

## BLENDING LEARNING AS A FUTURE LEARNING MODEL TO ENHANCE STUDENTS' LEARNING COMPETENCE

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### ABSTRACT

The trend of blended learning as a learning model has increased dramatically since the outbreak of Covid-19. This library study was intended to explore the usefulness of blended learning to promote students' learning. The data were collected from various sources including online sources. This study revealed that blended learning is a learning process that utilizes various approaches. The learning process takes place conventionally and online. The blended learning model can be used to improve student learning competence because students do not only listen to teachers' lectures but also do more learning activities such as observing, undertaking, presenting, creating, transferring, and so on. In blended learning, students have positioned themselves as active learners so that students' attention and learning outcomes increase. Moreover, in blended learning, it is very possible for learning interactions to occur from anywhere and anytime. In the application of blended learning, educators should ensure that all students have adequate facilities and infrastructure in order to make the learning process becomes successful.

**Keywords:** Blended Learning, Future, Model, Enhance, Competence

### INTRODUCTION

The spread and spread of the Coronavirus in early 2020 made the world stop for a moment from the hectic daily activities. The Covid-19 virus, as determined by the WHO (World Health Organization) was raised from an epidemic to pandemic status. As it is known that a pandemic is a case of the spread of disease in a wide area on several continents, or throughout the world. A widespread endemic disease with a stable number of infected people does not constitute a pandemic (Rahayu & Wirza, 2020). With the warning from WHO, all levels of government around the world are asked to

increase cases of Covid 19 as a non-natural disaster which requires the usual activities to be temporarily suspended in order to break the chain of transmission (Abidah et al., 2020).

The Covid-19 pandemic certainly affects all sectors of human life throughout the world including the education sector. Consequently, people were forced to adapt to the new order of life, including in the world of education. This condition is a challenge for schools and the community. In order to prevent the spread of the Covid-19 virus, schools were forced to temporarily stop face-to-face learning activities in class. To respond to situations

like this, the world of education utilizes one of the appropriate learning models during the pandemic by using blended learning. This learning model emerged as an answer to the weaknesses of face-to-face learning and online learning (Singh et al., 2021). Currently, blended learning is the best learning used during the transition to normal conditions, this learning combines face-to-face learning with online learning. Blended learning combines the best characteristics of classroom learning and the best characteristics of online learning to increase active independent learning by students and reduce the amount of face-to-face time in class (Ma et al., 2019).

The blended learning model is very suitable to be applied during a pandemic like today. This learning process is considered effective in overcoming problems that occur during the pandemic (Andrzej, 2020). Educators and students can more easily communicate and carry out the learning process compared to using conventional methods. This is proven by the running of the learning process during the pandemic even though they are in different places, and under different conditions, they can take advantage of online learning, as well as if learning will be added directly in order to emphasize

understanding of learning for students (Jost et al., 2021). However, this is with a note looking at the existing situation and conditions, if the location is in the green zone, learning can apply the blended learning method.

A blended learning model that combines face-to-face and online activities. In its application, this learning reduces direct learning in the classroom. The purpose of using this learning model is so that students are more independent and active in learning (Islam et al., 2018). The advantages of this learning model are that it can deliver learning materials anywhere and anytime, offline and online learning are complementary, learning becomes effective and efficient, increases accessibility, and learning becomes flexible.

The blended learning model is carried out with the presence of the teacher and with electronic communication. The presence of educators can be done alternately between physical and virtual. Some class meetings are conducted with physical meetings and other meetings are conducted virtually (Lockee, 2021). Another form of blended learning is a virtual meeting between educators and students, both of which are in different locations but give each other feedback, ask

questions, and answer. Blended learning is the ease of learning that combines various modes of delivery, teaching models, and learning styles, introducing a variety of media options for dialogue between the facilitator and the person receiving the lesson. Blended learning is also a combination of direct teaching (face to face) and online learning, but more than that as an element of social implementation (Wargadinata et al., 2020).

Blended learning is no longer acting as the only information provider. Learning functions as a tutor, facilitator, and motivator. Therefore, educators should develop their creativity to mix and match with direct learning and online learning. Face-to-face meetings should be packed with effective discussion and collaboration methods (Jalinus et al., 2021). Tasks that have been given to students can be used as material as an assessment of the desired competence goals. When online learning educators can present interesting content for students, it can be in the form of images, videos, audio, animations, and so on. Blended learning increases active independent learning by students and reduces the amount of face-to-face time in class. With internet-based technology, educators use mixed learning methods to

redesign their subjects so that there are online activities (Siripongdee et al., 2020).

Many studies have been conducted related to the implementation of blended learning as this learning model has been introduced since the development of educational technologies in education sectors, it is, however, only a few studies were conducted to investigate the usefulness of blended learning for the post-covid-19 pandemic. Therefore, this study aims at investigating the use of blended learning as a future learning model to enhance students learning competence.

## **RESEARCH METHODS**

This study employed a library research design where the data were collected from various sources both printed and online sources. The data in this study were collected through the documentation by means of browsing and library research, namely: looking for data about the object of research in the form of notes, transcripts, books, newspapers, magazines, agendas, and so on. Data analysis was carried out using descriptive-analytical techniques that described and classified the data and then followed by interpretation of the research results. The next step was to conduct exploration, which was to raise the meaning of the

research results that have been achieved. The findings of this study were presented descriptively and angulated by providing various data from different sources to establish valid and reliable findings to broaden readers' horizons on the protectives of blended learning.

## **FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION**

a learning model is a plan or pattern that is used as a guide in planning classroom learning or tutorial learning. So, it can be concluded that the learning model is a systematic procedure or pattern that is used as a guide to achieving learning objectives in technical strategies, methods, media, and tools in the learning environment (Huda et al., 2019). After the spread of the Covid-19 virus throughout the world, the education system began to innovate for an effective learning process during the pandemic because all activities in every educational institution are required to be temporarily closed during the pandemic, and all delivery of learning materials at their respective homes.

Blended Learning refers to the combination of e-learning based learning methods (electronic learning) with face-to-face learning methods or conventional methods. The use of this method is relatively new in the world of education.

Blended learning is a learning method that combines two or more methods and approaches in learning to achieve the objectives of the learning process (Anthony, 2019). Another form of blended learning is virtual meetings between educators and students. Where they are possible to be in different places but can give each other feedback, ask questions, answer, interact between students and educators as well as between students and students.

Blended learning has certain advantages, such as flexibility and comfort in the learning environment, which has an effect on increasing learning, learning interest, and social interaction (Bahri et al., 2020). Based on the author's perspective, this method at least has several advantages. First, blended learning makes it easier for educators to deliver learning materials and make it easier for students to access learning materials. This learning method can accommodate the obligations of the teacher in delivering teaching materials because this method allows teaching materials to be uploaded into the e-Learning system. Students are facilitated in accessing the material considering that the material uploaded to the e-Learning system can be accessed independently

anytime and anywhere (Gamage et al., 2020).

Second, blended learning allows attendance, tracking of learning progress, and value administration to be done automatically in the e-learning system (Jordan, 2009). Currently, Moodle as one of the best learning management systems is able to meet these needs. Moodle is an open-source system that allows users to modify the system by installing additional plug-ins according to learning needs. For attendance, there is a plug-in that can automatically record student activity while in the system and then report it to educators and administrators. Distribution of values can also be made easy with Moodle's built-in features. Other online learning systems can also be similarly utilized by the educators to carry out all learning stages as long as suitable for the students' accessibility and their capability (Portillo & Lopez de la Serna, 2021).

The application of the blended learning model is very effective in improving the quality of learning for students, it can be said to be effective, this is indicated by the fact that there is a change in the average student learning outcomes after the implementation of the blended learning model. So based on this research, it can be said that blended learning has an effect on

improving learning outcomes (Seage & Türegün, 2020). This shows that the application of the blended learning model is effectively used in learning. Educators can take advantage of today's technological sophistication. Like the many applications that can be used in learning. Most educators will use applications that are being loved in society, including using the WhatsApp application, google classroom, video calls, YouTube, google form, and so on (Portillo & Lopez de la Serna, 2021).

Blended Learning is known as learning that combines one or more learning models. Blended learning that develops is a combination of one or more dimensions, including face-to-face learning, synchronous virtual collaboration, asynchronous virtual collaboration, and self-paced asynchronous. Learning face-to-face learning is held in the form of classroom learning activities, practical activities, mentoring, or on-the-job training. Learning activities in the classroom include the delivery of material through face-to-face learning, presentation discussions, exercises, and exams.

Synchronous virtual collaboration is a collaborative teaching format that involves interaction between educators and students delivered at the same time. This

collaborative activity is carried out by using instant messaging or voice chat (Heilporn et al., 2021). This facility may be used to communicate between educators and students during lessons. Meanwhile, asynchronous Virtual collaboration is a collaborative teaching format that involves interaction between educators and students delivered at different times. The facilities used in this learning activity are online discussion boards or discussion forums and e-mail (Dey & Bandyopadhyay, 2019). Moreover, Self-paced asynchronous is an independent learning model at different times where students can learn the material provided by the teacher in the form of teaching material modules or do assignments and exercises online. In addition, self-paced asynchronous students can learn subject matter by means of links to other teaching resources (Tallent-Runnels et al., 2006).

There are some of the characteristics possessed by blended learning such as a) learning combines various ways of delivering teaching materials, teaching models, styles to certain technologies, or certain media in the learning process. Blended learning can be done optimally so that the learning process has maximum results. b) media-based learning and technology, especially information

technology, meaning that blended learning is able to combine the learning process using online media and other conventional methods. c) the instructor or supervisor becomes a facilitator so that students are able to learn independently to learn to develop the material that has been obtained (Namyssova et al., 2019).

The implementation stage of learning has two parts, the first is the offline learning stage, in which at this stage learning is completely handed over to each student's guardian. Between one student guardian and another has different learning procedures. Both online learning. The application of this blended learning model has many advantages and disadvantages as well as the impacts that arise (Sandanayake, 2019). By knowing the advantages and disadvantages and the impact it can have, it can reflect how high the level of success is and how far the learning development is applied so that it can be used as a guide to determine the next step.

In this learning model, there are several stages in the learning process, including learning planning. The planning stage has an important position in the application of learning. Planning itself is a design made to determine what must be done in order to achieve the goals that

have been determined (Brata et al., 2021). In a learning institution, of course, the learning process will not happen by itself, there needs to be an interaction between school members such as students, educators, school principals, and others. A learning model is needed that is used as a teacher's parameter in teaching, the reasons behind why choosing a learning model, objectives, materials, and media used in learning. Planning is prepared based on needs in a certain period of time. More importantly, planning can be carried out easily and on target (Mantra et al., 2019).

The application of blended learning is carried out by the presence of the teacher and by electronic communication (Keskin & Yurdugül, 2020). The presence of educators can be done alternately between physical and virtual. Some class meetings are conducted with physical meetings (in traditional classrooms i.e., face to face) and other meetings are conducted virtually (Lockee, 2021). The steps of a lesson have been neatly arranged by the teacher before starting to guide the students. Regarding the online learning steps carried out by educators today, they are generally the same as the learning steps implemented before the pandemic, including the introduction, content, and closing.

Furthermore, to know students' learning improvement, assessment can be done both in the form formative and summative (Widiastuti, 2018).

The blended learning method is basically a combination of the advantages of learning that is carried out face-to-face and virtually. The blended learning model is the ease of learning that combines various methods of delivery, teaching models, and learning styles (Mestan, 2019). In the blended learning method, students are also introduced to various choices of learning media, between being a facilitator or just receiving learning materials. In addition, the blended learning method is also a combination of face-to-face learning and distance learning or online. The blended learning method is an integrated learning method between classroom and e-learning (Gladkova et al., 2019). The implementation of this blended learning model is considered more effective because, during the pandemic, distance or online learning alone is deemed to have various shortcomings that can be covered by conducting face-to-face or offline learning.

The disadvantage that students have when learning using the internet or online is that there are no accompanying educators so students cannot immediately

get feedback on their achievements and tend to experience various misunderstandings (Liguori & Winkler, 2020). So, it is hoped that this blended learning method will be a way out for students who have various limitations and shortcomings while doing online learning or distance learning. However, face-to-face learning is not always effective, so the most appropriate way is to do blended learning.

In a conclusive sense, the blended learning method is a combination of two separate learning models, namely traditional learning with computer technology-based learning with the emphasis used in the sense that has been explained, namely a focus on developing computer technology and the internet. In addition, the blended learning method is considered the most appropriate answer to overcome various learning problems and is a provision to face future learning trends because the emphasis of this blended learning method emphasizes a combination of conventional methods, namely face-to-face learning and online methods that are very suitable for the development of this millennial era.

## **CONCLUSION**

Blended Learning is a learning method that combines face-to-face meetings with online materials in harmony. A blend of conventional learning where educators and students meet face-to-face and meet online which can be accessed anytime and anywhere. Blended learning is combining the best features of face-to-face learning and the best features of online learning to increase active independent learning by students and reduce the amount of face-to-face time in class. With internet-based technology, educators use mixed learning methods to redesign their subjects so that there are online activities. The application of the blended learning model is considered to be an alternative learning used during the Covid-19 pandemic because educators and students cannot meet in person. Learning the blended learning model is one of the government's efforts to prevent the spread of the Covid-19 outbreak from getting wider. Some of the positive impacts of the blended learning model, many of which are educators who deepen their knowledge in the field of information technology. The blended learning model is one of the models that is considered effective for improving students' cognitive abilities.



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