

RETHINKING LEARNING: BENEFITS AND DRAWBACKS OF ALTERNATIVE DELIVERY MODE

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Alternative delivery methods—from online learning and hybrid classrooms to experiential and competency-based education—are progressively changing how knowledge is taught and learned as the educational landscape changes. Numerous advantages are provided by these cutting-edge strategies, such as improved accessibility, individualized instruction, and adaptability for a range of student demographics. They do, however, come with drawbacks, including the possibility of less social connection, variations in technological ability, and doubts over the efficacy of non-traditional tests. This change necessitates a serious reassessment of 21st-century effective learning, emphasizing the requirement for equilibrium between leveraging new technologies and maintaining the core principles of meaningful, engaged education.

Over the past ten years, there has been a significant global trend toward alternate learning delivery methods, including competency-based models, blended learning, and online education. These learning modalities, which provide distinct benefits in terms of flexibility, accessibility, and personalized learning, have had a notably revolutionary effect in both industrialized and developing nations. Globally, the popularity of Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) has democratized access to education by providing learners with high-quality content, frequently at little or no cost (Laurillard, 2016). This is particularly advantageous in areas with little or inaccessible traditional educational facilities. For instance, students in nations like Brazil, South Africa, and India may now attend courses from prestigious colleges that would otherwise be out of their price range because to the worldwide reach of platforms like Coursera and edX (Huang et al., 2018).

The way that education is delivered locally is also changing as a result of various delivery models. Blended learning, which combines in-person and online instruction, has been demonstrated to increase student engagement and learning results in nations with more developed educational systems, including the US (Horn & Staker, 2014). Both the potential and constraints of such approaches were illustrated in the Philippines by the incorporation of digital platforms into K-12 education, especially in reaction to the COVID-19 outbreak. Even while online and hybrid learning made it possible for students to continue their education during lockdowns, problems including the digital divide, inadequate teacher preparation, and a lack of funding made it difficult to use these models in environments with limited resources (Garcia et al., 2021). These difficulties highlight a larger issue: can alternative delivery models reach all students, particularly those from underprivileged families, given the growing reliance on technology in education?

Alternative learning modalities offer a number of disadvantages despite their potential. The absence of social connection inherent in typical classroom settings is one of the biggest issues. According to research, in-person contacts between teachers and students are essential for promoting motivation, emotional support, and deep learning (Jaggars, 2014). Students may experience loneliness in entirely online or distant settings, which can impair their general wellbeing and academic performance (Pappano, 2018). Furthermore, worries about the caliber and rigor of education provided have been raised by the quick growth of online learning platforms. Some alternative learning platforms have come under fire for providing poor educational experiences that do not match the norms of traditional universities due to a lack of appropriate accreditation and control (Beqiri & Ramadani, 2021).

Alternative delivery methods' efficacy is also influenced by students' and teachers' digital skills and technological infrastructure. Online learning is typically more successful in high-income nations with widespread internet access. However, access to dependable

internet and digital gadgets continues to be a major obstacle in low-income and rural areas, aggravating educational disparities (UNESCO, 2020). The potential advantages of online learning are undermined in the Philippines, where a large number of students in isolated regions still do not have access to reliable internet connections (Garcia et al., 2021). This technological disparity emphasizes the necessity of laws that guarantee all students, irrespective of their location or financial situation, fair access to the tools and resources they require.

In summary, alternative learning delivery methods have the revolutionary potential to change education both locally and globally. These approaches offer chances for individualized learning, flexibility, and accessibility, but they also come with drawbacks, such as social isolation, digital inequality, and disparities in educational quality. It is crucial to address these issues as educational institutions around the world continue to incorporate these alternate modalities in order to guarantee that all students, regardless of their location or background, can benefit.

The Official Website of DepED Division of Bataan

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