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Chapter 11

BLENDED LEARNING: AN INNOVATIVE APPROACH IN TEACHING-LEARNING PROCESS

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Blended Learning

The new era of modern technology has a major contribution in modern style education. Blended Learning is a combination of traditional and ICT based education program. This new way of teaching has transformed the traditional classroom based learning and teaching with borderless, enriched, anytime and high interactive solutions. In which a student learns their subjects based on their needs and interest via digital and online media. It is an innovative concept that embraces the advantages of both traditional teaching in the classroom and ICT. It is a student-centered approach which increase flexibility to learners by increasing the active learning (Khan et al, 2012). The use of internet to develop global, multicultural causes and programs. It has scope for collaborative learning; constructive learning and computer assisted learning (CAI) (Laughlin,J.E et al, 2015). Blended learning gives meaningful learning experiences where both economically forwarded students and economically

disadvantaged students get equal footing in the learning. Even though it needs rigorous efforts, right attitude, handsome budget and highly motivated teachers. It improves engagement, motivation and grasping skills in the students and help them to be better as a student.

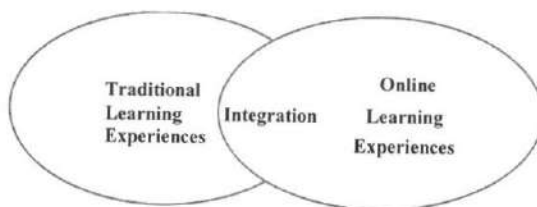


Figure.1. Showing Blended learning in teaching learning process

The terms “blended”, “hybrid”, technology-mediated instruction”, web-enhanced instruction” and mixed mode instruction” are often used interchangeably. In general terms blended learning refers to an approach to learning where teachers use technology in the form of web-based instruction. (Moskal, P., Dziuban, C., And Hartman, J, 2013). Blended learning is a fundamental redesign of the instructional model with the following features.

- It's a learner centric instruction which develop psychomotors and intellectual skills
- It develops knowledge management and collaborative learning skills

- It develops interaction between student and teacher, student and student, student and content, and student and outside resources.
- Emphasizing integrated formative and summative assessment
- It's a planned combination of online learning and traditional face-to-face learning.
- It integrates online learning techniques such as e-learning materials, online delivery of materials through web pages, discussion boards with traditional teaching.

Components of Blended learning

Blended learning is the combination of traditional teaching methodology with authentic online learning activities, (Lalima., and Dangwal, K.L,2017) has the following components

- **Self-paced learning-** It consists of recorded live events, internet based which helps the learner to learn at his own pace and speed.
- **Live events-** In which all the learners participate at the same time. Here materials are given as an e-content for the further reference.
- **Assessment-** With the help of blended learning both online and offline assessment can be done to check the knowledge of the learners.
- **Collaborative –** In this learners share their knowledge by communicating with their peer group members it increases communication and sharing spirit among the youngsters.

➤ **Performance** - support referring to those reference materials which enhance students learning, retention and transferability.

Concept of Blended Learning

Blended learning is the concept that includes both traditional face-to-face learning and ICT in framing teaching learning process. It incorporates direct and indirect instruction, Collaborative teaching, and Individualized Computer Assisted Instruction (CAI) (Oweis, T.I, 2018).

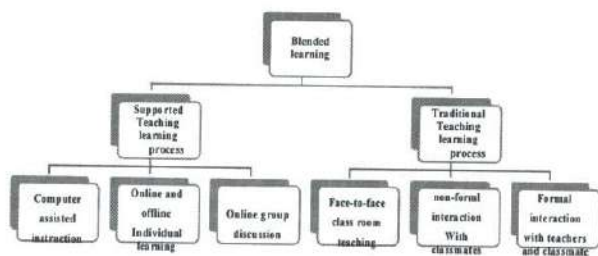


Figure.2. Showing the concept of Blended learning

Traditional teaching- Blended learning provides ample of time for students to interact with their teachers. They get influenced by the personality and behavior of the teachers. Teacher and students get immediate feedback which is favorable for the teaching-learning process.

Student interaction with course content- In blended learning ICT mediated learning provides videos-books content

on blogs which enhance students in direct interaction with their course content in a versatile and diverse interesting way.

Peer group interaction- Through blended learning students learns both by formal and informal interaction with their peer groups. Life skills and social skills are practiced in informal interaction with their peer groups. In school campus they get the opportunities to participate in games to social exchange during free time

Group Discussion- In classroom interaction with classmates on the different aspects of the course and exchange ideas helps to develop confidence in students and remove hesitation. It helps to improve student's communication skill and listening skill.

Accessing e-library- Digital library gives them access to different books related to their topics on diversified areas. Accessing e-library widens their outlook and enriches their knowledge in meeting the cognitive objectives.

Virtual classroom- It provides the student an option to learn anywhere, anytime and from anywhere. Through virtual classroom, students can meet their co-students and teacher in cyberspace irrespective of the geographical boundaries

Online assessment- It helps to make evaluation system more formative, transparent and more fast. It becomes more reliable and objective.

e-tuitions- It gives personal guidance in cyberspace via video conferencing.

Educational blogs- It provide platform to show students creativity and can get feedback also. Through blogs they discuss topics of importance that are not part of the syllabus such as social problems, political issues, health issues, drugs addiction, population explosion etc.

Webinars –Through internet connection all the participants are connected to the available software like Skype, Google talk etc.

Lectures in YouTube- Students gain knowledge through online lectures by renowned experts from different fields available on you tubes. In addition to college notes they used the upload video of the lecture for their subjects.

Online learning through videos and Audios- Various recordings, animated videos which are available in the internet which explain different concepts very easily and interesting way. It helps the students to learn the difficult concepts.

Virtual laboratories – It can be used for the professional courses where the laboratory work is crucial. It less cost compared to real laboratories. In these laboratories students can even handle the dangerous experiments which are not feasible by the well-furnished laboratories.

Relevancy of Adapting Blended Learning in India

Our education curriculum is not able to meet the demand of international market. So there is an urgent need of some racial steps and major revolutions within to overcome

challenges. Blended learning in some extent will help to solve this problem in India (Rivera, J.H,2017).

Population -Due to the large population the formal school system is unable to provide equal educational opportunities to all. So blended learning will be the best option to educate large population.

Technology and scientific development –Technology and scientific field are the most dynamic and changing at great pace. Incorporating new innovations in the content which help the students and teachers to update their knowledge and skills.

Lack of good teachers – In our country teachers are less, still many schools are not having appropriate teacher pupil ration this can be overcome by the online learning which can be a substitute of teacher.

Problem of indiscipline-Irregular attendance, indiscipline and dropouts are the problems in traditional classroom settings. Blended learning will be a combo solution to all the problems. It makes the students more active and focus in teaching learning process due to the increased involvement and responsibility.

Unemployment- Educated students are also not efficient and skilled to meet the demands of global market. Due to it they suffer unemployed, blended learning will help the students to master all modern techniques and life skills.

Inclusive education- Blended learning can easily cater to the needs of special children. They provide technical support in their learning.

Advantages of Blended Learning

The advantages of blended learning for students include increased learning skills, greater access to information and learning outcomes. Following are the key benefits of blended learning.

- Blended learning offers a platform to facilitate greater interactivity between students and teachers.
- It can help students to achieve higher and more meaningful levels of learning.
- Help learners master the skills for using a variety of technologies.
- It also helps us to learn from the experience of others and get solution without the assistance of an instructor.
- Teachers and students get more time in the classroom for creative and cooperative exercise.
- It provides more scope for Life skills.
- Students become more techno savvy, and they gain enhanced digital fluency.
- Students have more strengthened professionalism as they develop qualities like self-motivation, self-responsibility, discipline.
- It helps to update course content and help to established course to the students.

Conclusion

Blended learning changed the way of teaching learning. It has produces significant transformations in the educational field. The role of technology in the education has become essential one. It provides opportunities for educators to

implement dynamic methods in teaching. It increases student's active engagement in the learning process. It supports more flexible, interactive, efficient and varied learning experience for both teachers and their students. It helps to access student learning to use creative and innovative methods.

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TIPS FOR IMPLEMENTING BLENDED LEARNING

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Introduction

Blended learning is an approach to learning that combines face-to-face and online learning experiences. Ideally, each will complement the other by using its particular strength. While generally seen as a 'trend' in 'progressive learning,' Blended Learning can also be viewed as a kind of relic symbolic of the gap between 'traditional education' (for the last century or so in brick-and-mortar schools and classrooms) and connected and digital learning. This, of course, implies that digital-only is the future and the ultimate incarnation of learning, which is a short-sighted view. The point, though, is that blended learning is a mix of old and new as much as it is a mix of physical and digital learning. The teaching landscape is rapidly changing, the technological rise of the 21st-century and widespread integration of those technologies into our society, combined with access to the internet has integrally changed teaching in just a few years.

Our children and their following generations are already and will continue to grow up in a world that's a stark reminder of how rapidly the human civilization has changed, a society and world where smartphones and tablets are