A STUDY OF PUPIL TEACHERS' PERCEPTIONS ABOUT BLENDED LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

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ABSTRACT

New advances in the internet technology have brought new opportunities to education and training, in particular through online instructions. The leaming environments where instructional materials are transferred electronically or through the Internet or through course software with the help of computer technologies in teaching and learning environments and where the teacher and the learner are in different physical environments are known as e-learning. The most significant characteristics of e-learning are that the teacher and the learner are in different physical environments and that the communication throughout the teaching/learning process is carried out via e-mail, chat groups etc. through the Internet. There are some disadvantages of e-learning which has resulted in new environment which combines the advantages of e-learning and traditional learning environments. This new environment is known "blended learning", Blended learning environment integrates the advantages of e-learning method with some advantageous aspects of traditional method, such as face-to-face interaction. Blended learning brings traditional classes with elements of virtual education together. Blended learning as a learning program where more than one delivery mode is being used with the objective of optimizing the learning outcome and cost of program delivery.

KEYWORDS: School educator, stress, Work Teacher Scale .

INTRODUCTION

The integration of e-learning environment and traditional leaming environment may combine ideally the useful aspects of both methods. E-learning environments ensure the flexibility and efficacy which cannot be found in a classroom environment whereas face-to-face learning environment provides the social interaction which is required for learning.

The Objective of this Study:
What are the pupil teacher's views on blended learning environment?

Method:
The descriptive method is adopted for this research.

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Study Sample:

Study sample consisted random selection of 50 students enrolled for B.Ed. course in solapur.

Procedure:

This questionnaire was developed composed of 15 items. The students were asked to rate each item on a scale ranging from 1-10. The scores obtained were deemed as follows: 7.01-10 àHigh 5.01-7 à Medium 1-5 à Low. The data was analysed using these parameters.

Results and Discussion:

N=50

Table 1

Item	Mean $\overline{X}$
1. Web environment provide me to follow courses easily	7.5
2. Web sites are clear	8.7
3. Web environment can be reached from any where	8.5
4. Web is easy to use	6.5
5. Thoughts and experiences can be shared with my friends	7.00
6. Blended learning is supportive and help me reinforce what is learnt	7.00
7. Face-to-face interaction meets the expectations	8.5
8. Modules in the web environment meet the needs	6,00
9. Worksheets help to understand what is learnt	7.00
10. Evaluation criteria in the web environment guides about how and what to do.	6.00

Item	Mean $\overline{X}$
11. Studying on the web is boring	6.5
12. One can study at own pace	7.00
13. Using blended learning method in the course could be the advantages	7.5
14. Using blended leaming method in the course could be disadvantages	2.5
15. leaming a topic through the web is suitable for study habits	6.5

As Table 1 shows that general mean score obtained from the questionnaire corresponds to 6.84 and the highest mean score is 8.7 corresponds to Web sites are clear, mean score is 8.5 corresponds to Face-to-face interaction meets the expectations. The mean score is low (2.5) for using blended learning method in the course could be disadvantages. About 33.33 % questions showed the responses towards high perceptions Mean = 8.14 , 60.00 % questions showed the responses towards medium perceptions Mean= 6.61 & only 6.66 % questions Mean=2.5 showed the responses towards low perceptions. This shows that the Pupil teachers' over all perceptions about Blended Learning Environment are moderate or medium.

CONCLUSION:

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       This study examines students' views on blended learning environment. The results of the study demonstrate that there are positive views about blended learning environment. The highest score given to faceto-face environment throughout the process of implementing blended learning emphasize the significance of interaction-communication in the online learning. Traditional face-to-face and online environments i.e blended learning environments can be used to make the teaching leaming process more effective.

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