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Sustainable Business, Environment & Society



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## **CHALLENGES IN THE TRANSITION FROM ODL TO HYBRID LEARNING: A COMPREHENSIVE ANALYSIS**

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### **ABSTRACT**

The COVID-19 pandemic has ushered in a transformative era in education, prompting the integration of hybrid and blended learning models as innovative approaches to instructional delivery. Open Distance Learning (ODL) has long been a staple of distance education, but the demand for interactive and engaging learning experiences has led to the emergence of hybrid and blended learning. This paper delves into the challenges and strategies associated with transitioning from ODL to hybrid and blended learning environments, with a specific focus on the Malaysian context. This study employs a quantitative research design to investigate the experiences of English as a Second Language (ESL) students enrolled in tertiary education across Malaysia's diverse landscape of public and private universities. A purposive sampling approach is adopted to gather responses from a projected sample size of 300 respondents through an administered Google Forms questionnaire. The research tool is meticulously designed to capture insights into the challenges encountered during the transition process, shedding light on accessibility, time management, self-motivation, instructor feedback, and computing skills. The findings of this study emphasize the multifaceted challenges faced by students in adapting to hybrid and blended learning. Connectivity issues, time management struggles, and the need for self-discipline emerge as central concerns. Furthermore, the lack of immediate instructor feedback and insufficient computing skills are recognized as pivotal barriers. Drawing upon these insights, the paper advocates for targeted interventions to address these challenges and facilitate a seamless transition. Strategies encompass infrastructure investment, student and instructor training, and the design of dynamic learning environments that capitalize on the strengths of both online and in-person modalities.

**Keywords:** : ODL, hybrid learning, blended learning

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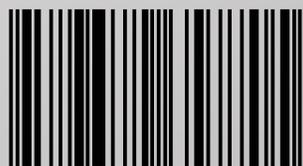
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