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BLENDED LEARNING-A MOST SUCCESSFUL LEARNING METHODOLOGY

[*]Dr. D. Sumathi,
[**]Mrs. Shyla Gnanam Ebenezer

ABSTRACT:

Blended Learning outlines a number of teaching strategies that include face-to-face instruction and personalized, student-directed, computer-generated learning programs. The balance between the two approaches varies between schools, but the key strategy is common to all: use digital technology at a personal level to overcome the most common barriers to learning, including time, financial resources, space, and different learning skills and speed. Mixed learning transcends barriers of time, space, and culture and creates many improved opportunities for students and faculty. The purpose of this paper is to explore the benefits associated with learning that provide learning literacy for students. The benefits of using integrated learning to enhance students' knowledge and the success factors of integrated learning modules have also been found.

Key word: Teaching strategies, Traditional methods, Emerging e-learning, Learning platforms, Fulfill the Students needs.

INTRODUCTION

E-learning has emerged as a model for learning due to the scientific and technological changes the world is currently facing. As a result, traditional methods cannot cope with these changes. In addition to the benefits of E-learning, it has some flaws represented by the absence of face-to-face communication that requires the discovery of a new model that combines some of the features of both traditional learning and E-Learning that can overcome the evils of both forms of learning. Thus, a high-level model, Blended Learning (BL) has emerged (Khaled Nahs Raqas Alotaibi, 2013).

Blended (hybrid) learning is defined as a coherent building process that combines the power of face-to-face learning and online learning to meet the right educational goals (Farahnaz Movahedzadeh 2012). We need to take critical steps to close the gap and schools can better prepare students for their future careers by using an integrated learning model to help students develop valuable 21st century skills. (Saloom Aslam2015)

[*] **Assistant professor, Tamil Nadu Open University School of Education, Chennai-15.**
[**] **Research Scholar, Tamil Nadu Open University**

E-Learning is considered to be an excellent tool for bringing student educational services anywhere, as it does not have the usual barriers to traditional education within classrooms and labs and, therefore, complements existing teaching styles (Isman et al, 2012). Many schools in developed or developing countries are trying to adapt their education systems and communication technologies. Therefore, educational technology is being used effectively by educators in educational settings and will continue to be used in the future (UmitYapici and Hasan Akbayin, 2012)

A MORE PERSONALIZED APPROACH TO e- LEARNING:

Blended learning is an instructional methodology that leverages technology to provide a more personalized approach to learning, giving students control over the time, place, path and pace of their learning. Personalized learning also allows teachers to focus their class time on those students who have encountered an obstacle in their skills development working independently, and allows the teacher to spend less time with those students who are achieving mastery and are ready to move on. This makes the most efficient use of teacher's skills by enabling students to develop basic skills on their own, and receive assistance from the teacher on the more challenging concepts.

SAFE, SECURE AND TIME-SAVING ONLINELEARNING SPACES:

With the rise of learning platforms, teachers and students have access to a shared online learning environment that only they can access. This enables the teacher to set up and manage online activities where students can chat, share knowledge, ask questions, access learning resources and complete work online – without the fear of random internet users stumbling across the information.

INCREASED INTERACTION:

A shift from teacher-centred to student-centred instruction in which students become active and interactive learners (this shift should apply to the entire course, including face-to-face contact sessions) Increases in interaction between student-teacher, student-student, student-content, and student-outside resources

EASIER DIFFERENTIATION:

Students have different needs. Few of the students don't get benefits from classroom teaching as they continuously require personal guidance and complete attention. Such students may choose the option of e-tuition that is meeting a private tutor and getting personal guidance in cyber space via video conferencing. The teacher can easily differentiate the content, process and the products of the learning materials.

IMMEDIATE FEEDBACK:

It is a key factor in learning as it motivates the learner and is based on principles of readiness. Online assessment helps to make evaluation system more formative, transparent and more fast. It

becomes more reliable and objective. As the students get immediate feedback they are highly motivated to learn.

VIRTUAL CLASSROOM:

This provides student an option to learn anywhere, anytime and from anyone. Students can be a part of a virtual classroom meeting with his co-students and teacher in cyber space irrespective of the geographical boundaries.

EFFICIENT LEARNING:

Students are more active in learning. They express more creativity and develop technological skills. There is less paper work and economic. All the teaching resources are found in same place with lower cost. Students become more techno savvy and they gain enhanced digital fluency

PARENT SATISFACTION:

Parents are informed of their children's progress now and then and get complete information of their improvement. As parents are better informed, students are motivated to learn.

ONLINE LEARNING COMMUNITIES:

Online learners benefit greatly from online learning communities because of their connectivity with one another, they are able to share knowledge and fulfil common goals, which can reduce students' dropout rates.

EXTENDING THE CLASSROOM:

Teaching learning process is extended to home and learning happens over an extended period of time.

PROBLEM SOLVERS:

Students in our classrooms today are surrounded with technology and we are preparing them for the jobs that have not yet been created. We expect them to be multitasking so they can survive in the 21st century. We expect them to be good problem solvers, for instance let's talk about the environmental issues. They haven't created all these environmental problems, it's the fault of this and the previous generations. Yet, we expect these students to solve these issues. The question that arises here is – whether we are we preparing these students to be problem solvers. We must take some serious steps to bridge the gap and schools can best prepare the students for their future careers by adopting blended learning model to help students develop the essential 21st century skills.

CONCLUSION:

When properly implemented, blended learning can result in improved student success, satisfaction, and retention. Blended learning is itself a blend. It is a mix of pedagogical approaches that combines the effectiveness and the socialization opportunities of the classroom with the technological enhancements of online learning. The speedy adoption of educational technologies is evidence that new

forms of teaching and learning are possible. However, shifts of this magnitude need major changes in approach from faculty and administrators in education, especially in higher education, where the lectures still dominate teaching practice. Institutions must create the necessary policy, planning, resources, scheduling, and support systems to ensure that blended learning initiatives are successful.

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