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Blended learning-An effective way to teaching learning process

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Abstract
Blended learning is an innovative concept that embraces the advantages of both traditional teaching in the classroom and ICT supported learning including both offline learning and online learning. It has scope for collaborative learning; constructive learning and computer assisted learning (CAI). Blended learning needs rigorous efforts, right attitude, handsome budget and highly motivated teachers and students for its successful implementation. As it incorporates diverse modes so it is complex and organizing it is a difficult task. The present paper discusses the concept of blended learning, its benefits and prerequisite of its implementation.

Keywords: Blended Learning, ICT Supported Teaching Learning Process, Traditional Teaching Learning Process, Online Learning

Introduction
When blended learning incorporates adaptive technology, real-time progress monitoring, and provides the recommended next steps to customize instruction for each student, teachers become more targeted, time-efficient and effective in improving students' overall reading abilities. Educators will embrace blended learning when they are included in the decision-making process, understand the benefits of new initiatives, and have the skills—or the support to develop the skills—to accomplish what is being asked of them. That's why it is essential to have strong leadership to achieve consensus, build infrastructure and then implement your model. Following these guidelines is the best way to personalize instruction and use mastery-based learning to improve overall student outcomes through a blended approach of face-to-face and online learning.

Blended learning is a term increasingly used to describe the way e-learning is being combined with traditional classroom methods and independent study to create a new, hybrid teaching methodology. It represents a much greater change in basic technique than simply adding computers to classrooms; it represents, in many cases, a fundamental change in the way teachers and students approach the learning experience. It has already produced an offshoot – the flipped classroom – that has quickly become a distinct approach of its own.

Traditional learning refers "to the learning which occurs during face-to-face teaching" (Oliver & Trigwell, 2005) [3], "where knowledge is transmitted (written and oral) from the instructor directly to the learner and the learner predominantly plays the role of recipient" (Collis & Moonen, 2001) [1]. Traditional, physical classrooms have been the dominant form of knowledge transfer for over 3,000 years. As Singh & Reed (2001) [5]. Said, "Even today, nearly 80% of corporate learning is conducted in the classroom." However, "there are many problems associated with traditional learning" (Hijazi, 2003) [2], and when possible new technologies have been developed to support teaching – e-learning being the latest. However, multiplicity has accompanied the concept of e-learning, as Pollard & Hillage (2001) [4]. Said "every time you pick any book or magazine on the subject of e-learning, you will almost find a different definition."

Can Blended Learning be Effective in Schools?
The education world has always been full of buzzwords and acronyms. This trend has only become more entrenched since the advent of digital learning. There are now so many ways for us to take on new information, whatever our age, educational status, location, interests,

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ability or learning style – and there are so many names for each new learning model. Blended learning is the technical name for a practice that is actually very simple. In the blended learning model, students are learn using a range of different techniques. This includes both traditional classroom learning; when a teacher stands at the front of the room and delivers in-person lessons, and online learning; where students can individually log into a cloud based software practice at a time that best suits them.

This type of learning is fast becoming standard. This is true within a whole range of different educational organizations: professional training providers, schools, universities…

There is a very good argument to say that blended learning is one of the most effective ways to transfer knowledge. Online learning for schools is now very normal, and children as young as four or five years old are generally very familiar with the technology that supports this kind of learning.

So, can blended learning be effective in schools? We feel that the answer to this is a resounding *yes*.

Here's why blended learning and online learning for schools can be so beneficial:

It makes it easier for students to learn at their own level
Within the classroom environment, the teacher generally manages the educational progress of thirty or more students, all of whom will be working at a slightly different level. In a traditional classroom set up, the teacher would generally manage this by aiming their materials somewhere in the middle of these abilities, meaning those students who are at the high or low end of the ability spectrum would not be getting their needs fully met.

When schools use digital resources alongside traditional teaching practices, it makes it possible for each student to work at their own level with support from the teacher when necessary.

It gives students more control over their own learning experience
Not everyone learns in the same way. Online learning for schools gives each student the opportunity to work through materials at their own pace. They can revisit certain resources as often as they choose, or even skip over any that they're already comfortable with.

Students can also choose to do as much outside of school hours as they choose, at a time and in a place that works well of them.

It makes the homework process far easier to manage
Before the growth of the digital world, setting homework meant sending students home with assignments or worksheets and they would return them in hard copy form. Blended learning practices mean that teachers can use online resources to set homework, and those students can complete assignments on their devices.

It can cut educational costs
There's evidence to say that online learning for schools helps to cut educational costs such as textbooks, stationery and other learning consumables. This is good as it means schools can free up more of their budget to spend on longer lasting resources for students.

It can improve the students' attitude to learning
It is a fact that online learning for schools and the use of tech in the classroom can help to improve young people's attitudes to learning. This is partly because digital resources tend to be more engaging and interactive, and partly because tech can make it easier for students to stay in touch with teachers and tutors.

It makes data collection and progress tracking far easier to manage
One of the most time consuming aspects of being a teacher is marking work and curating learner data. Of course it's imperative for teachers to keep track of how their students are doing, but this process can leave teachers with less time to plan high quality learning activities.

The technology designed for online learning for schools can help with this. Much of this data collection is done automatically. This means that teachers can see at a glance how well each student is doing and which topics it would be helpful to revise as a group.

Benefits of Blended Learning
- As part of learning is done through ICT, online or offline mode so teachers and students get more time in the classroom for creative and cooperative exercise.
- Students gain advantage of online learning and CAI without losing social interaction element and human touch of traditional teaching'
- It provides more scope for communication. Communication cycle is completed in blended learning which is not possible if we follow only traditional approach
- 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 updates course content and so gives new life to established courses

Modern classrooms are slowly taking a new approach to imparting wisdom and knowledge to the upcoming generation. Traditional classroom teaching techniques are giving way to a new system of blended learning. Teachers who are embracing this new classroom style are easily reaping the benefits of having their old methods enhanced with the use of new technology. Overall, it's the students who will benefit from this unique method of academia. There are some major benefits of blended learning.

Blended learning is more efficient
Years ago, a teacher may have spent days explaining a math concept with an overhead projector. It was difficult to assess student understanding and engagement using these dry methods. Today, blended learning can help teachers to more accurately assess the student's knowledge and help to teach concepts more efficiently. It is said that blended learning improves the efficacy and efficiency of the entire learning process.

Blended learning makes education more accessible
With traditional teaching methods, educational materials were only available during classroom hours. Students may have been able to take their textbooks home with them, but they didn't have a way to actually interact with or engage

the material. With new learning apps and other technological advances, they have more flexibility to access and engage academia from home. This accessibility could translate to a much greater interest in learning and more successful outcomes.

Students can pace themselves
Blended learning that uses apps, games, or measurable programs to teach concepts allows students to engage the material at their own pace. This helps to balance a classroom that contains both quick and slow learners. Every student can practice and tackle new material with timing that is perfect just for them. It can promote deeper learning, reduce stress, and increase student satisfaction.

Teachers can become more engaged with their students
Blended learning presents an increased opportunity for students to connect with their professors and teachers. They can connect via email, through progress reports on the program, or on message boards. This learning style promotes a number of effective means for teachers and students to become more engaged with one another. In the end, both parties can benefit from this shift in the relationship. Teachers can stay in touch with student progress, while students can ask more questions and gain deeper knowledge.

This method is more fun for everyone
Students used to dread the lengthy lectures and boring seminars that comprised their academic day. Now, they find that learning can be more fun which is extremely advantageous to all involved parties. An entire generation of students who discover that blended learning can be fun could shape the future of education. Students may be more apt to pursue higher education if they have a positive experience with learning in their formative years. Fun shouldn't be underestimated as one of the many benefits of blended learning.

To conclude, it can be said that blended learning is to some extent is the solution to problems prevailing in our educational system. If implemented in a well-planned, organised way with right type of attitudes it can become the future of our educational system. It is in our own benefit that steps for adapting blended learning are soon initiated. Changing the norm of traditional teaching tactics can be challenging, particularly for seasoned teachers. However, the new blended learning experience has some extremely advantageous properties. Find out what your students could be missing out on without this teaching tactic. In the end, it is better for both students and teachers to make good use of all the technology available in a modern classroom.

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