



A CASE STUDY ON TRADITIONAL AND BLENDED LEARNING APPROACH IN HIGHER EDUCATION

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ABSTRACT

In this era of digital technology, learning is very foreign if it still uses single method methods, namely face-to-face. We firmly believe that combining traditional methods with technology must be applied to achieve outcomes, especially in postgraduate studies. Traditional learning approach refers to the traditional classroom model, where students attend classes in person and learn through lectures, discussions, and hands-on activities. This approach is based on the teacher-centered model of instruction and is typically associated with a lecture-based format. On the other hand, blended learning is an instructional approach that combines online and in-person learning. This approach allows students to learn at their own pace, and it provides more flexibility and autonomy. In blended learning, students can access online resources, participate in online discussions, and complete online assignments, in addition to attending traditional in-person classes. The effectiveness of these two approaches is a subject of interest for the researchers. Blended learning can lead to improved student engagement and satisfaction, as well as better academic performance compared to traditional methods. However, blended learning also has its own challenges, such as the need for proper training for teachers and the need for reliable technology. In conclusion, a blended learning approach is a viable alternative to traditional learning in higher education, and it can lead to better student outcomes. However, it is important for institutions to carefully consider the implementation of blended learning and to provide the necessary resources and support for its success

Keywords: Blended Learning, Traditional Learning, Education, Technology and Learning

Introduction

The use of technology in teaching and learning activities has sparked a lot of interest among higher education professionals. Higher education institutions have started to adopt and implement information and communication technology as a source for flexible teaching and learning processes either inside or outside the classroom. In a traditional classroom, the instructor had to present, engage in face-to-face conversation with students, and lead discussions and demonstrations. However, some instructors and students have

found it challenging to meet the requirement of being in a classroom on the day and at the time specified in the class schedule. E-learning has grown in importance as a component of the teaching and learning process for both teachers and students. E-learning facilitates cross-border resource networking and information sharing for the educational communities. E-learning has its own drawbacks as well. It occasionally gets boring and calls for more restraint from the kids. Since there is little interaction between the teacher and the pupils, attendance may suffer.



Methodology

An overview of the local institutes who have a mix of blended learning which included traditional and new contemporary learning tools and methods like e-learning and ICT were considered as case study.

The Strengths and Weaknesses of Traditional Classroom Learning and Online Learning System

The disadvantages of online learning should be taken into account in order to improve the learning environment, even though it offers a new set of tools that complement traditional learning methods.

	Strengths	Weaknesses
Class room Learning	Face-to-face communication can persuade through speech, writing, body language, and facial expressions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The conversation can move along more and more. The conversation will be boring and passive.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct communication between the teacher and the students fosters a sense of community among both groups. Students and teachers are ready to offer assistance, share resources, and answer queries. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The lesson the teacher is going to teach in the classroom is not sufficiently prepared. • Limited access to the source of learning. • Only students in the classroom are currently receiving information.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete involvement in the educational process, including group work • Effective group discussion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of educational tools to facilitate the group discussion. • The conversation must take place in the actual classroom.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easy to monitor, assess and evaluate the learners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The teacher needs to oversee the teaching and learning process with more care and responsibility.
Online Learning system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online Forum and Chat - Medium of synchronous and discussion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The quality of discussion is poor and is used as a means to report. • Lack of direct connection between the teacher and the student could cause the discussion to become too loose and drawn out. • Active student participation and involvement in group discussions are difficult to achieve. • Lack of spontaneity and improvisation.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitates learning anytime, anywhere, anyplace 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • support for resources and infrastructure - sluggish and limited Internet connection, requiring specialised gadgets to improve data transmission over the Internet; bandwidth requirement; information network equipment; shortage of IT skills.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convenient and mobile - a fast and easy learning environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of network support - the provider must make sure that the webpages are simply accessible whenever and wherever they are needed.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assignments and notes are posted, making it quick and simple for the teacher and the student to share knowledge. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Security and support for the website - learners may lose interest and patience.

Table 1.0: The Strengths and Weaknesses of Classroom and Online Learning system



Learning Approaches and Choices

It involves planned combination approaches like coaching by a supervisor, participation in an online class, breakfast with coworkers, competency descriptions, reading on the beach, referring to a manual, collegial relationships, and participation in seminars, workshops, and online communities. Blended learning is an integrated strategy for delivering on promises about learning and performance.

Physical Formats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Classroom & Lectures ● Laboratory's & Workshops ● Field Trips/Workshops
Online Formats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Online Meetings and Schedules ● Virtual Classrooms ● Web Seminars & Broadcasts ● Coaching ● Conference Calls
Self-Paced Formats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Document & Web Pages ● Computer Based Training Modules ● Assessments/Tests & Surveys ● Simulations ● Job Aids and Electronic Performance Support Systems (EPSS) ● Recorded Live Events ● Online Learning & Discussion Forums ● Mobile Learning

Discussion and Conclusion

Teaching and gaining knowledge is an evolutionary process, it by no means ends. It has advanced from a complete teacher/lecture room based level to a web environment. The emergence of computers and other technologies has made teaching and learning activity a very dynamic process.

Exploring educational theory and how it relates to technology is crucial. Additionally, in order to provide learners at all levels with an absolutely fantastic learning experience, the strength and potential of technology and the teaching abilities should be combined. A well blended learning approach is expected to be able to cater for the diverse needs of most learners.

Blended learning approach is a viable alternative to traditional learning in higher education, and it can lead to better student outcomes. However, it is important for institutions to carefully consider the implementation of blended learning and to provide the necessary resources and support for its success.

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