Role Of Learning Environment On Learners' Achievement In 21st Century

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Abstract

The learning environment is a great attribute to the success of a learner. Factors such as ensuring fairness and Justice, positive engagement opportunities, thoughtful classroom setup and modern learning tools and Techniques constitute a conducive learning environment. A Learning Environment should be such that prepares students for real life. Teachers play an active role in setting up such an environment where the learning is adjusted as per the situation to make it effective. A combination of flipped and blended classrooms is used to provide instructions. To cater individual differences and needs, Differentiated Instructions are being given. Teachers ensures to motivate, provide guidance to the students. It's time to switch to a virtual Learning Environment. E - learning has the potential to continue learning for students even though there are some challenges to create a sound Learning Environment.

KEYWORDS: *Learning Environment , Achievement, E - Learning , Collaboration.*

1. Introduction

Student's used to spend 7-8 hours daily in a classroom. On an average around 250 working days in a year for around 12-15 years. It constitutes a large part of their Learning period that consciously , unconsciously influences their learning , thinking , perception, beliefs , attitudes etc. The environment at school is a very important factor affecting learning among students. A positive environment brings Achievements while a factor that is affecting a child negatively directly or indirectly can cause stress , depression , anxiety and low self esteem etc. When stress is combined with Learning process , the performance of the students degrades. Student Achievement is said to be when the students acquire knowledge , skills and values that help them to become successful and happy in life. Each class has its different learning objectives that the teachers are required to teach. Students' Achievement differs in individuality and as a whole. However according to the UNDP report (2018),   India's Education Index stood at 129 over 189 countries. The figures given by world population review (2019) state that the average IQ of India is 82 while that of Singapore is 108. According to the Global creativity index (2015) India stood at 99th position over 139 countries on the dimension of technology , talent and tolerance.

The definition of the learning environment has evolved with time. It's approach has made a transition with respect to modern learners. Learning Environment is an integration of Educational approach , tools and techniques , cultural context that focus on development of morals and values and physical

settings such as proper infrastructure , AV tools. Keeping the diversity , learning abilities and individual differences in mind ; it becomes very important for the facilitator to develop a conducive approach that is suitable for all types of learners. According to Swafford et al(2014) students' achievement and behavior is positively related to the learning environment. Through a positive Learning Environment , students tend to develop the skills that they need for education , career and life. The different components of a positive Learning Environment in a classroom can include task relevance, greater connect among children, security and identification with learning task.

2. Literature review

According to Patricia (2015) In competency based education , Teachers must identify new strategies to enhance Learning and motivating the students with the help of institutional support. Mimirinis et.al (2007) stated that "Reflection, inquiry, analysis and synthesis are key factors which play key roles in demonstration of learning approach in an online context". Students' positive perception is linked to desirable Learning outcomes. Zekan et al (2012) stated that Technology has become an essential part of learning and teaching. Students must be given education in the form of simulation and games to prepare for real life. El Mhouti et al (2017) introduced that A smart classroom refines the internal learner model to dynamic realities affected by the learner with the help of E- Learning. Learning occurs outside teaching hours and away from school building. Elements like social media , web 2.0 technologies play an important role in knowledge construction. The blending of E- Learning with traditional education processes helps to assimilate in the modern Learning Environment.   According to Calixto et. al. (2019) the effect of collaboration versus intergroup competition, participation , social cognitive conflict , quality of contributions in virtual learning platforms.   The study shows that without competition , Learning is considered to be more consistent. There are no benefits of intergroup competition.

Andrade et al (2012) suggested that in "Flipped classroom, students study at home the theoretical component and classroom is designed for practical activities and exercised by the teacher". It contradicts the traditional learning environment. It has brought structural changes in the traditional classroom. The models are based on cognitive flexibility theory. Rob koper (2014) in his studies stated that the Smart Learning Environment requires intelligent teaching, cloud computing, features to track Learning progress, recognize learning scenario; these form an important part of digital Learning Environment. Physical Environment enriched with digital context aware and adaptive devices to promote better and faster learning. (HLI) Human learning Interface is the interaction mechanism that humans are exposed to outside the world. It can be used to control, stimulate and facilitate the learning practice. A learner uses Interfaces with parents, teachers, friends and digital divide. It helps in Economic and cultural development. According to Dabaa Lee (2018) personalized learning has various benefits still there are difficulties in its implementation because it is complicated, costly and requires advanced technology.

3. Role of learning environment on learners' achievement

 According to Lizzio et al (2007) Factors such as Respectful partnership between staff and students and system fairness significantly influences psychological identification of students. Although respectful behaviour, student staff partnership that constitute interpersonal Justice concerns has more influence on students' psychological identification. The research given by Alt, Dorit (2014) stated Academic cheating is a Function of individual expression that is based on the teacher's just behavior

and new learning environment. Students who had personally received fair behavior from the teachers positively evaluated the learning environment and were less inclined towards academic cheating. The students developed a belief in a just world where they reciprocate the Teachers' behavior. Chory - Assad Rebecca(2002) stated Students perceptions of procedural Justice were positively correlated with student motivation and affective learning than distributive Justice as per regression analysis while it has negative correlation with students aggression towards course instructors. The study conducted by Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (2000) suggested that The student will wear appropriate clothing. Clothing that promotes drugs , abusive language , racial , sexual , vulgar suggestions will have to follow consequences. Strict prohibition is to be made on illegal drugs , alcohol. No student is allowed to initiate any form of bullying , intimidation. Proper counselling and mentoring helps students to create a positive approach to learning and to suspend this kind of activity. Ocon , Ralph (2015) suggested that to make the learning Environment interactive and inspiring , humor can enhance interest and learning. Teaching with humor, helps in grasping the attention of modern learners, thereby increasing the competency of teachers. When students take interest in learning, a positive learning environment is created.

Research done by Akili (2014) stated that the quality of learning can be improved by becoming sensitive towards the students' needs. A caring faculty understands the needs of the learners and encourages and supports them to develop their individuality and is willing to listen and provide advice whenever required. Such faculty become an emotional support to the students. A teacher should provide guidance, and generate curiosity and assist the students in learning to create a positive Learning Environment. Coronation, Alta (2014) stated that Zero tolerance attitude towards bullying and discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or any other ground. For the LGBT community, roles of parents and schools need to be identified. Student code of conduct is mandatory to support caring, respectful and create a safe learning environment. The students play an active role in the learning process thus, they must be contributing to create a positive learning environment. Jayahari et al (2017) states A smart classroom setup is a Proficient method for instructions. Both teachers and Learners play an active role using Advanced Instructing Techniques, active teaching methodologies. To avoid wastage of time, that is done during setup, teachers can provide study material to students in advance. According to Sutliff et al. (2008) the students who are unmotivated in the class , are the biggest challenge for the teachers. The beginner teachers invest a lot of time and energy to build synchronization with such students. Teachers who create a learning environment of respecting each other are able to handle their classes well and become effective in achieving the goals learning outcomes.

The research by Lucinda (2016) focused on the development and construction of a learning environment positively impacts students' academic success. It includes characteristics of positive classroom Environment. Well laid down and organised classroom , accountable talks , collaborative groups , positive teacher student interaction, learning targets. It constitutes a positive Learning Environment. Study by Aruojo et al (2014) stated that In a Blended Learning program , collaborative tools such as BrainMergeTM , TERF , FishbowTM were experimentally used and most participants confirmed that EVC (Ethics , Values and Citizenship) contributed to the learning routine. The study shows significant transforming impact on the students that helped to solve school problems and make class more interactive. J.E. Young et al (2016) in their studies , stated that constructive support , immediate and positive feedback significantly improves the overall learning experience. Students experienced deep Learning in simulated consultations and reported positive Learning experience. Hester et al (2003) stated that Teachers establish a nurturing classroom environment. Teacher Integrates Social, behavioural and academic aspects to create a conducive environment and positive outcome for all students.

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4. Modern learning environment

The study by Hongchao peng , (2019) concludes that There are four core elements of personalised learning and adaptive learning. It includes individual characteristics , Individual performance , personal development , adaptive adjustment. The technology empowered pedagogy included real time monitoring. While personalized learning focuses on learning profiles , competency based progression , personal learning and flexible learning , considering that there are four types of learning. E-learning , M- Learning , V- Learning and S- Learning. Study given by Kuei Tung Hsio et.al (2011) integrates body movements. Virtual reality (VR) , Mixed reality (MR) and augmented reality (AR). AR technology superimposes a computer-generated image on a user's view of the real world, thus providing a composite view. It is used in learning treatment , adolescence and psychology. Due to participation, learners take interest, it increases their motivation and thus Learning is enhanced. The study stressed that involving the learners participation in thinking and doing activities make them healthier.The AR Learning system includes technical settings and the system. Study given by Wong , Ing Liang (2013) suggested that the use of formative assessment and a blended learning Environment helped to develop independent thinking skills of the students. Properly designed and structured activities helps to create an independent Learning Environment.

Grigg, (2018) (SCALE-UP (Students centered activities for large enrollment UG programs) is a highly collaborative hands on classroom format that focuses on guided inquiry than traditional teaching. A web based homework management system providing necessary out of class materials. The flipped classroom approach is considered a need for a modern learning Environment. Galloway, laura (2016) suggested that Blended learning fosters trust, deep reflection, personal connection with the students. The content , dialogues, interaction helps in transforming the students socially. Thus blended learning is used as a tool to achieve social justice in education. According to Golden, et.al. (2012) "Blended learning approach relates to improving skills , knowledge and attitude for enhancing practices, enhanced output of employment, learning for people with different abilities, considering factors like diversity and individual needs in mind".

According to Jena et al (2018) Collaborative Learning and web 2.0 learning has a positive impact on learners' progress and self regulation. vanOostveen et.al (2019) focussed that Online resources and systems are used for supportive Teachers service in pursuit of expansion in education. Focus is shifted to higher order thinking skills rather than on content. Online experiences are grounded in principles of social - constructivism that helps to create an online learning environment. According to Eunice et.al (2017) Students in flipped classroom model conditions benefited with lesson plans prepared in advance as they were able to interact with peers and teachers during learning processes. It encourages students to be directly involved and active in learning.

Findings from Bokolo Anthony et al (2019) suggested that Blended Learning has a significant impact on Learners' results , Achievement , engagement, involvement , retention and cognitive abilities. While BL impacts positively on the staff by increasing performance , helping in evaluation , effective delivery , performance and motivation. Bush , Gail (2006) stated that Differentiated Instructions as an approach to fit the needs of diverse Learners. This method of teaching helps to make Learning meaningful for all. DI is a learner centered approach that depends on students readiness , interest and learning profile. The level of difficulty within the same unit is set differently for different students. Prabhat Hemantha (2020) stated that despite the lockdown amid coronavirus outbreaks, institutions

have taken precautionary measures to prevent spread of coronavirus keeping the studies unaffected. The classes are being conducted online , the teacher gives lectures with live streaming and students join the virtual class.

5. Challenges

There's no doubt that though education has become learner centered now but still the role of teacher is active. The competency of a teacher has its impact on students Achievement. There may be other factors that may act as Challenge for learners and teachers. According to Morrison - Thomas , Novelet (2016) though teachers may be trained well in their respective fields still the implementation of Differentiated Instructions has seen inconsistency , infrequently and incorrectly. The implementation part is time - consuming , there is a lack of resources and material to cater the Learners' needs. According to Tang et al (2015) in order to learn through blended learning, learners must be equipped with mobile devices and Web services and students must have access to digital technology which is also called digital literacy. Study highlights that a higher percentage of respondents prefer classroom learning as compared to online learning. The need for social belongingness is felt , moreover students felt face to face meetings are more effective than online interaction. An Article in medianet press release wire (2020) raised concerns like how to provide career counselling to remote students and means of connecting them to further education, assessing the resources, maintaining standards of education, meet the local needs and internet to remote students. According to the Early times , Jammu (2020) the pandemic has brought overnight changes like how education was being given. Issues such as lack of training, lack of bandwidth, frustration, inequalities, digital divide, reliable internet connection, equity gap have raised over time.

6. Conclusion

From the following articles, it is concluded that learning environment plays an important role in students achievement there are various tools that teachers can use to enhance learning in a classroom such as collaborative learning e learning creating a positive learning environment in continuing or maintaining justice, fairness, security to the students , preparing students for real life introducing modern method of learning so that students feel connected. In the present day situation such as the coronavirus outbreak people are not supposed to go to school or any other physical space in such case e learning helps to keep in pace with the curriculum. A good combination of hardware and Web services can really help to enhance learning.   Although there are some challenges in successful implementation of e-learning but that must be overcomed to realise the potential of E- Learning.

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