education, refer to our published [outcome paper](#).

