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The 4th bulletin, the 2nd issue for 2022 of our bulletins, is finally ready. The world is opening, welcoming travellers from everywhere. It is like the world is coming to life again, and so are the campuses. Life started to get busier, but it is a relief that many are still taking precautions to avoid spreading C-19. In all the excitement, we must remember that C-19 is still lurking around so as online scammers. The digital world has opened more opportunities for scammers to carry out their dirty acts to con victims. Please stay safe and play our roles in curbing the spread of both the virus and scams. Enjoy the reading!

Dr Raziah Bi Mohamed Sadique
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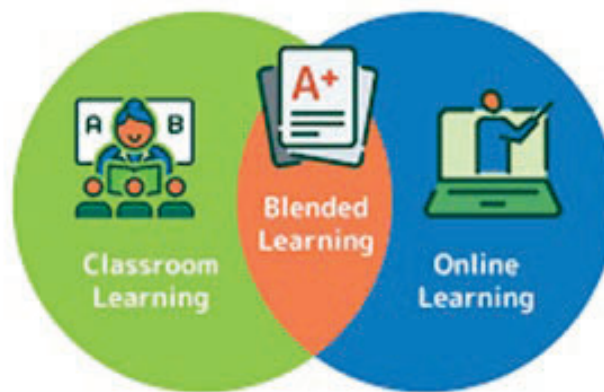Fakulti Perakaunan UiTMCNS Kampus Seremban

Innovation in Teaching: The Use of Blended Learning Approach

by Musliha Musman & Salwa Muda

As technology advances and daily life becomes more digitized, educators actively seek and anticipate engaging in innovative teaching. Innovative teaching methods are proactive methods of teaching that are diametrically opposed to traditional methods in which students learn from educators face to face in the classroom. The purpose of introducing these new teaching methods is to strengthen student understanding so that students can achieve optimal results.

There is a significant amount of innovation in education right now, and one of them is blended learning. Blended learning, also known as hybrid learning, is an educational technique that combines the advantages of face-to-face traditional classroom learning methods with online learning methods. It enables both educators and students to gain from the best aspects of both methods. For instance, a student might go to face-to-face classes and then supplement the lesson plan by completing online learning.

Online learning is a learning approach that uses innovative ways by utilising internet technology that can be accessible at any time and from any location, allowing learning to occur not only in the classroom and only during class hours, but also outside of class hours when needed (Saragih et al., 2020). Online learning methods include games, movies, tutorials, quizzes, and social networking components that students can access at time and place through their devices such as smartphone or tablet. A study done by Setyaningrum (2018) found that students who learn in blended learning approach have better conceptual understanding than their counterparts. The students claim that they can access learning materials and review some challenging topics at their convenience. AlKhaleel (2019) discovered that 84% of the respondents experience great improvement in their language proficiency abilities as compared to traditional teaching approaches. The study findings, demonstrating that blended learning has a positive impact on students' learning.

Another advantage of blended learning is that it can increase students' motivation by making them feel at ease and have fun during class time (Sari et al., 2018). Furthermore, blended learning can boost student involvement in learning the subject (Stepanova, 2020) as well as increase the students' digital literacy (Sutisna & Vonti, 2020). This is due to the blended learning approach that provides students with a variety of interesting learning activities via the web and other digital platforms. Students become more excited to use a new learning strategy and so increase their drive to learn the subject. The other reason is that, in contrast to the standard or dull textbooks, integrating audio and visual materials can benefit students in engaging their creative minds and fostering their understanding.

The main challenge in implementing blended learning is the lack of adequate infrastructure and access to technology, which can impose some limitations on its effective implementation. Setyaningrum (2018) discovered that students raised the issue of internet connection when practicing blended learning, suggesting that educators should investigate and ensure that students have adequate internet connection before implementing this new teaching method. According to a study by Rianto (2020), internet connectivity is the biggest problem when implementing blended learning, and the students' top suggestion is to fix all technological problems. Thus, it indicates that internet connectivity is a critical issue that must be addressed to enable blended learning to be effective. Another issue that arises when implementing blended learning is that students experience difficulties in maintaining their motivation to work independently and avoiding distractions such as accessing other websites when learning online (Setyaningrum, 2018). This would be one of the most difficult challenges to solve because it is tied to personal willingness or personal self-regulated learning. Therefore, it is suggested that the educator give the students some support to help them concentrate on their studies rather than opening other programmes.

As a new educational innovation, blended learning has resulted in significant advancements in outcomes across the field. It exposes students to new learning experiences, which may boost their interest and motivation. To keep up with the present technological environment, educators must accept the challenge of developing innovative teaching approaches. In order to maximize the implementations of various blended learning models, adequate infrastructure and access to technology must be provided to ensure the efficacy of blended learning.

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'Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn'

-Benjamin Franklin-