

## THE TREND OF BLENDED LEARNING IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Dilfuza Azamkulovna Pulatova

Teacher of Chirchik State Pedagogical University

pulatovadilfuza.78@gmail.com

### Abstract

This article examines the research of foreign scientists on how blended learning allows students to develop independent work skills and increase motivation for learning, preparing students for research activities, and also examines the trends and advantages of blended learning in higher education.

**Keywords:** blended learning, traditional form of learning, research, motivation, student preparation.

### Introduction

The expansion of the boundaries of traditional training in the field of higher education indicates the relevance of the problem of updating methodological approaches to the professional training of speech therapists at the university. Digitalization of the professional training of speech therapists is caused by the need to adapt to new realities and is gradually becoming a priority in the development of defectological training, as well as other areas of pedagogical training of specialists in general.

A theoretical analysis of scientific literature has revealed global trends of the modern era: blended learning, online lectures and seminars in the format of distance learning, massive online courses and modular systems, new digital learning platforms, updating content with new information technologies and concepts, etc.

Blended learning, also known as hybrid learning, combines elements of traditional face-to-face learning and online learning. It allows students to gain knowledge and skills through various learning formats, such as classroom lectures, webinars, online courses and assignments. This learning model is becoming increasingly popular in higher education. One of the main reasons for the growing popularity of blended learning is that it allows students to have flexibility in their time and learning. Students can choose when and where they want to study, which is especially convenient for those who work or have other commitments.

Additionally, blended learning allows students to receive one-on-one support from instructors. Online courses and assignments can be set up so that students receive feedback from instructors and can ask questions in real time.

Blended learning can also help institutions reduce tuition costs because online courses and assignments can be made available to a large number of students at once. It can also help institutions retain students who may be more inclined to learn online.

Blended learning is based on John Dewey's progressivist theory of the empowered learner (Dewey, 1910). The progressivist theory stated that the teacher should be the guide and director,



but students should act more independently in the classroom, have a voice in their learning, and manage their own time (Dewey, 1910). Teachers who begin this liberation of control in a blended learning classroom gain more accountability for students as they begin to engage in reflection, goal setting, and making choices about their learning. Vygotsky's (1978) beliefs about the importance of social interactions that occur during guided learning also support blended learning. Teachers implementing a blended learning approach find that this type of classroom environment allows for different speeds of learning and different supports for students in the learning process. The collaborative group work necessary to make blended learning effective and the relationships that students develop while working through problems with peers during class "are fundamental to the long-term success of student interactions and the quality of their learning" [11, p. 22].

Vygotsky's (1978) theory of constructivism also supports blended learning. Student-centered learning in the blended learning classroom is "broadly based on constructivism as a learning theory, which is built on the idea that learners must construct and reconstruct knowledge in order to learn effectively, with learning being most effective when the learner creates a meaningful product within an activity" (Attard et al., 2010, p. 2). Blended learning combines face-to-face instruction, social interactions with peers, and online learning. During these various activities, learners are presented with material and given the opportunity to construct their understanding.

### **PRESENTATION OF THE MAIN MATERIAL OF THE ARTICLE**

Research by academics shows that blended learning has many advantages over traditional learning. One study by Louisa Young and colleagues in 2018 found that students who studied in a blended learning format achieved higher test scores than those who studied only in traditional learning methods. [2]

Other studies show that blended learning allows students to develop independent study skills and increase their motivation to learn. Blended learning can also be more cost-effective and resource-efficient, as online courses and materials are accessible to a larger number of students. [9,10]

The study by S.M. Alzahrani and M.A. Ali, "Blended Learning in Higher Education: Trends and Benefits" (2019), examines the trends and benefits of blended learning in higher education, including increased student engagement, flexibility, and access to resources. The paper by H. T. Wu and C. Y. Wu, "The Effectiveness of Blended Learning in Mathematics Education: A Meta-Analysis" (2018), examines the effectiveness of blended learning in mathematics education, finding that it can improve students' academic performance and attitudes toward learning. [1,5]

A study by D. D. Hsu and M. A. Wang on blended learning in science education highlights its potential to improve students' engagement, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills. [2]

A. M. Fulger and A. R. Wetzel, "The Impact of Blended Learning on Students' Motivation and Achievement in STEM Education" (2017), examines the impact of blended learning on students' motivation and achievement in STEM education, finding that it can improve both outcomes.[1] L.K. Vozney and other scholars developed the "Framework for Assessing the Effectiveness of Blended Learning in K-12 Education" (2016). This framework for assessing



the effectiveness of blended learning in K-12 education includes factors such as student engagement, teacher support, and technology integration.[1,6]

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Overall, these studies indicate that blended learning can be an effective approach to education, especially in improving student engagement, motivation, and academic performance. However, it requires careful planning and support from educators to be successful.

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However, some studies indicate that blended learning may require a higher degree of self-discipline on the part of students and educators, as well as more careful planning and organization of the learning process.

Overall, the studies indicate that blended learning can be an effective and innovative approach to preparing students for research activities, but it requires appropriate preparation and organization on the part of educators and educational institutions.

The concept of blended learning involves the use of both traditional teaching methods and modern technologies. It allows students to gain knowledge and skills in various formats, such as lectures, online courses, discussions, practical classes, etc. Blended learning can prepare students for research more effectively. Students can access a wealth of information and materials online and use modern technology to analyze data and conduct research.[3]

One of the main advantages of blended learning is the ability to personalize learning. Students can work at their own pace and choose the learning methods that are most effective for them. This can help them develop independent work and research skills.

In order to successfully prepare students for research activities in a blended learning environment, it is necessary to create the appropriate conditions and infrastructure. It is important to ensure the availability and quality of online courses, as well as to provide students with the necessary tools and software for conducting research.

It is also important to conduct regular feedback and assessments in order to determine the effectiveness of training and make adjustments to the curriculum.

Overall, preparing students for research activities in a blended learning environment can be more effective than in a traditional form of education. It allows students to develop independent work skills and use modern technologies to conduct research.

## CONCLUSION

Blended learning is becoming increasingly popular in modern education, as it allows combining traditional teaching methods and online technologies. Research shows that blended learning can improve the effectiveness of learning, increase student motivation, and improve their learning outcomes. Preparing students for research is a key aspect of education, as it enables them to develop critical thinking, information analysis, and independent work skills. In a blended learning environment, students can use online resources to obtain information and solve problems, and interact with the instructor and other students through various online platforms. [10]



In addition, blended learning can help develop students' social skills, such as teamwork and collaborative problem solving. Online platforms for project work and group discussions can help students develop these skills, which in turn can be useful for their future careers.

Despite all the benefits of blended learning, it also has its drawbacks. Some students may have difficulty working independently and need more support from instructors. In addition, not all courses can be adapted to the online format, which can lead to limitations in the choice of courses for students.

Overall, blended learning is a trend that will continue to grow in higher education. It allows students to acquire knowledge and skills in a more flexible manner, which can increase their success in their studies and future careers. Overall, blended learning is a powerful tool for preparing students for research activities. The use of online technologies and various teaching methods can help students develop critical thinking skills, independent work, and social interaction, which in turn can lead to more successful academic activities and future careers.

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