

## Blended Learning: its Trends and Capabilities

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### Abstract

*E-Learning has had an interesting impact on the learning environment. Although it represents tremendous potential in the way it could revolutionize learning and development, it has rapidly evolved into a concept of blended learning which like its name suggests, blend online learning with more traditional methods of learning and development. It is important to acknowledge the importance of learning as much as training, to describe the process as learning and development rather than training and development. Blended learning is a mix of multimedia, CD ROM, virtual streaming, virtual classrooms, voicemail, email and conference calls, online text animation and video streaming. This literature review selected and analyzed peer reviewed journal articles, research papers and research work. The findings highlight some common capabilities among digital educational technologies.*

**Keywords :** *Blended Learning, Online Learning.*

### Introduction :

The world is constantly on the verge of changing and which directly or indirectly affects many domains. This includes education domain as well. The emergence of the use of technology in every field effect educational domain as well as the result is the back seat of traditional method of teaching. However, there are always debates on the use of both the traditional and technological mode of teaching. The result of this is the birth of blended learning.

Blended learning is not just the mix of online and face to face learning, but it is the combination of well-planned mixture of both the modes of teaching. This demands the consideration of many factors mainly focusing on learning outcomes and learner- centered instructional environment. "Learners are important partners in any learning process and therefore, their backgrounds and characteristic effect their ability to effectively carry on with learning and being in blended learning" (Kintu, 2016)

Blended learning must be based on –

1. Identifying the core learning need.
2. Establishing the level of demand
3. Recognizing the different learning styles
4. Matching the learners needs different delivery methods.
5. Identifying the objectives and provisions to meet the current need.
6. Developing a user-friendly demonstration

Blended learning is an amalgamation of age-old traditional classroom learning which is based on face-to-face interaction between teacher & students and next generation teaching platforms including online tools & gadgets. Blended learning strategy is not fully technology dependent the teacher is having a lion share to mark his creativity along with abundant e-

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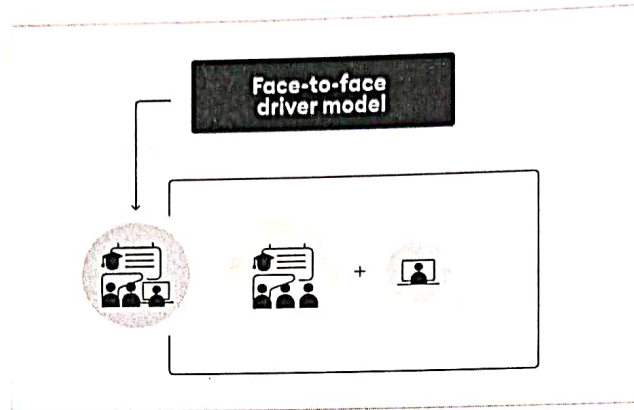
resources available in the web world this will give the balance of human touch and technical punch.

Blended learning gives some added liberties to students such as choosing difficulty level, time-period for learning, interest area etc.

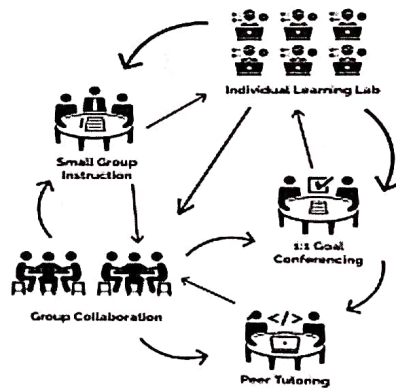
**Models of Blended Learning:**

**This consists of 6 basic models:**

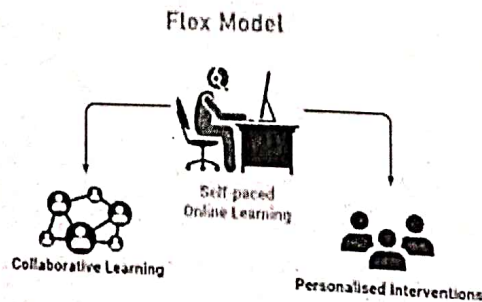
**1. Face-to-Face driver** – here teacher instructs the students with the help of digital programs gadgets and software.



**2. rotation-** this consists of continuous cyclic loop. Traditional physical presence of teacher and students in a classroom followed by partial learning through online interactive study material without involvement of physical presence.



**3. Flex-** this is one of the most important models out of all six models. In this most of the syllabus is catered through online teaching platforms but teachers are present physically for any query or confusion of students related to the syllabus.



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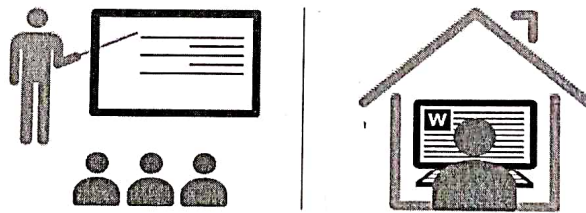
**4. Labs** –this model is an extension of normal classroom learning. In this the students are giving face-to-face classes in a classroom but in addition to that they are also given online learning as well. In the same classroom or some special lab where such upgraded facilities can be made available but without the need of any trained teacher only a supervisor of online facilities is required



**Lab Rotation**



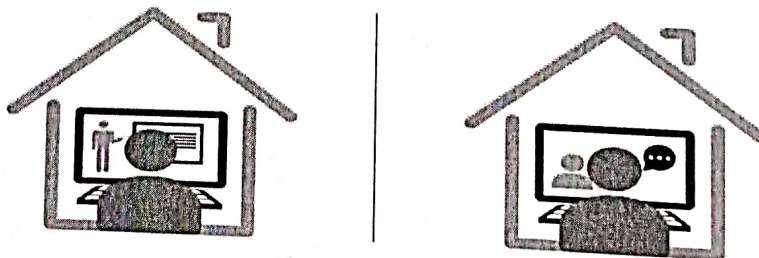
**5. Self blend** – this model is especially for that student who wants more than what is catered to them in classical classroom learning but also opt for some special courses which are provided through online medium. For this student needs to be ambitious and willing to learn things which are not covered in the basic curriculum.



**Self-blend**

Students undertake traditional classes before enrolling in online course work to support their studies

**6. Online driver model** –this model of learning is possibly the most lenient model of blended learning which involves very little or no involvement of teacher. It is best suited for students whose time schedule does not permit them to attend regular classes physically hence renders freedom of managing time for studies at their own convenience. Face to face checks may or may not be opted for by students.



**Online driver**

Students work through the curriculum from remote locations, with all their instruction completed via online platforms. Students have access to course teachers for "check-ins"



### Objectives of the study :

Objectives of the study is to review the following-

1. To analyze the importance of blended learning
2. To analyze trends and capabilities related to blended learning.

### Methodology :

The author structured this research using a literature-based approach to concept development (branch and Rocchi(2015), as cited in Castro(2019), in the first phase, the author performed a purposive search to identify the most relevant articles or books in context to the use of blended learning in education. The articles referred for this search were limited to English language peer reviewed journals. The researcher applied a qualitative content approach to analyze and synthesize the data.

categories	Keywords and search terms
Blended learning	Blend learning, online education, mixed mode
	Hybrid learning

### Importance of blended learning :

Jayanthi (2019), "government vision of education system-

Digitization is one of the study trendy norms of the government and it has released the following measure to support online education.

1. Swayam- an online portal
2. NEP-national education policy
3. HEERA- higher education empowerment regulation agency
4. UGC- university grants commission

The aim of all the above scheme is to groom the students to face the challenges of the digital India.

The national education policy has given a rare glimpse in what can be achieved through transformation of education. The new NEP clearly states that it is time to take a policy that is undoubtedly student centric. The time has indeed come to recognize the fact that students are the main stakeholder and that efforts must be made to make the system respond to their dreams and aspirations. In this line of thinking the new policy gives the acceptability of many modes of learning including face toface, online learning and distance or virtual mode. It also promotes the use of vocational courses, multidisciplinary courses and multi modal approaches there by focusing on blended teaching learning.

### Comparison between the traditional and blended learning

<i>traditional</i>	<i>blended</i>
Not flexible	Highly flexible
offline	Online and offline both
Time fixed	Time is adjusted as per the choice of learner
Not necessary that the instructor will use technology	Advanced use of technology is must.

Kavitha (2018), "blended learning is gaining popularity now a days. The adoption of blended learning environment improves workquality. Reduces time taken to access a learning

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resource and increase knowledge and programming skills. The technique can be used as pedagogy in the educational environment.”

#### **Trends and capabilities :**

Blended learning is achieved by combining various models, teaching styles, methods, new assessment techniques etc., there are certain challenges related to blended learning these are

1. Learner's attitude
2. Sufficient technology support
3. Learner's background
4. Finding balance between the innovation and pedagogical ideas and techniques,  
The instructor should pay attention to the following points to overcome the challenges.
  1. Design of the course content- it contains the basic course plan, the instructor should pay attention to the time allotted for each activity, clear proportion of practical and class theory.
  2. Design of E-learning content- designing of E- learning content should depend upon the learner's approach and background knowledge. e learning content should be systematic to avoid any confusion and be limited to the time when the learner may start feeling lethargic.
  3. Assessment- it is one of the important parts of blended learning. Quick feedback to learners helps them in their learning process and it helps in checking the drawbacks and effectiveness of each Moodle.

#### **Blended teaching for teaching complicated subjects :**

Through blended learning complicated subjects like science, mathematics and geography can be easily taught. All these subjects require practical and illustration approach. Sivasakar (2015), Through Blended learning strategy science can be taught effectively. More and more new information with the support of modern electronic media can be passed to the learners easily. In this method the teacher is having face to face interaction and gives guidance about the veracity of the content to ensure right learning to take place through self-motivated learners

#### **Blended learning for learning retention :**

Sevil, pescuel, terror (2015), The b-learning combines classroom activities (face-to-face) with virtual activities (on-line) seeking an appropriate balance between them. In this paper, the presented methodology has been suggested as an alternative approach to improve efficiency in the learning process. Some of these tasks provide the student with the opportunity to do research and experiment, stimulating a teaching-learning process of quality in higher education. Most students think that is a positive and innovative methodology although with a different approach.

#### **Blended learning for language development :**

Language learning is highly individual and complex. In traditional classroom teaching teachers lectures, content while students listen, take notes, participate in class activities in addition students are passive and are willing to accept what teacher says without questioning. Most classrooms are teacher centered and students are different in terms of intellectual ideas and perception. some students can learn quickly compared to other student so classroom teaching alone may not be sufficient to suit individual requirement leading to need for modern technology. to address this additional lesson can be developed on the web for the



purpose of study called e-learning. The lesson in e-learning program can be used to support conventional type of learning. They contained activities and tasks that are not identical but parallel to classroom lesson on the same thing with some of same vocabulary and some of the same linguistic structure as the students are studying in the classroom. Blended learning methodology includes Moodle- Moodle is one of the most used open-source learning management systems, which can create an encouraging, informative, and always renewable language education environment.

**Blended learning provides self-regulatory learning** for preservice teachers. Research showed that it helps in exercising to sharpen their cognitive skills.

**Blended learning is applied using learning management system :**

learning management is a tool to employ in research since it provides online course management system which contains learning sources such as comprehensive assessment and learning sources or materials. MS also offers various types of learning activities such as classroom-based learning, e-learning, virtual learning, technology-based training, tools, books, and videos.

**Conclusion :**

it is undeniable that computers and the internet become the student's part of life. Blended learning positively affects learning outcomes .as Blended learning provides autonomy in reference to the time and place in which they are doing the task. The ease of browsing online materials gives a lot of opportunities to develop their competencies in language development. Blended learning is suitable to implement in courses related to language skills, particularly grammar. the regular activities, learning materials in the form of systematic and audio video aids helps them to learn in collaboration with each other. This not only helps in learning, but it also motivates them to practice and exercise.

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