

WSAP Blended Learning

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Abstract: In this era of rapid information technology growth, there is a need for a pedagogical or teaching approach that can attract our students' attention. Previous research has also shown that students nowadays are more inclined to the use of technology in their learning. Thus, there is a need to use a teaching approach that utilizes the digital tools apart from the usual daily teaching in class. This study investigates students' perceptions regarding the use of blended learning and WSAP or known as Wakelet Students' Ambassador Programme. It is an online learning module that consists of 6 stages: Curation, Critical Thinking, Creativity, Collaboration, Presentation and Portfolio. This is a qualitative study carried out on a sample of 50 Form 3 students in Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Taman Universiti. Students' perceptions regarding blended learning and WSAP (Wakelet Students' Ambassador Programme) were gathered through observation, questionnaire and interviews. The findings of the study show that a majority of the respondents favoured blended learning and all of them like to use WSAP (Wakelet Students' Ambassador Programme). Among the reasons they like to use WSAP are that it is an interesting programme, they can learn a lot from their friends and they also can get a lot of information throughout the programme. Finally, they feel a sense of accomplishment by doing the project. To sum up, WSAP (Wakelet Students' Ambassador Programme) is indeed a wonderful programme that can be utilised in teaching all kinds of subjects. This is because WSAP (Wakelet Students' Ambassador Programme) is a student-centred method that stimulates students' thinking skills and promotes students' collaboration. Hopefully, WSAP (Wakelet Students' Ambassador Programme) would be used widely throughout the country.

Keywords: Digital Learning; Collaboration; Thinking skills.



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1. INTRODUCTION

In this era of rapid information technology growth, there is a need for a pedagogical or teaching approach that can appeal to our students. This is supported by Sezen Tosun (2013) and Atchley et. al. (2013) who argued that, students nowadays are more inclined to the use of technology in their learning. Abid Haleem et. al. (2022) further argued that digital learning is the most successful means to provide a rich educational environment since internet communication has the potential to connect people, over enormous distances to diverse information sources. In other words, digital learning should be practised apart from the daily teaching at school.

According to Asma et. al (2022), "E-learning or digital learning can best be defined as the science of learning without using paper printed instructional material." In other words, digital learning is the use of communication technology to deliver information for education and training. With the progress of information and communication technology development, digital learning is emerging as the paradigm of modern education.

According to Abid Haleem et. al. (2022), online teaching would replace traditional teaching due to the convenience and popularity of the Internet for applying digital teaching materials. Thus, there is a need to use a teaching approach that utilizes the digital tools apart from the usual daily teaching in class. According to Lai et al. (2012), “Practical teaching strategies should be developed by combining with current teaching trend and extracting the advantages of digital learning to achieve the teaching effectiveness”.

Due to this, an educational programme, WSAP (Wakelet Students’ Ambassadors Programme), an online learning platform via Wakelet was created to suit the students’ needs. It is a programme that includes 6 stages of learning: Curation, Critical Thinking, Creativity, Collaboration, Presentation and Portfolio. Students were required to produce different Wakelet collections for every stage. WSAP Blended Learning programme is created as it is a student-centred programme that promotes students to learn on their own using online sources such as YouTube, Quizziz, Wakelet and websites. Apart from that, WSAP Blended Learning programme also stimulates thinking skills and promotes collaboration among students as they need to work with each other in order to produce the collections. Finally, this programme also enhances students’ sense of accomplishment as students have to display their certificates and their achievements or favourite photos at the last task.

The topic chosen for WSAP Blended Learning was based on the theme ‘Family’. It is the first unit in Form 3 English textbook.

1.1 Objectives of Project

This research was guided by objectives such as below:

- i. To get the students’ perceptions about blended learning
- ii. To get the students’ perceptions about the use of WSAP programme.

2. METHOD & MATERIAL

The data for this study was collected through participant observation, questionnaire and semi-structured interview. At least 3 data collection methods were used in order to triangulate the data for the finding.

2.1 First Task (Curation)

1. Students are taught in class about ways for self-introduction.
2. Students take turn to present about themselves in front of the class.
3. Students do a curation about themselves including information about their name, school, favourite food, drinks, hobbies, dream country, pets, songs and others.
4. Students do a Wakelet collection introducing about themselves.
5. Students share their collection with the educators and the peers once completed.

2.2 Second Task (Critical thinking)

1. Students are given the topic ‘The Advantages and Disadvantages of Keeping Pets’ in class.
2. Students have a class discussion on the topic.
3. Students are asked to find out more information online regarding the topic.

4. Students create a collection using Wakelet about 'The Advantages and Disadvantages of Keeping Pets.
5. Students share their collection with the educators and the peers once completed.
6. Teacher gives comments for students' collections.

3rd Task (Creativity)

1. Students create a Wakelet flag based on the guidelines given by teacher during assembly.
2. Students present the flags they have drawn in front of other students.
7. Students do a Wakelet collection about Wakelet flag using the Wakelet platform.

4th Task (Collaboration)

1. Students create a shared collection with the title 'My Favourite Songs'. Students share their collection links with other students.
2. Students add in information to their friends' shared collection about 'My Favourite Songs'.
3. Students can add information in terms of pictures, YouTube videos or text to their friends' collection.
4. Students share their collections with the educators and the peers once completed.

5th Task (Presentation)

1. Students present about the collections they have done in front of the class and during assembly. Other students give comments for their friends' presentations.

6th Task (Portfolio)

1. Students do a portfolio about themselves including certificates and favourite photos from competitions into their portfolio.
2. Students share their collections with the educator and the peers once completed.

3. FINDINGS

The results for this study were collected through a set of questionnaire, semi-structured interview and observation. The instruments used for this study are presented and discussed as below.

3.1 Findings from Observation

It was observed that students were very interested in the activities conducted using WSAP Blended Learning Programme. The use of WSAP Blended Learning has enhanced students' understanding of the lesson as students' progress of their projects were discussed by teachers during in class lesson. Students who had problems in doing the project had also got clearer clarification from teachers during the lesson. The use of WSAP Blended Learning has made the lesson interesting and easier to understand as respondents can integrate almost all the other applications such as pictures, videos and lessons that have been prepared by other educators. Students also can seek help from each other through collaborating with each other. According to Abid Haleem et. al (2022), "digital technologies are a powerful instrument that can help improve education in various ways, such as making it easier for instructors to generate instructional materials and providing new methods for people to learn and collaborate".

3.2 Findings from Questionnaire

The questionnaire used in this study consists of two parts. The first part aims to gather students' opinions regarding the use of blended learning and the reasons they like to use it. On the other hand, the second part of the questionnaire aims to gather students' opinions regarding the use of WSAP (Wakelet Students' Ambassador Programme). Refer to Appendix 1 for the questionnaire. Below are the findings from the questionnaire.

Table 1. Perceptions About Blended Learning

NUM	STATEMENT	PERCENTAGE OF AGREE (100%)
1	Blended learning makes my lesson more interesting.	88
2	I can gain a lot of information from blended learning.	94
3	Blended learning helps me to understand my lesson better.	84
4	Face to face learning and online learning are related to each other.	60

The table above shows that majority of the respondents prefer blended learning. 88% of the respondents agree that blended learning makes their lesson more interesting. This is probably due to the reason that the students have accessibility to internet facilities at home. Furthermore, 94% of the respondents agree that they can gain a lot of information from blended learning while 84% of the respondents agree that blended learning helps them to understand their lesson better since their online lessons are reinforced by teacher at school. This shows that blended learning is indeed a preferred learning platform for students as they can gain a variety of sources from online. The variety of sources such as YouTube, images, text or online articles also help them to understand their lesson better.

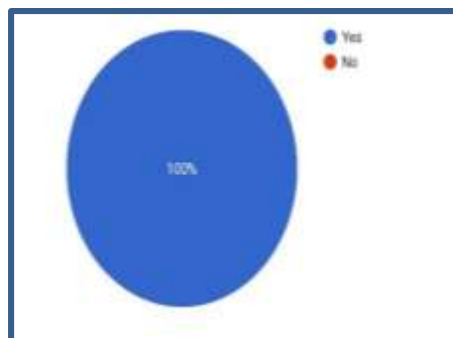


Figure 1. Students' Liking in Using WSAP Blended Learning

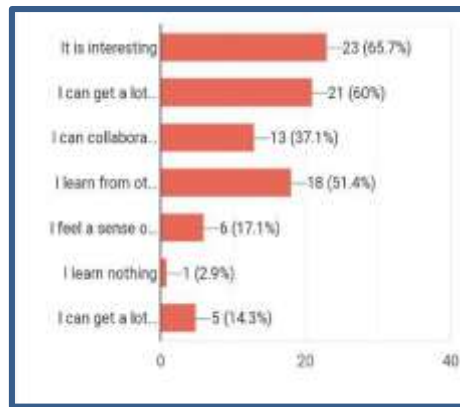


Figure 2. The Reasons Students Like to Use WSAP Blended Learning

From the chart above, all the students (100%) show that they like to use WSAP Blended Learning. These are due to the benefits of WSAP Blended Learning that include it is interesting (65.7%), they can get a lot of information (60%), they can collaborate with other students (37.1%) and they feel a sense of accomplishment (17.1%).

3.3 Findings from Semi-Structured Interview

1. What is your general opinion about traditional, face to face learning? Why?
2. What do you like about online learning?
3. What do you like about using WSAP Blended Learning?
4. What have you improved while using WSAP Blended Learning?

The interview questions used were adapted from the research done by Sezen Tosun (2015).

3.4 Findings from Interview

The interview conducted shows that students like blended learning. Among the benefits of blended learning include it can help to overcome social anxiety, it is easily accessible and it is interesting. Students also can learn from worldwide instructors. Moreover, the use of WSAP Blended Learning can benefit learning as students can learn new words and improve their vocabulary,

4. DISCUSSION

The results from observation, questionnaires and interviews show that majority of the respondents preferred blended learning. This is probably because most of them have Wi-Fi and laptop facilities at home. They can use either laptop or mobile phone for WSAP (Wakelet Students' Ambassador Programme). Only a few have Wi-Fi problems at home.

On top of that, majority of the respondents agreed that WSAP Blended Learning is indeed a useful platform for learning. Apart from the fact that it is an interesting platform, WSAP Blended Learning also encourages collaboration and stimulates critical thinking among students. These findings were supported by Jabbar Al Muzzamil Fareen (2022) who argued that blended learning should not only help students to gain knowledge but also engage in developing their higher order thinking skills and to indulge in both creative and critical learning skills. All these are crucial factors in students' learning.

According to Jaggars (2014), "students prefer to take more important or interesting courses". Studies also find out that students who enrol in interesting courses will have more motivation towards learning. Thus, WSAP (Wakelet Students' Ambassador Programme) blended learning should be used to increase students' motivation in learning.

5. CONCLUSION

WSAP Blended Learning is an innovation in education that can be practised in teaching of any subjects as it consists of crucial stages for learning such as critical thinking, creativity, collaboration and portfolio. Apart from improving students' thinking skills, WSAP Blended Learning also encourages collaboration and promote a sense of achievement among students as they need to display their contributions and certificate of achievements in the portfolio section. Hopefully, WSAP Blended Learning will be widely practised in our country.

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APPENDIX 1

QUESTIONNAIRE ON DIGITAL LEARNING WITH WSAP

(WAKELET STUDENTS' AMBASSADOR PROGRAMME)

Name: _____

Class: _____

School: _____

SA-Strongly agree

A- Agree

NS-Not sure

D-Disagree

SD-Strongly disagree

A. Benefits of Blended Learning

No.	Soalan	SA	A	NS	D	SD
1	Blended learning makes my lesson more interesting.	9	35	5	1	
2	I can gain a lot of information from blended learning.	10	37	2	1	
3	Blended learning helps me to understand my lesson better.	8	34		7	1
4	Blended learning is difficult because I need to have internet facilities.	1	16	19	13	1
5	Face to face learning and online learning are related to each other.	13	17	14	3	3

B. BENEFITS OF WAKELET STUDENTS' AMBASSADOR PROGRAMME (WSAP)

1. Which method of learning do you prefer? (Choose only 1 answer)

A. Learning at school (27)-54

B. Online learning (9)14

C. Combination of learning at school and online learning (16)32

2. What are the advantages of Wakelet Students' Ambassadors Programme?

(You can choose more than 1 answer)

A. It is interesting (29)-58

B. It is interactive (12)

C. I can get more information about the topic (20)

3. What are the disadvantages of Wakelet Students' Ambassadors Programme? (You can choose more than 1 answer)
- A. Lack of facilities (no computer, internet, phone) (9)
 - B. Cannot concentrate (35)
 - C. Other: Please write down _____

4. What are the educational applications that you normally use? (Please rank from 1 to 5)
- A. Youtube ()
 - B. Kahoot ()
 - C. Quizziz ()
 - D. Wakelet ()
 - E. Wordwall ()

5. What do you like about using Wakelet Students' Ambassadors Programme? (Choose more than 1 answer)
- A. It is interesting. (16)
 - B. I can get a lot of information from Wakelet. (20)
 - C. I can collaborate with my students in the project. (15)
 - D. I learn from other students' work. (22)
 - E. Other: Please write down _____

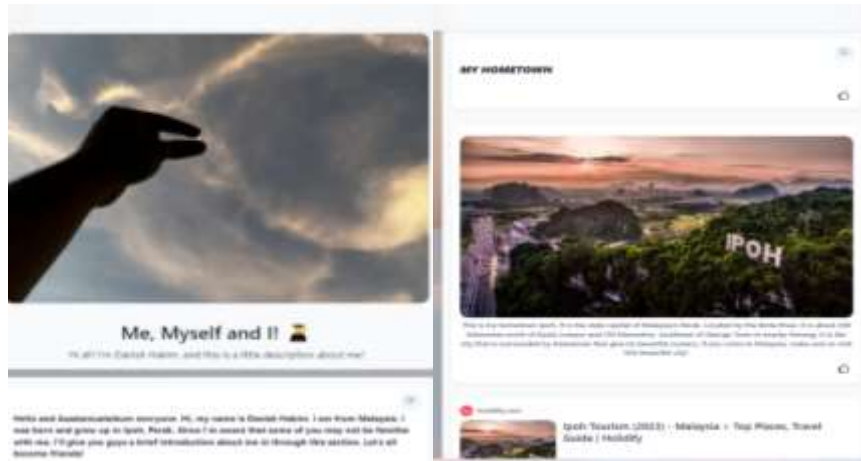
6. What are the problems you face in using Wakelet?
- Wifi, no internet, don't understand. Lack of facilities, cannot concentrate
-

7. Do you like using Wakelet?
- A. Yes (136)
 - B. No (14)

APPENDIX 2

Below are the sample collections produced in WASP (Wakelet Students' Ambassador Programme)

1st Stage: Sample of 'Curation' collection produced by students.



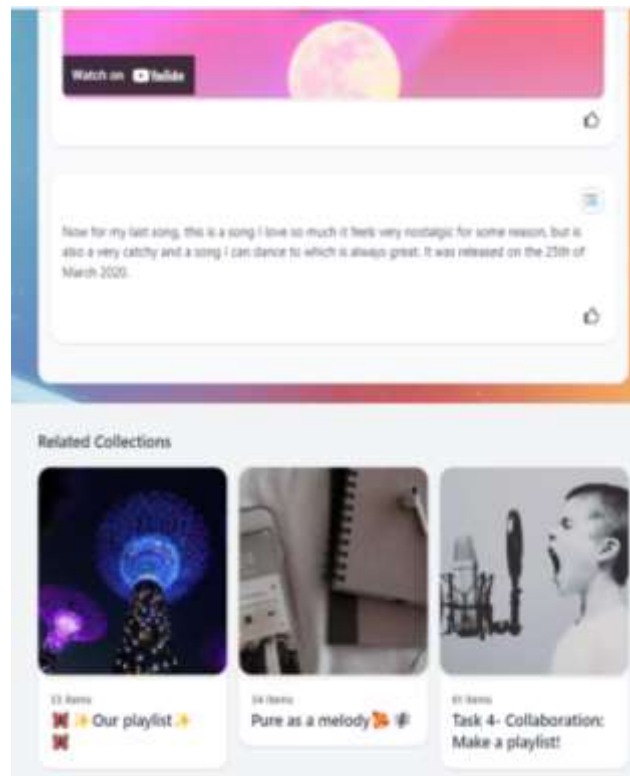
2nd Stage: Sample of 'Critical Thinking' collection produced by students.



3rd Stage: Creativity: Students draw Wakelet flags based on the guidelines by teacher.



4th Stage: Sample of 'Collaboration' collection produced by students.



5th Stage: Students present their work in front of their friends



6th Stage: Sample of 'Portfolio' collection produced by students.

