



Meriem Merrakchi	University of Mohamed Khider, Biskra Algeria E-mail: meriemmerrakchi@gmail.com
Mourad Ramzi Khermouche	University of Mohamed Khider, Biskra Algeria E-mail: mouradkhermouche@gmail.com
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Abstract The flipped classroom strategy represents a significant pedagogical transformation in contemporary education, offering new avenues for interactive, student-centered learning. This research explores the realities, challenges, and future prospects of implementing the flipped classroom approach in higher education institutions. As a recent educational innovation, the flipped model reverses traditional teaching roles by assigning lecture consumption to out-of-class time through pre-recorded videos, podcasts, and digital learning materials, thereby reserving in-class sessions for collaborative and problem-solving activities. This paradigm shift aims to empower learners to actively engage with content, assume greater responsibility for their learning, and develop higher-order thinking skills such as analysis, synthesis, and evaluation. The study discusses the conceptual foundations of the flipped classroom, its pedagogical underpinnings within the broader framework of blended and e-learning, and the essential stages required for successful implementation. Furthermore, it evaluates the benefits and challenges associated with adopting this model in Arab educational contexts, highlighting the critical role of digital literacy, institutional readiness, and teacher training. By fostering greater learner autonomy and deeper interaction, the flipped classroom is positioned as a catalyst for educational reform in the 21st century.	
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Introduction

The pursuit of enhancing learner effectiveness must be prioritised within educational institutions and among teachers in Arab countries owing to its significance in shaping individuals capable of thinking critically, analysing, making informed decisions, engaging in dialogue, and interacting more positively with others. Attempts to improve learner effectiveness provide students with skills and knowledge that extend beyond the content of textbooks, which are not generally subject to continuous updating to keep pace with advances in various fields of knowledge. Accordingly, flipped learning is considered one of the recently emerged forms of blended e-learning. It is defined as an educational model that employs modern technologies and the internet to enable teachers to prepare lessons via video clips, audio files, or other media. These lessons can be accessed by students at home or elsewhere via computers, smartphones, or tablets prior to attending class. Lecture time, by contrast, is allocated to discussions, projects, and exercises.

Learning through the flipped curriculum requires students to share responsibility for their learning both inside and outside the classroom and to engage in collaborative situations aligned with their characteristics, thereby fostering greater confidence in what they are learning. Consequently, collaborative e-learning skills constitute one of the outcomes that students acquire through this method of learning.

This approach has gained widespread adoption across numerous educational institutions, including schools and universities, in some advanced countries. It has had a positive impact on strengthening students' roles, rendering them more interactive and engaged with their peers and enabling them to formulate ideas, analyse, critique, and select the most suitable options, ultimately leading to sound decision-making.

1. Definition of the Flipped Classroom (Flipped Learning)

Flipped learning, also referred to as flipped classrooms, is an educational model in which lectures and homework assignments of all kinds are reversed. It is considered a form of blended learning that incorporates technology to promote self-directed learning while dedicating classroom time to activities and assignments.

This model relies on short instructional videos that students watch at home or elsewhere before they attend class, while lecture time is allocated to discussions, projects, and exercises. The video serves as a central component of this model, whether produced and uploaded to the internet by the teacher or selected from preexisting material available online.

This strategy builds upon concepts and methods such as active learning and student participation. In traditional lessons, the teacher often relies on explanations, expositions, or lectures and may not have sufficient time to address students' questions, engage in discussions, or enrich their knowledge. Here lies the advantage of this type of instruction.

The concept of flipped learning dates back to 2000, when J. Wesley Baker presented his research paper, *"The Classroom Flip: Using Web Course Management Tools to Become the Guide,"* at the 11th International Conference on College Teaching and Learning. In this work, Baker proposed a model for flipping the classroom in which the teacher uses Web tools and course management software to provide instruction online, while students evaluate "homework." Within the classroom itself, the teacher then has adequate time to pursue in-depth learning activities and collaborative efforts with other students.

Among the key definitions of this strategy are that provided by the Flipped Learning Network, which describes it as "a pedagogical approach that shifts instruction from group learning to individual learning, thereby creating a more dynamic and interactive learning environment where the teacher guides students as they apply concepts and encourages innovative participation." It is considered a form of blended learning that utilises technology for

learning outside the classroom, thereby allowing teachers to spend more time interacting with students rather than solely delivering lectures.

Similarly, Educause, a leading organisation in promoting the effective use of educational technology, defines flipped classrooms as a model that inverts the conventional lecture by shifting it to a homework assignment. In so doing, the flipped classroom concept ensures, to a large extent, the optimal use of the teacher's time during class. At the beginning of the lesson, the teacher assesses students' levels and then designs classroom activities that focus on clarifying concepts, consolidating knowledge, and reinforcing skills. In turn, the teacher supervises these activities and provides appropriate support to struggling learners, ultimately leading to very high levels of comprehension and academic achievement, as individual differences are duly taken into consideration.

The flipped classroom enhances learning through the use of technology outside of study hours to maximise student engagement and in-class learning. In other words, it replaces direct teaching within classrooms with methods of exploring and reviewing course materials outside the classroom through videos, readings, screenshots, and other resources.

It is a common misconception that flipped classrooms are synonymous with online videos or that they replace teachers with video viewing. In reality, flipped classrooms serve as a means to increase interaction and communication between students and teachers, creating a learning environment that fosters student participation and responsibility for their own learning. In this way, blended learning is achieved, combining direct instruction with self-directed study.

From these definitions, it may be concluded that flipped learning is an educational model designed to utilise modern technologies and the internet in such a way that allows the teacher to prepare lessons in the form of videos, audio files, or other media, which students access at home or elsewhere using their computers, smartphones, or tablets before attending class. Lecture time, by contrast, is devoted to discussions, projects, and exercises. Video is considered a key element of this model, as the teacher typically prepares a 5–10 minute recording and shares it with students on a website or via social networks.

2. Procedural Steps for Teaching via the Flipped Classroom Strategy

2.1 Planning for Instruction with the Flipped Classroom Strategy

This stage involves the following procedures:

- Appropriate educational units or topics for teaching should be selected through the flipped classroom strategy, the content of these topics should be analysed, and the rationale for selection should be identified. In this study, three units were selected from the course *"Teaching Methods in Geography,"* which is prescribed for third-year students at the Faculty of Education, Al-Azhar University. These three units were selected because of the importance of the instructional skills they address and the availability of multiple supplementary instructional resources to support the learning of the targeted skills through the flipped classroom strategy.
- Defining the general objectives of the selected educational units and formulating the intended learning outcomes associated with each unit in the cognitive, skill-related, and affective dimensions.
- Determining the electronic formats through which the content will be delivered and the technological tools that will support it (videos, presentations, electronic texts, assessments, student presentations, and small projects).
- Identifying the appropriate teaching methods and assessment techniques in light of the intended educational objectives and the nature of the targeted learning outcomes, cognitive, skill-related, and affective.

2.2 Preparing and Designing Instructional Content

This stage was carried out as follows:

- The available technological resources at the educational institution (the faculty) are reviewed, and their suitability for students' technological capabilities and for learning supported by diverse educational media is verified.
- The content was prepared and structured by selecting both printed and electronic instructional materials, including educational videos, virtual simulation programs, performance models for some of the targeted skills, and electronic reading materials that addressed the course content.
- Uploading the instructional materials on a dedicated web page enables students to access and review them prior to attending classes.

2.3 Identifying Required Learning Activities

This was achieved through the following:

- The individual tasks and activities that learners were required to perform at home before attending classes, such as watching educational videos, reviewing prepared instructional materials, and acquiring relevant knowledge and information, were specified.
- Learners should record notes and questions to enhance their understanding of the instructional materials or videos they have reviewed.
- Identifying specific synchronous and asynchronous communication tools that could be employed during these activities, such as WhatsApp and Facebook.

2.4 Implementing Instruction via the Flipped Classroom Strategy

This was achieved through the following:

- Students watched the videos and reviewed the prescribed instructional materials by examining their notes, comments, and queries regarding the content and videos. If students had not completed these preliminary tasks, some time was allocated to enable them to watch the video and review the designated material before catching up with their peers and participating in ongoing learning activities. Approximately 10-15 minutes at the beginning of the lecture were reserved for presenting a brief introduction to the topic, outlining its various dimensions, and identifying the key questions related to the subject.
- Students are divided into small collaborative groups to engage in active learning together through the execution of group activities under the supervision and guidance of the instructor.
- Presenting and discussing the outcomes of the practical activities, including the ideas and information reached, within a scholarly dialogue that enables each student to share his or her thoughts and practical performance freely. These ideas and applications are discussed objectively, and in light of student discussions and their questions, the teacher clarifies certain elements that require further explanation, stimulates critical thinking, and poses related questions to assess students' understanding of these elements while providing appropriate feedback to reinforce learning.

2.5 Assessing Learning Outcomes

This was conducted as follows:

- Assessing students' learning formatively involves examining their responses to classroom questions posed by the instructor and reviewing and evaluating the outcomes of the practical activities included in the student guide.
- Students' learning was assessed summatively through their responses to prepared tests designed to verify the extent to which they had acquired the intended knowledge, skills, and affective outcomes.
- Upon completing the study of the unit's content and achieving the targeted learning outcomes, students proceed to the following subject by watching the relevant instructional videos, reviewing the designated electronic learning materials, and completing the educational activities outlined in the student guide, which is available on the designated webpage.

3. Requirements of the Flipped Curriculum

- Students share responsibility for their learning both inside and outside the classroom.
- This means motivating students to benefit from the course and ensure their satisfaction with it.
- The alignment of course content with learners' content needs to capture their attention.
- Students' confidence in electronic learning resources as a reliable source of learning at home.
- Designing collaborative learning situations suited to learners' characteristics that foster confidence in what they are learning.
- There is a need for learners to have access to various strategies to support balanced performance across e-learning environments.
- There is a continual need for learners to self-motivate and pursue independent study of the course.
- The employment of e-learning strategies that provide incentives to encourage students to learn is beneficial, as strategies in the flipped curriculum combine both individual and group self-directed learning with face-to-face strategies and web-based instructional approaches.

4. The Role of the Teacher and Learner in the Flipped Classroom Strategy

The teacher plays a crucial role in instruction via the flipped classroom strategy. He or she is required to prepare instructional materials in both printed and electronic forms, including educational videos, virtual simulation programs, performance models covering some of the targeted skills, and electronic instructional materials addressing conceptual content in digital formats such as WORD, PDF, PPT, MP4, and FLV. These resources are made available to students for viewing and studying prior to attending classes.

The teacher must also assess students' levels at the beginning of instruction and then design the necessary remedial activities to assist learners in mastering content that was difficult to study independently at home. In addition, the teacher provides appropriate feedback and immediate reinforcement that supports learning in line with performance quality, achievement levels, and the degree to which the intended learning outcomes are attained. All of this occurs within a positively managed classroom environment grounded in active learning, which aims to foster self-confidence, motivate learning processes, and ensure the acquisition of relevant knowledge, skills, and values.

From this, it is evident that the teacher assumes multiple roles under the flipped classroom strategy, encompassing both classroom responsibilities, such as observing and following up on students, facilitating the learning process, and evaluating learners' performance and participation and extraclassroom responsibilities, which include preparing and providing learning content in various forms.

In light of the nature of teaching through the flipped classroom strategy, the learner also assumes an important role in activating this strategy, serving as an essential partner and the central focus of all its educational and practical activities. Thus, the learner's significant role is manifested in the following:

- Watching educational videos and reviewing the instructional materials prepared by the teacher and acquiring the knowledge and information related to them.
- The necessary notes and questions were recorded to enhance the understanding of the instructional content reviewed.
- Actively participating in discussions and dialogues concerning the issues and ideas embedded in the instructional materials linked to the course topics.
- Taking the initiative to pose questions and provide appropriate commentary from one's own perspective on matters discussed or presented in the classroom.
- Both individual and collaborative learning activities are conducted inside and outside the classroom under the supervision and guidance of the teacher.
- Engaging in self-assessment and peer assessment to determine the extent to which the targeted learning outcomes have been achieved.

Reflecting upon these various roles of the learner in the context of flipped classroom instruction reveals that this strategy relies fundamentally on active learning and learner engagement, both inside and outside the classroom, within a framework of motivation, self-directed learning, and the assumption of both individual and collective responsibility in completing learning activities. Consequently, the learner in the flipped classroom environment is characterised by dynamic and purposeful participation, critical thinking, dialogue, and the ability to work independently and collaboratively in small groups. This, in turn, enhances the likelihood of achieving the intended educational goals and learning outcomes effectively.

Therefore, teaching through the flipped classroom strategy necessitates ensuring the presence of sufficient flexibility in designing and delivering instructional content, in line with the nature of active learning and the targeted outcomes. It also requires a shift from the culture of teaching to the culture of learning, wherein the learner becomes an essential partner and the central focus of various educational activities. At the same time, the teacher remains the guiding and influential factor in enabling, sustaining, and effectively achieving learning outcomes.

5. Foundations of the Flipped Classroom

For the flipped classroom model (inverted learning) to be implemented effectively and efficiently, four fundamental pillars must be ensured.

5.1 Flexible Learning Environment (Flexibility)

A rigid learning environment hinders the implementation of inverted learning, as the teacher may need to continuously reorganise the learning setting in accordance with the instructional situation, students' levels, and their needs. This may involve establishing areas dedicated to self-study, group-based activities, research, application, or other formats, all of which can coexist within a single learning environment. Thus, sufficient flexibility must be ensured in the learning environment and, among those managing it, to accommodate such dynamism and facilitate the teacher's role. Even the teacher must accept the fact that the classroom may at times be noisy and full of movement, which is uncharacteristic of traditional classroom settings.

5.2 Changes in the Learning Culture

This involves the transition from a philosophy in which the focus of learning is centred upon the teacher, who is considered the sole source of knowledge for the subject, to one where the student becomes the central focus. The student shifts from being a "product" of teaching to the nucleus of the learning process, actively and positively constructing knowledge. Within this framework, the teacher intervenes to guide the student in progressing from one cognitive level to another.

5.3 Careful Consideration in Structuring and Analysing Content

This entails determining which elements of the content should be delivered through direct instruction and which can be presented to students through other means. Such decisions depend primarily on the teacher's judgement, informed by the nature of the subject matter and the students themselves.

5.4 Availability of competent and well-trained teachers

In contrast to what some may assume, the need for competent, well-trained teachers becomes even more pressing in inverted learning. This model neither intends nor results in eliminating the role of the teacher; instead, it increases the need for teachers who are adept at managing this instructional approach. In such a model, the teacher is required to make numerous decisions that must be as accurate as possible, particularly in navigating between direct instruction and indirect instruction mediated through technology.

6. Advantages of Flipped Learning

Several researchers have noted that the flipped classroom approach constitutes a new pedagogy that replaces the traditional method of instruction. In this model, learners watch or listen to lessons at home first, then note-taking and preparing questions, and then engage in assignments, tasks, and interactive activities during class time.

The flipped classroom method has demonstrated positive effects on students' performance and participation, encouraging them to undertake self-directed learning activities, engage in critical thinking, pursue independent learning, and interact positively with peers while learning from them. In addition, it provides teachers with greater flexibility to cover a broader range of material in greater depth while offering opportunities for applied learning through classroom activities, problem-solving, and timely feedback and guidance for learners.

Furthermore, learning becomes more accessible through the simplified explanation of difficult tasks and complex ideas, which educational videos render more understandable and manageable. Fulton indicated that students favour this method for several reasons, including the flexibility offered through multimedia resources that allow them to rewatch or listen to lessons multiple times until the desired learning goals are achieved. Equally important is the teacher's dedicated effort within the classroom to help students tackle more challenging problems.

Walsh has further highlighted the enjoyment that this approach brings through the availability of an ever-expanding array of excellent tools that enable teachers to create their own digital instructional resources. Digital media not only make the creation and delivery of video lectures relatively easy but also confer flexibility, enabling learners to engage with content at their own pace. Locke's findings echo this, noting that learners expressed enjoyment with the new teaching and learning approach built upon such modern methods. However, he also reported that this enjoyment does not necessarily translate into significant improvements in learners' cognition or deeper learning. The same researcher suggested that this method may prove more effective than traditional educational practices only if learners engage more actively and preview the educational videos associated with the lesson topic.

The advantages of this strategy can be summarised as follows:

- This ensures the optimal use of lecture time, allowing for greater focus on inquiry-based activities.
- Student-centred learning enables the repetition of lessons according to individual differences.

- Interactive and collaborative classroom activities that emphasise creativity and inquiry skills should be provided.
- This allows the teacher to utilise class time more effectively for guidance, motivation, and assistance, fostering stronger relationships between the teacher and the student.
- Students are transformed into researchers of their own sources of information, thereby enhancing critical thinking, self-directed learning, building experiences, and developing communication and collaboration skills among students.
- Students are motivated to prepare and be ready before class through quizzes, short online assignments, or worksheets graded for credit.
- Offers a mechanism to assess student comprehension; quizzes and short tasks serve as indicators of strengths and weaknesses in learners' understanding, enabling the teacher to address them effectively.
- Grant students complete freedom to choose the time, place, and pace of their learning.
- Students should be provided with immediate feedback from teachers during lectures, as well as remedial instruction for students who need additional support.
- Encourages social and educational interaction among students when working in small collaborative groups.
- These findings can help bridge the knowledge gap caused by student absences from class.

6. Challenges Hindering the Adoption of the Flipped Classroom Strategy

Despite the advantages of the flipped classroom, several challenges confront those who seek to adopt this strategy. The first is the increase in workload, particularly for teachers already burdened with professional responsibilities such as teaching, supervision, and guidance. Consequently, many teachers display hesitation and scepticism before engaging in any new strategy or method that requires time to understand and master. Kim and others expressed concern that teachers are not necessarily prepared to apply new pedagogies or innovative teaching strategies, to grant greater roles to learners, or to delegate responsibilities to students, as student-centred learning requires. They also noted that many teachers still struggle with managing lecture time effectively. Furthermore, many students continue to prefer traditional forms of instruction.

Second, research has demonstrated that learners' average attention span when watching videos typically ranges from 10–15 minutes. Fowler reduced this estimate to six minutes on the basis of his analysis of several studies. An additional critical concern noted by Moraros and colleagues was the poor audio quality of some videos, often accompanied by background noise, which made it difficult for learners to follow and comprehend certain concepts.

Third, Bergmann and Sams raised several key questions: How can class time and professional training time be used most effectively to meet the demands of specialised instruction? How can the model accommodate rigid timetables, diverse learning styles, and constant changes in curricula? Moreover, Lasher and Lewis inquired about the guarantees that students would come to class prepared or have watched the videos beforehand. Similarly, if students do not use viewing time wisely, such as by watching videos in full, revisiting them, and taking notes or developing questions, the flipped classroom approach may not prove more effective than traditional educational practices.

Accordingly, this educational model faces several challenges, including the following:

- Teachers' resistance to change, lack of flexibility in mindset, and difficulties in altering their methodologies, alongside insufficient skills for using the technological programs required to produce materials for flipped learning.
- Recording lectures requires extraordinary effort and awareness, responsibilities that broadly fall upon the institution or the body producing such lectures.
- The flipped learning model contains essential components, both in the activities carried out outside the classroom and those undertaken within it, which must be integrated to ensure students' comprehension and motivation.
- Implementing the flipped learning model may result in an additional workload, requiring teachers to acquire new skills.
- Students may complain about the absence of face-to-face interaction with the teacher, as flipped learning relies on recorded lectures that do not allow them to ask questions during delivery. This sense of loss may intensify if they perceive that the lectures dedicated to them are also accessible to anyone on the internet.
- Equipment availability and accessibility for receiving video lectures or media may vary across all students. Similarly, the lack of suitable technology with an adequate standard can hinder the adoption of inverted learning. Concerns have also been raised that this model may widen the gap between students from high-income and low-income families, as issues such as internet availability and speed across different regions are crucial considerations.
- As lectures are delivered in a relatively informal environment, some students may become less attentive and experience weaker self-discipline than they do in face-to-face learning.
- Some critics argue that flipped learning amounts to little more than students teach themselves, a practice that some may find difficult, with the risk of learners becoming passive listeners at home.

Nevertheless, many of these challenges can be addressed. Flipped learning should not be perceived merely as homework assignments delegated to students in the teacher's absence but rather as a pedagogical approach built upon partnership and meaningful interaction between the student and teacher. The model focuses on important learning experiences within the classroom, which flipped learning helps cultivate.

Equally, claiming that students cannot learn independently is incorrect. Indeed, learners have already acquired essential abilities such as speaking, reading, eating, and walking without external assistance.

Conclusion

Therefore, it may be concluded that adherence to the traditional model of instruction was once justified by the lack of alternative means for conveying knowledge to the learner. At present, however, technology offers numerous diverse tools and methods to fulfil this role. Thus, there is no longer any justification for maintaining the traditional paradigm of teaching and learning. The time has come to re-examine prevailing instructional methods, particularly in light of the accumulation of research findings on learning and the emergence of new approaches that align with learners' cognitive dispositions and yield greater educational effectiveness.

Technology is now omnipresent, having entered both schools and homes. Accordingly, rather than prohibiting its use in the classroom or domestic sphere, we must harness the positive opportunities it affords to stimulate learners' motivation and achieve the intended educational objectives. Teachers who aspire to provide their students with high-quality education worldwide have adopted the pedagogy of the "flipped classroom," owing to its capacity to generate profound motivation among learners and to create an atmosphere of both enjoyment and benefit.

This approach integrates a range of pedagogies into practice that have already demonstrated effectiveness and value in education and training, including active pedagogy, differentiated pedagogy, multiple intelligence pedagogies, inquiry-based learning, project-based learning, and self-directed learning. Collectively, these constitute modern and effective strategies in contemporary educational practice.

Methodology

This study employed a qualitative analytical approach based on descriptive and interpretative analysis of educational literature and case studies related to flipped learning. Data were collected from scholarly publications, educational technology reports, and institutional policy documents between 2018 and 2024 to ensure current perspectives on the integration of flipped classrooms in higher education. The analysis focused on three core dimensions: (1) Pedagogical design and structure of flipped classrooms, including the sequencing of pre-class, in-class, and post-class learning activities; (2) Implementation realities, encompassing teachers' experiences, learners' engagement, and technological accessibility in Arab and international universities; and (3) Prospects and sustainability, evaluating institutional strategies for embedding the flipped model into curricula. The findings were thematically coded to identify recurring challenges—such as digital inequities, teacher preparedness, and assessment redesign—and opportunities including enhanced motivation, peer collaboration, and reflective learning.

Ethical Considerations

This research adheres to established ethical standards for academic inquiry. All information and theoretical sources were obtained from publicly available academic literature, ensuring appropriate citation and acknowledgment. No personal data from students or teachers were collected, and no experimental interventions were conducted. The study maintains full compliance with institutional and international ethical principles governing research in education, particularly concerning respect for intellectual property, transparency, and academic integrity.

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Conflict of Interest

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest regarding the publication of this paper. Both authors contributed equally to the conception, analysis, and writing of the study, and approve the final version for publication.

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