



INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF CREATIVE RESEARCH THOUGHTS (IJCRT)

An International Open Access, Peer-reviewed, Refereed Journal

A Useful Method For Learning And Teaching In Present Times

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ABSTRACT :

The educational scenario has changed unexpectedly as a result of the Kovid-19 pandemic. New methods/methods are evolving in world educational trends to survive and adapt to crisis. While some global trends keep their value some are new trends and future trends. So the information presented here will give the reader an overview of the popular educational trends of the future based on reliable resources. Understanding them will benefit both teachers and students as they can create the right learning environment to most effectively convey and acquire knowledge along with skills.

KEYWORDS: online learning, blended learning

INTRODUCTION:

At this point, "trend" is a buzzword for everyone. In daily life we often hear about fashion trends, economic trends, social trends etc. Education is no exception to this trend. According to Oxford Learner's Dictionary, the direction of change or development of a situation is called a trend. Thus, trends in education are highly applicable teaching and learning methods that bring great value to people. Some methods/methods are prevalent for teaching and learning some of which are as follows 1. Online education 2. Blended learning 3. Distance learning 4. Social-Emotional Education 5. Home Schooling 6. Mobile Learning 7. Personalized Tutoring 8. Project based learning 9. Gamification 10. Bite size learning etc...In the present article online learning and blended learning method are discussed.

1. Online Education:

First we look, starting the list of the most popular trends in education today is the demand for education today. Online education Due to the effects of Covid-19, more than 1.2 billion children were out of school globally. Lockdown conditions occurred and extended across almost the entire map. During the tough times, it became impossible for teachers and students to attend face-to-face classes. Many traditional classes were transformed into online classes and in such circumstances online learning and teaching became the most productive way to ensure academic quality.

- Advantages and disadvantages of online education for teachers and students

Online education is currently the most common phrase mentioned in education. Here you will find some advantages and disadvantages of online education for teachers as well as students.

Globally, the COVID-19 crisis has had a profound impact on the economy and education. So there have been significant changes in every corner, every aspect of human life. Due to the lockdown, students and teachers turned to virtual classes instead of meeting face-to-face. As a result of the pandemic, online education became the most effective way to continue education. At this time, the learning process was done through an online learning platform. For example, this learning and teaching style proved to be more effective in meeting the demand and quality of education with the help of various applications like Zoom, Microsoft Teams, Google Meetings etc. Let's explore some of the pros and cons of online education for both students and teachers.

Advantages and Disadvantages of Online Education:

First let's discuss the pros and cons of online education.

Pros:

1. Flexibility:

The main advantage of online education is its flexibility. Teachers and students can start lessons wherever they are. Whereas in traditional classes, they can impart and collect knowledge in the classroom itself. In fact, online education gives freedom to teachers and students. And saves a lot of time.

2. Improve technology skills: Teaching and learning online improves technology for both teachers and students. In the past, teachers in rural areas were not used to smart devices. But now, they can use technology to create engaging learning materials.

3. School anxiety will be reduced: In this modern life, many mental health problems arise at school. Specifically, school anxiety.

4. Improvement in testing: Nowadays teachers are supervisors in exams. Even with strict supervisors, students can still cheat somehow. Nowadays, with the help of technology, teachers can give online tests to students and evaluate them effectively.

Disadvantages:

1. Socio-emotional interaction will be limited: Although online learning is a great solution, it does not fully provide socio-emotional learning with real interactions. Many teachers admit that teaching online saps their energy. And they stand in the way of engaging students. For students they don't have many opportunities to

connect with their classmates and teachers. Prolonged reduced interactions and communication can lead to loneliness.

2. Lack of Basic Conditions: Before implementing online teaching and learning, make sure you have two basic conditions. First of all, the technical requirements. And secondly, a stable internet connection. Without them, you cannot attend online classes. But, not all people have sufficient conditions. This type of education puts pressure on some groups of people. Especially low-income families or people living in remote areas.

3. Need support from a family member : Online education is different from homeschooling. But family members have to spend a lot of time supporting their children. It is difficult for younger students to engage with online learning platforms.

4. Increase in some physical health problems: Teaching and studying online can lead to some physical health problems. Imagine you keep your eyes on a computer screen all day. You work with technology devices not only in class but also afterwards. Thus, you may experience neck and shoulder stiffness, back pain and obesity. Apart from this, headache, hearing loss or even myopia is not an exception.

2. Blended learning: Blended learning

Blended learning is never out of the list of popular educational trends with the advancement of technology. With this method, we can use both face-to-face and e-learning training methods. Learners become the center of learning, teachers play the role of guides to guide the learners. This modern trend not only awakens learners' learning experiences but also their learning motivation. You may already know about personalized learning and microlearning. In conjunction with these two significant e-learning trends, blended learning is also a buzzword increasingly used in education and training. There are many alternative terms that teachers can use for blended learning, such as "hybrid learning", "blended learning", "technology-mediated instruction", "integrative learning", or "flipped classroom", etc. However, whether one chooses to call online or blending offline and online learning in a way that compliments each other is a big learning trend that is going to grow.

● Blended Learning Definition:

As you know, the traditional classroom method focuses on teacher-centered learning. Whereas personalized learning method emphasizes the central role of learners. In addition, a new learning method E-Learning has evolved due to the significant development of technology in recent decades. Which is gradually replacing the traditional methods of education. And blended learning lies somewhere between the three concepts.

So far, no universal definition of blended learning exists because it is highly context-dependent. However, one thing is certain that blended learning is the integration of digital tools, technologies and materials (e-learning elements). including face-to-face classroom exchange activities (traditional teaching method); and independent study (individual learning) method.

Blended Learning Model:

A blended learning model is known as a blend of physical and digital learning. Blended learning helps bridge the gap between brick-and-mortar schools (traditional education) and virtual classrooms (e-learning). It allows learners to enjoy the best of both worlds. Based on the above definition, a typical blended learning model consists of three essential components, which are:

- ✓ Online learning materials (assigned to learners by the facilitator)
- ✓ Individualized classroom activities (guided by the facilitator)
- ✓ Independent study time (using online learning materials assigned by that facilitator)

● Blended Learning Environment:

Along with physical classrooms, blended learning occurs through online learning management systems (LMS) such as Moodle, Canvas, or Blackboard. This digital platform allows learners to acquire knowledge in a virtual learning environment. They can also interact with their facilitator and other students through the webinar. Meanwhile, facilitators can regularly update content or online content in these platforms.

● Online Environment :

From the learner's side:

Learners in a blended course can enjoy both the freedom of e-learning and the opportunity to interact directly with their facilitator and classmates. Learners will self-study the online material assigned by their facilitator in detail. For example, they will watch videos, read materials, become members of online learning communities, complete homework in a virtual learning environment. In addition, they may also come to class to engage in individual classroom activities.

From the Facilitator's side:

Facilitators are responsible for assigning online materials (videos, documents, assignments, online courses...) for students to study at home. Then, they will facilitate classroom activities in which students can discuss, exchange ideas, ask questions, and interact directly with their facilitators and classmates. Facilitators will also guide various techniques and allow learners to practice those techniques immediately, then give them constructive feedback.

● How does blended learning redefine the role of the teacher?

In this article, you can see that "facilitator" is a term used to describe someone who is tasked with imparting knowledge to learners. You may wonder why familiar terms such as "teacher" or "lecturer" are not used. The reason is that "teacher" or "lecturer" is no longer appropriate in the context of blended learning. In a traditional classroom, teachers play a central role in the classroom. They are in the mode of knowledge distributors. However, teachers are no longer the main source of information in blended learning. In this context teachers should be called "facilitators", "coaches" or "mentors". They are now undertaking more varied and challenging missions than ever before. The following section will present the three main roles of facilitators in blended learning.

✓ Preparation of online and in-class materials:

Looking at learner and facilitator side activities, we can see that online and in-class content play a critical role in the success of blended courses. Creating learning materials, both online and offline, is one of the three most important tasks of a facilitator. In particular, facilitators may need to improve their technology skills to create the

best online learning content. One of these essential digital skills is learning how to use authoring learning tools to create online courses.

✓ Ensuring tight linkage between online and in-class instruction:

Successful blended learning occurs when in-class instruction from facilitators and indirect instruction from online materials are closely integrated. When e-learning, personalized learning, and face-to-face classroom activities complement each other, they help enrich learning experiences and increase the overall effectiveness of learner outcomes. Careful lesson planning is essential to help facilitators understand how they can create online learning materials to effectively use classroom activities.

✓ Following the learning process:

Following the learning process will create important connections between the facilitator and the learners. It helps facilitators to assess learners' overall understanding, clear up misunderstandings and provide constructive feedback to learners. Apart from this, it also helps in evaluating the effectiveness of the course, so that the facilitators can make appropriate and necessary adjustments for the next time.

✓Base Line:

With traditional teaching methods learning experiences are limited to classrooms and schools are controlled by teachers and curriculum. These restrictions sometimes become major factors limiting learners' creativity and preventing them from discovering the joy of learning. A hybrid learning method stands out with the merging of physical and digital learning spaces. It helps to personalize students' learning experiences and inspire their desire to learn. More specifically, it allows them to choose their favorite subjects, create their own flexible/study plans and adjust to a personalized learning style that best suits them. For that reason, blended learning has become one of the significant education trends in recent years.

Conclusion

Thus, if we look, there are many methods/methods known for learning and teaching out of which we have discussed two methods. According to me it was more appropriate to discuss this method because other methods are known and understandable but as per this new trend blended method which is connected with online learning information is more useful to the readers.

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