



STUDENTS' OPINIONS FOR BLENDED LEARNING METHOD IN LEARNING ENGLISH

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ABSTRACT:

Given the importance of the use of modern technology to the different sectors of the state, such as to the acquisition of information, enhancement of achievement, improvement of skills, low cost and overcoming obstacles, both the state and organizations alike have a duty to cope with the current technological advancements in order to respond to the needs of their relevant societies. In other words, given the human resources and expertise available to them, the duties of these institutions should extend beyond educating individuals to include the development of the society as a whole to reach international standards. Bearing in mind the current age of globalization, modern technology is becoming increasingly important to improve the education systems of any nation.

So far as the education is concerned, much more is emphasized on how teachers teach in the classroom. Teaching-learning method is a key factor in education system. There are numbers of different teaching methods used in the classroom; at the same time it is a matter of debate in the education field that which method is more powerful in dealing with students. Blended learning, which is 'a blending of technology and teacher' has become a talk of the town after some remarkable educational researches.

The present action research aimed to know the opinions of students towards the blended learning.

KEYWORDS : *Blended learning, opinions .*

INTRODUCTION

So far as the education is concerned, much more is emphasized on how teachers teach in the classroom. Teaching-learning method is a key factor in education system. There are numbers of different teaching methods used in the classroom; at the same time it is a matter of debate in the education field that which method is more powerful in dealing with students. Blended learning, which is a blending of technology and teacher has become a talk of the town after some remarkable educational researches.

The present research aimed to know the opinions of students towards the blended learning.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To know opinions of the students for the blended learning.

WHAT IS BLENDED LEARNING?

Blended learning is a formal education program in which a student learns at least in part through delivery of content and instruction via digital and online media with some elements of student control over time, place path, or pace. While still attending face to face classroom methods are combined with computer-mediated activities. (Wikipedia)

According to Clark and Myer (2007) the definition of blended learning varies from one researcher to another. For example, Thorne (2003) and Gutierrez (2006) point out that blended learning is *the integration between e-learning and face-to-face instruction*. Mayadas & Picciano (2007) on the other hand define blended learning as *a combination of online learning and face-to-face instruction*. In this regard Kerres & De Witt

(2003, 101) suggest that *“blended learning arrangements combine technology based learning with face-to-face learning and have become quite popular in different contexts”*. Moreover, Garham & Kaleta (2002) define hybrid courses as conventional courses with parts of their instructional activities run online, so that such an arrangement considerably cuts down the time students spend in the traditional classrooms. However, the term blended learning is also used to describe “learning that mixes various event-based activities, including face-to-face classrooms, live e-learning, and self-paced learning” (Valiathan, 2002). According to Driscoll (2002) the term blended learning should include following four concepts:

- Mixing the different types of instructional technology such as collaborative learning and virtual classroom to achieve instructional goals.
- Integrating manifold learning theories such as cognitivism and constructivism to enhance the learning outcome.
- Combining any type of instructional technology with face-to-face instruction.
- Mixing instructional technology with the practical job tasks.

POPULATION AND SAMPLE

The population of the study was students of grade 6th of Gujarat primary education board. For the sampling, the school was selected purposely and sample was stratified. The study was undertaken in Saravedi primary school of Bhavnagar district. 20 students were selected as sample of the study.

RESEARCH METHOD AND APPLICATION

The present study was an attempt to know the opinions of students for blended learning after giving treatment of the method. So, it was an opinion based research method in which an experimental was conducted and quantitative data was collected by using a questionnaire.

The students were taught a lesson of English subject for two days. First of all the lesson was taught traditionally by the teacher. Then, the same lesson was accessed by the students on internet which was digitally prepared on Google site. The digital lesson contained images, videos, and other multimedia based presentations. In short the students learnt a lesson of English subject by teacher and computer both.

After the teaching-learning process, the students were given a questionnaire to opine their experience of learning through the blended learning method.

TOOL

A teacher made opinionnaire was used as a tool in this experimental research. The opinionnaire consisted 10 statements with three options of ‘agree’, ‘disagree’, and ‘can’t say’ for each. Their opinion was considered as data of the study.

DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS

The response of the students in the opinionnaire was considered as data of the study. The students’ response were observed and categorized.

Findings

The following table shows students opinions for the blended learning.

No	Statement	Agree	Disagree	Can't say
1	It is difficult to understand the subject by this method.	2	18	0
2	Like to learn other subjects by this method	16	1	3
3	It is difficult to remember the matter learnt by this method.	1	19	0
4	It is tiresome to learn by this method.	0	20	0
5	Concentration increases in learning by this method.	17	2	1
6	This method of learning is more interesting than	20	0	0

	the ordinary learning method.			
7	The classroom discipline is not maintained while learning by this method.	6	10	4
8	Tension / stress is experienced while learning by this method	1	18	0
9	Pictures, videos, mp3 and animations in this method make learning joyful.	20	0	0
10	Learning by this method lasts longer.	20	0	0

SUMMARY

Observing the opinions of the students it can be said that the students enjoy learning by the blended learning. They also feel stress free and interested during learning. They also opined to learn other subjects by this method rather than the traditional method. Students experienced that their learning lasts long through this method.

EDUCATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION

Blended learning is an emerging teaching-learning method in 21st century education. The time when we have a vast treasure of information by internet, teachers must use computer and internet technology in the classroom. The blending of teacher and technology can definitely bring the best out of the students and can really create an interactive learning environment. The present study was an action research which shows students' opinions in favor of the blended learning which means such experience should be given in other subjects also.

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