



BLENDING LEARNING: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

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ABSTRACT:

Education has seen tremendous change in the current times majorly because of the pandemic and its tantrums. The current generation and people have witnessed an unseen havoc and are still unable to accept this kind of an uncertainty, complexity and volatility in their lifetime.

Education has embraced the digital way and online classes have taken over the traditional classroom setup and it has become inevitable to maintain social distance and all the necessary safety measures.

Off late, few schools have started with the regular classes on a staggered basis, with few students attending the practical labs on a rotation basis and later on attending the online classes.

Blended learning is the current approach adopted by many Government schools and some of the Private schools as an interim practice till the situation improves.

This research paper tries to explore the various challenges and opportunities that are associated with the blended learning methodology.

Keywords: Pandemic, Safety Measures, Education, Blended Learning, Perspectives

I. INTRODUCTION

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” - Nelson Mandela

Education is most important for the young generation, as it paves the way for their future and career prospects.

The objective of education is more than acquiring a degree certificate, as the graduates have to survive and flourish in the competitive world.

The current pandemic has devastated many business houses and the lives of people. Education is also one of the affected sectors, which is a serious concern to all the teaching fraternity and students.

Although, online education is the solution which is adopted by most of the schools and colleges in order to maintain and adhere to all the safety measures as per the government Guidelines; the effectiveness of the online education is not very satisfying.

This research paper is an attempt to enlist the possible solution of blended learning and the pros and cons of the current education system.

What is blended learning?

Blended learning is an approach to education that combines online educational materials and opportunities for interaction online with traditional place-based classroom methods. It requires the physical presence of both teacher and student, with some elements of student control over time, place, path, or pace.

II. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

1. To Analyse the current trends in online education
2. To examine the use of blended learning as one of the solutions
3. To enlist the pros and cons of blended learning
4. To suggest suitable recommendations for improvement

III. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Data collection: Primary and secondary source of data collection

The current research paper tries to identify the current trends and practices of online education in few schools and educational institutes.

IV. ANALYSIS

One of the Popular schools -Auden Public School, Girinagar- Bangalore has adopted the blended learning education system for 10th standard students, wherein students are allowed to conduct practical classes in the school premises in a staggered pattern.

And also, online classes are scheduled along with offline projects and assignments.

The blended learning pattern is working successfully in the current pandemic situation. Wherein 5 students are allowed per day as per the safety rules, as given below.

Chemistry- 10 B

Mon(21/9/20)- Roll no: 1-5
Wed(23/9/20)- Roll no: 6-10
Fri(25/9/20)- Roll no: 11-15

Mon(28/9/20)-Roll no:16-20
Wed(30/9/20)-Roll no:21-26

Biology-10 C

Mon(21/9/20)-Roll no:1-5
Wed(23/9/20)-Roll no:6-10
Fri(25/9/20)-Roll no:11-15

Mon(28/9/20)-Roll no:16-21
Wed(30/9/20)-Roll no:22-27

Government Schools in Karnataka



<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/why-kids-in-karnataka-are-shifting-from-private-to-govt-schools/articleshow/77672994.cms>

Pros and Cons of Blended Learning

Opportunities of blended learning

1. Digital platform, mass reach
2. Faster reach
3. Anywhere and any place
4. Flexible timings
5. Classes can be recorded and viewed later

Challenges of blended learning

1. Network Issues
2. Digital illiteracy
3. Power issues
4. Investment- Financial Issues
5. Lack of training for teachers

V. SUGGESTIONS

1. Training and awareness are required regarding online education in rural areas
2. Laptops and mobile phones can be sold in a discounted price for the benefit of students
3. Blended learning needs to be given importance because of pandemic situation wherein the advantages of both online and offline classes can be benefited.

ಇಂಟರ್‌ನೆಟ್‌ಗಾಗಿ ಗುಡ ವರಿದ್ ಮಕ್ಕಳಿಗೆ ಇನ್ನಿ ನೆರವು

ಕುಂದಾಪುರದ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿನಿಗೆ ಲ್ಯಾಪ್‌ಟಾಪ್, ಯುಪಿಎಸ್

ಕುಂದಾಪುರ: ಇಂಟರ್‌ನೆಟ್ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆಯಿಂದಾಗಿ ಗುಡ್ಡದ ಮೇಲೊಂದು ಜೋಪಡಿ ನಿರ್ಮಿಸಿಕೊಂಡು ಸ್ಮಾರ್ಟ್‌ಫೋನ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಅತ್ಯಂತ ಕಷ್ಟಕರವಾಗಿ ಆನ್‌ಲೈನ್ ತರಗತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾಲ್ಗೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ಗೋಳಿಕೆರೆಯ ಪ್ರತಿಭಾವಂತ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿನಿಗೆ ಇನ್ಫೋಸಿಸ್ ಫೌಂಡೇಶನ್ ಸಹಾಯಹಸ್ತ ಚಾಚಿದೆ.

ಆನ್‌ಲೈನ್ ತರಗತಿಗಾಗಿ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿನಿ ಭೂಮಿಕಾ ಪೋಷಕರು ಪಡುತ್ತಿರುವ ಕಷ್ಟಗಳನ್ನು ಮನಗಂಡ ಇನ್ಫೋಸಿಸ್ ಫೌಂಡೇಶನ್ ಸುಧಾಮೂರ್ತಿ ಆನ್‌ಲೈನ್ ಕಲಿಕೆಗೆ ಸಹಾಯವಾಗುವಂತಿಲ್ಲದಿದ್ದ ಲ್ಯಾಪ್‌ಟಾಪ್, ಯುಪಿಎಸ್ ಹಾಗೂ ಒಂದು ವರ್ಷಗಳ ಇಂಟರ್‌ನೆಟ್ ರೀಚಾರ್ಜ್‌ವುಳ್ಳ ಡಾಂಗಲ್ ಅನ್ನು ನೀಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಬೈಂದೂರು ತಾಲೂಕು ಇಡೂರು ಕುಂಚ್ಚಾಡಿ ಗ್ರಾಮದ 10ನೇ ತರಗತಿ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿನಿ ಭೂಮಿಕಾ ಹಾಗೂ 9ನೇ ತರಗತಿ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿ ಭರತ್ ನೆಟ್‌ವರ್ಕ್ ಸಿಗದೆ ಬೆಟ್ಟದ ಮೇಲೆ ಸಣ್ಣದೊಂದು ಚಪ್ಪರ ಮಾಡಿ ಅದರೊಳಗೆ ಆನ್‌ಲೈನ್ ತರಗತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಕೇಳುತ್ತಿದ್ದರು. ತಮ್ಮ ಇಬ್ಬರು ಮಕ್ಕಳಿಗೆ ಸ್ಮಾರ್ಟ್‌ಫೋನ್ ಕೊಡಿಸಲು ತಂದೆ ಗೋಪಾಲ ಗೌಡ ಸಾಲ ಕೂಡ ಮಾಡಿದ್ದರು. ಈ ಇಬ್ಬರು ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳು ಆನ್‌ಲೈನ್ ಪಾಠಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಪಡುತ್ತಿರುವ ಕಷ್ಟದ ಬಗ್ಗೆ 'ಕನ್ನಡಪ್ರಭ' ಸೆ.1 ರಂದು 'ಆನ್‌ಲೈನ್ ತರಗತಿಗೆ ಬ್ಯಾಟರಿ ಹಿಡಿದು ಗುಡ್ಡವೇರುವ ಅಕ್ಕ-ತಮ್ಮ!' ಎಂಬ ಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆಯಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ವಿಶೇಷ ವರದಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಿತ್ತು ಗಮನ ಸೆಳೆದಿತ್ತು.



Smt. Sudha Murthy of Infosys, has donated a laptop with internet connectivity to a rural student Bhoomika, from Indur village Udupi district in Karnataka, as she was finding it difficult to attend the

online classes because of network issues by climbing a small hilltop near her house. The current situation requires large heated and magnanimous philanthropies' like Smt. Sudha Murthy and alike.

VI. REFERENCES

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