

Instructional Practices in Implementing Alternative Teaching-Learning Approaches

MARRON F. VALDEZ

Pasileng Elementary School
marron.valdez@deped.gov.ph

Abstract — The study aimed to examine the implementation of alternative teaching-learning approaches in Binalonan District II, Schools Division Office of Pangasinan II. Specifically, it determined instructional practices in four key areas: blended modular learning, blended face-to-face learning, blended online learning, and parent- and peer-mediated instruction. A total of 98 teachers participated as respondents in this study. Data were collected using a researcher-designed questionnaire checklist, which was validated by experts in the field. The results revealed that the majority of teacher-respondents highly practiced alternative teaching-learning approaches, with a strong preference for the blended face-to-face approach over blended online learning, modular learning, and parent- and peer-mediated instruction. Furthermore, significant differences were found in teachers' instructional practices based on age with blended face-to-face learning, highest educational attainment was significantly related to blended modular, blended face-to-face, blended online learning, and parent- and peer-mediated instruction. Likewise, teaching experience significantly influenced the implementation of blended modular learning. Moreover, a significant relationship was found between teachers' teaching position and their implementation of the blended modular approach, as well as between teachers' educational attainment and their use of the blended face-to-face approach. An enhancement program was recommended to further strengthen teachers' instructional practices in implementing alternative teaching and learning approaches specifically along blended modular and online.

Keywords — *Blended learning, alternative teaching-learning, modular, parent-mediated, peer-mediated, face-to-face, instructional practices*

I. Introduction

The understanding of effective teaching and learning has evolved significantly over time. Numerous efforts have been made to define successful teaching and identify the key characteristics contributing to teaching effectiveness (Clores & Nueva España, 2023). Successful teaching puts students at the center of instructional decisions, emphasizing the need to tailor education to fit the requirements of varied learners. This indicates a substantial movement in education from a teacher-centered to a student-centered model, in which teaching and learning are tailored to students' needs, interests, and talents (Kuok Ho, 2023).

According to (Francisco and Celon, 2020), instructional methods encompass a range of strategies, including organizing the physical environment, establishing norms and procedures, and maintaining students' engagement with lessons and commitment to activities. Furthermore, these instructional techniques comprise a series of teaching strategies and methods educators use to

achieve specific learning objectives. Thus, effective teaching is guided by well-defined instructional practices (Clores & Nueva España, 2023).

In like manner, for decades, the importance of alternative teaching methods and their many advantages in the teaching and learning processes have long been known. As a result, Education Ministries and departments worldwide promote the employment of non-traditional teaching approaches such as project-based learning and exploratory. Alternative teaching methods like project-based learning, Montessori, Waldorf education, game-based learning, and mastery learning engage students and make learning more meaningful (Harris, 2023). Prior research has shown that alternative teaching methods (ATMs) such as project-based, exploratory, collaborative, and technology-integrated teaching offer pedagogical benefits. However, they have a low implementation rate. Moreover, Dancy and Henderson's Framework, as cited by (Saleh and Jing, 2020), categorizes instructional practices into two types: traditional and alternative. Alternative instructional techniques, often called student-centered teaching approaches, emphasize responsiveness, collaboration, problem-solving, and democratic learning. In this approach, students and teachers actively determine how, what, and when learning occurs.

Daskan & Yildiz, (2020) discussed in his study that integrating technology into classroom instruction allows easy access to a wide range of resources, flexibility, pedagogical effectiveness, learner autonomy, a stress-free learning environment, engagement with course materials, immediate feedback, self-evaluation, and more time to interact with students.

Alvarez 2020) in his research stressed that lack of faculty training and support, language barriers, and poor promotion incentives for blended learning initiation are some of the problems identified in blended learning.

Emerging research underscores the need for a shift in pedagogical approaches, emphasizing the importance of integrating in-person activities with online learning. As online learning has rapidly become the dominant pedagogical strategy, extensive research has examined the effects of internet-based technologies on student engagement. Recent advancements in online learning have introduced innovative and often subtle teaching methods that can foster rich and transformative learning outcomes for higher education students (Burke & Larmar, 2020). The deliberate blending of online and in-person learning modalities (blended learning) is gaining popularity in elementary, secondary, postsecondary, and corporate settings. Some have even described blended learning (BL) as the "new normal" in education (Graham & Halverson, 2023)

Literature Review

The effect of the COVID-19 pandemic has prompted educational institutions to adopt Modular Distance Learning (MDL) methods. A study of 15 secondary school teachers in Puerto Princesa City, Philippines, found they used strategies like sharing online resources and providing activity sheets and study guides to enhance learning. Video clips were used to improve student engagement and critical thinking skills. The study suggests that teachers can improve MDL

effectiveness by implementing best practices, providing necessary resources and training, and involving parents or guardians in their children's education. By implementing these best practices, teachers can better support learners in achieving essential learning competencies (MELCs) through MDL (Arzaga, 2023). On the other hand, the study (Harper, McCormick, & Marron, 2024) about online delivery in previously face-to-face higher education settings around the world looks into the impact of various delivery styles and assessments kinds on student outcomes.

Alternative learning aims to prepare students for a future where they can effectively discuss, process, work, and be life-long learners. Blended learning combines online resources with peer tutoring, enhancing learning experiences by providing personalized support, fostering active engagement, and bridging knowledge gaps. It allows students to review materials independently, while peer tutoring offers interactive explanations. This approach also strengthens critical thinking, communication, and leadership skills, promoting learning through independent digital content and collaborative peer interactions (Joshi et al., 2023). Peer instruction and the flipped classroom are two innovative approaches that extend learning beyond the physical and live classroom, laying the foundation for blended and fully online learning.

The study (Brian, 2022) targets the development of parent-mediated interventions for toddlers with autism spectrum disorder to increase access to early intervention. These approaches are helpful in parent and toddler learning. A study using a research-community partnership provided the Social ABCs program to 179 families, with 90% completing the 12-week program and 70% returning for a follow-up assessment three months later. The study found that parents learned strategies to support their toddlers' development, and toddlers made gains in language, communication, and social skills. These strategies were related to toddlers' skill gains, suggesting that these approaches should be made available for community delivery. The findings support the use of parent-mediated intervention in this young age group.

Learning theories provide frameworks for teachers to adapt to diverse learning styles and academic needs. They help students absorb information and manage behavior. They empower educators to create inclusive, conducive learning environments, whether online or in traditional classrooms (Tprestianni, 2023).

Social constructivism, a social learning theory by Lev Vygotsky, suggests that individuals actively create their knowledge in social and cultural settings. It focuses on dyads and small groups, where interactions with peers, teachers, and parents facilitate learning. According to social constructivism, learning happens through social interaction and other people's assistance, frequently in a group. According to social constructivism, social interaction shapes the understanding a person develops.

The relevance of these mediated instructions through parents and peers should also be determined to be able to evaluate the influence of these in the daily teaching-learning process, especially in the academic growth and progress of the students. Both theories highlight the

significant roles parents and peers play in shaping children's learning and development, underscoring the social nature of cognitive growth. They also highlight how learning and development are facilitated through interactions—within the family or among peers—by providing guidance, support, and opportunities for collaborative problem-solving.

These theories outline the teaching-learning process inside the classroom. Their interrelationships describe how young people learn and develop, facilitate increased learning opportunities, and improve teaching. These theories define and characterize the instructional practices in implementing alternative teaching-learning approaches.

II. Methodology

The study employed a pre-experimental design, specifically the Ex Post Facto One-Shot Case Study design. This design examines the effects of an event or treatment after it has already occurred. Data is collected simultaneously, meaning there is no pre-test or control group. Instead, the researcher analyzes a single group that has undergone a particular event or intervention and measures the outcome only once (Meimban & Meimban, 2021).

The study was conducted in the eight (8) schools of Binalonan II Division Office of Pangasinan II, Binalonan, Pangasinan, for the school year 2022-2023. These DepEd schools in Pangasinan II are strictly monitored in implementing alternative learning approaches using modular, face-to-face, and online blended approaches and parent and peer-mediated instructions to respond to the students' basic learning needs.

This study employed a specifically designed questionnaire checklist, comprising two parts. The first part focuses on respondents' profiles, including age, sex, educational attainment, seminars/training attended in the last five years, teaching experience, and position. The second part addresses instructional practices for alternative teaching-learning approaches, like blended, modular, face-to-face, online, and parent and peer-mediated instructions. The questionnaire was refined according to expert guidance to enhance content validity. A dry run, with non-target respondents, confirmed the reliability of the items, yielding a Cronbach's alpha of 0.937, indicating excellent reliability.

The study employed appropriate statistical tools using R Statistical Software to analyze data related to the research questions. The first question about respondents' profiles was addressed using frequency count and percentage. The second question regarding teachers' instructional practices in the new normal was analyzed with a weighted mean based on a statistical limit-description scaling system.

For the teachers' extent of implementation of the different alternative teaching approaches, overall weighted mean was used and descriptive measures using a 4-point Likert scale with the corresponding numerical values and interpretation as shown below.

Literal Rating	Mean Scale Range	Descriptive Rating	Descriptive Meaning
4	3.26 – 4.00	Very Extensive	The teacher was remarkably consistent in practicing a variety of alternative teaching- learning approaches and effectively implemented them in the classroom
3	2.51 – 3.25	Extensive	The teacher was consistent in practicing a variety of alternative teaching-learning approaches and dutifully implemented them in the classroom.
2	1.76 – 2.50	Slightly Extensive	The teacher was not fully consistent in practicing a variety of alternative teaching- learning approaches and only fairly implemented them in the classroom.
1	1.00 – 1.75	Not Extensive	The teacher did not practice a variety of alternative teaching-learning approaches and did not implement them in the classroom.

III. Results and Discussion

The table below shows the frequency and percentage distribution of the respondents with respect to their profile variables.

Table 1
Profile of the Respondents

Age	Frequency	Percent
21-30 years old	7	7.1
31-40 years old	17	17.3
41-50 years old	48	49.0
51 years old and above	26	26.5
Total	98	100.0
Sex	Frequency	Percent
Male	24	24.49
Female	74	75.51
Total	98	100
Highest Educational Attainment	Frequency	Percent
Bachelor's degree	19	19.4
Masteral Units	49	50.0
Masteral Degree	26	26.5
Doctoral Units	4	4.1
Total	98	100.0
Seminars/Trainings attended for the last five (5) years	Frequency	Percent
National Level	23	7.6
Regional Level	25	8.3
Division Level	86	28.6
District Level	84	27.9
School Level	83	27.6
Total	301	100.0
Length of Service in Private	Frequency	Percent
None	10	10.2
1 - 5 years	72	73.5
6 - 10 years	16	16.3
Total	98	100.0

Length of Service in Public	Frequency	Percent
1 - 5 years	12	12.2
6 - 10 years	19	19.4
16 years and above	67	68.4
Total	98	100.0
Teaching Position	Frequency	Percent
Teacher I	11	11.2
Teacher II	15	15.3
Teacher III	68	69.4
Master Teacher I	2	2.0
Master Teacher II	2	2.0
Total	98	100.0

Table 1 shows that the majority of teachers are female (75.51%), between the ages of 41 and 50 (49.0%), and earned master's units for advanced education (50.0%). Most of these teachers also participated in division-level seminars and training (86.6%). Furthermore, these instructors had at least one to five years of job experience at a private school (73.5%), compared to sixteen years or more (68.4) in a public school. Consequently, these teachers occupy Teacher III (69.4%), which only indicates that most of these respondents are seasoned and experienced teachers.

Table 2 on the next page illustrates the summary of extent of instructional practices in implementing alternative teaching-learning approaches.

Table 2
Summary of Extent of Instructional Practices in Implementing Alternative Teaching-Learning Approaches

Alternative Teaching-Learning Approaches	Average Weighted Mean	Descriptive Equivalent	Rank
Blended Learning Approach (Modular)	3.75	Very Extensive	2
Blended Learning Approach (Face to Face)	3.89	Very Extensive	1
Blended Learning Approach (Online)	3.40	Very Extensive	5
Parent Mediated Instruction	3.74	Very Extensive	3
Peer Mediated Instruction	3.64	Very Extensive	4
Overall Weighted Mean	3.684	Very Extensive	

As indicated in the table, blended face-to-face learning achieved the highest computed average weighted mean of 3.89, which corresponds to a descriptive equivalent of "very extensive." This approach, being the most traditional form of instructional delivery, offers learners a higher level of interaction with their peers. In face-to-face settings, students are held accountable for their progress during scheduled class meetings.

This mode of learning not only fosters a deeper understanding and retention of lesson content but also facilitates bonding among classmates. Research shows that the completion rate for teacher-led classes is nearly five times higher than that for online learning (Shah, 2022).

Conversely, the blended online learning approach recorded the lowest average weighted mean of 3.40 among the alternative teaching methodologies presented. Its limited use can be attributed to challenges in teaching physical skills and the technical difficulties that often arise. Furthermore, the spontaneous discussions that enrich physical classrooms are difficult to replicate in an online environment, which can detract from the overall learning experience. Additionally, while the flexibility of online learning is an advantage, it can also result in decreased motivation and structure, making it challenging for some students to maintain their academic progress.

A statistically determined p-value of 0.036 (CS = 6.897, df = 9) was calculated to evaluate the extent of practices in the blended learning approach (face-to-face) concerning the age variable. Since the computed p-value is less than the 0.05 significance level, it indicates that the extent of practices significantly differs based on age. This finding demonstrates that respondents' engagement with the face-to-face blended learning approach varies notably across different age groups.

Conversely, the comparison of practices in the blended learning approach (modular), blended learning approach (online), parent-mediated instruction, and peer-mediated instruction relative to age groups yielded p-values of 0.075 (CS = 6.897, df = 3), 0.086 (CS = 6.594, df = 3), 0.252 (CS = 4.087, df = 3), and 0.127 (CS = 5.699, df = 3), respectively. These results indicate that respondents did not exhibit significant variation in their practices when classified according to age groups. Therefore, educators across different age cohorts demonstrated nearly similar awareness of instructional practices in implementing alternative teaching and learning approaches.

In terms of blended learning approaches (modular, face-to-face, and online) and parent-mediated and peer-mediated instruction, the computed significant values were 0.297, 0.086, 0.908, 0.203, and 0.788, respectively. Since these values exceed 0.05, we accept the null hypothesis, suggesting no significant difference in instructional practices related to the implementation of alternative teaching and learning approaches based on gender. This outcome may be attributed to universal teaching strategies, professional standards, and the evolving expectations of educators.

The blended learning approach (modular) shows a computed p-value of 8.118 and a significance value of 0.44. The blended learning approach (face-to-face) reports a p-value of 9.248 with a significance value of 0.26, while the blended learning approach (online) presents a p-value of 13.682 and a significance value of 0.003. Parent-mediated instruction has a p-value of 8.446 and a significance value of 0.38, and peer-mediated instruction features a p-value of 10.830 with a significance value of 0.13. With significant values below 0.05, we reject the null hypothesis, indicating a significant difference in instructional practices related to alternative teaching and learning approaches based on the highest educational attainment of the respondents.

The blended face-to-face learning approach (p-value = 3.821, sig = 0.431), blended online learning approach (p-value = 6.861, sig = 0.143), parent-mediated instruction (p-value = 4.767, sig = 0.312), and peer-mediated instruction (p-value = 7.601, sig = 0.107) all exhibit significance values greater than 0.05. This lack of significance suggests no substantial difference in these instructional practices when educators implement alternative teaching and learning approaches across various teaching positions.

Table 3
Significant Relationship Between the Extent of Respondents' Use Of Alternative Teaching And Learning Practices And Their Selected Profile Variables.

		Blended Learning Approach (Modular)	Blended Learning Approach (Face to Face)	Blended Learning Approach (Online)	Parent Mediated Instruction	Peer Mediated Instruction
Age	Correlation Coefficient	.036	.023	-.147	-.082	-.058
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.726	.821	.147	.420	.568
	N	98	98	98	98	98
Sex	Correlation Coefficient	.106	.174	-.012	.129	.027
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.300	.086	.909	.204	.789
	N	98	98	98	98	98
Highest Educational Attainment	Correlation Coefficient	-.018	-.208*	-.112	-.115	-.077
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.863	.040	.271	.258	.452
	N	98	98	98	98	98
Length of Teaching Experience	Correlation Coefficient	.010	-.128	-.060	-.017	.010
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.926	.208	.559	.869	.923
	N	98	98	98	98	98
Teaching Position	Correlation Coefficient	.291*	.043	.120	.131	.169
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.004	.675	.239	.199	.096
	N					

Legend:

Correlation Coefficient	Interpretation
<0.20	Negligible Relationship
0.20 – 0.40	Low Relationship
0.41 – 0.70	Moderate Relationship
0.71 – 0.90	High Relationship
>0.90	Very High Relationship

Source: Guildford (1973)

Table 3 presents the computed correlation coefficients for Age in relation to various instructional strategies: Blended Learning Approach (Modular), Blended Learning Approach (Face-to-Face), Blended Learning Approach (Online), Parent Mediated Instruction, and Peer

Mediated Instruction, yielding coefficients of .036, .023, - .147, - .082, and - .058, respectively. With all significant values exceeding .05, these results indicate a low to negligible relationship. Thus, teachers' ages do not appear to influence their utilization or effectiveness in employing these instructional strategies. This suggests that variables beyond Age may have a more substantial impact on the adoption of various educational techniques.

Similarly, the correlation coefficients related to gender and the same instructional strategies are .106, .174, - .012, .129, and .127, respectively, with significant values again higher than .05, revealing a low to negligible relationship. This indicates that teachers' gender does not seem to affect their implementation of these teaching methods.

Table 4
Overall Result of the Significant Relationship Between the Extent of Blended Learning Instructional Practices and the Respondents' Profile Variables in Implementing Alternative Teaching-Learning Approaches.

		Blended Learning Approaches
Age	Correlation Coefficient	-.097
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.342
	N	98
Sex	Correlation Coefficient	.025
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.804
	N	98
Highest Educational Attainment	Correlation Coefficient	-.105
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.305
	N	98
Length of Teaching Experience	Correlation Coefficient	-.033
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.748
	N	98
Teaching Position	Correlation Coefficient	.222*
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.028
	N	98

Legend:

Correlation Coefficient	Interpretation
<0.20	Negligible Relationship
0.20 – 0.40	Low Relationship
0.41 – 0.70	Moderate Relationship
0.71 – 0.90	High Relationship
>0.90	Very High Relationship

Source: Guildford (1973)

Table 4 presents the overall significant relationship between blended learning and the implementation of alternative teaching-learning approaches, alongside selected profile variables. The computed correlation coefficient for teaching position is 0.222, with a significance value of 0.028, which is below the 0.05 threshold, indicating a statistically significant yet low relationship.

Factors such as experience, responsibility, autonomy, and access to resources across various teaching roles influence the adoption of the blended learning method (Modular).

Conversely, the analysis reveals no significant relationships for several other variables. The correlation coefficient for age is -0.097 with a significance value of 0.342; for sex, it is 0.025 with a significance value of 0.804; for highest educational attainment, the coefficient is -0.105 with a significance value of 0.305; for length of service in private institutions, the coefficient is 0.076 with a significance value of 0.457; and for length of service in public institutions, the coefficient is -0.033 with a significance value of 0.748. All of these results, with significance values exceeding 0.05, indicate no significant relationship.

IV. Conclusion

The participating educators are experienced professionals skilled in various alternative teaching methodologies, consistently employing these approaches in their instruction. They actively incorporate a range of innovative methodologies into their teaching practices, demonstrating a strong commitment to enhancing student engagement and improving learning outcomes through creative and dynamic strategies. Furthermore, their ongoing use of blended learning—through modular, face-to-face, online, and parent-mediated instructional strategies—promotes a balanced, student-centered approach that strengthens both teaching effectiveness and student achievement. Nevertheless, there remains a need for further professional development to equip them to effectively address the daily challenges of teaching. Variations in demographic factors influence the adoption of alternative teaching-learning approaches, potentially affecting respondents' competence in instructional practices when implementing these methods. However, the profile variables show little to no significant correlation with the extent of instructional practices utilized in implementing alternative teaching-learning approaches.

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