UNIJERPS
Unizik Journal of Educational Research and Policy Studies VOL.16 (2);
https://unijerps.org
2021 Impact Factor: 5.641; 2020 Impact Factor: 5.355.
July-December, 2023
Indexing and Impact Factor URL: http://sjifactor.com/passport.php?id=21363

THEORETICAL EFFECTS OF BLENDED LEARNING STRATEGY ON UPPER BASIC SCHOOL STUDENTS' ACHIEVEMENT AND INTEREST IN SOCIAL STUDIES EDUCATION

Odo Stella O.
Department of Social Studies, Ebonyi State College of Education, Ikwo
odohstella62@gmail.com

Nwibo Chukwuemeka Jerome Nwibo
chukwuemeka8gamil.com; 08069073254

Mbaba John Onwe, Ph.D.
Department of Social Studies, Ebonyi State College of Education, Ikwo

Dr. O. A. Oyibe
Department of Arts and Social Science Education, Ebonyi State University, Abakaliki
buikeoyibe@gamil.com

ABSTRACT
This work is a positional paper on the revolutionary effects of blended learning strategy. Teaching and learning is crucial and critical in rating children who will take over from the present leadership especially in Nigeria. More so, the most important of all is the methodology that would be used in order to arrive at this. This calls why blended learning strategy in schools cannot over-emphasized. Blended learning strategy is an approach to studies and learning that combines online opportunities. This means that blended learning strategy is a mixture is of online and in-person delivery where the online portion effectively replaces some of the face-to-face contact time rather than supplementing it. The importance of blended learning strategy to the academic has helped to remove compulsorily face-to-face contact with the teacher. Rather, the students learn from online which also enhance their ease aspiration of facts from the teacher. It equally reduces dependence on the teacher and allows him or her opportunity to meet with the students at his own will. As a result of the above, it enhances communication between teacher and part-time. More so, social studies education that uses blended learning strategy has tremendously improved in its delivery of lesson as a result of blended learning.

Keywords: Blended Learning Strategy; Upper Basic Schools; Students; Achievement; Interest; Social Studies Education**.**

Introduction
Qualitative education is a pre-requisite for sustainable growth and development. With this, no nation can develop beyond the educational status of her citizens. This shows that the political, socio-economic, religious sectors any nation are to a very high extent determined by the effectiveness or ineffectiveness of that country's educational system, methodology and strategy, adopted and implemented. It is noted that no nation can attain or reach developmental stability in the context of a frustrated educational methodology.

Though there are varied methods of teaching in our classrooms but social studies education is looking for the one that may be most appropriate to the achievement of its aims and objectives. The social studies classroom's is an ideal platform from which students can establish a foundation of critical thinking, problem solving, and empathy, if well-articulated teaching method is adopted for this purpose. It is through social studies classroom that students are expected to gain knowledge, skills and attitudes that will help them to effectively kahen in Taghreed and Fakhri (2014).

The challenge of classroom instruction in Nigeria is school system and research started changing dramatically with the emergence of new technologies which include blended learning strategy. Blended learning requires the physical presence of both teacher and students, with some elements of students control over time, place, path or pace. Students on their part still attend brick – and –mortar schools with a teacher's present, face-to-face classroom practices are combined with computer-mediated activities regarding content and delivery. It is also used in professional development and training settings.

The concept of blended learning strategy

Blended learning strategy also known as hybrid learning, technology-mediated instruction or web-enhanced instruction, is an approach to education or learning that combines online educational materials and opportunities for interaction online with traditional place-based classroom methods.

It is the acquisition of knowledge, processing of knowledge storage, dissemination of vocal, pictorial, textual and numeric information by a micro-electronic based combination of computing and telecommunication (Anieke in Mbaba (2021). Since blended learning is highly context-dependent, a universal conception of it is difficult.

Also, Basye (2014) define blended learning as a mixture of online and in-person delivery where the online portion effectively replaces some of the face-to-face contact time rather than supplementing it. This means that it is considered a combination of traditional modes of instruction with online moles of learning, drawing on technology-mediated instruction where all participants in the learning process are separated by distance some of the time. The above definition concluded that students' achievement was higher in blended learning experiences when compared to either fully online of fully face to face learning experiences.

What is then social studies-education?

Social studies education occupies a pride of place in the Nigeria educational system. It is a core subject in the secondary schools (Federal Republic of Nigeria, FRN, 2014).

Social studies education embodies a lot of things and by implication refers to the social learning designed to properly the individual to adjust to his environments. In line with this, Estavan in Toungo (2007) defines social studies education as a discipline that is concerned with the ways man transforms himself. The environments of man include economic social, political and cultural. It's content to organize around social and environmental issues affecting man's existence and his capability to manifest and influence his environment for his sustainable development. He further maintains that social studies education equips man with the knowledge of what

happens influence him and how he can as well influence his environment.

Also, Adewuya (2011) is of the opinion that social studies education being a virile subject, is expected to assume more broadened scope and dimension just as the nation's urgent and stressful human problems that have to be tackled and resolved. It provides the students with in-depth knowledge about national affairs; especially with respect to politics and administration (Mezieobi, 2015), social studies education at producing students who are creative, patriotic, responsible and useful members of the society. It is therefore viewed as appropriate course of study for teaching and training responsible people. It is in this respect that social studies education now becomes veritable tools for proper understanding of the environment. This suggests that human interaction, cultural awareness and interpreting information are the key components of social studies education.

What are the benefits of social studies education to man

The following are the benefits of social studies education to man (Mbabe, 2021). Social studies education is a study that can help is individual to understand his environment, find out the problems of his environment as well as solve existing social problems. The above point suggests that social studies education is a discipline with dynamic and elastic curriculum.

Again, social studies education is viewed thus as the appropriate course of study for responsible citizenship, extracting facts, concepts and generalization from traditional social sciences influencing the moral and character training of the people.

Also, social studies classroom is an ideal platform on which students can establish a foundation of critical thinking, problem solving, global awareness, civic knowledge and empathy.

It also exposes teachers and students to a variety of ideas. It is through social studies that students are expected to gain knowledge, skills and attitudes that will help them to effectively deal with problems in our contemporary society. It is for this reason that social studies education classroom should be enriched with innovative pedagogy that will help to produce functional members of the society.

Moreso, the methodology and method of social studies education seeks to develop the learner to be an autonomous, patriotic and self-reliant citizen which blended learning back to develop in a learner, it enhances the understanding of events and personalities that have influenced our social relationship around man.

Social studies education helps students to understand what is good and unique in the physical, social, economic and cultural / tradition which hitherto have been neglected. It makes students aware of the problems in their country and the world in general and appreciation of diversity and inter-dependence of all the members of the local community of the wider national and international communities.

The teaching of social studies provides students with a problem solving attitude. Mbabe (2007), observe that the need for social integration and national unity in Nigeria is importance.

Lastly, social studies helps and students to have respect for constitution, authority, law and order in the society. It helps students appreciate others and that of others and also respect the dignity of man and labour.

Benefits of blended learning strategy to upper basic students

Harasim (2006) highlights the following as some of the benefits of blended learning strategy. Blended learning or instruction is reportedly more effective then purely face to face or purely online classes. It can also result in high levels of students' achievement more effective than face-to-face learning.

Again, by using a combination of digital instruction and one-on-one face time, students can work on their own with new concepts which frees teachers up to circulate and support individual students who may need individualized attention. Rather than playing to the lowest common denominator as they would in a traditional classroom, teachers can now streamline their instruction to help all students reach their full potential.

Also, proponents of blended learning argue that incorporating the "asynchronous internet communication technology" into higher education courses serves to facilitate a simultaneous independent and collaborative learning experience. This incorporation is a major contributor to student satisfaction and success in such courses. The use of information and communication technologies have been found to improve student attitudes toward learning.

More so, it helps communication between lecturers and part-time students improved. This also make students to better evaluate their understanding of course material via the use computer based qualitative and quantitative assessment modules.

Blended learning strategy has the potential to reduce educational expenses although some dispute that blended learning is inherently less expensive than traditional classroom learning. As a result of this, it lower costs by putting classrooms into the online space and it essentially replaces pricy textbooks with electronic devices that students often bring themselves to class. Textbooks which can be accessed digitally, may also help to drive down textbook budgets.

Blended learning often includes software that automatically collects student data and measures academic progress. It provides teachers, students and parents detailed students data. Other texts are automatically scored, providing instantaneous feedback. Students' login and work times are also measured to ensure accountability, social with blended learning strategy may also choose the reallocate resources to boost students' achievement outcomes.

Furthermore, blended learning allows for personalized education, replacing the model where a teacher stands in front of the classroom and everyone is expected to stay at the same pace. It allows students to work at their own pace, making sure they fully understand new concepts before moving on. A classroom environment that incorporates blended learning naturally requires learners to demonstrate more autonomy, self-regulation and independence in order to succeed. If teachers offer a form of initial programme orientation before introducing blended learning of strategies, it can better prepare students to feel confident navigation the different components and developing a stronger sense of independence.

Blended learning supports the use of standards as a way to manage quality and ease of use. A learning management system, or federation of systems helps develop a between feel for an online

community where discussions can be held to better aid students interest in social studies education. This virtual learning environment helps connect teachers with students without physically being present. Many schools use this online tool for online classes, class work, question and answer forums, and other school related work. Blended learning strategy yielded positive results from the online community.

Blended learning strategy is a teaching innovation adopted to ease the flow teaching and learning in schools. As a result of the adaptation of the teaching and learning method, it has enhanced quantitative and qualitative teaching and learning in schools.

Blended learning is a mixture of online and in-person delivery where the online portion effectively replaces some of the face-to-face contact time rather than supplementing it. It consist of a combination of traditional modes of instruction with online modes of learning drawing on technology-mediated instruction where all participants in the learning process one separated by distance some of the time.

Blended learning strategy outcome has helped developed a better feel for an online community where discussions can be held to better and students. This virtual learning environment helps connect professors with students without physically being present. Many schools use this online tool for online classes, classwork, question and answer forums, and other school related work.

Again, social studies education which uses the methodology developed by blended learning of strategy offers a balanced human development programme in the sense that it gives balanced consideration to cognitive, affective and psychomotor development of the learners (Ikwumelu, 2019). It also exposes the learners or students to a great amount of facts, concepts and generalizations from the social sciences, humanities and sciences. Blended learning exposure develops their intellectual capabilities so much that their understanding of related disciplines is enhanced.

Recommendations

Based on the issue discussed in this paper, the following recommendations are hereby presented.

i. Blended learning strategy by its disposition and if effectively utilized can expose and accelerates rapid exposure of students in their academics.
ii. Blended learning strategy helps students not only to depend on physical teacher but much on online teaching.
iii. It helps teacher to save more time than understanding face to face before students.
iv. Blended learning strategy has the potential to reduce education expense like buying books and erecting chalkboard for academics for students.
v. Social studies education uses blended learning outcome to enrich the study and learning of social studies education in schools.
vi. Blended learning has disadvantage as it has strong dependence on the technical resources or tools with which the blended learning experience is delivered.
vii. Moreso, it has been noted that providing effective feedback is more time consuming when electronic media and e-learning platforms services are used.
viii. Social studies education as an echo on the usage of blending learning

strategy should be compulsory at all levels of education in Nigeria.

ix. Social studies teachers who must use blended learning must undergo strategic training always.

REFERENCES

Adewuya C. (2011). The oral approach with large classes language learning journal. 10(9), 41-46.

Basye, D. (2014). Personalized vs. differentiated vs. individualized learning. ISTE Retrieved May 4, 2016.

Ikwumelu, S. N. (2019). Social studies education in Nigeria, Onitsha: Qutrite publishers.

Harasim, L. (2006). Shift happens: online education as a new paradigm in learning. The internet and higher education. 3 (1-2): 41-61.

Mbaba, J. O. (2019). Pedagogical constraints and upper basic school students performance in social studies in Abakaliki Education zone, Ebonyi State (unpublished) Ph.D Thesis.

Mbaba J. O. (2007). The role of social studies education in Nation-building, Nigeria, vol 1, maiden edition, Nsukka, great Ap Express publishers Ltd.

Mezieobi, K. (2015). Negativized or positivized educational change which direction is Nigeria's tithing? Nigeria South-south Journal of social studies and civic education, Vol. 9(8), Pp. 12 -20.

Federal Republic of Nigeria, FRN (2014). National policy on Education, Abuja Government Press.

Toungo, H. (2007). The role of social studies in preventing the breakdown of cultural values in Nigeria. Journal of humanities CD social science vol. 1, Academic Publication.