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Virtual Classrooms: A Project of New Era Learning

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With the advent of internet in the early 1990's many tools and equipment of sharing thoughts and ideas have been developed .Video conferencing what'sapp,Google meet ,Facebook twitter are some devices and medium of internet usage . Virtual learning environments have come in the light for enhancing learning and teaching activities in the world of internet .Now, let's know something about Virtual classroom.

What is virtual classroom?

Virtual classroom is an online mode of learning where both instructor and learner interact,communicate with one another at the same time with different geographical region. It is software based learning .virtual classroom software application provides education through multiple technologies, such as Web conferencing, live streaming to the students around the world like a real classroom .In the past time ,School was a place where students and teachers interacted with each other . It was a well settled educational area for learning as well as teaching.



Purpose

In 21st century, our society is changing very rapidly, socially as well as educationally. We need to cope up with the changing pace of development. In present time, we have many tools in this world where one can learn not only through books but also with many devices via internet. Internet is also most significant source to make it as a futile element for everyone who have urge to learn with different ways. Virtual classroom provide an environment for the pupils to capture as much knowledge as they can. Tutors also has many opportunities to confront with different student at a same time in a real classroom environment. The purpose of this paper is to discuss about the virtual classroom, how it is beneficial when real classroom learning is on stake in this life consuming pandemic. One of the most important contributions of this project for teachers is to enhance learning among students and to curtail their anxiety, boredom and tension towards their future.

Virtual classroom : A language learning technology

There are so many ways to learn a language but it depends on person how effectively and fastely he acquires language knowledge. Various kinds of learner react differently with different mode of learning in present condition. Learning management system is providing a digital language learning resources. The learners can access language learning sources from anywhere, wherever they want and whatever method and technology they have in hand. It can be easily processed by person, any time, according to their own accord. The digital world has supplied a new platform for language students to learn new skill, expertise and technique. They can access their progress. Educational technology has certainly opened up a whole new type of learning. Now a day, English has become a worldwide communication language. Information Technology has the supreme place in the international transfer of ideas and thoughts. Today, teaching of English language is not in the edge of some rigid and conventional methods. It does not depend on the study of its structure but something more. Various approaches and standard are used for learning a language. Generally, these teaching methods come in the circle of two categories or approaches - teacher centered and other onestudents centered.

Teaching methods included general principles, pedagogy and management plans used in classroom instruction. In this paper, we are going to examine, how the old traditional

methods are useful for getting knowledge about language. The first one is “Direct Method”. In Nineteenth and Twentieth century it came in to existence and was based on instruction delivered through demonstration. Learner is forbid to use his or her mother tongue. Grammar rules are avoided,only memorized by the learner.Pronunciation should be proper while pronouncing words.The next one isgrammar translation method which is known as the classical method and was in vogue during sixteenth century. The main focus was on translation of text, grammar. Only rote learning of vocabulary happened .it was a teacher centered approach used to teach classical languages like Latin. This method was focused on reading and writing skills. There were no skills of communication with that. One another method is natural method which was developed by Mr. Stephen Krashanand and Mrs. Tracy Terrel in 1983, which believes in natural acquisition of second language,person can attain language in their whole life; itdoes not vanish as they grow up.

Communication with native language can become more interestingby using techno based methods. Teachers can use collaborative communication model for motivating their students there are some techno based Skype, Mine craft and Alrobots Vimeo where a teacher upload their video like YouTube. “Film English” is the first ELT resource site to use short films. Chat function, writing on the white board,recorded lecture and interaction patterns are some tools for making virtual classroom, more interesting and attractive.

Situation of India

In the present scenario of covid-19, a severe need of online learning is prevailing where everyone is facing a great loss of education. Education is disrupted by this pandemic. To improve the condition of education, E-learning is a great solution to some extent because India is a developing country and lack of sources have slowed down the speed of education .Only handful of student can adopt online teaching methods . Approx. 66% of India’s population live in villages and only 50% of rural background person have access to internet services and for urban it is 42% . This digital divide can be categorized according to class,gender, region or place of residence. Among the 20% of the poorest people, only 2.7% can access to computer and 8.9% to internet. If we talk about gender gap for internet access,the condition is also very degradable. As per the “*Internet and Mobile association of India*” report, in 2019, only 67% men had access to internet and for women , it is only 33% .

For a better learning one to one interaction between students and teachers is vital. In India, these moving classrooms are not so effective like remote learning. It is largely depended on the readiness of both teachers and students to use these digital modes of learning. Many of the teachers are not so trained .They have never used this online environment before. Not only teachers but students are also faced many problems in learning because it demands a peaceful and healthy environment .However ,not all students have a solitary space for learning at home , where 37% of households in India have only one dwelling room. Students are unable to give cost of these applications.

Advantages of virtual classroom

Today, Virtual classrooms are used by Educators to replicate a customary practice of typical classroom. Its prime objective is to enable the students to perceive knowledge and education through online .there are various benefits of virtual classroom due to which it has become a true approach of education than transformative learning of education .Several advantages have found in this new practice.

Gives students and teacher a worldwide subjection

Lakh of people who live in village, have immense mental ability and they have not much opportunity to show their potential but with the help of virtual devices,they can make a worldwide exposure of their intelligence and talent.

Reinforce cooperation and communication

Everyone can easily collaborate with one another and can enjoy a great teamwork in sound learning surroundings.

Control the scarcity of teachers

It helps the students by letting them take virtual lecture from home by any teacher across the country. Only a few teachers can manage these sessions. In such situation a teacher combine multiple classes and increase the productivity of knowledge.

Increase distance learning

Number of students can take benefit of brilliant and excellent instructors across the world. They are not in the boundary of limited facility of education and can learn anything with different geographical division .It can surmount this geographic divide.

Rapid reaction and responses on assignment and test

You do not have to wait for days or weeks for responses of students if you arrange an online exam for student exams and assignments can be given easily and quickly with positive results which can be very helpful for the progress of students.

Disadvantages of virtual classrooms

There are many challenges faced by everyone in using this online mode of education. Things do not always go as well as they expected, different problems have to confront by teachers as well as students. Though it gives lots of advantages, it has some pitfalls also.

Need extra training

Virtual classroom can be used by many teachers comfortably because they have knowledge of this new kind of tech but some instructors do not have much. They need extra training for accepting this new era project. And also, they do not have enough time for exercising the classes effectively.

Moderate and disruption in internet connectivity

This new tech needs high speed internet connectivity. In our country where most of the people live in remote areas and possible facilities are rare. It is troublesome for students to get high speed connection.

Complexity

It is very complex process as compared to transformative and one to one learning. Many complications are associated with this.

Not so interactive

Virtual classroom cannot fulfill the need of students as they get in real classroom. Students miss the opportunity of personal instructions from teachers as they do in real classroom discussions. You can only have one person talking at any one time with that very little interaction is going on between the students and teacher.

Conclusion

There are few demerits of this integrating virtual classroom. It imparts lessons globally. Computers are prerequisite of our life but they can never take place in our natural world. Although a single connection provide by binding classroom, library,workplace and home. For these reasons, it is important to executed new methods,projects and programmers in the classroom.In short teaching online seems like a really attractive option for many teachers but teachers find a different environment when they get in to the virtual classroom. Schools, Universities and corporate organizations take benefit from virtual classrooms.

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