

BLENDDED LEARNING: ALTERNATIVE METHODS OF EFFECTIVE ISLAMIC RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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ABSTRAK

Blended learning is a learning method that combines two things, namely face-to-face learning directly and online using the Learning Management System. Simply put, this learning method combines a face-to-face learning system at school and school from home. This learning method is a teaching process by combining teacher-led learning activities using pictures, videos, digital assignments, and face-to-face discussions. Classrooms provide opportunities for students and teachers to be able to carry out the face-to-face teaching and learning process directly. While online learning provides opportunities for teachers to provide independent learning using eLearning components such as games, learning videos, and online quizzes. One of the biggest challenges for schools to implement blended learning methods is the absence of a supportive learning management system. In fact, a qualified learning management system is one of the keys to the success of the blended learning method. Because by having a qualified learning management system, teachers can easily arrange modules, exams, or assessments for all students.

Keywords: *Blended Learning, Effective Islamic Religious Education Method*

INTRODUCTION

Before the term blended learning was widely known to the public, the term E-learning had already boomed in the world of education. E-learning is a digital-based distance learning method by utilizing the internet network and web server as the main infrastructure. It is noted that several universities in Indonesia such as UI and ITB have implemented this learning method.

Advances in technology and the emergence of many Learning Management Systems (LMS) have encouraged online learning to develop rapidly. What about Blended learning? Even though E-learning has grown so rapidly, face-to-face direct learning methods are still needed by students.

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Blended learning is a mixed learning method that combines direct (synchronous) learning methods and independent/indirect learning methods that can be done anytime (Asynchronous). The blended learning method is believed to be the best solution when learning PJJ as it is today.

According to Allen and Ure in Bonk and Graham (2006: 4), blended learning is (1) a combination of learning strategies, (2) a combination of learning methods, (3) a combination of online learning and face-to-face learning. Blended learning has three components consisting of online learning, face-to-face learning, and independent learning. With the incorporation of various strategies, methods, and teaching techniques in blended learning, it is a very interesting model or learning method to be applied in the learning process in the classroom and outside the classroom, so that this method can help students achieve the targets and learning objectives that have been set optimally. . Therefore, the title of this research is **BLENDED LEARNING: Alternative Methods of Effective Islamic Religious Education.**

RESEARCH METHODS

The approach used in this study is a qualitative approach.² Qualitative research is research aimed at describing and analyzing phenomena, events, social activities, attitudes, beliefs, perceptions, thoughts of people as well as individuals and groups.³

¹ <https://akupintar.id/info-pintar/-/blogs/metode-pembelajaran-blended-learning>. diakses Jumat 26 Agustus 2022

² Muhadjir, Noeng. 1998. *Metodologi Penelitian Kualitatif*. Yogyakarta: Rake Sarasih, 36

³ Moleong, Lexy J. 2002. *Metode Penelitian Kualitatif*. Bandung: PT Remaja Rosda Karya

Danzi and Lincoln (1994) add that qualitative research is research that uses a natural setting, with the intention of interpreting the phenomena that occur and is carried out by involving various kinds of⁴. Case studies are used in this study because they explore a problem with detailed boundaries, have in-depth data collection, and include various sources of information

From these several definitions, it can be concluded that qualitative research is a research procedure used to examine natural object conditions where the researcher is the key instrument and produces descriptive data in the form of written or spoken words from people and observed behavior.

Data collection is the most strategic step in research, because the main purpose of this research is to obtain data. Without knowing the method of data collection, the researcher will not get data that meets the standards set. Therefore, the data collection methods used by researchers are observation, interviews and documentation.

Bogdan and Biklen (1982) say that data analysis is the process of systematically searching and compiling data obtained from interviews, field notes, and other materials, so that they are easily understood and the findings can be informed to others. Activities in data analysis include data reduction, data presentation, as well as drawing conclusions and verification

THEORITICAL REVIEW

To switch from a face-to-face learning model or meet in person, then turn into online (online) it really requires a lot of effort and costs. But this can be started with the Blended Learning model. What is blended learning? The Blended Learning model is basically a combination of the advantages of learning that is carried out face-to-face and virtually. According to Semler (2005) *“Blended learning combines the best aspects of online learning, structured face-to-face activities, and real world practice. Online learning systems, classroom training, and on-the-job experience have major drawbacks by themselves. The blended learning approach uses the strengths of each to counter the others’ weaknesses.”*⁵

Blended learning is an 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 being taught. Blended learning is also a combination of face-to-face teaching and online teaching, but more than that as an element of social interaction

⁴ Rusli Mohammad, 2013:170

⁵ Semler (2005) *“Blended learning dirujuk pada akun <https://sevima.com>*

According to Bhonk and Graham (2006) in Rusman et al (2012: 244) states that “blended learning is the combination of instruction from two historically separate models of teaching and learning: Traditional learning systems and distributed learning systems. it emphasizes the central role of computer-based technologies in blended learning”.⁶

Blended Learning is a combination of two separate learning models, traditional learning with computer technology-based learning with the emphasis used in the above sense, namely leading to current computer technology, and computer technology referred to here is internet technology.

Learning using Blended Learning is considered more effective, when compared to learning that only uses conventional methods or vice versa. Because Blended Learning places more emphasis on combining conventional methods (face-to-face) with online methods, therefore the readiness of both is the main key to the success and smooth running of online learning. You can get this solution on e Campuz with its e-Academic Portal which is able to pamper lecturers in terms of designing an online lecture. Materials, assignments, video links, ebooks and others can be directly accessed by students taking courses. Lecturers do not need double entry by registering students one by one into the class and making other courses other than those taught in class (eg this is what happened on the Moodle platform).⁷

Thorne (2013) says that blended learning is a mixed system that combines two components or methods at once. The mix is e-learning and multimedia technology. The learning materials used are streaming videos, virtual classes, online animated texts which are combined with traditional forms of learning in the classroom.

Graham (2005) Explains a simpler understanding of blended learning. He revealed that blended learning is learning which combines online learning with traditional or offline learning.

Mosa (in Rusman, 2011) Blended learning combines two main elements, namely learning in class with online. Learning using the internet network in which there is a website-based learning. This learning uses multimedia technology such as streaming video, email, virtual classes and so on.

Dwiyogo (2012) Blended learning is a mixed or combined learning model. The method will mix face-to-face learning with technology-based

⁶ <https://blog.ecampuz.com/apa-itu-metode-blended-learning/>

⁷ <https://blog.ecampuz.com/apa-itu-metode-blended-learning/>

learning. This learning can be accessed online or offline. The learning model has similarities with e-learning.⁸

Steps to Apply Blended Learning in Islamic Religious Education Subjects

In applying the blended learning method there are steps that must be taken by both schools and teachers. This is so that learning continues to run smoothly and can achieve its goals. Do not let the blended learning model be done carelessly so that the learning process becomes messy.

The first step that must be taken by the school is to identify the urgency in implementing learning using the blended learning method and registering the facilities and infrastructure needed in the application of this mixed learning method.

The second step is to design learning techniques using the blended learning method. This includes determining what platforms will be used to support asynchronous or indirect learning and what applications to support face-to-face learning if students really cannot go to school to avoid the spread of the corona virus.

The third step is to socialize the policies taken to students and parents. This is very important because blended learning for ordinary people is a foreign thing. Meanwhile, in its implementation, blended learning does not only require the readiness of teachers and infrastructure, but also the readiness of students and their parents. If needed, schools can make simulations in advance to find out what obstacles students are experiencing so that solutions can be immediately found. Parental involvement is generally required for basic learning levels. For students at a higher level such as high school or college, preparation is more focused on student readiness.

Benefits of Applying Blended Learning

More flexible

The first benefit of blended learning is that students do not have to come to class every day. Teachers and students can make an agreement on the portion of online, independent, and face-to-face learning according to the needs and conditions of students. The length and time of learning are also non-binding so that teachers and students can make an agreement that synchronous learning is carried out and what applications or media will be used in synchronous and asynchronous learning.

The Blended Learning learning method will certainly provide flexibility to students and teachers while studying. Because, with this method, students

⁸ <https://sekolahmuridmerdeka.id/blog/index.php/metode-blended-learning/>

and teachers do not need to come to campus every day. The learning process can be done online in an opportunity, according to the schedule agreement. After that, in the next week or two, the teacher can ask students to meet in class to provide input and suggestions on the material that has been done.

Save Cost & Time

The blended learning model allows teachers and students to further save costs and time. Teachers can save paper use because it can be done paperless. Worksheets, handouts, and other learning supports that previously had to be printed or photocopied, now just upload the files and students download them on their laptops or cellphones. Teachers and students can also save time because they don't have to spend money to come to school.

Another advantage of the Blended Learning learning method is efficiency, both in terms of cost and time. Just like online learning methods in general, with Blended Learning, each stakeholder no longer needs to have teaching materials in physical form, because they are usually available in the form of data files. In addition, this teaching process can also cut costs because transportation costs to come to campus can be cut. Likewise, time efficiency can make students and teachers able to carry out the learning process at home at any time.

Submission of material is more interactive

The concept of blended learning allows teachers to deliver subject matter presented via the internet and made in such a way that it is more interesting and interactive so that it is more detailed and attracts the attention of students. Smart teachers become more creative because they can design learning media that can be used according to the way each student learns. Examples of interactive media that Smart Teachers can use are interactive videos, podcasts, presentations using powerpoint, and materials in e-book format.

More effective and efficient

Each student has a different character and way of learning from one another. There are students who are comfortable studying in the morning, afternoon or even studying at night while relaxing and listening to music. There are also students who are more comfortable studying in their own room, in a coffee shop or in a classroom. That way, using this blended learning method, students can set their own time and place to study.

Learning using a well-designed blended learning method can not only help students achieve learning targets, but can also form independent and responsible students. If in a conventional class, the teaching process is more often done using books or screens on the blackboard, now with the Blended

Learning method the material provided by the teacher can be more interactive. This is because students can receive learning materials in the form of interactive videos, explanation videos from lecturers, e-book materials, and even podcasts.

In addition, it is not uncommon for some teachers to conduct special sessions, such as live sessions, live chat, and webinars to provide lecture materials to students. Thus an explanation of what Blended Learning is and what its benefits are if it is applied in the world of education. In essence, the Blended Learning method is one of the models that has developed in the midst of the demands for the application of the digitalization process in the world of education.

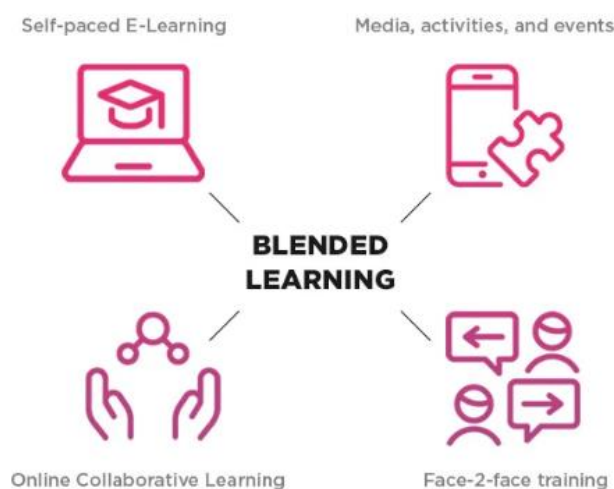
Of course, in addition to changes in learning methods, each stakeholder must also ensure that the various technological infrastructures used can accommodate all of them. Blended Learning is a way of learning that will be used in the future. So that universities can accept more students without the need to add new class infrastructure to accommodate the number of students.

As for the advantages of using blended learning as a combination of direct teaching (face-to-face) and online teaching, but more than that as an element of social interaction, namely:

- a. There is interaction between teacher and student
- b. Teaching can be online or face-to-face
- c. Blended Learning = combining instructional modalities (or delivery media),
- d. Blended Learning = combining instructional methods

DISCUSSION

The concept of blended learning is a method that can also be applied in companies or to people who are already working, namely through training or capacity building of human resources. Companies or organizations that have an approach to blended learning as well as identify the process of realizing the company's goals and objectives. This strategy should go deeper in learning with adjustments to improve the performance of certain teams, such as customer service.



Sumber: foto: <https://tft.unctad.org/about/strategy/blended-learning/>

There are various blended learning that can be applied in learning or training⁹

1. *The Flipped Classroom Islamic Religious Education Model*

The Flipped Classroom Islamic Religious Education is a learning model that engages in learning activities both virtual and face-to-face at the same time. Not only that, the trainer in the Islamic Religious Education learning model will provide time for independent study for participants. Independent learning can be done with various methods, including class discussions and group assignments. That way, participants can manage their own learning process time. This is very compatible with the Islamic Religious Education material studied at school and is even very suitable for discussion with the practical content of fiqh and aqidah akhlaq material.

2. *The Enriched Virtual Model of Islamic Religious Education*

The Enriched Virtual Model is an online teaching method. Teaching this model is different from learning the Flipped Classroom model in face-to-face online teaching. In the Enriched Blended Learning model, participants will not study in class or meet face-to-face with the teacher every day, but in the flipped classroom model schedule, when studying, participants complete assignments independently or in groups.¹⁰

3. *The Individual Rotation Model*

⁹<https://www.ruangkerja.id/blog/memahami-konsep-blended-learning-dan-manfaatnya>

¹⁰ Miscellaneous. 2021. Types of Blended Learning Models [online]. Link: <https://www.teachci.com/blog/types-of-blended-learning-models/> (Accessed: 2 September 2021).

The Individual Rotation learning model provides a different learning method than the general one. The material that must be delivered adjusts to the participant's algorithm. Participants can have a special schedule that is tailored to the programming learning material.

4. The Flex Model of Islamic Religious Education

Referring to the book *Learning in the Digital Age*, The Flex Model was originally designed to assist returning students who have not completed high school education. In training, the application of The Flex Model prioritizes independent learning with the modules that have been provided. Other components can be done directly with group work practices, exercises, and collaboration.

5. The A La Carte Model of Islamic Religious Education

This A La Carte learning model emphasizes the selection of material from the participants. They are free to carry out the learning process because they can choose the material for themselves outside of the training material, which material can be used according to their needs. In addition, the independence of learning outcomes is also very prominent in The A La Carte learning model because it is not limited by place and time.

CONCLUSION

Applying the blended learning method is not as easy as imagined. However, it cannot be denied that blended learning is one of the most effective learning methods applied today. To make it easier for teachers to apply blended learning learning methods. This interactive learning method can also be different when it is done face-to-face or online. For example, when the learning process takes place online, teachers can create short interactive games that can be played online and done individually. Meanwhile, when face-to-face, the teacher can give games about subject matter that students can work on in groups. **BLENDED LEARNING: Alternative Effective Islamic Religious Education Methods** can be implemented by The Flipped Classroom Model of Islamic Religious Education, The Enriched Virtual Model of Islamic Religious Education, The Individual Rotation Model, The Flex Model of Islamic Religious Education, The A La Carte Model of Islamic Education.

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