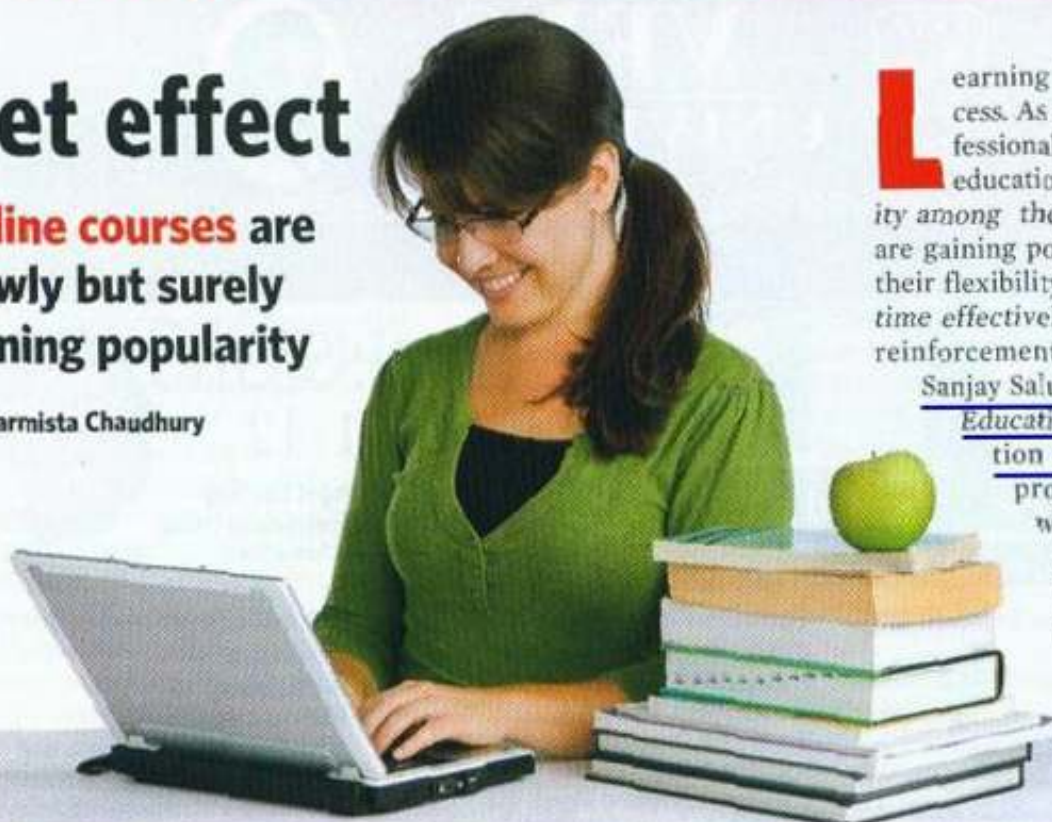


Net effect

Online courses are slowly but surely gaining popularity

By Sharmista Chaudhury



Learning is an ongoing process. As more and more professionals realise this, online education is gaining popularity among them. "Online courses are gaining popularity because of their flexibility, scope for utilising time effectively, convenience and reinforcement of learning," says Sanjay Salunkhe, director, Jaro Education, an online education centre. "A working professional enrolled with our programme easily gets a 25 to 40 per cent hike in salary."

Swati Salunkhe of the career counselling firm Growth Centre, however, thinks it has a long way to go. "In India, online courses are still at a nascent stage

as recognition from the industry as well as the educational departments matters a lot. The biggest advantage of online courses is that one can study from any part of the world the course of his/her inclination without undergoing the selection competition as well as financial burden," she says.

So how do you choose a good course? Parveen Shaikh, head psychologist at Young Buzz, a career counselling firm, says there is no way of figuring out the absolute best course, but the ones offered by the Indian Institutes of Management are a safe bet. But the world of online education works on different parameters, she says. "These courses are more about building knowledge online, so the content matters a lot more than brand name," she says.

Career counsellors say doing an online course cannot be considered a stand-alone option for direct placement. "They are usually supportive in establishing formal credibility for individuals who lack the professional training or qualifications," says education counsellor Jayanti Ghosh. ■

TOP COLLEGES **LAW**

- | | | |
|----|---|------------|
| 1 | National Law School of India University (NLSIU) | Bangalore |
| 2 | National Institute for Advanced Legal Studies (NUALS) | Kochi |
| 3 | National Academy of Legal Studies and Research (NALSAR) | Hyderabad |
| 4 | Faculty of Law, University of Delhi | Delhi |
| 5 | Faculty of Law, Jamia Millia Islamia University | Delhi |
| 6 | Faculty of Law, Aligarh Muslim University | Aligarh |
| 7 | Faculty of Law, Mumbai University | Mumbai |
| 8 | Faculty of Law, Allahabad University | Allahabad |
| 9 | Law Centre No. 1, University Campus | Delhi |
| 10 | Amity Law School | Noida |
| 11 | National Law Institute University (NLIU) | Bhopal |
| 12 | University College of Law, Bangalore University | Bangalore |
| 13 | The WB National University of Juridical Sciences | Kolkata |
| 14 | Department of Law, Panjab University | Chandigarh |
| 15 | Faculty of Law, Banaras Hindu University | Varanasi |
| 16 | Government Law College | Mumbai |
| 17 | Bangalore Institute of Legal Studies | Bangalore |
| 18 | Symbiosis Society's Law College | Pune |
| 19 | M. S. Ramaiah Law College | Bangalore |
| 20 | Kishinchand Chellaram Law College | Mumbai |
| 21 | I.L.S. Law College | Pune |
| 22 | School of Legal Studies, CUSAT | Kochi |
| 23 | Jitendra Chauhan College of Law | Mumbai |
| 24 | K.L.E. Society's Law College | Bangalore |
| 25 | National Law University | Jodhpur |