

EVOLVING LEARNING SPACE, ITS AVAILABILITY AND ADAPTATION TO IT BY TEACHERS AND LEARNERS

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Paper Received On: 21 JULY 2021

Peer Reviewed On: 31 JULY 2021

Published On: 1 SEPT 2021

Abstract

The following study focusses on the efforts that need to go into preparing the teacher and learner to adapt into the evolving learning spaces. A place where learning takes place, is a learning space. We have been using the traditional classroom for the purpose of teaching and learning since many years. It is important to discuss various facets of learning space, which reflects the learner's approach in the current scenario. The concept of learning space needs to be reconceptualised by taking into consideration students' mindset. Thereby building better ways of communication between learners and teachers. Classrooms as we have had since many years needs to be visualised differently. We also need to prepare our learners and teachers to adapt to new and changing structure in education. The pandemic situation has enabled us to think differently, use more of technology, offering flexibility, be more interactive while keeping safe distance.

Keywords: Learning space, technology, innovation, pedagogy, teacher development, ICT



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Introduction

Education begins from childhood and continues lifelong. Teaching and learning are an ongoing process. In a way it is true that learning can be beyond a traditional classroom. The formative years of a student are spent learning many subjects in school, later he or she studies in college. Virtual classrooms have existed since many years. AICTE has allowed blended learning and defined procedures and standards for same by making sure that quality of content as well as delivery mechanism are maintained well. Correspondence studies or Distance learning has existed since more than 30 years in India. IGNOU- Indira Gandhi National Open University is one which has catered to thousands of students every year, maintained content excellently well. Symbiosis International University (Deemed) is another example that needs a mention here.

The recent pandemic situation has catalysed education and technology in such a way that world over, people have come together to explore, work jointly and discuss. A learning space can be a classroom, a laboratory, online, face-to-face, individual or in a group. The space where learning happens can have intense effect on the learner's mind. Educational Technology has undergone a major change. It has questioned the traditional view of learning space.

The first learning space was the ancient Gurukul during the Vedic age in India, where the teacher or Guru taught students in an ashram, sat under banyan tree and taught them about life and culture. This was around 5000 BC. Then, came the brick and mortar school that arose in the industrial age. Later with the demands of sophistication, the educational opportunities changed the needs. New designs are incorporated as in technology and teaching learning. Educators have got together to pool in knowledge and carry out research to bring in technology like online learning and blend it well. Traditional classroom concept has given way to virtual classes. New applications are being used on mobile phones, computers, webinars, E learning, Online Conferences, seminars, Faculty development programs, term end exams are some of the ways in which new learning spaces have been accepted by school boards and universities. Academic institutions have brought forth online training programs for teachers and educators to learn tools and ways to teach online.

Importance:

A learning space has undergone tremendous changes lately. Learning can occur anywhere, open space, under a tree, inside classroom, online or by correspondence. The requirements have changed so has the learner and the teacher. Technology has enabled to accommodate the changing educational requirements. Away from classroom environment, a teacher and students engage in lecture virtually using technology. A teacher has lot to learn and prepare to teach online. Similarly, a student has to get accustomed to online learning. A constant looking at screen instead of a face to face learning has led to rethinking of approach towards learning, not only in India but the world over. This has great impact on learning. It has brought together people to connect and thereby redesigning the approach towards learning.

Adams Becker et al. 2016; Sutherland and Fischer 2014 have reiterated how education technology impacts the learning space and the challenges to reconstruct and redesign it. Technology like Internet of things, innovative web technology, applications, mobile devices, swiftly changing scenario has affected the spaces where learning occurs. A classroom space is not essential. So, efforts are made in redesigning and restructuring the learning space by rebuilding the infrastructure. A learner will have own learning style and pace. In an online class

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a student looks at screen constantly, it may lead to fatigue, tiredness and boredom. The attention span is affected. Lack of movement and interaction with fellow students may have an adverse impact. At this point it is important to consider, whether these reforms would seriously have positive role in learning? Whether a fancy learning environment is based on any principals laid down in teaching and learning, is a serious after thought. Cuban 2001; Scardamalia and Bereiter 2014. This is a powerful field of study in education research.

In order to integrate technology in learning space it is important to blend content with technology and make it work effortlessly. A reformed learning space using technology has positive impact on learning as well as teaching. It is imperative that the preparation for same is undertaken by learner as well as teacher to achieve the best for both. Facilities for the student and training for the teacher are two aspects which leads to effectuation. Recent pandemic situation has prompted the education system to go online. Various applications which were practically never used by common man came into forefront and have been used for lectures, seminars and conferences. Mobile applications, computers, video lectures, web applications are common since last few months. Few months down the line even when situation is better, these technological advances need to continue. These have brought in flexibility in learning. Evolving teachers as leaders is an important aspect of the emerging learning spaces. Connecting educators across the country to share resources, knowledge, providing opportunities, honing skills for developing better curriculum, redesigning lesson plans to include technology and thereby breaking walls between the world and education.

Need of this study

Instead of memorising lessons, a student has to learn how to solve problems. Learning -how to learn is the approach to be imbibed. Rather than simply looking at text books, making the learning more project based by taking the students out to the industry for real life experience thereby meeting the professionals. Incorporating modules like entrepreneurship, business studies, themes like learning independently are some of the important facets of the new age curricula. Reframing the curriculum and bringing in changes, redesign learning space suiting the requirement of present situation can help stabilise the system. This will definitely help create jobs, making lives more secure.

Significance of this study

It is important for an educator to understand and accept that the education system all over world is undergoing a change. So, the teacher as well as the student has to be prepared looking ahead and not taking a step backward. In order to meet the accelerating technological advances like

Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning and Internet of Things, the teacher and student have to step up and be at par, to be more adjusting. Whether the learning space is partly classroom, partly online, fully online as per the demand, it is crucial to prepare the learner as well as teacher to accept the system, emerging trends, retrain the educator, at the same time reconfigure the curriculum to adapt to the learning space

Objective

1. To study the availability of Learning Space in schools.
2. To study the availability of Technology in Schools.
3. To study the preparation of Teachers to use ICT in schools.
4. To study the preparation of students to use ICT in schools.

Research Methodology: Survey method

Research Tool: Observation

Procedure of the data collection

1. Data pertaining to student-teacher feedback will be collected through survey method.
2. The survey will be sent through Google Form and received back within a week.
3. Observation will be made in the school about technology used for virtual teaching and learning.
4. Observation will be participant and non-participant.

Procedure of the data analysis

The Data obtained from teachers-students will be analysed using both quantitative and qualitative techniques.

Conclusion: We can study the following based on the survey questions.

1. Education technology supports learner and teacher.
2. Schools under study have adequate technology to use for virtual learning.
3. Teachers are well equipped and trained to use technology.
4. Students are also well equipped and able to use technology.
5. Preparing teacher and learner for emerging learning space requires flexibility and adaptability which support is given by the schools.

Internet Resources:

<https://tech.ed.gov/files/2017/01/NETP17.pdf>

[https://bold.expert/we-need-to-completely-reimagine-](https://bold.expert/we-need-to-completely-reimagine-education/?gclid=Cj0KCQiAkuP9BRCKARIsAKGLE8UiPz7NSdKmqDsYZDsybyBjATfWmILzxMxN-NrTiGeJCeKvbaMtBPsaAheVEALw_wcB)

[education/?gclid=Cj0KCQiAkuP9BRCKARIsAKGLE8UiPz7NSdKmqDsYZDsybyBjATfWmILzxMxN-NrTiGeJCeKvbaMtBPsaAheVEALw_wcB](https://bold.expert/we-need-to-completely-reimagine-education/?gclid=Cj0KCQiAkuP9BRCKARIsAKGLE8UiPz7NSdKmqDsYZDsybyBjATfWmILzxMxN-NrTiGeJCeKvbaMtBPsaAheVEALw_wcB)

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https://www.researchgate.net/publication/263604042_Future_learning_spaces_Design_collaboration_knowledge_assessment_teachers_technology_and_the_radical_past
<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0747563213002161>
Frontiers | A Comparative Analysis of Student Performance in an Online vs. Face-to-Face Environmental Science Course From 2009 to 2016 | Computer Science (frontiersin.org)
<https://books.google.se/books?id=qf1EAQAAQBAJ&lpg=PA1&ots=1KYZNddQg4&dq=Cuban%20001%3B%20Scardamalia%20and%20Bereiter%202014.&lr&pg=PP1#v=onepage&q&f=false>
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