



Empowering Education: A Comprehensive Guide to Free Online Learning Resources

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Introduction

Education is the cornerstone of personal growth, societal development, and the pursuit of a better future. Access to knowledge empowers individuals to broaden their horizons, develop new skills, and contribute to their communities. In an increasingly interconnected world, online educational resources have become indispensable tools for learning and self-improvement.

This compilation, titled "Empowering Education: A Comprehensive Guide to Free Online Learning Resources," aims to provide a valuable resource for those seeking knowledge, particularly in regions where access to education may be limited or restricted. The recent education ban for girls in Afghanistan underscores the urgent need for alternative learning opportunities that can help bridge the gap and ensure that everyone has the chance to learn and grow, regardless of their circumstances. Therefore, by having a connected digital gadget to the internet, one can open a wide horizon of learning opportunities with no restrictions or limits.

The guide features an extensive list of 25 carefully curated online platforms, offering a wide range of free courses, lectures, and resources from renowned universities, institutions, and organizations. These resources span various subjects, including humanities, social sciences, life sciences, business, computer science, digital marketing, language learning, and more.

By sharing this compilation, we hope to empower individuals in Afghanistan and around the world to access knowledge and education, fostering personal development and opening doors to new opportunities. Through learning and the pursuit of knowledge, we can overcome barriers, build bridges, and work towards a brighter future for all.

Disclaimer:

The information provided in this guide is for informational purposes only and does not constitute an endorsement of any specific platform or resource. It is important to note that these tools are not intended to be a replacement for formal education, which is a fundamental right of every individual, regardless of gender. Instead, they serve as supplementary resources to support learning during challenging times. Readers are advised to use the resources that best suit their needs and to continuously explore new tools and websites as the landscape of online education changes rapidly. The accuracy of the information and the availability of the listed resources are subject to change and should be verified independently by the users.

1. Coursera (www.coursera.org) A platform offering over 1,500 free courses and specializations from top universities and educational institutions worldwide. Subjects include humanities, social sciences, life science, business, computer science, digital marketing, and language learning.
2. EdX (www.edx.org) An online learning platform providing free courses from more than 60 prestigious universities. The catalog includes courses in law, ethics, social science, environment, and educational training.
3. FutureLearn (www.futurelearn.com) A social learning platform offering online courses, microcredentials, ExpertTracks, and degrees from leading universities and brands. The courses are 100% online, on-demand, and social.
4. MIT OpenCourseWare (www.ocw.mit.edu) Free access to a selection of MIT courses on various subjects, such as legal studies, project management, economics, women's and gender studies, and international relations.
5. Open Yale Courses (www.online.yale.edu) A selection of full videos and materials from Yale's introductory undergraduate courses in liberal arts disciplines, provided by distinguished Yale Professors.
6. Open2Study (www.open2study.com) Free online education from Open Universities Australia, offering four-week introductory subjects on multiple topics taught by academics and leading industrial professionals.
7. ALISON (www.alison.com) A collection of free online courses from the world's top publishers on professional subjects, such as sustainable development, project management, business management, HR, health and safety, law, and social work.
8. DisasterReady (www.disasterready.org) A platform developed to enhance knowledge of the emergency and international development sectors, containing over 600 free training resources on topics like fundraising, leadership, accounting, finance, operations, marketing, and program management.
9. Udacity (www.udacity.com) An educational organization offering free online courses and nanodegree programs in collaboration with industry giants. Main subjects include computer science, digital marketing, programming, artificial intelligence, and data science.
10. +Acumen (www.plusacumen.org) A global learning community for social change-makers offering free online courses on mission-related subjects, such as social entrepreneurship, networking leadership, storytelling for change, and human capital strategy for social enterprises.
11. Khan Academy (www.khanacademy.org) A non-profit organization providing free educational resources, including video lessons, quizzes, and exercises on a wide variety of subjects such as mathematics, science, arts, and humanities, computing, economics, finance, and test preparation.

12. Google Digital Garage (www.learnwithgoogle.com/digitalgarage) A platform offering free online courses on digital marketing, data analysis, and career development. Google Digital Garage provides a mix of video lectures, quizzes, and practical exercises to help learners develop their skills.
13. Saylor Academy (www.saylor.org) A non-profit organization offering free and open online courses in various subjects, including business administration, computer science, engineering, history, and philosophy. Courses are self-paced and include curated readings, video lectures, and assessments.
14. Stanford Online (www.online.stanford.edu) Stanford University's platform for free online courses and professional certificate programs, providing access to lectures, interactive exercises, and quizzes on various topics such as artificial intelligence, entrepreneurship, and health.
15. Carnegie Mellon University's Open Learning Initiative (www.oli.cmu.edu) A platform offering free, self-paced online courses in subjects such as biology, chemistry, economics, engineering, mathematics, and statistics. The Open Learning Initiative's courses feature interactive learning activities and immediate feedback.
16. The Open University's OpenLearn (www.open.edu/openlearn) A platform offering free access to a diverse range of courses and learning materials from The Open University, covering topics such as arts, business, education, health, languages, science, and social sciences.
17. World Bank Open Learning Campus (olc.worldbank.org) The World Bank's platform for free online courses, webinars, and learning resources on topics related to global development, including economics, finance, climate change, health, and governance.
18. BBC Languages (www.bbc.co.uk/languages) Free language courses available in 40 languages, including courses and phrases, audio and video, vocabulary, pronunciation, grammar, activities, and tests.
19. DuoLingo (www.duolingo.com) A free language-learning platform offering 68 language courses across 23 languages. The website provides a digital language proficiency assessment exam, and language fluency levels can be added to your personal LinkedIn profile.
20. GCFLearnFree.org (www.gcflearnfree.org) A platform offering more than 2,000 lessons, 8,000+ videos, and 55+ interactives and games on all computer essential skills. The self-paced tutorials are free, and an "Achievement of Completion" certificate is available upon completion of an entire tutorial.
21. Microsoft Learn (www.docs.microsoft.com/en-us/learn) Free access to online training led by world-class experts to help you learn the latest Microsoft technologies.

22. Codecademy (www.codecademy.com) A platform providing free and paid interactive coding courses in various programming languages, such as Python, JavaScript, and Ruby, as well as web development, data science, and computer science fundamentals.
23. TED: Ideas worth spreading (www.ted.com) A collection of free videos from expert speakers on education, business, science, tech, and creativity.
24. VideoLectures.NET (www.videolectures.net) Unrestricted access to an academic online video repository with over 14,000 video lectures from distinguished scholars and scientists. Videos are in different languages and subjects depending on the event where they were recorded.
25. iTunes U (www.itunes.apple.com/us/app/itunes-u/id490217893) Apple's platform offering free educational content, including lectures, videos, books, and podcasts from top universities, museums, and cultural institutions. iTunes U is accessible through the iTunes U app on iOS devices.
26. Code.org® (<https://code.org>) is an education innovation nonprofit dedicated to the vision that every student has the opportunity to learn computer science as part of their core K-12 education. Code.org increases diversity in computer science by reaching students of all backgrounds. Code.org offers courses in 25 languages including Farsi.
27. DataCamp: www.datacamp.com DataCamp teaches individuals the skills they need to work with data in the real world. From its first-class courses, certification program, workspace, and recruit, they are an all-in-one platform on a mission to democratize data education for all.
28. Alison: <https://alison.com> Alison offers over 4000 free online courses across nine distinct categories. The types of courses across the categories include certificate courses, and diploma courses.
29. LinkedIn Learning (www.linkedin.com/learning) A platform offering on-demand courses and video tutorials on a wide range of subjects, including business, creative arts, technology, and personal development. Users can earn badges, certificates, and share their achievements on their LinkedIn profile.
30. Udemy (www.udemy.com) An online learning marketplace offering courses on almost any topic imaginable, from coding and web development to personal development and hobby-based courses. Courses are created and taught by experts and can be accessed on-demand.
31. TED-Ed (www.ed.ted.com) A platform providing free educational videos and lesson plans on a wide range of subjects, including science, history, literature, and technology. The videos are created by educators and animators and can be used for in-class or remote learning.