



## **BLENDED LEARNING: A PARTIAL METHOD FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING IN THE MENTORING SYSTEM OF NEW EDUCATION POLICY**

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### **ABSTRACT**

*The main objective of this paper is to tell about Blended Learning in comparing with conventional teaching and learning methods. Mentoring system in academics, a conventional method of teaching introduced in the New Education Policy 2020, is taken for assessment to the B.L. This paper also focuses on how a traditional teacher must update his attitude of teaching besides his traditional tools of teaching like; the syllabus, the text book and the examination system. In this paper, it is also discussed about Blended Learning, of course, a new tool of teaching and learning but a supporting one to the NEP 2020. This paper also gives vent some challenges a contemporary teacher confronts by using BL, a method of teaching in the new policies of 'Mentoring' which requires certain processes; demonstration, questioning, explanation, practice and conference or discussion. Finally, this paper concludes how far the Blended Learning can be useful to the current policies of education.*

#### **Key Words:**

*Blended Learning – A style of education in which students learn via electronic and online media as well as traditional face-to-face teaching.*

*Mentoring – to support and encourage people to manage their own learning.*

#### **INTRODUCTION**



The human life in the third world is progressing academically due to the advancement of technology which brings incessantly a lot of changes, especially, in the education sector with computation, usage of goggle in the android phone, digitalization of libraries etc... many things can be cited to experience. Knowledge deployment of the new era in the field of science and technology needs immensely to enhance teaching quality in the academics in order to cope up the area of research and to explore knowledge for better source of life. Hence, the face of education has been evolving drastically for a decade. Earlier teachers were the only means to create a bridge between education and learner. They used only conventional pedagogical methods in their teaching. But, in the modern education system, it is found a vast scenario that encourages learners to study profoundly and to satisfy their curiosity. There is a lot of transformation in the reforms of education recently. These reforms of New Education Policy (NEP) can absolutely be more advantageous to the modern teaching methods to develop the skills of the students and their intellect that enables them to deploy their innovative ideas. The new method of teaching initially targets the learner's mind in the form of constructive approach and its objectives are merely guiding the mentees based on the demands and requirements of industry today.

The Conventional method of learning is simply a structure of chalk-talk method where the "Syllabus" "Text book" and "Examination" systems are inadequate to face the challenges of new policies. So, the Conventional methods of teaching and learning is not at all similar to the modern one in which the students are perceived of their intelligibility with the nature of *Questioning → Demonstration → Explanation → Practice → Conference / Discussion*. Hence, the above order shows that the new method of learning is only activity-based what is suggested in the mentor system of new education policy in which Blended Learning technic is only partial that focuses on mentees to develop their intellectual attitude predominantly along with Conventional style of teaching and learning. This method is an activity-based that centers the learner's mind as a target. As a part of knowledge building to the mentee, the mentor guides his students through constructive teaching method to lead the objectives of the syllabus.

### **Objectives of NEP -2020**

Education should be job-oriented as in foreign countries. Adult-education must be different from child-education system of its pedagogy where the teaching must be application-oriented that is going to be introduced in the NEP 2020. NEP aims to update a professional teacher to reach its visions; enhancing practical learning skills, to develop Mentorship for proper guidance to lead his/her students professionally, for helping the digital material to the students and to equip the tools to the faculty for skill-enhancement, to lead the young graduates towards research education with advanced class-room teaching and learning methods like Peer Learning which was used in the ancient Indian universities like

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Thakshashila and Nalanda. This mentoring system improves teacher-student interaction for the purpose of interactive method of teaching. NEP-2020 aims to initiate a new pedagogy that is essential to the professional teacher to mentor and guide his students and fresher-teachers on having sociological approach also. The teacher is like a role model to counsel his or her students and to change the higher-education institutes as learning centers.

A teacher must be a carrier of knowledge to transform his or her students by understanding their mindset in reaching their expectations and demands. His role is to clear the fear of his students in the academics, career as well as to understand them properly by reducing the gaps in the syllabus. He is assigned to understand their goals and to make them to listening and speaking well. Learner's maturity levels are also taken for assessment for guidance. The teacher's duty is to make his or her students for being a well human-resource to their country. Training the teachers is also an important objective towards this mentoring system. The teacher should work as a role of parents and they have to understand the aptitude of their students to make them as well human beings. He should serve the need of his students and work for the benefit of them. He must develop their LSRW skills to present their aptitude after their brainstorming of subject. 'Group mentoring' which means 'one to one interaction' is also a new method of learning is suggested in this policy.

### **NEP 2020 policy: A Guru mode of Teaching**

Introducing a 'guru-mode of teaching is one of the methods of this policy to improve the spirituality towards life and wisdom like an age old practice where the essence of Induction Mentoring system is necessary for mentoring the mentors. The Induction Mentoring is to refine the knowledge of the mentees with Blended Learning besides Conventional styles if required. To fulfill all these things, a teacher must be a treasure of knowledge having limited socio-psychological and interpersonal relations with them to improve creativity and generate general knowledge. Being a mentor, the teacher must balance both personal and professional life and seldom refresh his or her skills through FDP programs as a process of incessant learning system for which he must learn from seniors and super seniors

The main objective of NEP 2020 education policy is using modern methods teaching where the focal point is 'the student'. Enhancement of quality education through mentoring system which means learning through *super seniors to seniors and seniors to junior* to direct the young minds or mentees to infuse inculcate and ignite them. For this purpose, a mentor requires certain training programs to transfer his knowledge to his mentees. He must offer open questions and discussions with the ideas of his students to encourage them towards learning where he should follow constructive criticism as a part of feedback. He must be a driving instructor to advise or guide his students in a positive way in order to reach their values of life.



Therefore, in the 20th century, a teaching driven time, the student should be taught in creative and innovative methods. The mentor should provide them adequate knowledge that creates opportunities for employment. Even in the basic education system, the modern teaching methods including Blended Learning, VAK technology, Crossover Learning ...etc. are being suggested to achieve practical knowledge assurance.

### **Modern Teaching and Learning Methods for Mentors and Mentees**

Certain elements of contemporary teaching methods like; learner-centered where the mentor focuses on mentees during the classroom teaching or laboratory lectures. In this method, the teacher acts as a guide with his limits of teaching. '*student talk time*' (STT) is equally involves with '*teacher's talk time*' (TTT) in the classroom but the students are engaged to learn through interactions.

*The Resource-based method* equally gives priority for both the mentor and mentee to collect certain sources of study material. In this method of teaching, the learner feels interactive naturally yet it needs a learner group in order to perform the task of learning to gather knowledge from one to another in the form of working together with a sense of cooperation that helps the mentees in this competitive world.

*Peer Collaborative method* is one more asset of modern teaching where knowledge interaction is done with the support of the teacher who links the topics of one subject to other to make them integrative which leads the learner achieving multiple subject knowledge. This method is one that encourages learners to present their ideas. Here, the mentor solves the mentees' academic subject problems through debates and discussions. He can clear their queries and help them in developing social skills, which are necessary for employment, as well as allow his students to make out the subject faster. In this method, every mentee is a part of the success of the group in which they help each other just like a team work to accomplish a desired result. This kind of learning method improves learners' communication skills; Listening, working with teams, presentation, creativity and constructive criticism. However, this method requires some space-language of the classroom setting unlike traditional one.

*Spaced Learning method* is one of the recent teaching-learning methods where the teacher repeats the lesson multiple times until the students receives it entirely. Here, the mentor follows certain breaks in between class sessions. This gap is meant to refresh the mind of the students with certain physical activities or mind-games which energizes them to the next session as a proverb cited- "A healthy mind is always in a healthy body". If the physical



status of the student is good, they can perform well with their mind because learning must be a stress-free process seldom.

*Flipped Classroom method* is a well-known modern method of learning. Unlike in the traditional manners, the learners are self-dependents to practice and collect new materials through blended procedures; watching video tutorials, web searching for the work assigned by the teacher in the classroom etc... Much of the content is shared by the teacher with this method so that time can be consumed well to utilize in a proper way to understand the content. It is convenient to the learner to do some pre-preparation to clear off his doubts in advance or to get clarification through discussion. The mentees can share their ideas or suggestions one another in the view of subject clarification even in their academic interruptions.

*Self-Learning method* is also a novel method that explores in learning the subject in which the student is curious. In this process, the mentee need to depend on 'Blended learning' models that include; instructor-delivered content, e-learning, webinars, conference calls, live or online sessions with instructors and other media and events like; Face book, e-mail, chat rooms, blogs, podcasting, Twitter, YouTube, Skype and web to obtain deep understanding of the content. This method is playing a vital role during Covid-19 pandemic.

### **Blended Learning: A Partial Support for New Education Policy-2020**

Innovative reforms have been implemented in higher education and corporate learning recently as the technological methods cope up to develop different learning models among which 'blended learning' is one which is known as 'hybrid learning'. This is a method of teaching that integrates technology and digital media with traditional instructor-led classroom activities for felicitating the students more flexibility to customize their learning process. Of course, certain models of BL have similarities to the new methods of education and instructional technologies can be blended into teaching pedagogy to view the lectures prior to the class, but it's not possible to spend class time engaging in exercises under the supervision of the teacher just like in 'mentoring' system of NEP 2020 where the in-person teaching is also indispensable.

Blended learning is advisable to learn something through online where it is possible to have control over the content of the subject. In this method, it happens only an instructor-led classroom but not teacher-led. Both BL and in-person learning is always balancing to create an integrated learning environment. Hence, it's a partial method of learning, because, without combining face-to-face teaching even in the online instruction of learning, mentor may fail to shape his mentees academically. Though BL is a good technique to reduce the risk of learning, it must be combined with the aspects of face-to face and conventional method of



learning. Therefore, In-person and online tools must be used together to achieve the perfect mentoring system. Learning management systems, in-class response systems, adaptive learning platforms, tablets, smart phones, learning analytics etc... are the blended learning tools and technologies that are currently evolving in the process of teaching methods. BL is not at all an absolute online course that supports NEP-2020 as it is exhibited in the following chart.



On having perceived the learning tools of BL exhibited above, one can accede that without classroom environment of face-to face or in-person teaching, mentoring system may not be successful. The University Grants Commission has introduced blended mode of teaching and learning in universities and colleges merely up to 40 per cent that can be taught in online mode and remaining 60 per cent offline to make academics effective in increasing learning skills of students and providing them quality education. India has been a center for learning thousands of years but the entry of British -Colonialism cut down our ancient 'gurukul' format of education where the teaching and learning process center the student only in the methods of 'chalk-talk face to face interaction. But, in the Mentoring system of new policies, the teacher is a facilitator to utilize the blended learning tools like; self-assessment, short lectures, role plays, experimental indoor and outdoor activities, group discussion and presentation, case studies and scenario of thinking to train his mentees to reach the targets. Therefore, both in-person teaching approach and blended learning methods are equally predominant to reach the goals of the new policies.

## CONCLUSION

Life is a continuous evolution to achieve goals but it requires humans as the best resource. Technology, whatever in this world, must be operated by man with his competencies. The Covid-19 brought some changes in teaching learning in the form of digital learning made him to update. He knew certain new teaching methods of technology like blended learning to combine his classroom teaching to achieve its quality. Both the human and technical sources are necessary to the third world students to mentor them. Using the tools of blended learning transforms the learning environment excitingly. Mentor and mentees interaction can improve the efficacy education. Student knowledge can be assessed accurately according to the new policies of education as they get more opportunities to interact with the teachers to get deeper knowledge. However, it requires mentor and mentees collaboration besides technology as a secondary thing.

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