# BOONS AND BANES OF BLENDED LEARNING

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## ABSTRACT

*Commending the rapid growth of technology and its consistent development has now spread its wings in our daily lives. Be it shopping for groceries, travel, office or education, technology holds a significant position in the modern world. The purpose of this research is to analyse the advantages and challenges put upon by modern learning system called blended learning. It refers to a mixture of teaching and learning strategies that can be used to optimise learning experiences of students and teachings practises of teacher. Throughout the years, new methods and strategies have been introduced in teaching which started from basic smart boards and now it has become way normal to attend a complete online class in the comfort of your own house. In this paper, the advantages of having blended education with technology will be identified along with the challenges faced by educators, instructors and students due to change of learning strategies with the introduction of new technology.*
***Keywords:*** *Modern learning system, blended learning, teaching strategies, online education, educational transformation*

## INTRODUCTION

In past years, there has been an extreme revolution in the field of education. Considering the consistent up gradation of technology, it is now part of every aspect of life and even the domain of education is no longer disaffected from it. It started with the use of computers for teaching and now it has become a major tool for any type of learning. The concept was to use technologies to help teachers make it easier for their students to learn more effectively with the help of visual and auditory aids. This combination of teacher and technology was together referred to as blended learning. This gives it students the ability to work in their best learning modality, at their own pace in interact with peers to maximize learning. Hybrid blended

learning is a mixture of variety of teaching and learning strategies that can be used to optimise learning experiences for students and teaching practises of teachers. According to this study of Rita Syofyan and Menik Kurnia, it was concluded that using visual and auditory learning aids made it easier and more effective for studentsto learn as compared to traditional methods of teaching. It was discovered that every student has a different learning style and the use of technology for teaching provides students with different ways to learn i.e. by listening or seeing things through videos, flow charts, experimentations and pictorial representations.

Though there are several modes of blending education with technology like blended face-to-face classes great technology or online activities are used to demonstrate in a classroom, blended online classes which is conducted online completely but teacher student-interaction is necessary or flexible mode courses where recorded lectures and online activities are provided to the students and also online classes takes place which is totally on students choice how to attend the class according to their preference and convenience.

## Review of literature

*Blended learning or hybrid learning is defined in various ways. "Combining online delivery of educational content with the best features of classroom interaction and life instruction to personalise learning allowed the total full reflection and differentiate instruction from student-to-student across a diverse group of learners".-Doctor A, Gracy (2016)*

*Khan (1997) has defined online learning as delivery of instructions to a remote audience using the web as in intermediary.*

*Dr. P.S. Chitra referred blended learning as "combination of traditional methods and modern methods for learning".*

*Aman Jindal and Dr.B.P.S. Chahal, in their research states that innovation is needed in the field of education and technology to make it more effective for students.*

## Methodology

The method used for the investigation of this research is exploratory that is defined as a research used to investigate a problem which is not clearly defined. It is conducted to have a better understanding of the existing problem, but will not provide conclusive results. For such a research, a researcher starts with a general idea and uses this research as a medium to identify issues that can be the focus for future research. It falls under exploratory research as the visit basis of the research is purely based on discussions with language instructors,

DR. BHAVNA U. CHOUDHARY        PARUL KAUSHIK

teachers and parents of the primary school students , observing teachers and students and drawing findings from their reactions and previously published research papers on the following thesis. Though the interpretations of the observations are really subjective but the subjects observed are of different age groups and have different experiences.

**Boons of Blended Education**

The contemporary learning or training models i.e, online education proves to be advantageous in following ways:

**1 Maximise learners' interest and engagement:**

Teachers or trainers make classes more interact interesting by incorporating relatable visual demonstrations. Specific activities are designed for the learners depending on their age and the topic relevant for the subject they are studying to make it more indulging.

Also, aids like videos podcasts, images, music and other media can be used by the teachers to make lessons more interactive. It not only makes it easy for a learner to learn quickly but also makes it easy to recollect the knowledge when required.

**2 24/7 excess to learning or training resources from anywhere:**
One of the biggest benefit one can have out of online courses is that it can be taken from anywhere in the world, be the comfort of your house or be it anywhere else you travel. It not only helps students follow what has happened in the class but also it's like a book for those who have to shift to other city without the worries of discontinuing the course. It is very convenient for those who work and study at thesame time as they can access lectures anytime they want and do the test and activities done in the class online at anytime of the day.

3 **Better communication of students and teachers:**
Interactions through social-media platforms between students and teachers provide students of flexibility of clearing their doubts and communicating with teachers whenever and from wherever they want even outside the classroom. This is another benefit for learners as their doubts can be solved then and there that would eliminate any hindrance in learning. Not only promotes better communication with the teachers but also within the students itself as inter-peer discussion promotes effective learning too. Also, not only it is suitable for students' communication but teachers too can instruct about the class or course or may sharenotes at this same time which is easily accessible to all.

**4 Track student performances add skills:**

DR. BHAVNA U. CHOUDHARY          PARUL KAUSHIK

Blended learning gives open opportunities of self-testing to students and assignments that can be send anytime to the teachers. Teachers have access to the student's activity profile which helps them to check their progress during the course of their degree. It enables them to guide students more efficiently to boost their progress. It also acts as a transparent result both for a student and the teacher showing various students stand according to his progress in class.

**Banes of blended learning**

Other than advantages, hybrid learning lags behind in certain aspects that are as follows:

**1.      High Technological Setup And Maintenance Cost:**

To keep up with the contemporary teaching methods, educational institutes have to pay loads of money to set up technical teaching equipments which also raise the cost of overall education of the student. It is not limited to the equipment installation and set-up but regular maintenance and up-gradation costs also makeit difficult for the education institutes to bear the expenses leading to the rising scholar fees. Not all classroom budgets are able to sustain this edition.

After installation of the equipments too, there is an important task of training volume teachers to exist that particular technology the just another time taking process.

**2.      Total Technological Dependence:**

Online learners need to have apt devices and network for learning in this era. Assignments and notes are sent online, even tests are conducted online which can be suffered in case of technical issues like breakdown of network or any other electronic device required for the class. Any issue may lead to a loss especially for a student. Any technical difficulty may lead to cancellation of the class or even of an exam especially as exams are conducted online now a days due to the pandemic situation.

**3.      Challenging For Young Learners:**

As the entire education system has turned online it has become challenging for young learners or kids to adapt to such form of learning as sitting in front of the screen is difficult for children and also challenging for them to concentrate and learn something new in this fashion. Online classes have become more of a burden for young parents as they have to attend the class of their children along with them sacrificing their own work. Also, students

of primary classes, who are independent of their parents misuse technology, ends up playing online games or watching videos and do unnecessary surfing during class.

**4        Keeping Up With The Challenges:**

Some professionals are reluctant to change and end up using traditional methods of teaching. They find it comfortable and effective to teach students in their own ways and sometimes proves to be effective but it is very important to keep up with the contemporary methods of teaching too. Technology is a consistently evolving industry and education technology can quickly become obsolete as new technologyis introduced. It is a major barrier for teachers as they struggle when a new technology is introduced into their classroom.

**CONCLUSION**

The whole scenario of online education has turned into reality. Blending technology with education has given birth to a whole new era of e-learning. Starting from being a basic aid for teachers to help students learn better it has evolved into being only available mode through which teachers are able to teach their students. The question that arises after this research is will this evolution of education proved to be effective without teachers in the coming future or it would hit a rock- bottom as there is no competition of human knowledge, experiences and touch.

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DR. BHAVNA U. CHOUDHARY        PARUL KAUSHIK        5 P a g e

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