BLENDING LEARNING: THE MODE OF LEARNING USING EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES UNDER NEW NORMAL

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Now that face-to-face education has stopped to prevent the public from getting expose to contagious virus widespread across the globe and learning has not to be idle for a year, experts in the field of education determine other means to deliver learning safely to our pupils one of which is termed as Blended Learning.

Blended mode of learning is now an instructional approach that incorporates online instructional resources and possibilities for online communication with conventional classroom approaches centered on the location. It needs both student learner and teacher’s physical presence, with perhaps some aspect of student control for quite some time, place, direction or speed.

The Blended learning (BL) otherwise known as the use of face-to-face and digital teaching and learning methods was widely adopted by certain intellectuals seeking to point to it as the "modern traditional method" or the "new standard" in the delivery of instruction.

With this emerging trend in education, which gain attention due to the current pandemic situation so as institutions start examining instructions for BL, there's an increasing interest in work exploring the consequences for faculty and students alike. This creates an inquiry on the impact of mixed learning mostly on learning environment.

In order to attain an effective mixed type of learning, one must secure access of technology, one of which is internet and availability of gadgets. One promising goal of
having such blended learning using technology is the chance of providing education to persons with restricted availability or accessibility to on-campus education. Considering the socioeconomic status of every student, many of the students were not able to obtain higher education but by establishing stronger distance education can offer greater opportunity for continuous learning and education to many of our schoolchildren in the country.

Technology in any form plays big role in the implementation of blended learning. With the use of interactive programs and applications create a more engaging learning atmosphere. There are reasons why combined mode of learning is being adopted across the globe a mode of education which are as follows:

- Boosts learners Efficiency - because of ease access, learners can study and adapt at their own speed or pace.
- Build’s Engagement - through blended learning, the student has way options to continue either virtually or in person with the teacher.
- Promotes Better Communication - Blended learning allows you to effortlessly inform your learners about recent updates, coursework, student performance, assessment results, and everything else about your class.
- Improved Collaboration - Lively and interactive online discussions and student input can vastly enhance the knowledge and expertise of the learners, particularly when it emanates to the class. All is encouraged to engage effectively, which results in much successful learning.
- Keeping track on learner’s Progress - Blended learning allows you to keep track including its success of your pupils at any given moment, so you can appreciate their strengths and limitations better without failing.
- Enhancing Teaching Efforts - discovering different ways on how to deliver lesson online to cope with the different learning styles of pupils is way interesting and challenging for teachers.
But despite promising outcome of blended mode of learning, certain question on success rate factors on distance learning or remote education has also taken into consideration where there are studies that it does not guarantee higher success rates as compared for those not pursuing distance learning. Another enquiry is, are our students capable having access to technology? The lack of exposure to the technology and advances in education (sometimes called the Digital divide) continues to be obstacle for emerging technologies in education.

While the Department of Education is exhausting all means on how to deliver learning safely to our pupils and students across the archipelago, how prepare are we for this kind of learning modality?

References:
