BLENDED 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.

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<tr>
<th>Chemistry- 10 B</th>
<th>Biology-10 C</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mon(21/9/20)- Roll no: 1-5</td>
<td>Mon(28/9/20)-Roll no:1-5</td>
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<td>Wed(23/9/20)- Roll no: 6-10</td>
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<td>Fri(25/9/20)- Roll no: 11-15</td>
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<td>Wed(30/9/20)-Roll no:21-26</td>
<td>Wed(30/9/20)-Roll no:22-27</td>
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Government Schools in Karnataka

[Image 110x30 to 577x42]

[Image 108x619 to 333x745]

[Image 336x619 to 513x742]


Pros and Cons of Blended Learning

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Opportunities of blended learning</th>
<th>Challenges of blended learning</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Digital platform, mass reach</td>
<td>1. Network Issues</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Faster reach</td>
<td>2. Digital illiteracy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Anywhere and any place</td>
<td>3. Power issues</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Classes can be recorded and</td>
<td>5. Lack of training for teachers</td>
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<td>viewed later</td>
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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 given importance because of pandemic situation wherein the advantages of both online and offline classes can be benefitted.
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 classes.
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
