Blended Instruction: An Effective Way of Learning

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Abstract

In the modern world, digitalization plays a vital role in learning and teaching processes. Teachers should understand the importance of technology in the learning process since younger generation use technology for various purposes. Students have so many diversions so it is the teachers' duty to capture the attention of the students and bring them into the main stream of education. Blended learning is one of the technologies which help students to learn more and practice in their own at their personal pace by inducing their creativity. This paper deals with blended learning technology applied in teaching and their inhibitions in the implementation of this technology in teaching and furnishes suggestions for the successive implementation of blended learning in the teaching field.

Introduction

Renovation processes are being carried out in the many fields all over the world. There is a serious need for renovation in the field of education since it is one of the important service industries which help in developing creativity and utilize creativity in any situation for the betterment of life. In the changing world, everyone is forced to adopt themselves to technology for enhancing efficiency. As everything around us is moving a step closer to a digital world every moment for performance enhancement. Every year, due to increasing population, enrolments are increasing in par with increasing number of educational institutions. Teaching is a challenging task and adoption of technology in the process of learning is becoming the need of today. Blended instruction is also one of the strategies that combine both traditional teaching as well as adoption of technology in order to make the students to apply knowledge in practical situations. Blended learning is a system in which teacher designs the curriculum and lists the technology necessary to carry out the curriculum. Teachers should make efforts to learn this technology and study its applications in learning and teaching and frame syllabus accordingly. Children are natives to the e-world where as teachers are immigrants.

Review of Literature

Many researchers made attempts to find the impact of technology in teaching and learning processes. HWa, Weei, and Len (2012) stated that the increasing number of new learners need more and are in a need of immense knowledge as the mundane works have been reduced because of the technology advancement Li Bianco (2010) noted that the blending learning has started its journey in education by adopting new

technologies in curriculum, evaluation methods at higher education, secondary and primary levels too. Blended learning is a combination of face to face and computer based learning (Neumeier, 2005). Allen (2010) referred blended learning as integrating ICT in teaching and learning environments. Blended learning is an integration of traditional learning and learning supported by ICT platform (Aguilar, 2012). Sharma (2010) viewed that blended learning as a system of traditional learning with the support of appropriate technology. López-pérez, pérez-López, and Rodríguez-Ariza (2011) and Boyle, Bradley, Chalk, Jones, and pickard (2003) found that the adoption of blended learning in Higher education courses increased retention and positively correlated with students' attainment. pérez and Riveros (2014) found that the blended learning programme improved autonomy and responsibility of the students in their learning as they can set their own pace.

Tools for Blended Learning

Mind Map

Mind Map is a tool for brain storming. It helps the teacher to develop creativity among the students. This helps the students to apply mind map for arriving at solutions in different dimensions. Depending upon the concept the teacher applies mind map for the development which help the students to solve problems in a practical situation without any delay.

Google Class Room

The teacher should be an expert in Learning Management System. Teacher should frame the content, select appropriate technology, design the lesson plan specify the appropriate technology whenever necessary. Creating Google classroom from the Google drive and including the students by their email IDs. According to the course prepare modules and give assignments wherever necessary.

Google Form

From Google drive the teacher can join the students by including their email address and then create Google class room, thereby the teacher can test the performance of the students by the   multiple choice questions, short questions which can be used for assessments. Teacher can use videos from any video platforms available.

Video.notes

This allows the students to watch any video clipping. The teacher can pass some information/notes while the student watches a video. The video can be linked into Google class room. Video can be loaded into the Google class room.

TedEd.com

The teacher can take any video related to the curriculum and take the video with the help of link   by logging into the ed.ted.com and ask the students to watch, think, and discuss the topic in different dimensions and ask the students to submit assignment in order to express their opinion on a particular topic.

Ed.Puzzle

Using email id one can log into ed.puzzle either as a teacher or student. The teacher can import the google class room into ed.puzzle. All students entered into Google classroom can be imported into ed.puzzle. The teacher can insert video with the help of link into ed.puzzle. The teacher then can crop the video according to the necessity and include quiz also in order to check whether the student can follow the video or not.

Hot Potatos

It is also one of the software that helps a teacher to assess the performance of the students. In this software the options namely Jcloze which contains fill in the blanks, Jcross that contains cross word puzzles, JQuiz for conducting quiz , Jmatch for framing match the following. Here the teacher can act as administrator and use the tools for assessing the performance of the students

Barriers in Blended Learning Implementation

1. Teachers especially having more than 20 years of experience in teaching field have less experience in technology since they are digital immigrants and most of them are unwilling to adopt technology in teaching..
2. Teachers and students belonging to rural areas will possess very limited knowledge about technology and that prevents the implementation of blended instructions in learning process.
3. Most of the Educational institutions are using technology mainly for administration purposes especially for attendance management, providing marks and usually do not possess technology for teaching and learning process.

Suggestions

1. Hands on training Programme could be conducted for teachers at regular intervals might help them to get comfortable with technology. Application oriented knowledge in electronic tools in different situations will give confidence to the teachers and help them to prepare e-modules and adopt electronic tools relating to blended learning in different situations.

2. Educational institutions should realize the effectiveness of blended instruction in the learning process and might have sufficient infrastructure that helps to implement blended learning instructions in an effective way.

Conclusion

Education enables human beings to produce goods and services that help increase Gross Domestic Product of any country. Hence, more emphasis is needed to strengthen human resources at the maximum. Blended learning instruction helps both students as well as teachers enrich themselves. Teachers enable the students to learn the subjects individually by acting as a facilitator and will help them grow independently and efficiently. Changes are inevitable and can be good or bad. In the case of applying technology in the educational field, it may give out tremendous results in terms of quality and quantity of education. In a technology dependent world, this path ensures inclusion and expansion.

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