

HYFLEX LEARNING: THE READINESS OF THE TEACHERS TO TRANSITION FROM ONLINE DISTANCE LEARNING TO HYBRID FLEXIBLE LEARNING

by:
Jayvee D. Perez
Teacher Applicant

This epidemic has made the educational system of the Philippines both public and private schools into massive disarray. From the report of UNICEF (2021), more than 168 million schools for children across the globe was forced to close over the year. Other private schools forced to closed by some have tried to implement lessons though online with their respective students since 2020, while the government or public schools chose to adapt the modular way of learning.

Recently, the government has begun to conduct various pilot testing to different school contexts for a hybrid system as the lockdown and alert levels goes down and more people gets vaccinated. This way, schools are starting to prepare for a Hyflex method to be implemented in the next academic year.

Teachers educate students simultaneously in a real classroom and synchronously online using video-conferencing software in HyFlex (Kohnke & Moorhouse, 2021). In-person, synchronous, and asynchronous online classes will be held together with the activities. Each lessons or activity will provide the learners and parents the choice if they would like to participate or not. To fully operate this approach, the classroom must have a camera for the videoconferencing device for the students who will be attending online. The lesson will be aired lived and can be recorded. The teacher may also communicate with in-person and online learners. Both on-site and the online students can achieve equal access to learning with the given material.

This step will require new set of gadgets and extra tools to be used inside the classroom, such as laptops, cameras, a microphone, and most specially, a strong internet connection which will be used by the teachers. It also raises the issue of safety for the learners, teachers, and staffs who needs to have a healthy and clear rooms for an efficient process. Finally, trainings and workshops must be included to properly execute the competencies in the Hyflex method.

The teachers posed that there's a limitation to the preparation because the pilot testing of the courses will be held at the beginning of the year 2022, and to formally launch Hyflex Learning in June 2022. The transition from Online Distance Learning to HyFlex should be prepared ahead of time and with the help of experts.

Taking into consideration all of the said factors, possible solutions to assist the teachers in preparing for the transition include; 1) giving the teachers a much longer time for the planning stage to familiarize and train themselves with the classroom instruction and management and also techniques that may be useful. 2) writing a specific and clear rulebook pertaining to the liability of the gadgets that will be used inside the classroom; and 3) providing the faculty annexes a regular PCR tests. These things may help the teachers in becoming more positive to the new approach of teaching and prepared to shift from ODL to HyFlex learning.

References:

Kohnke, L., & Moorhouse, B. L. (2021). Adopting HyFlex in higher education in response to COVID-19: students' perspectives. *Open Learning*, 36(3), 231-244.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/02680513.2021.1906641>

UNICEF. (2021). COVID-19 and School Closure: One Year of Education Disruption.

UNICEF Office of Research (Vol. 1, pp. 1-18). Retrieved from

https://en.unesco.org/sites/default/files/en_methodological_note_-_unesco_map_on_covid-19_caused_school_closures_reopening_final.pdf