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Dr. Inderpreet Kaur
Principal, University Institute of Teachers Training and Research, Chandigarh University, Gharuan, Punjab, India

Blended learning: An Innovative way to enhance academic engagement

Dr. Inderpreet Kaur

Abstract
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 contemporary education. The rapidly changing landscapes should be a marker to show that teaching methods need to evolve to keep up with the times and incorporate integrated technologies into the learning modal, these technologies aren't going to go away, they'll continue to be integrated into our society and it's time to embrace them for the advantages they bring In current paper author has focused on the varied studies and has summarised the following findings of:
1. Concept of Blended Learning
2. Features of Blended Learning
3. Role of Teachers and Students in Blended Learning Classroom
4. Significance of Blended Learning
5. Challenges that come in the way of the institutions for implementing it in regular classroom learning settings.

Keywords: blended learning, traditional learning, digital shift

Introduction
Learning is an act, process or experience of acquiring knowledge or skill. Learning process starts when a baby is born and it continues to be there in some form or the other as per the learning techniques available. There are many classification s to categorize the ways or methods of learning. But, learning can be broadly categorized into two different parts considering the way how they are being pursued. They are Traditional and Distance learning. Traditional learning is based on physical interaction between learner and teacher whereas distance learning eliminates the necessity of physical presence of a teacher through some alternatives. These two techniques recursively modified after invention of new techniques

Blended Learning
Blended learning is a natural development to the growing accessibility of eLearning, online resources and the continued need for a human component in the learning experience. A blended learning approach ensures that the learner is engaged and driving his or her individual learning experience. This approach also helps cater to the individual needs of the learner, most students have unique learning styles and a blended approach is more likely to cater to those needs than a traditional classroom teaching experience. The concept of blended learning is based on the idea that learning is not just a one-time event. In the year 2003, the Australian National Training Authority (ANTA) described blended learning in as the integrated combination of traditional learning with web-based online approaches. Moreover, Blended Learning is an achievement of learning objectives by applying the "right" personal learning technologies to watch the "right" personal learning style to transfer the "right" skills to the "right" person at the "right" time. Dziuban, Hartman and Moskal (2004) describes Blended learning (BL) or hybrid learning a learning environment that either combines teaching methods, delivery methods, media formats or a combination of all these. Blended learning brings traditional physical classes with elements of virtual learning together.
Blended learning is importantly traditional in class learning and supplemented by online activities and resources. Blended learning gives us best features and facilities of classroom

Correspondence
Dr. Inderpreet Kaur
Principal, University Institute of Teachers Training and Research, Chandigarh University, Gharuan, Punjab, India

interaction and personal learning to allow thoughtful reflection, and differentiate instruction from learner to learner. Blended learning should be regarded as a stepping stone that combines the effectiveness and socialization along with the opportunities of the classroom with the advanced technology and active learning.

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Blended learning can be defined as the suitable mixture of traditional learning and online learning. Traditional method consists of face to face interaction. Here, the teacher holds the position of the active speaker while the learning revolves around students in curriculum diversity. Blended learning uses variety of methods to facilitate learning, the most note-worthy methods are face to face learning, online learning and self-pace learning.

Blended learning favours all sorts of learning merits, cost reductions, time efficiency and location convenience for the learner and motivation that face to face instructions presents. Blended learning can help improve critical and reflective and abstract thinking. Northern Illinois University remarked that blended learning is flexible, social atmosphere and reusable learning object.

Characteristic traits of blended learning can be summarized as follows
- cost effective,
- time saving
- flexible
- critical thinking
- reusable learning object
- face to face interaction
- cooperative learning amongst students

It also helps students to learn according to their pace, time and abilities. It is the mixture of digital content and face content. In blended learning the learners have enough liberty for learning and time to time feedback is given by the teachers. It is the best possible manner of teacher and student centered interaction.

Blended learning tears down the traditional bricks and mortar approach to teaching, which can improve conditions such as:

- Reduced Isolation
- More opportunities for collaboration
- Meaningful professional development
- Better student data
- Improved Time efficiency
- Role-differentiation

Traditional Learning
Traditional Learning is defined as a learning process where learners and experts are present physically n same place at same time. Most famous traditional way of imparting education since it has started is the chalk and talk method. Figure 1 shows the main kind of traditional learning. Class room teaching is a best adopted method among available for traditional learning. We are taking example of class room teaching as a leading method of traditional learning throughout this paper. He learner in a traditional learning system is not only getting a qualification or degree but also acquiring experience and skill which is very helpful in all aspects of life especially in today's globalized world. Students develop verbal communication skills when interacting with lecturers and friends who are from all over the world and with different backgrounds, cultures and religions. Students learn to respect different opinions when they have discussions or group study. Students develop time management skills by attending classes scheduled at fixed time and location. Students learn how to cope with peer pressure.

Conclusion
If we go wider to give a wide definition to the process of learning, we cannot certainly replace a mother with an e-system (at least till now) which can help babies to learn from the day they born till they get the understanding of life they would later lead independently. So, for the time being we found out that it is very hard to replace traditional chalk and talk system with E-learning. But, E-learning used in a traditional method can enhance learner's knowledge and interest in a broader perspective. Undoubtedly, it is firmly believed that the new technology used in teaching and learning process as it boosts the performance of students. It increases the collaboration and cooperation along with the joint efforts among participants. More information can be gathered by using technology and spreading of information can be done not only within the campus but across the world. The flexibility and accessibility of the method make it more indulging and challenging. It motivates students to complete their task in given time. Current generation of students is digital natives, they are born with the web network, and now they are experiencing the transition from the old to the new web-based technology, which is more participatory, more collaborative. The development of blended learning in the university system is still International Journal of Scientific and Research Publications,

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