Implementation of Blended Learning Mode in "Gramin Bharat": Lot of Hitches with Limited Keys

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We all are now living in 21th Centaury and have been enjoying in digital era. From morning to till the sleeping time we are connected with internet. Though we are rethinking about new changes in education system. Absolutely New Education Policy focused on many technological, virtual, Information and Communication Technology, Smart Labs, Flipped Classrooms etc. Education is no longer just about memorizing the lessons which the learner has been learned in the classroom and narrate it on the paper. It never been accepted by advanced educators in both higher education and corporate learning & development are improving learning through technology, as evidenced by the rapid adoption of technology-assisted teaching methods and blended learning models. As our Prime Minster Narendra Modi Launched the Campaign "Digital India" in 2015 to bridge the 'digital divide' and link rural regions to high- speed internet. Blended learning mode is the part of this digital Adoption. The original objective e-learning and web- based learning programs was the transformation of the brick and grout system of education of virtual classrooms.

The blended mode in teaching learning process have many issues. It is a more interactive, collaborative and student focused process to include the active participation of every branch of India in education system. Blended Learning is now a days a very quiet familiar term in both Higher Education and Corporate sector. But even though there always a question remains what is the difference between blended learning and e-learning, flexible learning? How can we implement it all over India? Because India is the country of varied geographical States, different culture, different problems and major question is that it is the Agricultural Country. So the present study focus on challenges before the Education system particularly **"Gramin Bharat"** (Rural India.)

We the teacher who are working in these rural areas already facing so many problems relating with technical, digital facilities. So when read the maximum use of new technology in Education system in New Education Policy. Many question raises before us. Among them here I focused on Blended Learning Mode.

According to Garrison and Vaughan (2008),

Blended Learning is the organic integration of thoughtfully selected and complimentary face to face online and approaches and technologies" (p.48)

Blended Learning Is not simply mixing Technology and teaching, it includes a mix of both face-to-face, instructor-led learning, and online or digital course components that give students some control over path and pace. It is not a completely online course or a lecture course that is broadcast online. It also does not include course changes that simply exchange correspondent tools for digital ones. In blended learning, the in-person and online elements work together to create a richer learning experience and do not simply duplicate course content in changing formats.

Blended Learning Mode has some models and platforms A) Flipped Classrooms B) **Social Media Blending, C) Moodle Courses D) Khan Academy, E) Alternative Credit Recovery**. This mode has endless possibilities when it comes to the ways in which instructional technologies can be blended into a teacher's pedagogical approach. It improves the student experience. No doubt **"blended learning"** reduces failure rates, improves learning, and boosts engagement. Blended learning combines the best aspects of face-to-face teaching and online instruction in ways that enable students

to learn at their own pace. Students have a choice to choose the course as their own choice and have a pace to connect with online method. It provides the time as per the schedule of student, provides study material and have motivated by self-learning. It provides learner autonomy course. Student may choose the courses as per the convenient time. It's a fast way of Learning and provides opportunity to students to make them Independent.

Blended Learning Models & Platforms

1. Flipped Classroom

A flipped classroom is a tutor model in which the lecture and homework has actually been parallel working. The classroom lecture is viewed at home either through online videos or video podcasts. After viewing an online lecture, the students have the ability to dialogue with each other through a discussion forum. They have note the question regarding the watched topic and later on they have discussions with the teachers. The homework is then completed in the classroom having the activity such as combined work with a team .The teacher is available to cooperate the students to solve the problems.

2. Alternative Credit Recovery

This platform is very similar to Plato's Classroom. It offers self-paced courses which students can work on completing both inside of the school and at home. There are pre-tests given to place students in the appropriate courses, and they have the opportunity to master the content and meet the demanding academic standards set by the school district.

3. Social Media Blending

By Using this platform students can show mastery of content through a variety of digital tools such as blogging, Skype, video conferencing etc. They have the alternatives to share knowledge and interact with each other after the offline classes.

4. Khan Academy

This is a free website where students can access thousands of tutorial videos, along with interactive practice exercises, on almost any subject. It's a new platform is ready to help the students in their academic progress.

5. Project-Based Learning

It is in hands on analysis and collective based learning model in which students seek answers to a real world challenge or problem. It is a relevant and student-driven project completed in the classroom with presentations given to an audience. It encourages the students to collect the data for the project and complete it with the group of work.

6. Moodle

Another platform of blended learning is, "Moodle" that means a course management system which gives teachers options to post assignments, lectures, videos, PPT's, Notes etc. Students have the ways to interact with each other through discussion forums, private messaging and chat rooms. Moodle performs well when used in addition to face-to-face meetings.

When we discuss all about the platforms of the blended learning mode, we absolutely think that it is very beneficial for learner, tutor and Institution. Because it provides fast learning process, it designed to meet personal learning needs, students can work with teachers at online and offline mode. He has lot of resources to collect the study material. There is more space for the creativity of students. Student become feel comfort to collect the digital material at home in his spare time. Parents may know

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what their children are actually studying etc. Some teachers think that this method may give them opportunity to prove their teaching better by using this mode.

But what's about the actual practice? Is it reliable to students, tutors and Institution? What's about the use of Technology? The major question is that, Is it easy to implement in "Rural India"? May we neglect these students, tutors and Institutions who are working in a very worse situations? What's about the teacher Psychology? We can't ignore these issues. Let me discuss what the problems will be faced:

A) Illiteracy of Technology :

It's the major issue that all we teachers are experienced in rural areas of India. May be some readers may raise the questions that now we are living in Digital India, having many facilities in rural India too. Sure but this is the mockery of worst situation who are facing it. Students, Parents and the system has no knowledge of using technology in their routine life. From early morning to night they are busy in farming. One of the key issues is the technological literacy, which can be a real problem for teachers too. Not all digital resources are trustworthy and easy to use.

2. Blended Learning Makes Teachers Overwork.

There is a great deal of additional work for teachers involved in all stages of blended learning. They have to broaden their horizons, pick the most suitable syllabus, and apply significantly more time and effort to find the right balance between online and face-to-face learning. Unfortunately, not all of them are willing to do so.

3. Mental Burden on students and Teachers Too.

With a great range of possibilities provided by the blended learning model, teachers may start overdoing with educational activities and content. After school time to prepare the study material, connect with students may create the pressure on faculty. At the same time due to availability of more information it may also effect to student. Smooth teaching with useful information rather than bulky material and continuous activities create pressure on the mind of student. It may create hallucination of getting more knowledge.

Some thinkers have noticed the drawbacks in the implementation of this blended mode. *As Garrson (2011) presents his agreement stating that Collaborative leadership has an aim of taking leaders of all the levels and then jointly contribution to develop the vision and the plan of learning. This approach may break the discontent among the faculty and may pave a way for adopting the Blended learning*

4. Trustworthiness of Sources and Plagiarism Become a big Issue

Having a digital-friendly educational environment may cause more plagiarizing from online resources. Moreover, there are a number of defective online resources that present false or misinterpreted facts. All we read on the digital platform may not have hundred percent correct. For those mistakes in the digital study material who will be responsible? This question will be unanswerable.

There is also a threat in this that it may end up in using the available resources in an ineffective way, may bring frustration among the learners and it will end up having poor results of it.(Wallace and Young,2010)

As mentioned in the proposal of National Education Policy in the Chapter "Blended Learning" point no 4.4.2 asserts the list of required Equipment like Tab, Smart Board, Projector, remote examination, Satellite Based TV Channel-Mass Learning, Remote VPN for faculty and Student, Core Network, Router, CCTV, Storage, LAN Connection, Library Server etc. are listed in it. It's really a challenge before the Institution. It's very hard to make it available in rural schools and colleges.

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Conclusion

As any other method, blended learning has its optimistic and dark sides. The combination of self-paced education and face-to-face training can be beneficial, but only when wisely applied. Sometimes there are hazards to overbalance the rewards, because not all students are ready to stand on their own feet when it comes to learning. For some of them, this modern educational environment can be motivational, while the others feel confused about it. They may not interested in it. Some students are introvert they may not interested in studying collectively. Education must go as per our psychology, need and interest. Use of Techno-equipment and digital platform destroys the essence of happiness.

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