

BL Instruction Pedagogical Practice

Institute-level TDG Project

THE HONG KONG INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION

Programme:	Blended Learning @FEHD	Course Code:	SED6009
Course Title:	Social-Emotional Development and Special Needs	Tutor:	WONG Wai Ho, Savio

Description/Teaching Philosophy:

One of the common challenges in pedagogical design is how to motivate students to be reflective learners and to link the classroom teaching with their daily experience. With the advance of information technology, teachers may start to wonder “Is blended learning a solution to this challenge?”

In the Web 2.0 era, people-to-people interaction is no longer limited to face-to-face meeting. Through online social media such as Facebook and Whatsapp, people can share what they found interesting and learn to analyze an issue from different perspectives through reading the comments and discussions. Online social media is so popular that students are now spending a large portion of their time in reading the posts and participating in the online discussions. From the teaching perspective, it seems that online social media may be a good way to engage students in their learning. Therefore, a number of education-based online social media and e-portfolio systems have been developed, including Mahara, Schoology and Edmodo. However, these education-based platforms usually have limited functions and a less intuitive interface than the most popular platforms such as Facebook. In addition, while most of the students do their reading (i.e. Facebook posts and Whatsapp messages) on their mobile phone, these education-based platform lack a mobile phone app version.

With the support from the SEC Teaching Development Seed Fund, a small scale project was conducted to explore the possibility of adopting one of the mature online social platforms as a media for students to develop their learning e-portfolio.

Implementation:

In a MEd course that focuses on the social and emotional development of children with special educational needs, students were required to create a learning log using one of the online platforms: Mahara, Google+, Tumblr, or a Facebook fan page.

Sample Activities and the Artefacts:

After an introduction to the various online social platforms, all the students decided to go for the Google+ platform. One of possible reason is that Google+ comes with a mobile phone app which can be accessed easily with any smartphone. Also, students can create a Google+ page which can be separated completely from their personal Google+ profile, and thus maintain a higher level of privacy.

For most of the posts, students shared and commented on online videos and commentary articles related to various issues of SEBD.

I have a shared a video that summarises Friendship Circle's missions, and an article to show how these intervention can significantly change a SEN student's life. Hong Kong could aim to set up these organisations to tackle the inclusive programme and to give more support towards SEN students (not only
[Read more \(16 lines\)](#)



Some students also shared their personal experience on how to interact with SEBD students and received feedback from other students.

In the old days, Our school run sea expedition for students so that they learn survival skills and promoting team building. I had spent three day in this boat with my students. Well arranged 'experiential learning' are so useful for SEN students. It was what they are capable of-- survive and living. They may fail in the classroom,

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Effectiveness and Lessons Learnt:

Students found that it is not an easy task to have two posts per week. However, they also mentioned in the summary posts (which are not graded) that the online learning log helped them to digest the knowledge that they learned in the lectures and apply the course concepts in their daily life. Some students stated that they learned something new from the posts of other students, although they seldom replied or commented on others' posts.



Shared publicly - 16 Apr 2015

Online learning is a good choice but not necessary. Anyway, it worked. At least I have done 2 posts each week. So it is really useful. And each time I typed my thought into words, it feels like great. SEBD is a good and interesting field that I can learn more and benefit from it. Maybe for next semester, the target could be 1 post per week. Only personal suggestion:) Finally, thank you my classmates who interacted with me. Wish you guys all the best.



SEBD 17 Apr 2015

thanks for the suggestion. 1 post per week seems good to me too :)

Issues and challenges:

1. Students would like to get comments on their posts from the instructor. However, it is a demanding task for the instructor to read and grade forty posts from twenty students each week.
2. There was very limited interaction among the students.
A handful of the posts received feedback from other students, but most of them were read by the instructor only.