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Research Article

Challenges in Hyflex Learning in Zambales, Philippines

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ABSTRACT

The modality of learning in the Philippines became highly revolutionized during the start of the global pandemic that hit the entire economy and education sector, which has negative implications. Universities and Basic Education designed an alternative mode of learning that fits the regulations of the Inter-Agency Task Force on COVID-19 (IATF). The researchers used a quantitative research design in collecting and analyzing the numerical data. Because it is the methodology that researchers use to test theories about people's attitudes and behaviors based on numerical and statistical evidence. Students' preferences in terms of the hybrid learning approach are with the in-person approach because they can easily understand and catch up with the subject being taught. The majority of students are still determined to have limited in-person or face-to-face classroom discussion. The most common challenges experienced by the students, being ranked accordingly, are the lack of appropriate devices and the interaction with teachers and students. According to Kohnke & Moorhouse (2021), the utilization of various features of the video-conferencing software and other digital tools was seen as essential to the effectiveness of the HyFlex Learning Modality. That is why it is important for colleges to strictly monitor and strengthen the conduct of hybrid learning and follow the compliance set by the National Government Agencies.

Keywords: *Challenges, Hybrid learning, New Normal*

Introduction

The modality of learning in the Philippines became highly revolutionized during the start of the global pandemic that hit the entire economy and education sector, which has negative

implications. Universities and Basic Education designed an alternative mode of learning that fits the regulations of the Inter-Agency Task Force on COVID-19 (IATF).

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The Commission on Higher Education released the new Circular Memorandum Order (CMO 4 Series of 2020) regarding Sustaining Flexible Learning in Higher Education, which mentions that higher educational institutions must determine the percentage of students that can be accommodated and be allowed to attend face-to-face classes or implement a limited face-to-face approach. This is in compliance with the rules set by the IATF. According to Estrellado (2021), as the country adjusts and awaits the ebb of COVID-19, the recalibration of the curriculum from basic and higher institutions, the campaign for proactive thinking of curriculum planners, and the emphasis on insights, online and hybrid learning will be the mainstay imperative.

Most educational institutions have an alternative mode of learning like a module or an online learning approach. The New Normal is now starting because the educational sector is now preparing for the opening of classes with a hybrid type of educational approach. The researcher will be conducting a series of studies and data gathering regarding challenges in hybrid learning. In the study of Jamison et al. (2014), it is designed to foster hybrid learning, a contextual, transformative, collaborative, and situated learning approach that holds potential in facing the increasing complexity of engineering. The launch of this new Hyflex Classroom will ensure that educational institutions have the opportunity to innovate their systems and operations to match the evolving needs of students (Technews, 2022).

Objectives:

In focus of the study the researcher will be able to:

1. Determine the approach to the modalities of Hyflex learning in terms of:
 - a. In-Person
 - b. synchronously online
 - c. asynchronously online
2. Determine what challenges are being experienced by the students in terms of:
 - a. Lack of appropriate devices
 - b. Student Engagement
 - c. Collaboration
 - d. Staying connected with teachers
3. What are the strategies used in Hyflex Learning and why?

Methods

The researchers used a quantitative research design in collecting and analyzing the numerical data. Because it is the methodology which researchers use to test theories about people’s attitudes and behaviors based on numerical and statistical evidence (What Is Quantitative Research?, n.d.). Researchers sample a large number of users. The locale of the study is within the selected schools in the province of Zambales, and the sampling size will be around 48 respondents. An online questionnaire using Google Form will be sent to all the students to determine the challenges of the hybrid learning approach. The statistical treatment that will be used is the frequency base table distribution.

Results and Discussion

Profile of Respondents according to Age:

48 responses

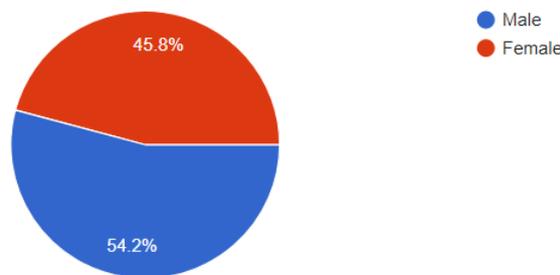


Figure 1

Figure 1 shows that there are 54.2% of males and 45.8% of females who participated in the conduct of the research survey regarding the challenges experienced in hyflex learning.

Determine the approach to the modalities of Hyflex learning

48 responses

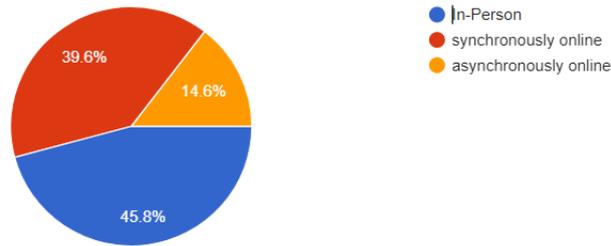


Figure 2

Figure 2 shows that 45.8% preferred to determine the modality of learning, and 39.6% preferred synchronous online learning, while 14.6% preferred asynchronous online learning. Because they can easily understand and catch up with the subject being taught, the majority of students are still determined to have a limited in-person or face-to-face classroom discussion.

Determine what challenges are being experienced by the students

48 responses

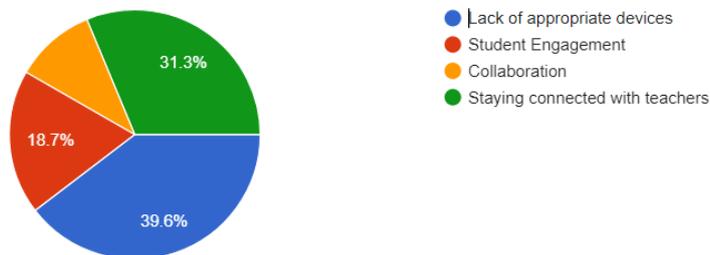


Figure 3

Figure 3 shows that the most challenges experienced by the students being ranked accordingly are the following 39.6 % of the students experienced a lack of appropriate devices, followed by 31.3% Staying connected with teachers and the last is that 18.7% of the students are more engaged in student engagement. The government must address the following issues raised by students.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Students' preferences in terms of the hybrid learning approach are with the in-person approach because they can easily understand and catch up with the subject being taught. The

majority of students are still determined to have limited in-person or face-to-face classroom discussion. The most common challenges experienced by the students, being ranked accordingly, are the lack of appropriate devices and the interaction with teachers and students. According to (Kohnke & Moorhouse, 2021), the utilization of various features of the video-conferencing software and other digital tools was seen as essential to the effectiveness of the HyFlex Learning Modality. That is why it is important for colleges to strictly monitor and strengthen the conduct of hybrid learning and follow the compliance set by the National Government Agencies.

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