WHAT IS BLENDED LEARNING APPROACH

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The blended learning approach has taken wind the in past couple months as it is the direction on which the Philippine education system chose to take amidst the pandemic.

The year 2020 has become such chaos; with everything that is happening in the world, and the birth of a global pandemic due to the covid-19 virus.

Corona virus is a common viral disease that causes inflammation in a person’s nose, nose, sinuses, or upper throat, and other respiratory organs. There are other types of corona virus, which are usually non-fatal. Covid-19 is a disease caused by the strain of flue known as SARS-CoV-2 which is a strain that outbreak in China December of 2019, hence Covid-19.

The pandemic affected all facets of life. It forced everyone to take precaution and practice physical distancing. For months the world seemed to stand-still.

But as the year progress it became apparent that although the danger of the virus lingers, life must go forward. That is why despite the pleas of many for an academic freeze—which meant the curriculum of every educational level will not resume until the virus is eradicated or a vaccine is created— the Department of Education decide to proceed with the school year 2020-2021. But given that the danger of contracting the virus still threatens the safety of both teachers and students they came up with the “Blended learning approach”.

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Blended learning is education based on various combinations of classical face-to-face lectures, over the internet lessons, and learning supported by other technologies, meant to create the most efficient learning environment (HOIC-BOZIC et al., 2009). The blended learning approach is an approach in learning that already exists in other more advanced countries, even before the pandemic. With rise of modern technology, the challenge to the education system is to keep up. The blended learning approach is used as a transition from the conventional learning to e-learning.

The learning approach comprises by a combination of all three learning paradigms; cognitivism, behaviourism, and constructivism. Cognitivism is the psychology of learning that gives emphasis on human intelligence and cognitive prowess which enables them to create theories and develop intellectually (teachinglearningresources.pbworks.com). Behaviourism is another learning paradigm that deals with the psychology on which is based on the idea that all behaviours are obtained through conditioning or repetitive exposure an interaction (www.verywellmind.com). Constructivism on the other hand is “an approach to learning that holds that people actively construct or make their own knowledge and that reality is determined by the experiences of the learned” (Elliott et al., 2000, p. 256). With this three approach combined and the addition of technological introduction makes the fundamental core of blended learning.

The Philippine education system intended to use all three approach by using modular approach as the element of the constructivism and cognitivism, this method allows students to improve their own way of learning and enables them to create their very own style in which they would learn subjects and topics. The introduction of this kind of approach conditions students in a habit of time management and self-regulations. However, even with the guidance of guardians at home students still requires professional supervision and management, which will be the part played by the teachers.
Even with the home-schooling type of education, the teachers will still input with the learning through electronic interaction and via online classes.

The blended learning approach is a logical strategy to impose in order to ensure that the academic year can proceed even with the pandemic. This method limits the face to face interaction that is boarder line deadly, these days.

References:


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