



Challenges of Blended Learning

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ABSTRACT

This paper presents the challenges of Blended Learning. Blended learning combines online and face-to-face learning methods. Learners spend part of their learning time interacting face-to-face with a teacher and classmates and part of their learning time using a computer or portable digital device (such as a Smartphone) to access online courses, curriculum, or other learning resources, by themselves or collaboratively, inside or outside of the classroom. The two modalities of learning are integrated, complementary, and overlapped, and there is some control over the place, time, and pace for learners. It is becoming more and more popular and useful to use blended and hybrid learning as time goes on, and circumstances require new approaches to teaching. While new educational technology has become increasingly important for blended classrooms, it also brings challenges. This paper discusses blended learning challenges that are frequently cited.

Keywords: challenges, blended learning

I. INTRODUCTION

Teaching and learning are two processes underlying the activity of students and teachers nowadays. Learning process puts both parties towards each other, what it teaches and what it takes, the teacher and the student. Generally teacher teaches the students enabling pass the examinations. He is always careful that his pass percentage may not go down. Thus teaching and learning process become passive. But the engagement shows or indicates of improvement of teaching learning process. And teacher plays vital role in realizing the educational goal of 21st century of a dynamic society. They must be exposed to technology based instruction in the classroom to be able to survive and be successful in the future school environment. Today takes great importance to the training of students to teach themselves, their education, equipping them with the skills of independent work with the most advanced methods of learning conscious sustainable, active and creative.

Both teaching and learning processes have benefited from various educational technologies. The use of technology has removed educational boundaries. Recent advancements in educational technologies have yielded positive results in our education sector. New educational technology supports both the teaching and learning processes. Technology has digitized classrooms through digital learning tools like computers, ipads, Smartphone's, smart digital whiteboards. It has expanded course offerings, and has increased student's engagement and motivation towards learning.

A new teaching-learning method has gained popularity in recent years. To give a better learning experience, it is important to make the best use of technology, especially the internet-driven aspect, in conjunction with

traditional teaching. The pedagogy used is a blended pedagogy that engages student's deeply in learning and helps them achieve cognitive, affective, and psychomotor objectives. Blended learning as a pedagogy is a blend of traditional and online learning to make the dream of digital India come true.

Traditional learning is the best way of teaching-learning process where the student normally learns with the instructor-laid approach or in the environment where the instructor addresses the learning requirement of the Learner face to face. But like any other learning method, traditional learning also has both advantages and disadvantages. When we talk about e-Learning is web-based learning which especially means online. It has a number of advantages over traditional learning due to the great advantages of e-Learning. Educators and teachers accepted it as a strong option to overcome the existing flowers and weaknesses of the traditional approach. As there are a lot of advantages to e-Learning, the disadvantages of e-Learning have also been identified. In this digital age, blended learning can provide the best solution for today's learning approaches provided thoughtfully used along with traditional classroom teaching.

Blended learning can be defined as the mixing of face-to-face teaching and online learning Students can not only learn in a traditional environment but also online using internet technology and other synchronous and the resources of a synchronous and asynchronous web. But it is still the teacher who decides the usage and combination of the two as well as which portion of the students' learning that will take place online and in the classroom. Although blended learning affords opportunities for increased instructional richness and flexibility, social interaction, access to knowledge, personal agency, cost efficiency, and improved learner outcomes. Still, while implementing it has some challenges your success can be hindered if you are not aware of that beforehand. If we want to implement blended learning, we should be aware of hidden challenges that could hinder success before the program is even implemented. There are some challenges of blended learning. This paper discusses blended learning challenges that are frequently cited.

II. CHALLENGES OF BLENDED LEARNING

❖ **Appropriate training to the teachers**

In India the number of schools having Technology hardware and software is increasing, most of the schools have started using Smart Boards in the classrooms providing them access to navigate through the internet during their teaching, projection through LCD projectors have become a common feature in schools, colleges, and Universities but the fact is that teachers are still far more behind in integrating technology in a meaningful and purposeful manner during their classroom teaching and the big reason behind this is numerous our teachers are not techno-Savvy and legs required techno-skills which enables them to achieve new goals of education to develop lifelong learning skills and the ability to engage in collaborative knowledge creation and problem-solving with peers and experts around the world to achieve 21st-century educational goals and to adapt significant changes in the pedagogical process. So, they should be trained to use online resources, especially online classes and online workshops along with the basic techno skills which will be mentioned in the next challenge of blended learning in this paper.

❖ **Choosing the right Blended Learning Model**

The key to successful blended learning is to select the right combination of different modalities and their resources that will best serve the learning objectives and help the education system to prepare students for the 21st century, it should be used in a manner where it prepares students to be a fit in this rapidly changing

society. Institutions and teachers can develop their own blended learning model depending on the analysis of learners' requirements, the level of understanding, competencies involved, availability of technology, and online resources, or can choose any one of the blended learning models. The majority of blended learning programs resemble one of four models, Rotation, Flex, À la carte, and enriched virtual. The Rotation model includes four sub-models: Station rotation, Lab rotation, Flipped Classroom, and Individual Rotation. Every teacher should have the proper knowledge about the blended learning models, how, when, and where to use them. But when preparing or selecting the model, they should keep in mind that it suits our learning environment and the learning styles of our learners.

❖ **Essential Technology skills to facilitate blended learning**

In order to facilitate and practice Blended learning in an effective way every teacher or facilitator should have some basic Technology skills. As computers and associated Technologies continue to change and evolve, educators should try to update themselves continuously to strive for excellence in their work. Teachers are often criticized for not being techno-Savvy to keep pace with 21st-century learners, which is true to some extent, often teachers shrink from integrating technology in their teaching due to a lack of knowledge of performing different techno skills. Some basic Technology skills are word processing skills, spreadsheet skills, database skills, electronic presentation skills, web navigation skills, email management skills, digital cameras, computer network knowledge applicable to the school system, file management and Windows Explorer skills, downloading software from the web, installing computer software onto a computer system, webCT or blackboard teaching skills, video conferencing skills, computer-related storage devices (CDs, USB drive, DVDs, zip disks), educational copyright knowledge, computer security knowledge, etc. These Technology skills can help teachers to adopt and use blended pedagogy to keep pace with changing instructional pedagogies.

❖ **Deciding the Time and Activities –**

Success of any blended learning module depends on how the traditional and online learning activities synchronise with each other. There should be a significant and relevant switchover from traditional to online learning environment and vice versa. The classroom activities should be integrated and linked to online activities and online learning should supplement classroom learning activities. The duration for classroom and online learning can be decided in harmony with the learning objectives.

❖ **Overcoming the idea that blended learning is not as effective as traditional classroom training.**

Participants are attracted to the Traditional classroom because they understand that they can be successful learners. They understand their roles, and what is required as far as behaviour, effort, and participation. Online learning technologies change these expectations, and the safety net is taken away. Managers often don't realize the effort it takes for a self-directed program to be successful, and facilitators often don't have the confidence to fully support the program. These factors, left unaddressed, often result in a failed program.

❖ **Selection of the Right online resources**

Out of a number of online resources, the facilitator should take all the precautions to choose appropriate resources to achieve the learning objectives. The facilitator or teacher should first prepare an idea about how they will integrate technology into their classroom learning, how they will integrate all web resources into that traditional learning, and how they will use online resources. The appropriate Integrated various online

synchronous and asynchronous resources (especially online classes webinars, and online workshops) help teachers to carry on the teaching-learning process smoothly.

❖ **Availability of technology and internet**

Both Software and hardware of technology have brought a complete revolution in the field of education, the internet being the driver of learning today, marks the beginning of a new era in our educational system. The other challenges are that teachers do not have enough knowledge about technology to fully utilize its advantages, schools, especially in rural areas, do not have the funding to implement it, and their students also cannot afford internet facilities and digital equipment at home. Rural school areas always have an issue with access to Wi-Fi, hardware, or software.

❖ **Preparing for the Blended learning Environment: Tools and Resources**

Preparing tools and resources for the blended learning environment is an arduous task. Our teachers are still far more behind in preparing tools and resources for the blended learning environment in a meaningful and purposeful manner during their classroom teaching. The facilitator should, first of all, explain to learners about blended learning and an idea about how they will integrate technology into their classroom learning, what all web resources will be integrated into their traditional learning, and how they will use online resources. While preparing tools teachers to need to go through the proper instruction to get successful in the program such as keeping technology use simple in order to avoid turning the course into a support Nightmare and gradually and more advanced technology, focusing on design, not Technologies use, don't do it alone discuss your problems and progress with colleagues whether they are using the hybrid or not manage student's expectations, prepare for anticipated problems, don't organize your course too tightly.

III. CONCLUSION

Generally, the Blended learning approach has unlocked infinite learning opportunities for the internet generation. In this information and communication age, the nature of work and the skills required to be successful, are very different than they were required earlier. Today, students need to learn and know a great amount of information in very little time in an inquiry-based, self-directed learning context. They need to collaborate effectively around the world with the students and teachers both face-to-face and online, facilitating collaborative learning, which is now possible. This is the blended learning approach. While implementing it has some challenges your success can be hindered if you are not aware of that beforehand. If we want to implement blended learning, we should be aware of hidden challenges that could hinder success before the program is even implemented As above explained there are many challenges in front of teachers regarding blended learning which will require a strong support from schools to corporations, from the management, institution, from the state and central government by updating educational policies and providing financial aids, trainings to especially backward and rural areas.

IV. REFERENCES

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