DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION IN VIET NAM HIGHER EDUCATION

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Many colleges and universities are now conducting digital transformation for future development. Students have a lot of learning options and institutions need to become more flexible.

Digital transformation helps us enhance our teaching and learning activities and the ability to manage the operations effectively – all of which are the key for better students serving. However, many colleges and universities in Viet Nam haven't digitalized yet, or they lack of attempts to carry out digital transformation. As the result, the expense on technology is rising day by day.

This is partly because there are misconceptions about what digital transformation is and how to do it. In this article, we'll help you understand the definition of digital transformation in higher education more thoroughly. This article focuses on the study of forms of blended learning model, discussing the situation and solutions for applying blended learning models to higher education in Vietnam.

In the early 1990s, the concept of E-Learning has firstly appeared, which created the introduction of the Blended Learning model. Since then, E-learning has developed with Classroom learning [1]. Initially, these two learning environments were almost separated because they used different methods and forms to meet the needs of a variety of subjects. While Face-to-Face learning focuses on integration among people in the specified area, E-learning concentrates on integration through learning tools and implement from distance

New technologies, especially digital technology in the modern society has had the big impact on learning and teaching. This form of learning has greatly developed and become popular in the world especially in higher education, not only because of the technology available but also because of the benefits itself such as improving pedagogy, increasing access ability and flexibility, cost-efficient.

In Vietnam, although applying technology in teaching initially began from distance learning followed the E-learning model, it triggered the transformation of experience in learning from Face-to-Face learning to E-learning creating blended learning environments in some modules. However, to effectively apply this model, higher educational institutions in Vietnam need to have a strategic clearly plan. In Vietnam, applying technology to training activities from the early years of the 21st century with initial concepts such as Distance Learning or e-Learning

Higher education institutions in Vietnam have implemented E -Learning to mainly support teaching and study with the Blended Learning model. Important notes when implement blended learning

(1). Professional training and pedagogy for teacher: The teacher's role will be more importance, shifting from knowledge transfer to the role of guiding students on how to approach and solve problems. The requirements for the instructors are not easy, to be more specific, teachers are required to have a high level of professional knowledge that can help students find out, select information and it does not just stop at the level of understanding, it is also required to apply, analyze, summarize.
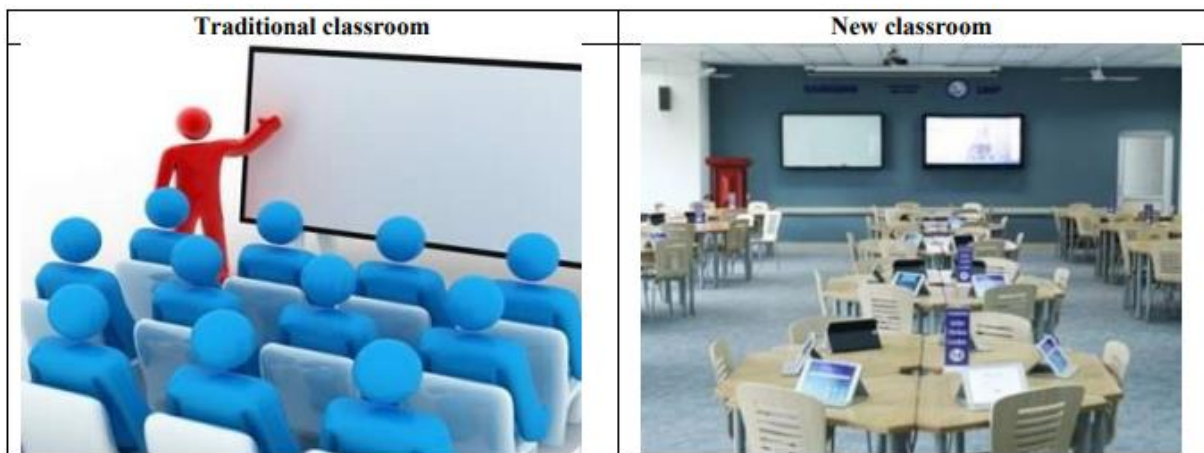
(2) At the university, in each program or module, the learning outcomes are presented as a list of the knowledge, skills, and attitudes students should obtain after completing modules or the courses. Choosing face-to-face or E-Learning or combine both for study activities, a module or the whole course does not purely follow the trend of applying new technology, it has to ensure learners to meet the learning outcomes most effectively.

Levels of blended learning
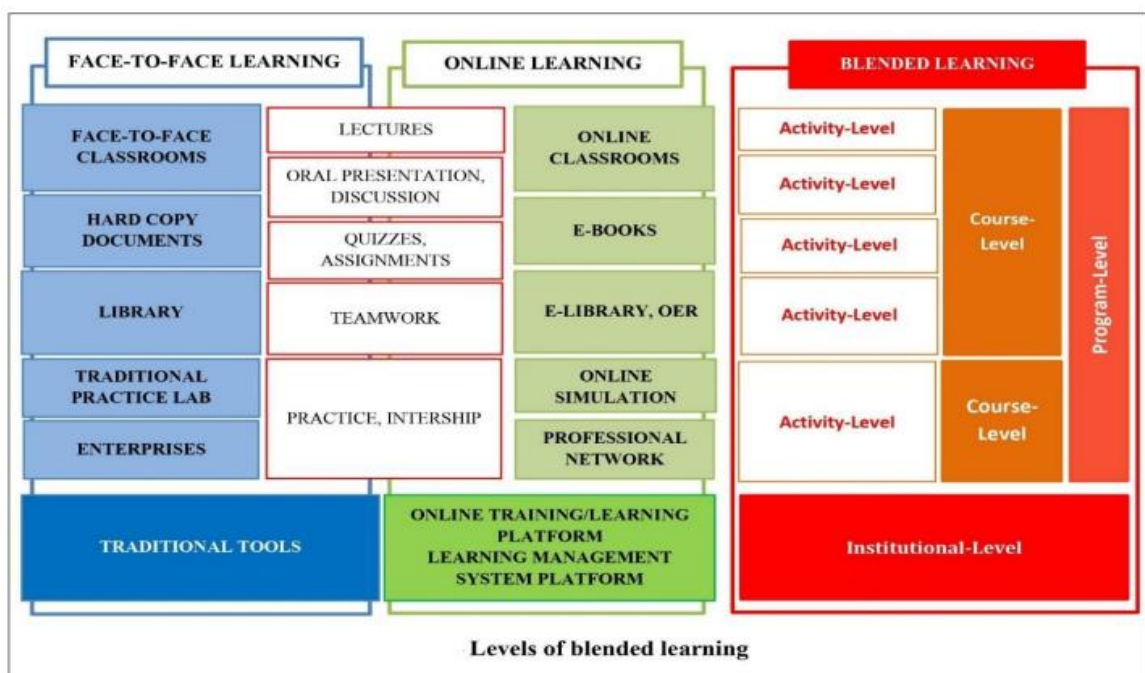
(3) Develop e-Library and using open educational resources

When applying the blended learning model, instead of reading hard-copy materials and textbooks, students taking courses will be provided with ebooks or look up materials on the internet. This way, learners could access the latest knowledge in the world. E-Library model goes beyond space, time, and can integrate many data resources to research and study.

(4) Using Mobile Computing Technologies

- The applications that support between lecturers and students, between students and other departments in the school. Students only need to be allowed to log in to the mobile network, they can access services later (access materials, enjoy in online classes).

(5) Investing in Learning Analytics application, Integrated

Planning and Advising Services Blended learning model allows students to be proactive in planning their learning. Educational institutions need to meet personal needs, provide learners more learning experience options, also boost success for learners. Lectures and course managers could provide advisory to the right person timely, help them build-up, and maintain positive learning attitudes.

(6) Prepare psychology and skills for instructors and learners

- For learners: blended learning model requires high selfdiscipline while time management skills of learners have not been well equipped or in completed especially at the early stage of courses, which made the results from elearning may be unsatisfactory. Therefore, to boost blended learning, besides investing in technology, step by step in planning, it is necessary to prepare equip skills that are lacked to teacher and student. Digital transformation is essential to form a complete system for a blended learning environment.

Reference

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