International Journal of Applied Research

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Blended learning: An effective way for students progress

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Abstract
We live in a digital world where all the information is just a click away. With advancement of information technology and faster access to internet our education system is experiencing a lot of change which is giving rise to a new concept of blended. Blended learning is a hybrid learning which seeks to combine traditional face to face teaching with online teaching. It covers the negative aspects of traditional learning thereby enhancing students learning. This paper discusses the concept of blended learning, its models, advantages, disadvantages and role of blended learning in enhancing student's performance.

Keywords: Blended learning, hybrid learning, traditional learning

Introduction
Blended learning is the hybrid learning which integrates classroom teaching and online learning methods. It is achieved by the combining different delivery modes, teaching models and learning styles effectively. It is a way of meeting the challenges of tailoring learning and development to the needs of individuals by integrating the innovative and technological advances offered by online learning with the interaction and participation offered in the best of traditional learning. Due to the advancements in web technologies and demand of digital world traditional classroom teaching needs modification. Blended learning combines classroom teaching with the virtual education. It allows students to attend the classes physically and also complete their online coursework from home. In blended teaching students play the active role but it does not replace the teacher. It should be viewed as a pedagogical approach that combines the effectiveness and socialization opportunities of the classroom with the technologically enhanced active learning possibilities of the online environment, rather than a ratio of delivery modalities. Students learn by facing the new challenges of technology combined with the regular guidance from the teachers. Success of Blended learning depends not only on the quality of the course and the virtual environment but also on the grade to which the students are prepared to work in their virtual study environment. It also depends on their ability to make them organized in a given background and use all the tools.
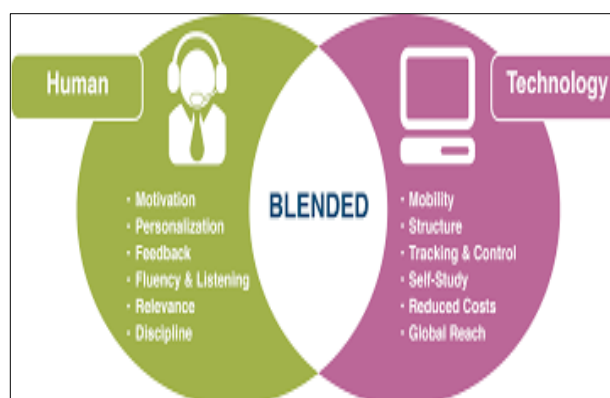

Fig 1: Blended Teaching

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2. Models of Blended Learning
There are many models of blended learning and some of them are discussed below:

- **Station Rotation:** This model allows the students to rotate between different stations at fixed times in which one of the stations is online station. This model is already in practice and used by many of the elementary schools.
- **Lab Rotation:** This is similar to station rotation model. In this model lab time is fixed into student's time table and they go to the labs in the time period allotted and perform the online tasks.
- **Individual Rotation:** It also allows rotation but on individual basis as the name suggests. Schedule is either set according to the teacher or by a computer algorithm. Students only rotate to their stations specified they don't need to rotate to other stations.
- **Flipped Classroom:** This model allows teachers to prepare their notes online instead of delivering lectures in each class. Students use this model by completing and learning their course work at home.
- **Flex Model:** It allows students to work on the predetermined material at their own speed. They can complete whole or part of the task as and when they feel convenient. Students are guided by the teacher on one by one basis when required by them.

3. Advantages and Disadvantages of blended learning
Advantages
- It offers flexibility as it is available anytime, anywhere which allows students to learn anywhere at any time. Also it offers flexibility in uploading the content too. Difficult topics can be discussed in the classroom rest content can be made online.
- It allows students to work at their own pace as compared to traditional classroom teaching where students are dependent on the teacher and every student remains at the same pace.
- The progress of the student can be tracked which helps both students and teachers.
- Students can learn through many activities which apply to many learning styles.
- It includes classroom teaching as well thereby enhancing the quality of education.
- Better chances of collaboration as resources can be shared across the globe.
- Student interest is increased. Boring subjects becomes interesting when online methods are integrated.
- Larger groups can be taught at one time. Teachers can deliver the lecture in the class and then students can perform online tasks and assignments their own.
- Reduced costs as less classrooms, less instructors which saves money and time.

Disadvantages of Blended learning
- Lack of motivation: People who prefer to work with their hands don't feel like sitting on the computer screen for too long.
- Also blended learning has to be prepared keeping in mind all the age groups otherwise people will be demotivated if material is not relevant to them.

- Technology knowledge: People need basic knowledge of the computers to perform online tasks and assignments otherwise they will feel frustrated.
- Plagiarism Problem: In blended teaching plagiarism is the main problem. Teachers need to keep a regular check on the students that they are not completing their tasks by looking from the web.
- Demanding arrangement of content concerning teachers.

4. Role of blended learning in enhancing student's performance
- Nowadays students are multitasking they like to perform many tasks simultaneously like listening music, chatting and doing homework. Students can complete their homework and coursework while enjoying music and doing other tasks simultaneously.
- In this technology driven world students want everything online and expect clear goals and targets. So blended learning provided clear understanding of the learning material.
- Blended learning provides feedback system. Students come to know about the right or wrong answer and evaluate their performance. Even teachers can use blended teaching for the assessment of the students.
- Blended learning creates interest in students. Subjects become more interesting when technology is blended into it.
- Enable student to learn at their own pace which is a boon for both weak and bright students. Bright students can learn advanced learning and weak students can adjust according to their potential.
- Self advocacy: Students become self-driven and responsible, tracking their individual achievements, which helps develop the ability to find the resources or get the help they need, self-advocating so they can reach their goals.
- Anytime, anywhere access which benefit the students as they can learn when they feel so.
- Interactive online material keep students focused for long.
- With blended learning teacher can share the resources with millions of people with same effort.
- Young people are sensitive and responsive to new technologies and this should be used to motivate them to use technologies for learning.

Conclusion
This paper shows that the blended learning is the demand of today's technology driven world and students. It helps students to be engaged more in learning and keep them focused to their goals. Blended learning if used properly can enhance student's performance to a greater extend and is worth implementing.

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