



BLENDED MODE OF TEACHING AND LEARNING: CONCEPTS & TECHNIQUES

Arifa Begum SK

Department of Pharmaceutics, KVSRR Siddhartha College of Pharmaceutical Sciences,
Siddhartha Nagar, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh

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Abstract:

Technological progression has continued to surpass new grounds in several areas of human endeavour involved in the educational system. The introduction of technology into education sector especially in the facet of teaching has brought about a significant transformation from the traditional teaching practices to advanced digital teaching methodology. Blended learning is the amalgamation of traditional face-to-face learning with technology, internet, as well as distance learning. The novel approach is emerging progressively in the education system in recent times. The present article explores the concept of blended learning & its didactic prospects in order to make an effective changeover from a traditional learning model to an integrated model applicable, with digital settings and resources being extensively used. Blended learning is an effective method of teaching which is flexible as well as easy to access. Furthermore, it can increase students' motivation & their accomplishment of the course.

Key Words Technology, Teaching, Blended Learning, Education, Integration

Introduction:

According to Graham Ch *et al.*, (2019) “Blended learning is strategic combination of online as well as in-person instruction.” Russel T Osguthorpe & Charles R Graham (2003) stated that blended learning connects face-to-face to distance transference framework, although, it is superior to demonstration of a page from a website on the screen and the ones that utilize blended learning milieu make an attempt to boost up the advantages of both face-to-face & online scenario¹⁻³.

The novel technology had the potential not only to bridge the gap, but to bridge time through recording as well and to individualize learning. The foursome of place, time, path & pace has intended that several educators might value the novel technology for various reasons and have several conceptions with regard to blended learning⁴⁻⁷.

Why Blended Learning Must Be Adopted in Education System?

Since technology emerged in humans' life and it has influenced their living as well as the education system. In the earlier, when there were no technological devices invented or they were rare, learners took only face-to-face lessons conventionally. Quite contrast to that, now-a-days, living is with gadget filled offices and houses, so it must be used wisely. Rather than the rule “No smartphones in the lesson” as a teacher, one must allow use of “any tech device in the lessons including, mobile phones & laptops”.

Most of the young learners prefer to use their devices all the time. When the teachers persuade learners not to use their mobile phones & laptops and keep them in their bags, their mind is diligent about their gadgets and their usage. It is obvious that either face-to-face learning or online learning has its own disadvantages. Students may get easily bored with just sitting and listening to monotonous lectures in classrooms or they may suffer from long texts & ineffective graphs in their digital classes. The students are supposed to only read provided notes/materials and it is not at all sufficient. This kind of learning de-motivates and discourages students as they do not have a scope to discuss about their findings with their peers orally. In such circumstances, blended learning is an appropriate solution for such a problem.

Much of the research has been done on the effectiveness of blended learning in the literature. Teachers could use innovative methodologies comprising information as well as computer technology in blended learning⁸. It is a pedagogical approach which is an integration of synchronous & asynchronous learning devices, hence presenting an optimal scope for the organization of effective learning methods.

Advantages of Blended Learning:

- Superior effectiveness with group sizes
- Assist in the development of professional / work-based skills
- Adaptable study pattern summed up with learning on-demand, anywhere or anytime in order to meet learners' requirements wherever they need;
- Broad gate way to shared tools, digital resources & information systems⁹.

The main reasons for recommending the blended learning are: a) improved effectiveness of education b) enhanced access and convenience c) better cost-effectiveness.

Need for Blended Learning:

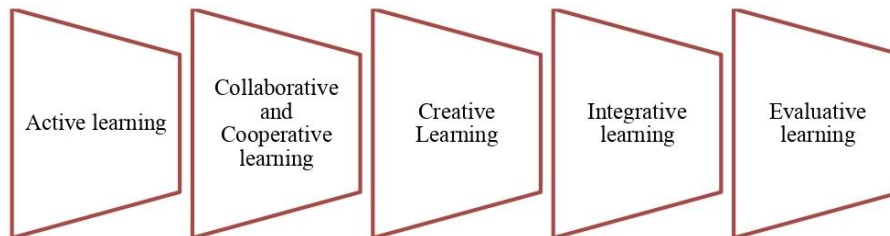
The National Education Policy has specified an exceptional glance towards what could be accomplished through the transformation of education. The new NEP states that it is time to employ a policy which is certainly student-centric! The time has actually arrived to be familiar with the fact that the student is the main stakeholder & that efforts should be taken in order to make the education system retort to their aspirations and dreams. In this context, the new policy confers the acceptability of several modes of learning inclusive of face to face learning, distance or virtual mode and online learning. Blended learning also promotes further use of multi-disciplinary courses, vocational courses and multi-model approaches thus, focusing on blended teaching-learning strategy¹⁰.

Significance of Technology in Education:

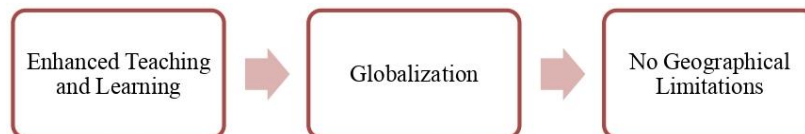
The importance of technology in the field of education is four-fold: it is embraced as a part of the curriculum, as an instructional conveyance system, as a way of supporting instructions and also as a device to improve the overall learning process. With the emergence of technology, education has surpassed from passive & reactive mode to interactive & assertive mode.

Education is vital in corporate as well as academic backgrounds. In the former, education / training is used to facilitate workers do perform in a different way than they did earlier. In the latter, education is directed towards creating curiosity in the minds of learners. In either of the case, the application of technology could help learners understand & retain the concepts much better¹¹.

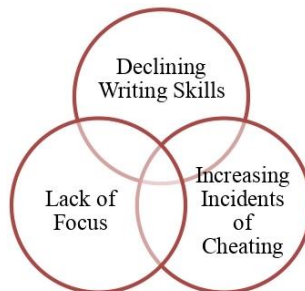
Impact of ICT on Education:



Positive Impact of ICT on Education:



Negative Impact of ICT on Education:



Application of Technology in Higher Education:

Students and teachers make use of latest technology for academic rationale in several ways:

Internet Connectivity:

Use of internet has increased significantly in education with the beginning of online classes, study materials, academic materials, libraries etc. The development and accessibility of active portable mobile gadgets like laptops, tablets and smart phones etc., have raised their use as students as well as teachers can easily access academic materials from anywhere over the internet¹².

Use of Collaboration Devices:

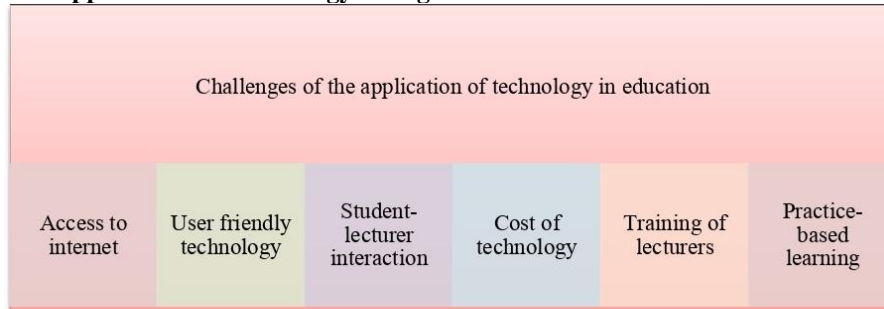
Collaboration tools like Microsoft SharePoint, google collab notebooks, JIRA & social networks are few of the collaborative web-based settings used by learners in order to share memos, documents & exchange information / knowledge. It helps to improve work output, specifically in academic group tasks. It also provides scope for the students to leverage and learn from each other skill-set¹³.

Use of Repositories & Research Tools:

The use of digital libraries of the institution and repositories is evident to be relevant in improving the knowledge base & overall performance of the students. The internet offers the student with an unlimited repository of previous literature in terms of research works and academic resources developed by the experts in a particular field. Such information is useful to the students for the completion of academic tasks or conduct

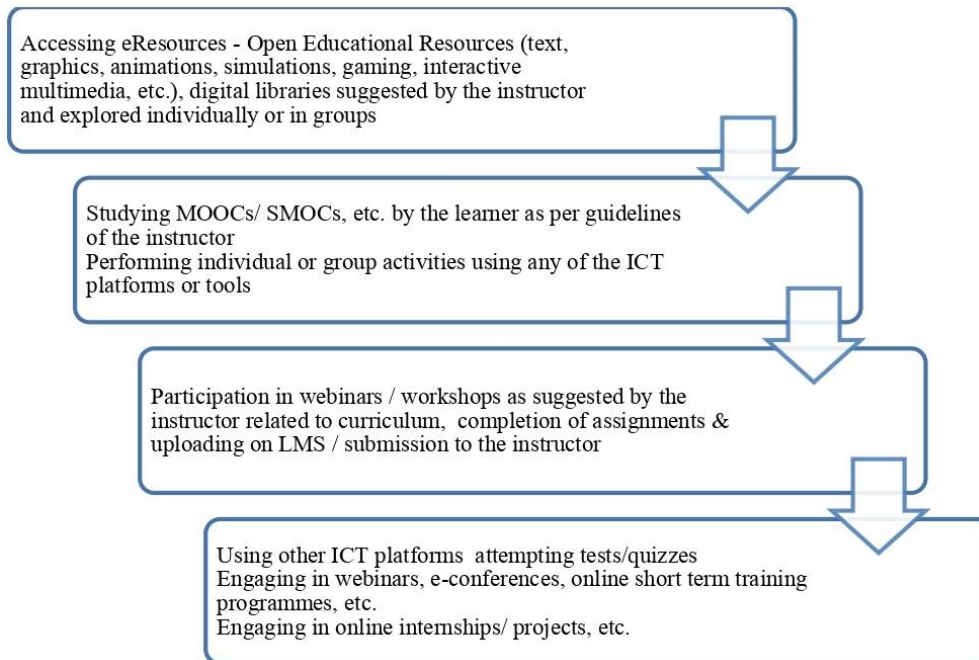
research works in the institution. For example, google scholar & elsevier science are some of the tools. Teachers can also share a part of their academic work with their counterpart peers and they may apply it into their course work¹⁴.

Challenges of the Application of Technology in Higher Education:

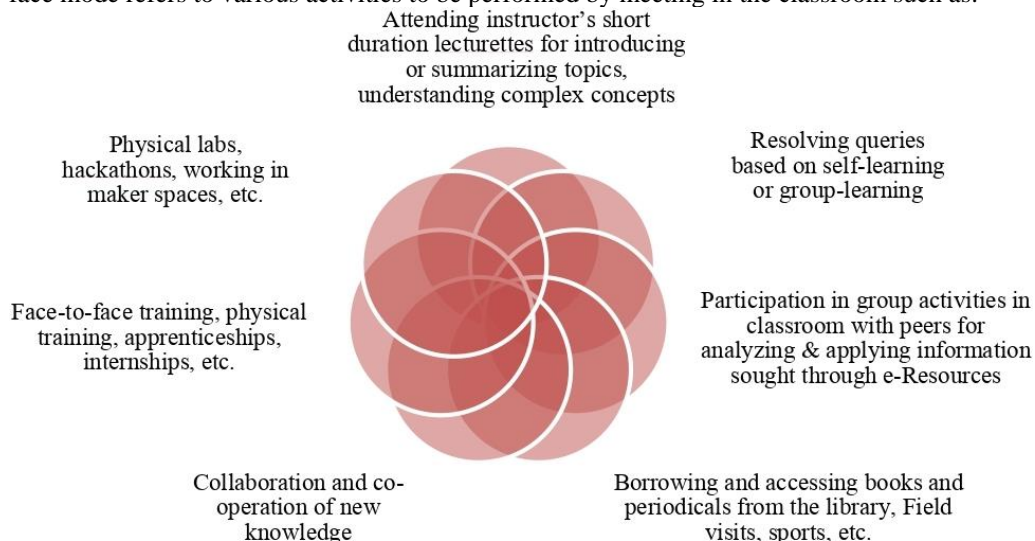


Blended Learning Environments¹⁵⁻¹⁷

Online mode of learning represents various synchronous & asynchronous learning activities such as:



Face-to-face mode refers to various activities to be performed by meeting in the classroom such as:



Conclusion:

The concept of blended learning can't be defined exactly as various researchers have put varying content into the term, although all of scholars harmonize that blended learning approach is an integrated learning experience which is controlled as well as directed by the instructor whether in the mode of face-to-face

communication or virtual presence. Universities and higher educational institutions must to be a model institute to ensure checking of necessary prerequisites to initiate with and further must analyze teaching-learning processes to demonstrate successful implementation of blending learning.

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