Blended Learning- Collaboration of Traditional Face to Face and Online Learning

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Abstract: This article analyzes major types of learning such as online teaching, traditional face-to-face teaching and mix type of them blended model of teaching. The article highlights that the blended model is instructional approach which combines two different components which integrates in person interaction and digital skills, as a result can create flexible and also engaging learning experience. Moreover, this article emphasizes some benefits and drawbacks of teaching in blended model.

Keywords: Blended learning, online teaching, face-to-face teaching, digital literacy, collaboration, socialization, flexibility.

Introduction

English is the language of science, technology, so by the rapid grows of technology demand in learning language is increasing. In our everyday life technology is integrated so fast and being able to use digital literacy skill become essential. So in teaching field by integrating traditional face to face teaching with the digital learning activities become a popular.

Blended learning one of the educational approaches which is combine online and face to face instruction in one lesson. (Avazmatova, 2020) It involves mix type of teaching methods like lecture, group work, online modules, discussions, peer observation. As a distance learning and remote education gains popularity among teachers and students. Furthermore, there are several reasons for its popularity. One reason is the flexibility of the approach which allows flexible attitude in location and time. The other is personalization as students can choose the activities which they liked most according to their needs. Also it gives an opportunity to access to the resources which may not be available during traditional classes. Moreover, it can improve learners' digital literacy skills which is considered one of the important skills in our life as the integrating technology to our every day life. It is very essential for teachers to establish blended model of teaching step by step. The first thing is to identify objectives of the lesson and determine what kind of outcomes you want to achieve by providing blended model of teaching. With the help of them you can select the most suitable activities you will use for online and offline mode. And of course choosing the most relevant technologies and tools as videoconferencing, blogs, discussion to support blended learning model. After you may create some activities developing assessment. Blended model of teaching is ongoing process which is considered to regular evaluation and improvements. For this reason teachers always should collect feedbacks from the learners and they should be aware that the process of learning with integrating technology and traditional face to face model can meet the needs of learners in achieving goals which are set before the lesson.

Online teaching

Online teaching is one of appropriate way of teaching which can help students to learn language according to their decision where and when to study, providing by the way massive exposure to

English in authentic way. The major benefit of online teaching is flexibility which allows learners to participate in discussion any time and from anywhere. As it noted in Tomlinson (2019) it is suitable type of learning as it gives a chance to receive the instruction any suitable time at a distance and repeat these instructions as many times as they want. Lalima & Dangwal (2017) noted the words of Swami Vivekanand "If people can't reach school, schools should reach them" and claims that online model of teaching is exactly do this. As it provided new dimensions to process, give the students opportunity to learn, and relearn, also physically challenged students can get benefit from this type of learning as it is equal for everyone. According to benefits it can be concluded that online teaching is an approach which expanding access to education, also help learners with promoting them lifelong learning, moreover, engaging learning experiences. At the same time there are some drawbacks of online learning as Avazmatova (2020) noted some drawbacks on it like late feedback, difficulty with engagement and social isolation. These factors may reduce motivation of learners.

Traditional teaching

In face-to-face teaching students can learn not only from books but also from teachers in the classroom and from peers by interaction with them during the class which can facilitate a deeper understanding of course materials. There are several benefits of traditional teaching. First of all it help students in socialization, provide opportunity for collaboration among students that can improve communication and teamwork skills among learners. As it mentioned in Lalima & Dangwal.(2017) Social skills which is important for students in their further grows like sharing, cooperation, respect others' views can be easily developed in traditional mode of teaching. Also, traditional teaching fosters a sense of classroom community, which is in turn helps to feel closely connected not only with peers but also with teachers. Tomlinson (2019) argues that students in face-to- face lesson enable to get to know each other, develop shared community. Also, classroom environment plays huge role in traditional teaching which helps learners to stay focused and engaged during the class. Along with the benefits of traditional teaching there are some drawbacks which are mentioned in Lalima & Dangwal (2017) like failing to meet individuals need and students can suffer from dearth of teachers as their learning has a lot of ambiguities to inefficient teachers.

Blended learning model

Blended learning model is the integration of technologies into learning process, incorporates technology which causes developing learners digital literacy skills. Resent years introduction of new technological innovations have filled the gaps between traditional face to face learning and distributed learning environments. (Guzer & Caner, 2013)

According to Avazmatova (2020) definition of blended learning is the integration of traditional way of study with the technology- the internet and the distance learning. The potential of blended model in promoting students' knowledge, improving quality of education and also meets the needs of technologically developed era students. The author highlights that for the electronic-loved students using only in person instruction will be fruitless. Also, in online lessons students can face to challenges like social isolation or lack of motivation. So, designing blended model of lesson with the integration of advantages in both traditional face to face teaching and online teaching can help learners to be mastery of the content. What is more essential and valuable in education is adopting technology which can be the area for further investigations.

In Kaur (2012) it defined as effective combination of different models of delivery, models which are considered in teaching and learning styles, and expressed interactively meaningful learning environment. Lalima & Dangwal (2017) give the definition as blended learning incorporates direct and indirect instruction, collaborative teaching and individual computer assisted learning. Also

mentioned the effectiveness of teaching and learning in blended model, highlighted the benefits of blended learning which increased engagement of learners, flexibility, access the materials and challenges is the need for adequate technology and also teacher training. Also discussed scope of blended learning in education system of India and how it should be adopted.

According to Tomlinson (2019) Blended learning is the ideal combination of digital and face to face learning in one approach. Furthermore this model would be important in teaching and as it noted in Graham (2006) Blended learning would have a great role in the future and dominated by distributed learning environment.

Benefits

There are several benefits in blended model approach: lessons can be flexible, it will be easy for learners to access the materials, live feedback in classroom, no need for large buildings. According to Lalima & Dangwal (2017) students gain benefits of online lessons without losing social interaction and they become more techno savvy and enhanced digital fluency. Kaur (2012) claims that it can force students to switch from passive to active learning and enhances individualization, along with personalization and relevance. Moreover, Blended learning model enables students to engage in learning process and also improve lifelong competencies as active learners.(Tomlinson (2019) discusses the potential of transforming blended learning to ELT. The author mentioned several benefits of using this model and one of them is authenticity. Learners decide when and how use the language. As using internet only for learning decrease motivation, lack of communication can bring students to the social isolation and the interaction and supportive feedback in traditional classroom can complete the challenges mentioning above. So, the author came to the conclusion that integrating digital and face to face learning approaches can be ideal approach in teaching and learning language.

Challenges

According to Kaur (2012) there are two types of challenges are exist. The one is technical challenges, the other is organizational challenges. In technical challenges usually learners faced the problem on ensuring participants in usage of technology and in organizational challenges are managing and monitoring the learners process. According to Avazmatova (2020) there are some challenges in Blended Learning .They are late feedback from teacher, poor internet connection, and some difficulties in social interaction.

Implementation

Implementation of Blended learning is considered the future of educational system if it is well-planned, organized in a right way. Lalima & Dangwal (2017) analyzed Implementation of Blended Learning in Indian Education System and concludes that it needs well planned design which can include all necessary things from top to bottom of the educational hierarchy. Also there is need for increasing budget for preparing educational institutes for Blended learning. to Kaur (2012) suggests that Blended learning will be more effective when institutional support through the provision professional learning and with the chance for redesigning courses to choose the most appropriate one. The author discussed the increasing the trend of e-learning and blended learning is the tool through which this concept can be implement. The author overviewed the blended learning from different perspectives as Holistic, Educational, Pragmatic, Corporate Training and so. on. Also, several methods as synchronous instructional and asynchronous instructional are disclosed in this article. Moreover, the paper describes several techniques which that is used in Blended learning and the area where these techniques are considered as beneficial and where are considered as challenging.

Pedagogical implications

TBLT is considered the most appropriate task for Blended learning. Tomlinson (2019) gave three task based approaches which are defined as the ideal for blended learning course. They are Web quests, online text chat, and m-learning. According to Avazmatova (2020) several steps also should to be taken into account as Enrollment, Activity, Completion and Score. By following these steps blend lesson become more effective. According to Kaur (2012) for pedagogical implication three components should be taken into consideration they are learning environment, instructional component and of course media component.

Conclusion

All teaching type we can find benefits and drawbacks. But in my opinion there are less demerits in Blended learning. As it is modified through analyses of two teaching style and get only positive sides. After analyzing advantages of traditional method of teaching and online mode we can select them in collaboration for creating new model in teaching called Blended learning. We can also notice that Blended Learning model gained significant attention as it is a way to enhance the effectiveness, productivity in teaching and learning the languages. In the conclusion I may tell that the Blended Learning model has a huge potential in terms of transform the traditional face to face teaching and can develop students outcomes, moreover technology is going on to intensify the way which we learn and teach. (Kaur ,2012) By one word I can say without doubt that Blended learning model will become important and significant approach in education system not only in Uzbekistan but also all over the world. As an English teacher I will use this approach in my class as it can increases my learners' motivation, it is suitable as it is combination of two popular model of teaching and during the lesson not only language capacity can be improved, but also, digital skills of the learners can be developed.

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