

REPOSITIONING BLENDED LEARNING FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN PUBLIC PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN RIVERS STATE

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ABSTRACT

Education at the basic level is said to be the bedrock of other levels of education hence the need to give it the attention it deserves. The paper seeks to address the need for sustainable development using blended learning approach as a tool to enhancing pupils learning. Blended learning refers to the use of face-to-face learning and online learning in the teaching of pupils to achieve the objectives of a given lesson. The utilization of blended learning in Primary school classroom ensures that lesson objectives are achieved without hindrances and the child gets the needed skills that promotes sustainable development. The paper highlighted types of blended learning that can enhance sustainable development among pupils. These includes the Station Rotation, Lab Rotation, Remote blended learning Flex blended learning, The 'Flipped classroom Blended learning', individual rotation, Self-directed Blended learning, Project-based blended learning, Inside-out Blended learning, Outside-in Blended Learning and Mastery Blended learning. The challenges of blended learning were highlighted and the way forward was proffered.

INTRODUCTION

Mixed advancing as a cutting edge development in guidance has come to remain because of the different issues related with regular guidance. In each class, the need of the three classifications, for example, the quick, normal and slow students ought not be taken with levity. Getting ready future educators and giving enhancement to in-support instructors to be equipped in showing youngsters issues on manageability has frequently been underestimated. Notwithstanding, with the accessibility of innovation, the conveyance of pre-/in-administration educator schooling or instructional classes can be changed into mixed learning mode to upgrade eye to eye talk and active opportunity for growth on advanced learning stages to advance basic conversation and sharing of thoughts and individual encounters. In the appearance of advanced time, the joining of innovation upgraded educator training has been given accentuation alongside bringing issues to light on Maintainable Improvement Objectives (SDG). This paper zeroed in on repositioning mixed learning for Practical Turn of events.

Concept of blended learning

Mixed Learning is a proper sort of instructive plan wherein an understudy advances incompletely over transmission of content and supervision by revenues of computer and virtual broadcasting for certain confirmations of student command after some time, spot, way, or speed while as yet going to a typical school with blocks. Up close and personal homeroom strategies are joined with PC helped/online exercises. The expressions "mixed," "half and half," "innovation interceded guidance," "web-improved guidance," and "blended mode guidance" are in many cases utilized reciprocally in research writing (Pandit, 2015). Truly, the utilization of talk recording innovations can add up to understudies dipping after on the tools. In a review did across four distinct colleges by Sandina (2015), it was uncovered that main portion of the understudies watched the talk recordings consistently, and almost 40% of understudies watched a little while of recordings at a time. This is a genuine impression of the shortcoming inborn in unadulterated web based learning.

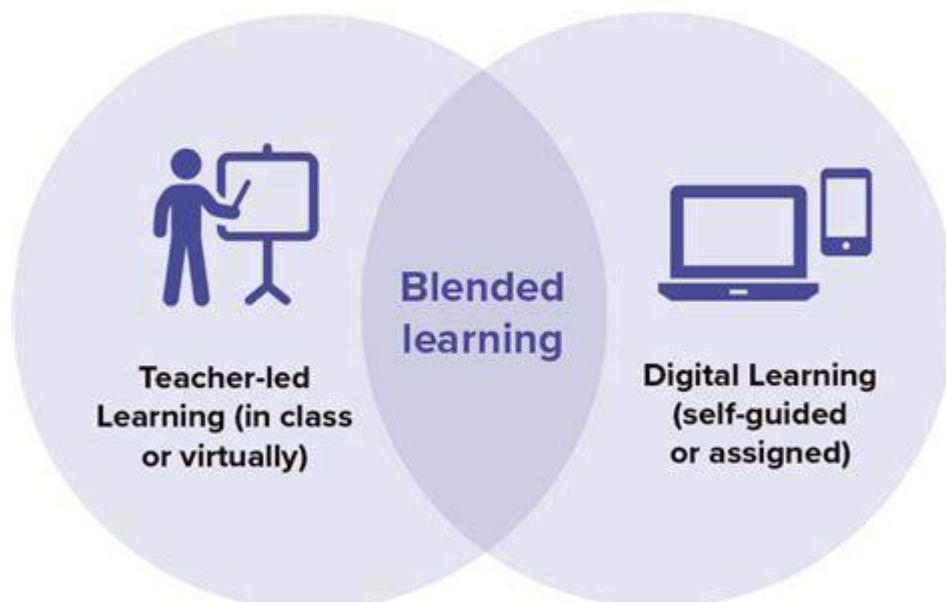


Figure 1: teacher-learner setting using digital devices

Involving Blended learning in the homeroom gives the valuable chance to produce the growth opportunities through the assistance of online items and study hall conversations which offer the properly and rightness in learning the language at the appropriate time with fundamental exactness for each person. The term 'blended learning' is regularly made sense of or perceived as a combination of conventional showing in addition to the utilization of web based educating. Mixed advancing as a system and strategy of educating can become viable provided that it is utilized deliberately in the homeroom teaching method.

In however much there is a powerful urge to coordinate ICT into education, the spot of the educator is likewise sacred. Nobody can supplant the educator. To obtain the paramount outcome in any case, it is vital to blend web based wisdom with the age-brooding look to confront guidance. Blended learning holds the potential as a successful instructive methodology for guaranteeing supportability of people and the country at large. This method of learning contains smart coordination of eye to eye with web based growth opportunities. This way to deal with learning involves troublesome educating and learning elements because of reconceptualization of logical necessities and different possibilities, for example, discipline, illustration improvement and assets required (Post and Kanuka, 2004). Nonconcurrent Web correspondence works with understudies to stand up to thoughts or issues all the more dispassionately and brilliantly when contrasted with coordinated up close and personal collaboration, perhaps because of better spotlight on the issues of conversation and less commotion from eye to eye communication. Also, there is extremely durable record and extended time in Web conversation that energizes more smart, contemplated and evidential conversation (Meyer, 2003).

On the computerized interface, the expected composing abilities give the open door to understudies to put themselves out there in composed texts. A survey of concentrates by Heterick and Twigg (2003) uncovered that there was expansion in course fulfillment rate, further developed maintenance and further developed understudy fulfillment with this method of guidance. Mixed learning of out-of-school field stumble on Moodle further developed understudy commitment and brought about certain connection between's their inspiration for cooperative learning and scholastic accomplishment (Coll and Coll, 2017). Facebook, an Internet 2.0 application is normal web-based stage utilized for both social and instructive purposes. A large number of devices and applications in Facebook permit clients to impart and share data, for example, adding photographs, recordings, remarks and connections, permitting reconciliation with different sites and other portable applications (Brandtzaeg and Heim, 2007). Research had demonstrated that Facebook assists educators with being more imaginative in instructing, and in this way better understudies' learning results (Siraj, Azman, and Hussin, 2013).

Facebook capabilities as a gateway for educators to share expansive reach and complex learning materials like connects to recordings and computerized admittance to important sites (Davis, 2009). Edmodo is one more Web 2.0 application explicitly intended for instruction to make learning more comprehensive with guardians, educators and understudies' cooperation. This learning stage could assist instructors with overseeing on the web classes effectively with highlights that work with understudies submitting tasks, getting educator criticism and cautions as well as deciding on surveys (Jarc, 2010; Witherspoon, 2011). Different highlights, for example, symbols and identifications worked on understudies' inspiration to perform better. Understudies likewise liked to accept online test on Edmodo as they could find quick solution toward the finish of the test (Balasubramaniam et al., 2014). As opposed to going about as a wellspring of information, Edmodo upheld educators as middle person or mediator in advancing as understudy commitment in complex conversation was upgraded with Edmodo conversation board (Holland and Muilenburg, 2011).

Concept of sustainable development

The idea of Sustainable Development shapes the establishment for the world local area's activities intended to save our human advancement for a long time into the future. Feasible improvement depends on shared understanding and collaboration of countries, which is unthinkable without knowing no less than one unknown dialect. Reasonable Instruction or Training for Supportable Improvement permits each individual to obtain the information, abilities, mentalities and values important to shape a practical future. It requires participatory helping and learning techniques that engage students to change their way of behaving and make a move for manageable turn of events. Showing manageability and making it a piece of our everyday living is indispensable yet how would we go about it? Coordinating supportability alone in the proper school educational program as an unexpected subject might be seen as one more extra weight to be learnt and never rehearsed. However, this might be one of the quickest ways of making consciousness of the idea of supportability for the impending ages. Nonetheless, this might be maintained on the off chance that it is instructed at all levels (Hamiti and Wydler, 2014).

By growing instructive offices, states might be confronted with a contention in the utilization of assets: whether to advance essential tutoring in regions which have been somewhat disregarded (and where requests might in any case not be solid), or to put more accentuation on developing specialized and upper-level abilities in advanced education; at the end of the day, arrangement of more prominent balance of chance to press for effectiveness to meet limited labor supply needs. Indeed, even in regions where offices are accessible, a few youngsters will most likely be unable to exploit essential tutoring due to failure to pay school expenses. There are wide contrasts in the occurrence of who pays for schooling; in certain areas installments are made straight by guardians and in different regions by implication through charges or through different mixes of expenses and assessments. This weight of paying for instruction encroaches with more noteworthy or lesser power contingent upon individual family salaries and eventually on regular monetary asset blessings. Despite the fact that the all-inclusive essential instruction should be free, who bears the expense for transportation to and from far off schools, taking care of, school uniform charges, books, and fixed charges? This is an extra weight that a few families can't monetarily support in a huge family setting (Otive, 2006). Mindfulness needs to go past the lines of the homeroom to the bigger populace who have not gone through any proper school system and are likewise partners that should grasp these issues. Since Nigerians are admirers of diversion and invest impressive energy before their TVs, the qualities could be shown in the different native dialects by the public media through illumination projects, dramatizations and movies (Nnabuo and Asodike, 2005).

Wild and uncontrolled populace development is another troubling issue that is of developing worry to the Nigerian government. In any case, spectators note that the country's administration is evidently turning out to be more mindful of the need to start unequivocal measures to control the country's populace which has been developing without a lift in assets for supportable turn of events (Buki, 2012). Flagging the push of the new Central Government's strategy shift, President Goodluck Jonathan encouraged Nigerians to support up for an up and coming regulation on

contraception to forestall an approaching populace 'blast'. Nigeria's ongoing populace projection as of July 2012 was around 171 million and the populace is developing at a disturbing pace of 3.2 percent (Public Populace Commission [NPC]). "No significant arranging is conceivable without trustworthy information and insights," The president emphasized, cautioning against the utilization of populace and other segment issues to gather modest political benefit and cause political strife (Buki, 2012). Nigeria has never upheld contraception formally, either through a strategy or a regulation, inferable from its dubious nature and this applies to numerous nations of the world (Buki, 2012).

Types of Blended Learning

It has been distinguished that blended learning is an instructing strategy that consolidates internet learning with customary homeroom techniques. There are a few kinds of blended learning techniques as enrolled by Callaway and Cirusone (2008) which incorporates:

1. Station Rotation Blended Learning

Station-Turn mixed learning is a model that grants students to turn through stations on a legitimate plan, where something like one of the stations is a web learning station. This model is most typical in grade schools since teachers are at this point familiar with turning in concentrations and stations. In a general sense depicted by: the legitimate plan that coordinates the 'mixing'.

2. Lab Rotation Blended Learning

'The Lab Turn' model of blended learning, similar to 'Station Turn,' works by "allowing students to turn through stations on a legitimate schedule in a serious PC lab considering versatile booking plans with teacher enabling schools to use existing PC labs."

Fundamentally portrayed by: the usage school PC labs in new ways.

3. Remote Blended Learning (likewise alluded to as Improved Virtual)

In Better Virtual blended learning, the student's accentuation is on completing on the web coursework while simply assembling with the teacher spasmodically/contingent upon the circumstance. This approach contrasts from the Flipped Homeroom model not set in stone of online to eye to eye instructive time. In a Better Virtual blended learning model, students wouldn't see/work with/acquiring from a teacher reliably very close anyway would in a 'flipped' setting.

Basically depicted by: students absolutely coursework from a good ways and openly.

4. Flex Blended Learning

The 'Flex' is associated with sorts of Blended Learning and its model is one in which... "a course or subject wherein electronic learning is the underpinning of student learning, whether or not it guides students to separated practices once in a while. Students forge ahead with a freely altered, fluid schedule among learning modalities. The instructor of record is close by, and students advance generally on the actual grounds, except for any homework undertakings. The teacher of record or different adults offer very close assistance on a versatile and flexible made to order premise through works out, for instance, little assembling direction, bundle adventures, and individual coaching."

Primarily depicted by: its adaptability to resolve the issues of a variety of formal and easygoing instructive encounters (schools, affiliations, self-educating, etc.)

5. The 'Flipped Classroom' Blended Learning

Perhaps the most notable interpretation of mixed learning, a 'Flipped Review corridor' is one where students are familiar with content at home, and work on overseeing it at school maintained by a teacher or possibly peers. Thusly, standard positions for each space are 'flipped.'

In a general sense depicted by: the support of standard learning structures in new settings (i.e., learning at school and progressing at home)

6. Individual Rotation Blended Learning

The Solitary Turn model grants students to turn through stations, yet on individual schedules set by an educator or programming computation. Not in any way shape or form like other transformation models, students don't be ensured to go to each station; they turn just to the activities set up for their playlists."

On a very basic level depicted by: the personalization of student not permanently set up by individual schedules that get the open door to all the more probable location the issues of each and every student.

7. Project-Based Mixed Learning

Mixed Try Based Learning is a model where the understudy utilizes both internet advancing either as courses or free access or extremely close heading and worked with work to configuration, repeat, and spread project-based learning tasks, things, and related relics.

Essentially portrayed by: the utilization of online assets for help project-based learning.

8. Independent Mixed Learning

In Free blended learning, understudies utilize a blend of on the web and eye to eye figuring out a good method for planning their own changed requesting, accomplish formal learning targets, speak with coaches, as a matter of fact and circumspectly, and so on. As the learning is free, the places of 'web learning' and certified instructors change, and there are no ordinary electronic courses to wrap up. In Free mixed learning, one test for educators is to have the decision to judge the and (some way or another) progress of the helpful growth opportunity without de-avowing it. For understudies, the test is to peer all through models of things, cycles, and potential that can give the sort of gleam that can maintain learning while at the same time being enough mindful so as to sort out what's working and why, and to as required change. Several understudies need very little to take off, while others need support through unbelievably clear pathways that they can direct themselves through with opportunity and self-assessment.

Basically portrayed by: the trading of standard wise work for understudy focused request

9. Back to front Mixed Learning

In Back to front blended learning, encounters are expected to 'get done' or 'end up' past the certifiable audit hall, yet require and profit from the smart benefits of both physical and undeniable level spaces. In both the Outside-In and Back to front models, the chance of the 'electronic learning' is less essential than the thought on stages, spaces, individuals, and opportunity past the school walls. (The 'online' parts could be independent sales as well as formal eLearning courses and enlightening game plan). Since the learning design is 'outward,' Endeavored Based mixed learning is an unbelievable portrayal of the Back to front learning model. Likewise with Outside-In mixed understanding, there is an essential for pro heading, learning examination, content educating, and mental and moral help from exceptionally close organized endeavors dependably. Particularly organized, the three 'regions' takes advantage of everything inborn limits and upgrades the other two.

Basically portrayed by: understudy headway among robotized and veritable spaces

10. Outside-In Blended Learning

In Outside-In blended learning, encounters are expected to 'begin' in the non-scholarly physical and modernized conditions understudies use dependably, yet finish inside a survey entryway. This could mean normal letter grades and evaluation structures, or less standard instructing and finding that essentially incorporates the homeroom as a 'shut circuit' passing 'stage' a place of refuge on to share, be innovative, bunch up, and give and get input that makes understudy work. By and large around arranged, all of the three 'locales' exploits its innate capacities and enhancements the other two. While the model is Outside-In, not at all like remote blended acknowledging there is at this point a prerequisite for heading, teaching, and backing from one eye to another correspondences reliably.

In a general sense depicted by: student improvement among cutting edge and genuine spaces; the normal validness of student work

11. Supplemental Blended Learning

In this model, understudies outright either absolutely online work to work on their routinely exceptionally close learning, or all around eye to eye astounding opportunities for growth to overhaul the learning got in electronic courses and exercises. The huge thought here is further developing fundamental learning targets are met endlessly out in one space while the 'converse' space gives the understudy unequivocal redesigning encounters that the other didn't or couldn't give.

12. Mastery-Based Blended Learning

Understudies turn among on the web and exceptionally close learning (works out, assessments, projects, and so on) taking into account the peak of force based learning targets. Evaluation configuration is basic in any power based opportunity for growth; the capacity to utilize extremely close and significant level assessment gadgets is solid areas for either 'disappointed' relying on the disposition of the learning fashioner.

Benefits Associated with using blended learning

Blended acquiring keeps an eye on a change from inactive figuring out a viable way to dynamic learning. The place of combination of the homeroom shifts from a presentational plan to that of dynamic learning. This consolidates placing students in conditions which constrain them to analyze, talk, tune in and think. It offers students the amazing chance to be either together or segregated. The model of mixed learning underlines joining the on the web and eye to eye homeroom parts. Similarly, a mixed vehicle structure awards understudies to learn and get to material in an assortment of modesan gigantic part since understudies routinely have endlessly out different learning styles. Genuinely, research shows that mixed learning collects understudies' possibilities meeting course results separated and absolutely on the web and, incredibly, absolutely exceptionally close courses, by lessening dropout rates, developing grades and broadening inspiration in regards to understudies. It adds a human touch to the instructing. The normal substance connects with the instructor to make a raised degree of premium, commitment, and ensured evaluation. It upgrades individualization, personalization and significance. It allows the educator to fit learning content to the awesome necessities of various gathering portions. The model offers understudies what is happening since educators and understudies have more observable adaptability and openness without giving up exceptionally close contact. A mixed learning approach is a reasonable and overall safe methodology featured assembling the preliminary of the memorable changes that mechanical updates bring to undeniable level preparation. (Hancock and Wong, 2012).

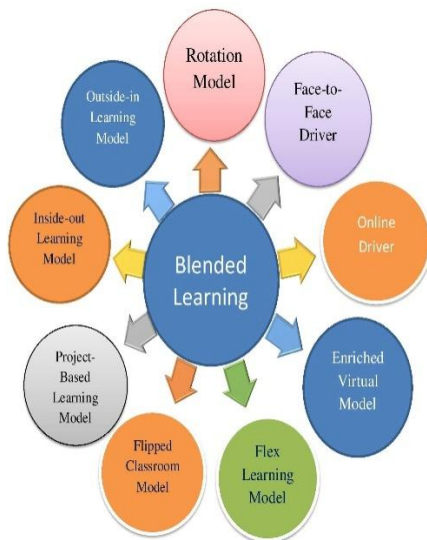


Table II: Models of blended learning

Challenges of Associated with the use of Mixed Learning

It is imperative that paying little heed to how a procedure of learning benefits the teacher and understudy, it will have its own unpredictable hardships. Some of such troubles in blended learning are Specialized Difficulties, Hierarchical Difficulties, and Educational Plan Difficulties among others.

Specialized Difficulties: The specific hardships are not connected to moving advancement to work on links. Somewhat, they include confirming the result of the program by employing and backup appropriate advancements. Specific hardships integrate Ensuring individuals can really use the advancement. Battling the impulse to use advancement simply considering the way that it is available. (Hofmann, 2011)

Hierarchical Difficulties: The leaders regularly approves that mixed learning is the right course for planning drives, but it fails to grasp that this is a convoluted cooperation that necessities thought beyond a particular program. Legitimate hardships consolidate beating that blended learning isn't for the most part as reasonable as standard homeroom planning. Reconsidering the occupation of the facilitator, supervising and noticing part progress (Hofmann, 2011).

Informative Plan Difficulties: While learning advancements are introduced, thought is every now and again paid to the development execution, while the arrangement of the genuine fitting substance is left with too short period and monetary arrangement to make a compelling project. Instructive arrangement challenges integrate seeing at how to teach, not precisely what to teach. Matching the best transport medium to the show objectives. Keeping on the web commitments insightful rather than just "talking at" individuals. Ensuring part liability and finish "non-live" parts. Ensuring all of the parts of the blend are worked with (Hofmann, 2011).

The way forward

Advancing today has embraced current developments and blended learning addresses a mix of up close and personal encounters and web based opportunities for growth. The scholastic speech has not been abandoned in that frame of mind for consolidation of innovation into realizing which mixed learning and practical improvement stands apart for. The various benefits can't be measured. There has been a float from the first approach to involving chalk and talk in the homeroom to the utilization of e-advancing close by guidance. Mixed learning has demonstrated to further develop the capacity levels of understudies. Students are of fluctuating minds and thusly, it is vital for check out at the viability of mixed learning of various capacity groupings. Educational program organizers and engineers ought to coordinate mixed learning system into instructing and learning for further developing execution of students. Schools, both public and private ought to be given satisfactory PCs and other e-learning materials to cultivate learning. Understudies ought to anyway not be denied of utilization in study hall guidance.

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