NEP 2020: TRANSITION FROM TRADITIONAL EDUCATION OR REFORMS

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Abstract- Blended learning is a novel approach to education that combines the best features of conventional classroom instruction with those of other forms of ICT-supported education, such as online and offline study. The environment lends itself to group work, creative problem-solving, and tech-enhanced lessons (CAI). The adoption of blended learning calls for arduous work, the correct mindset, a hefty budget, and highly motivated instructors and students. It's complicated and time-consuming to organize because of all the many modalities it employs. In this study, we examine the advantages and necessary conditions for implementing a mixed learning strategy. The potential of blended learning in Indian schooling institutions is also explored, and it is argued that this method should be embraced more widely.

Keywords: Blended Learning, ICT Supported Teaching-Learning Process, Traditional Teaching-Learning Process, Computer Assisted Learning, Online Learning.

1. Introduction

Education is undergoing transition according to need due to change of time and environment. It is striving to adapt to technological developments and investigate innovative opportunities to provide excellent access to universities for everyone, but it is not yet ready to depart from the conventional communication process owing to limited funds, poor infrastructure and facilities, and the benefits of face-to-face contact [1]. The pupils, like the rest of us, are in a double bind. When asked to choose between traditional classroom instruction and

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teaching aided by information and communication technology (ICT), teacher trainees were virtually equally split [2].

Despite its flaws, the conventional method of instruction adds a much-appreciated human element to the classroom experience. The instructors' personalities and actions have a profound effect on the kids' development. If a student has to take the test but doesn't take it for any reason, his whole school year is wasted. However, the rigidity of the system means that these "irregular" pupils are effectively shut out of the educational system [3].

Children who drop out of school for any reason often don't get an opportunity to re-enter it due to a lack of skilled counselors, supportive faculty, and school-wide follow-up initiatives. Unfortunately, not every kid can attend school, making universal primary education an unattainable ideal.

Children from low-income families, pupils from rural or remote places, and students with physical or mental impairments cannot benefit from the conventional classroom setting [4]. While pupils are being harmed by a lack of instructors, their education is being hampered by ineffective ones. Teachers aren't engaged in professional development, courses aren't updated consistently, and textbooks aren't updated [5].

Unfortunately, this has resulted in a generation of students who are ill-equipped to tackle the challenges of the contemporary job market and professional world in terms of both content understanding and technical proficiency.
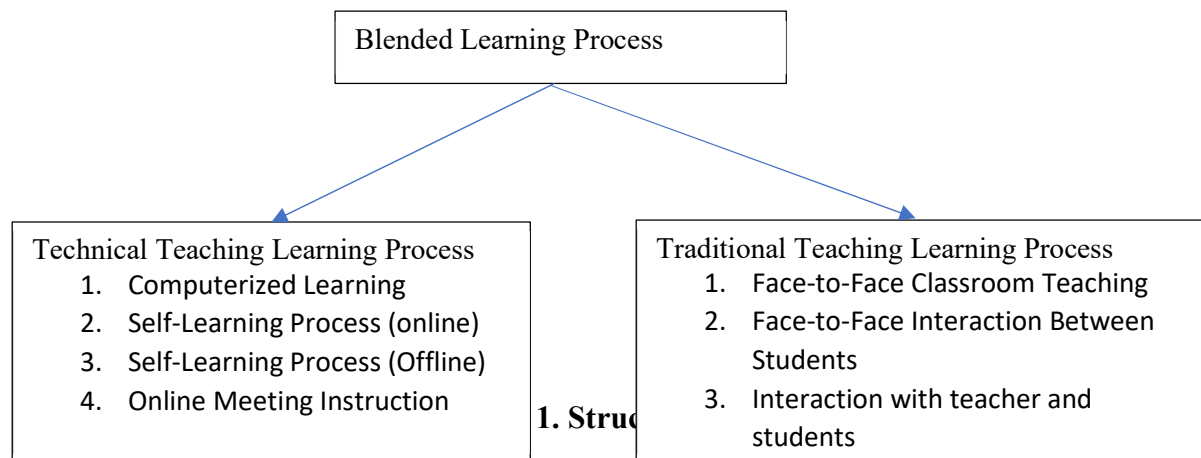
Improve the quality of their lessons, reduce the number of times they make mistakes in class, broaden their pupils' exposure to new ideas, and make sure they're up to date with the latest developments in technology and globalization. Using technology to aid in the classroom is a promising trend. Technology-enhanced education (or edtech) adds a fresh perspective to the classroom experience, broadens students' access to a wealth of information, and presents many chances for them to learn, unlearn, and relearn [6]. This kind of instruction is useful for a wide range of students, including those already in the military and those with physical impairments.

All pupils may be reached using this method. To paraphrase Swami Vivekanand, "if people cannot reach school schools should reach them," and this is precisely what ICT-supported learning is achieving. The answer is to build and configure a structure based on an integrated program, a framework that combines traditional and ICT-supported education. Both conventional educational methods and ICT-supported education have pros and cons. Blended learning, which takes the best parts of both online and offline instruction, is in high demand today [7].

As we've seen, there are advantages to the conventional method, but there are also drawbacks. There are a few problems with it: Due mostly to an insufficient student-teacher ratio, it is falling short of adequately addressing the needs of all kids in the classroom. They are not changing to accommodate the needs of children with physical impairments, and educators are not prepared to work in inclusive settings [8]. Due to the mandatory nature of class attendance and the yearly test used in the grading process, the system is unable to manage the

issues posed by sporadic pupils. If cognitive and motor skills are included in the pupils' goals. Values are best nurtured by direct, interpersonal interaction. Traditional methods of education are more suited to instilling values such as collaboration, sharing, expression, and respect for the opinions of others. The classroom isn't the only place where children learn; they also pick up a lot by interacting with their peers on the playground and in the common areas of the school like the cafeteria and the lounge. All of this is crucial for maturing into a whole human being [9].

2. Blended Learning

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                    │   Blended Learning Process   │
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Technical Teaching Learning Process	Traditional Teaching Learning Process
1. Computerized Learning	1. Face-to-Face Classroom Teaching
2. Self-Learning Process (online)	2. Face-to-Face Interaction Between Students
3. Self-Learning Process (Offline)	3. Interaction with teacher and students
4. Online Meeting Instruction	

1. Struc

- Blended learning is a method of instruction that combines traditional classroom instruction with that supplemented by digital media and technologies in Figure 1. In a blended learning environment, students are exposed to a variety of learning strategies, including traditional lecture-style classes, online forums, and collaborative projects. The components of blended learning are shown in the diagram below: a) Traditional classroom instruction via face-to-face interactions between instructors and students, allowing the latter to shape the former's character and outlook. Synchronous communication is facilitated by direct eye contact. Real-time information benefits both the teacher and the student, which is a win-win situation for the classroom. The human element of face-to-face communication greatly enhances the learning experience for both instructors and students [10].

- Engagement with course material: The time and space afforded by the campus and the more conventional method of instruction allow students to engage with course materials in a variety of ways, including direct interaction with printed texts and digital media. Using media, students can engage with course material in a roundabout, but engaging, manner.

- The films provide the necessary realism, while comments on blogs and visits to e-books refresh the material with new insights. Within the walls of the school, students acquire knowledge both officially and informally via their interactions with one another. Interactions with peers outside of school provide invaluable opportunities to hone important social and life skills. It's easy to do so on a school campus, with all the free time and playground activities that kids like [11].

- Important to get feedback and idea exchange - classroom instruction not only allows for student-teacher connection but also, via carefully crafted methods, allows for students to engage in conversations with their peers about various areas of the course. Students gain self-assurance, overcome inhibitions, and

learn to communicate clearly and listen attentively [12].

- Blended learning often makes use of information and communication technology to supplement traditional classroom instruction. While students in the old school system could only peruse a small selection of books in the library, those in the new digital library could choose from a far wider range of resources. As a result, they are better able to achieve their cognitive goals, which include broadening their worldview and enhancing their knowledge [13].

- Learning may take place in a virtual classroom at any time and with any instructor. Regardless of where they live, students may join their classmates and instructor in a virtual classroom gathering in cyberspace. Schools may make accommodations for it to improve the system's adaptability and provide students who are unable to attend class regularly the chance to participate. In addition, the student has the opportunity to form connections with other subject matter specialists, furthering his education. Since the globe is becoming more interconnected, kids who learn in this way will have the same opportunities as their peers anywhere in the world, as well as get exposure to diverse cultures [14].

- Online assessment, with real-time feedback as a motivating force for and foundation for concepts of readiness-based learning. It is possible to create a more formative, transparent, and rapid evaluation system with the aid of online assessment. More trust may be placed in it, and it acquires an impartial perspective [15].

- When it comes to online tutoring, each student has unique requirements. Only a small percentage of pupils benefit from classroom instruction because they need constant one-on-one attention and coaching. E-tuition, or meeting with a private tutor and obtaining personal advice in cyberspace through video conferencing, is an alternative for these types of students.

- Having access to and trying to maintain instructional blogs — students have fewer opportunities to cultivate their creative ability in classroom settings due to educational blogs allowing students to demonstrate their ideas and obtain feedback despite a rigorous timetable and test pressure. Furthermore, educational blogs are a great place to talk about subjects that are significant to young people but aren't included in schools, such as drug abuse, juvenile delinquency, and population education [16].

- Webinars—webinars are another component of blended learning and are a kind of ICT-formatted Children may participate in meetings on a variety of interesting subjects from the comfort of their own homes, thanks to the advent of online education. Video conferencing allows everyone to present their paper and take part in conversations in real-time, regardless of their physical location. Blended learning allows students to benefit from the knowledge of subject matter experts because of the widespread availability of lectures by recognized authorities on YouTube. A college may also record its lectures and make them available online for students who are unable to physically attend classes [17].

- Video and audio recordings, including animated videos, are readily available online and may be used to study a wide range of topics in an engaging and accessible manner. They want to be grounded in reality and make meaningful connections to the world around them. This gives them a taste of the actual world as they learn, and it helps them visualize abstract concepts and phenomena [18].

- Internet laboratory – utilized at graduate programs when medical tests are vital but establishing a well-equipped lab isn't practical. or if the investigations are hazardous and it is not safe for undergraduates to use such instruments. This unified approach, known as blended learning, combines several elements

into one cohesive educational experience [19].

3. Main Characteristics of Blended Learning

☐ Blended learning is distinguished by the following characteristics: In instructional strategies, students may select between conventional classroom studies with instructors and peers or ICT-supported instructional education. This depends on the substance and results. The method most suitable for the subject at hand is sometimes chosen by the course designer or the instructors themselves [20].

☐ Blended learning relies heavily on instructors who are fluent in both the conventional lecture style and the ICT-supported flipped classroom model, thus they must have experience with both. As a result, they will be proficient in both conventional techniques and cutting-edge tools [21].

☐ Students get the considerable opportunity for both in-person and online communication with others enrolled in the same course. They may engage in conversation both on and off campus. This results in a vast and diverse group of students who not only broaden each other's horizons intellectually but also get to know and appreciate one another and work together peacefully and amiably across cultural and national boundaries [22].

☐ This century is the information and communications technology (ICT) century, and students should be exposed to all of its benefits. An individual who is not computer savvy is now considered to be as illiterate as one who cannot read and write. Since proficiency in ICT is now expected of all job candidates, blended learning may enrich students' exposure to this field. Blended learning gives students the skills they need to make the most of the tools at their disposal [23].

☐ Students learn a variety of "life skills," which include the traits and practices essential to living a healthy, fulfilling, and productive life. Empathy, the capacity to make responsible decisions, love, patience, communication, self-management, and critical thinking are all essential life skills. Using a mixed approach, students are better able to put their newfound knowledge into practice. Some skills, such as love, empathy, and patience, are introduced to students in the classroom by instructors and peers, while others, such as self-management, decision-making, critical thinking, and communication, are introduced to students via their online interactions [24].

☐ Personal growth in every area is emphasized. Blended learning allows for students' full potential to be realized in all aspects of their character. Blended learning allows for the development of the whole person, including the mind, body, and emotions, all of which are challenging to cultivate when using either the conventional method or the ICT approach alone.

☐ While traditional classroom instruction aids in the development of student's cognitive domains through memorization and comprehension, teachers' actions, playground outings, and peer groups all contribute to the growth of their students' affective and physical domains, and online learning aids in the growth of students' reflective faculties, which in turn aids in the development of their intellectual potential, and networking websites and other online interactions aid in the development of the right kind of value judgments [25].

☐ Online learning and ICT aid the learning process and are sometimes criticized for allegedly neglecting students' physical development, even though this is not the case. The mixed approach to education gets around this drawback. Students can engage in extracurricular activities such as sports, physical education,

and yoga without having to leave the comfort of their dorm rooms.

☐ Students' subject knowledge is expanded as they receive exposed to fresh views on the material and acquire practical, usable knowledge.

☐ It's personal; pupils benefit from the teacher's physical presence in a classroom setting, which is essential up to secondary school for developing a healthy emotional quotient.

☐ Blended learning gives students the chance to interact with peers from all over the globe, broadening the scope of their education and exposing them to new perspectives and ideas from a range of disciplines [26].

☐ Because of its focus on student success, blended learning can realize the ideal of child-centered education by making the teaching and learning process more student-centric.

☐ The instructor in a mixed classroom serves as a motivational, subject matter expert, organizer, and development (when creating material to be delivered through ICT), and an occasional guide. This allows teachers to break out of their ruts and attempt new things, all of which contribute to their professional development.

☐ The learning process is more about building than consuming for the student. Constructivism is also a part of blended learning. Instead of relying on instructors to provide them with a curriculum, students create their methods of instruction [27].

4. Prerequisites of Blended Learning

Blended learning is challenging to implement. There are essential prerequisites that must be met by the instructor, the student, the content designer, and the physical learning environment itself. The following are the foundational elements of an effective blended learning program [28].

Even if blended learning is focused on the kid, well-trained educators are still a crucial component. Teachers must understand differentiated instruction equipped with the training and expertise to effectively combine both traditional and technology teaching methods. They need to learn how to create digital material so that it may be made accessible to students anywhere, anytime. They need to be comfortable in a digital environment, know the ins and outs of the web and have a thorough understanding of the many resources available to students who choose to supplement their education via online means. Instructors need to be familiar with the instructional potential of sites like blogs and YouTube, as well as video conferencing and social networking tools like Skype, Google Talk, and others [29].

Educators must adopt a scientific worldview in the classroom. Good observational skills, an upbeat attitude, and the ability to think critically and creatively are all needed. Teachers with a scientific mindset will be better equipped to analyze the situation objectively and bounce back from the inevitable setbacks they will experience while implementing this novel idea. The proper scientific temperament will naturally spread from educators to pupils.

Third, educators who have an expansive worldview and a can-do attitude toward change are essential to the success of the blended learning process [30].

Blended learning necessitates the use of all available resources, including a fully equipped computer lab, access to the internet, and the ability to engage in online video conferencing. To facilitate blended learning, a school should have not just comfortable classrooms but also well-equipped computer labs with enough computers to accommodate all of the students in a single session, as well as access to the internet and, ideally, a Wi-Fi campus.

In addition to a completely ICT-friendly campus at school, children should also have basic hardware backing at home to take advantage of online and offline learning opportunities. The government must take a constructive approach and implement sound investment policies for this to happen.

Deploying blended learning successfully requires several systemic changes, including those listed in point #6.

Knowledgeable and consenting party Parents should be made aware of this new method of instruction so that they may prepare their children for blended learning at home and see the value in this departure from the norm [31].

Blended learning doesn't enable summative assessment. schools and universities must be prepared to fully use continuous internal assessment (CAI) and other instruments of the instructional process. The system might benefit from the addition of online assessment as a means of increasing its adaptability.

These are some of the fundamental conditions that must be met for blended learning to be implemented effectively.

5. Advantages of Blended Learning

- The benefits of blended learning include extra time for instructors and students to engage in creative and cooperative activities in the classroom because of the use of ICT, online or offline mode.
- With CAI, students may benefit from online education without giving up the personal connections they make in a classroom setting.
- The possibilities for interaction are expanded. Blended learning allows for a full cycle of communication to be established, something that is impossible with a strictly conventional curriculum.
- Students improve their technological literacy and digital fluency; Students' professionalism is bolstered as they cultivate traits like drive, accountability, and discipline;
- It refreshes old courses by updating their materials.

6. Relevancy of Adapting BlendedLearning in India

There are several issues plaguing India's education system, including a failure Inability to expand free education for children's communication while increasing quantity, a curriculum that fails to prepare students for the demands of the global marketplace and that does little to preserve or promote Indian cultural norms, and a teaching force that isn't fully committed to its work and whose inefficiency hurts students. To overcome

these obstacles, dramatic action and big internal revolutions are required immediately. In part, blended learning is the answer to the issues plaguing the Indian school system.

In our nation, the official Due to the country's vast number of people, schools can't provide all students similar development opportunities. Differentiated instruction is a fantastic option since it expands opportunities for education and reaches more children.

To prepare students for the dynamic job market, educational institutions must keep up with the rapid speed of technical and scientific advancement. The technological and scientific fields are among the most dynamic and rapidly evolving, with innovations constantly being incorporated into the content transmitted to students; however, In India, programs are seldom updated, therefore student engagement is adopted, and students and teachers can easily keep up with the latest developments [32].

One of the biggest problems is the severe shortage of qualified educators. Despite efforts to increase the number of teachers, many elementary schools still lack a sufficient number of teachers to adequately instruct their student bodies. It's also a problem that many teachers aren't fully invested in their careers, making blended learning a viable choice because of the effectiveness of online education as a supplement to classroom instruction.

Traditional methods of delivering this material have not been successful in engaging students, which contributes to widespread problems with disciplinary issues, attendance issues, and attrition. Blended learning will be a comprehensive answer to the issues of indiscipline, lack of course concentration, and student anxiety about their futures. As we've seen, students benefit from blended learning because it gives them more opportunities to study in different ways, keeps them engaged throughout the course, and encourages them to take responsibility for their education, which in turn helps them develop self-discipline. Blended learning provides students with a more modern and high-quality education drawn from a more diverse pool of resources, making their education more relevant to their real-world needs [33].

To this day, providing equal access to quality education is a pressing concern. Although our Constitution mandates that all children up to the age of 14 get a free and obligatory education, the current system is unable to fulfill this promise. When our schools adopt blended learning, however, enrollment may be increased without regard to students' locations.

Collaborative learning will help students gain modern methodologies and life skills, as indicated. Unemployed qualified teachers aren't effective and qualified to satisfy worldwide business requirements.

Although there are challenges in educating children with special needs, the adaptability of blended learning makes it possible to meet the needs of these students. For example, gifted students can get the individualized attention they need to pursue their passions in blended learning, and visually impaired students can benefit from an education that is fully integrated with mainstream instruction thanks to the use of technology.

Moreover, there is a major problem with the quality of education, especially at the university level. None of our universities ranks among the best in the world, so if we want to stay competitive and improve the quality of our program's, blended learning is a solid choice. The more exposure pupils have to both forms of delivery, the more complete their education will be. Through access to the plethora of online resources, including articles written by industry professionals, our students will develop highly marketable competencies. Having these experiences will undoubtedly help you surpass any barriers present in your course's curriculum or teaching methods.

Blended learning offers equal attention to the traditional method and classroom instruction, which may give pupils the essence of the Indian value system that our current education system is failing to instill in them since it is so focused on contemporary technology [34].

7.   Implementation of Blended Learningin the Indian Education System

The administrations and leaders of schools need to be fully committed to the implementation of blended learning. All levels of society, from elites to plebeians, need to be included in the plan's execution. Preparing schools ready for Blended learning requires increasing instructional spending with the support of non-governmental organizations and by working in tandem with the private sector. These industries stand to gain the most if the graduates of these schools are better prepared to compete on a global scale, and therefore they may be encouraged to contribute financially to the implementation of blended learning. The cultivation of positive sentiments toward this revolutionary idea among all those invested in the educational system is another crucial factor to think about. Awareness programs, seminars, and discussion forums should be organized to alter the mindsets of parents, community members, educators, and students. These may be used to spread information on blended learning's merits, paving the way for a more positive public perception and acceptance of the approach. The power of the media at large may be put to good use here. Both pre-service and in-service teacher education programs need to be rethought to better equip educators to facilitate a blended learning environment. The money and time spent on separate initiatives to provide universal access to education would be better spent on preparing our elementary schools for blended learning, which would solve many issues at once [35].

Finally, it is possible to say that blended learning is the answer to the challenges plaguing our current educational system. It has the potential to revolutionize the way we teach in the future, but only if it is introduced methodically and with the appropriate mindset. We would all benefit from swiftly launching initiatives to adjust blended-learning models.

Conclusion

Education helps society develop and flourish. More educated people contribute more to society. Education empowers people with the required information, skill, technique, knowledge, rights, and duties to a country and community. This highlights the significance of education in society and has increased government spending on education.

New Education Policy 2020 took 34 years. The new National Education Policy-2020 aims to improve the country's higher education system. The policy incorporates a broad variety of changes and looks to be a highly progressive text with a firm grasp of the current socio-economic condition and future outcomes. The NEP-2020 addresses professional development needs in agriculture and AI. Business World said, "The National Education Policy-2020 is a necessary and timely initiative that will make Indian education internationally competitive." The policy reforms every aspect of our education system. The approach makes education more job-focused and promotes economic growth. Making higher education accessible, cheap, and egalitarian and emphasizing technical and vocational skill development are welcome moves toward job creation, economic productivity, and economic growth (BW).

The NEP–2020 prepares prospective teachers and students for the future in India. With this strategy, "the Indian higher education system is changing from teacher-to-student-centric, information-to-knowledge-centric, marks-to-skills-centric, examination-to-experimental-centric, learning-to-research-centric, and choice-to-competency-centric" (Aithal and Aithal 36). The new education policy's efficacy will depend on how effectively it's executed. If effectively implemented, India's higher education system will become worldwide. Nishith Desai says, "NEP has proposed several pragmatic measures, such as a single regulator for Higher Education (except law and medicine), light but tight regulation, autonomy to institutes, credit-based learning, innovative course structures, changes in program format with flexible exit options, focus on research, and outcome-based learning." The NEP emphasizes conventional learning but also online, open, and remote learning. These initiatives will help India become a worldwide knowledge giant, as envisioned in the NEP. It is recommended to make provisions in the next revised version of this policy for mandatory Ph.D. in faculty recruitment at university and college level, MPSC/UPSC-based central level faculty recruitment process, only open access standard research publications, strict and quality scrutinized API-based incentive pay and promotion, and rest uncovered but must needed issues. The lack of a clear implementation path is delaying much-needed educator sector reforms, which are crucial for India's future growth.

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