BLENDDED. HYBRID. TECHNOLOGY MEDIATED.
THE EDUCATORS IN THE MODERN ERA OF TEACHING
METHODOLOGIES.

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Teaching is a dynamic profession. Like any other professions, teaching must be able to adapt to the changing needs and demands of teaching methodologies and student’s learning needs. From a traditional classroom set up where learning happens through the use of visual aids, prepared manually by the students, learning, in the modern times, is becoming digital, thereby prompting the educators to become accustomed to the blended learning style, hybrid programs, and technology mediated trainings and studies.

Blended learning style or hybrid programs are combination of the traditional classroom set up and the incorporation of the modules and syllabus that can be taken through an online platform by which students can have access. Online learning makes every bit of information available in just a snap. The difference of an online learning platform is that teachers can screen whatever information can be placed on the modules for the students to access. Thereby, the correlation of the blended learning and traditional way of teaching things happen when teachers use their lesson plan as their backbone by which relative information can be placed on the platform.

Like any other learning techniques, blended learning or hybrid program has its share of pros and cons. Christopher Pappas, a French educator and a publisher in the French E-Learning industry identified its advantages and limitations.

First, online learning is convenient, both for the teacher and the students. It is for a fact that only requirement is just to have an access to the learning modules developed
by the teacher. With this, distance will not be a hindrance and a reason not to learn and acquire necessary knowledge and concepts on a certain topic. Online learning is also flexible. It is simple, really; learning becomes easier when aligned with one’s learning needs and preferences. Online learning allows learners to study at their own pace. Online learning can be tailored to different needs. With the available resources both from the books and the online resources, materials for inclusion can be very specific to the learning needs of the students of a certain locality or group. Different people learn in different ways, and online learning does everything in its power to ensure that all learning needs are met. With online learning it doesn’t matter whether your learners are visual, acoustic, or kinesthetic; there is a very wide variety of learning methods and tools that can be used to support learning while meeting all needs. Lastly, with the fast changing environment surrounding education and learning, blended learning approach can provide quick updates and immediate results.

On the other hand, side by side with the advantages of blended learning are the limitations of the use and employing of technology mediated teaching methodology. For an instance, it can be very impersonal. With the limited number of contact days on a classroom set up, students’ communication and relational skills might be developing at a slow pace. While communication is comprised of verbal and non-verbal techniques, it is better enhanced and practiced with a personal interaction like discussion and exchange of information which is best achieved in a classroom setting. Too much exposure to the computer is also a health hazard. It can affect one’s vision and might pose a threat to the student. Lastly, students may lack self control while in the online modules. As this can be a solo-act of the students, it really needs self control and discipline. It is in this light that parents can tapped as partners of the school and the teachers in properly implementing the online and blended learning technique.

The online learning technique provides the teachers with an added option on how to ensure that students will be learning effectively. However, the proper utilization of
such available technologies must be secured first before the actual utilization of the
technology. Teachers must know that a mixture of the two known effective techniques of
teaching methodology will be to their advantage. The classroom set up being the avenue
and channel by which students will be enhancing communication skills and the way they
relate to people which will later translate to the soft skills they must possess when they
become professionals in the future; and the blended learning methodology being the one
that will ensure that they flexible and adaptable to the changes of the learning population.
In the future, being adept with the said methodology will ensure that students will gain
technical skills in the application of technology to their respective fields of endeavour.

Teachers are the best game planners. They know very well how their students will
learn and how they will effectively deliver their learning goals and objectives. Blended
learning is a complement to the effective classroom set up to enhance the learning
experience even better.

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