

EFFECTIVENESS OF VIRTUAL CLASSES POST COVID 19

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Abstract

The Coronavirus led lockdown has put all of our strength and zeal to a hard test by interrupting our regular lives in recent history. It is indeed testing times for all of us. In an effort to overcome the effects of the pandemic, schools all around the globe are switching to online teaching-learning mode. Meanwhile, there is nothing like face to face interactions, and engagement by sharing creative ideas and life's lessons, brainstorming sessions, coupled with funny anecdotes inside the classroom. The dire need of the hour is to stay safe at home. The teachers are consistently working to adapt and make learning fun, effective and imperative through virtual classes. In this paper we have explained about the Effectiveness of Virtual Classes and Online Examinations

Keywords: Virtual class , virtual classroom , Virtual training , virtual project

1. INTRODUCTION:

With the unexpected COVID-19 pandemic, schools around the world have taken a step for closing their doors to help promote social distancing in the hope of slowing the spread of the virus. However, the transition to online learning could be a challenge for everyone.

To motivate the online classes, teachers are leaving no stone unturned to ensure joy, warmth, and humour while video conferencing with the students. This is now becoming trending where Mrs Nidhi Bansal, Pro-Vice Chairperson, Pacific World School, said, "This transition to the virtual mode is an outcome of the collaborative efforts of the school management, teachers, students, and parents. Meticulous planning, frequent parent-teacher interface via WhatsApp, reliance on online resources and most importantly, the learner's enthusiastic involvement is indeed inspiring elements in the collaboration."



Fig 1 : Virtual Classroom

Though there is no replacement to direct human interaction, the virtual classes are indeed a smooth transition from the conventional classes. Online courses appeal for a better amount of motivation and self-discipline than a classroom-based course.

In context to the same, Mrs Pallavi Uphadhyaya, Principal, DPS Rajnagar Extension said, "The video interaction has provided an edge to the entire learning system, it has made students explore more learning platforms and implement ideas that they have never tried before. The lockdown situation would have proven to be very boring had there been no E-learning for these young minds. Attending online classes is relaxed and comes with the comfort of homes. This is also reflecting a positive impact on their attendance."



Fig 2 : Virtual Education

2. VIRTUAL TEACHING:

The students and teachers can communicate and share knowledge through mail , online chat and video conferences. But in the classroom they can communicate through a single channel only. Nowadays many students are very much interested in learning through online mode rather than coming to class physically. During this Lockdown period , it has become mandatory to close educational institutions. This mode of Online classes is more preferred by students because the students will not get scolded , wake up late and can learn comfortably. But when we consider about the Teacher - Student relationship , it is much less when compared to real classes. Interaction between Teacher and student becomes less and the students deny asking questions in online classes. Such type of online classes can be opted only when it is essential for any emergency situation and not during at all times.

2.1 A Virtual Classroom Better Than A Real One

Vast changes has appeared in the field of Education during the couple of decades. Recent trends and advancements in Technologies has completely moved our experience in learning to another side. The new styles adopted for learning has completely changed the education. There are many reasons for making this Online classrooms more effective than the real classrooms and several advantages are there also which adds to this validation.

2.2 Schedule Flexibility

Working online and conducting classes or listening classes online includes the family responsibilities and it is really a big challenge we face. During these online classes students can study on their own time in a flexible manner. Rather than setting up their lives through traditional learning, this online mode of learning allows students to make fit education in to their lives. In online classes, students have a chance to take a break at certain times. They can even listen to classes while travelling in a bus, during lunch break which is quite impossible in traditional classrooms.

2.3 Knowledge Retention

Traditional mode of classrooms has less effective sessions of fun and interactive sessions of modules which may be paused and repeated whenever required in online classrooms. Such type is called micro learning which helps learners to find out their requirement quickly and can manage easily.

2.4 Increased Engagement & Participation

It may seem that there's more opportunities for engagement and participation in traditional classrooms but this isn't necessarily true there's many way to interact with virtual classrooms. You can message your teacher through chat or you can use the interactive comment and share features to help you engage and connect. For Example, it can also help learners who aren't comfortable interacting in-person an opportunity to contribute. Also, features like the comment and rating allows your teachers to determine the quality of their content and to adjust accordingly to ensure that students get the most effective learning experience.

2.5 Increased Convenience

Without the time or location limitations of a traditional classroom, students have the freedom to engage and absorb content with peers, at a location and time that they will learn best. Schools are realizing that not every learner is the same and sitting in a classroom for hours to learn about a topic is not effective for everyone. That's why a virtual classroom can help because it allows

learners to comprehend topics on their own terms, on many devices and anywhere that has internet.

2.6 Immediate feedback on tests

When you're enrolled in a virtual class you don't have to worry about waiting days for test results. When you take your tests online they are usually scored when you finish and you can quickly see where you need to improve. Also, your teacher can access your assignments and provide written feedback.

3. KEY FEATURES OF VIRTUAL CLASSROOM

Here are some of the key features of a virtual classroom, to help you know more about this concept.

- **Non-Restricting Nature**

The basic nature of a virtual classroom is that it is non-restricting and convenient. When anyone is being a part of a virtual classroom, he/she can interact, learn to communicate all over the world, without any restrictive barriers of communication.

- **Affordable Aspect**

Another important feature of a virtual classroom is the low cost involved. Both the teachers and the students can save money by not having to spend on travel expenses. Anyone can give and receive the best quality education globally. Participants are able to save time as well, as all they need is an internet connection.

- **Flexibility in Learning**

Online classes in a virtual classroom allow the users, the ability to record the classes as they are held. One can record presentations, audios, videos, and whatnot. It proves itself beneficial for the teachers as they don't have to re-teach any part if someone has missed.

This means, that the content is fully accessible even after it has been delivered. And also, an added benefit for those who prefer a quick refresher, or perhaps didn't fully understand the first time.

- **Practical and Proven**

Synchronous learning is a learning event in which a group of students or teachers, engage together in learning at the same time. Certainly, a traditional lecture is an example of this type of learning and is being followed since ages. However, a virtual classroom enables this type of experience, but with greater convenience and tools.

- **Accessible**

The concept of a virtual classroom is used to deliver lectures and even tutorials online; which certainly means that it is far more accessible than other options. It also provides other great options for group projects and impromptu meetings as well, where the members need to check-in on progress and bounce ideas of one another. With this kind of virtual environment, ideas and collaborators are never far away.

4. BENEFITS OF VIRTUAL CLASSROOM

- **Increased convenience**

One of the major benefits of a virtual classroom is that it has constantly removed the limitation of location and time which is a common challenge in a traditional classroom. The uplift of these limitations has given learners the freedom to study, learn and finish the coursework anytime and anywhere.

Teachers and learners also get the freedom to engage and interact with others on the classroom topics, getting the assignment done, absorbing the classroom content, taking and giving exams at a time or at the duration that best fits their schedule.

- **Effective time management**

Online learning provides working-class adults with the ideal environment needed, to maintain a perfect balance between work, family, and education. Virtual classroom certainly helps a lot in managing time effectively and efficiently.

- **Sharped digital skills**

Another advantage of a virtual classroom is that a lot of people find them to be very interested in the sharpening of one's digital skills. While increasing your knowledge and skills in the respective area of study, one is also able to sharpen one's digital skills on some of the most refined online learning solutions.

As one progresses in the online world, one will soon become highly productive and confident using interactive online learning tools.

- **Affordable**

As mentioned above, the virtual classroom provides a major benefit from the affordability point of view. The investment cost required for the setting up of a classroom and distance learning management system proves to be incredibly favorable and profitable as compared with the cost of building or expanding additional real classrooms to bring up extra new students.

- **Immediate feedback on exams and tests**

A virtual Classroom provides the advantage of getting instant feedback on the tests and exams which are held. An individual doesn't have to wait for the results for days or weeks to receive the scores if he/she is enrolled in an online degree program.

It helps the teachers as they don't have to wait for the time period to get over after the exams/tests are held, they can proceed with their syllabus right away.

The tests, assignments or exams are usually scored as soon as the learner finishes. This helps in progress tracking of the student and the weak areas for improvement are also indicated.

5. VIRTUAL CLASSROOM PROJECT

A Virtual Classroom Project is a part of the distance learning platform of the practical training environments, which usually incorporates course materials, homework, tests, assessments, and other tools that are generally external to the classroom experience.

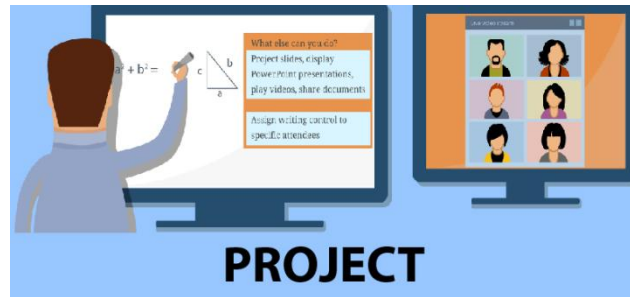


Fig 3 : Virtual Classroom Project

Under the concept of a virtual class project, the projects and assignments are held virtually and the results are declared at the same time. This concept is time and energy saving as one does not has to wait for the work first to be checked for proceeding with the syllabus forward.

6. VIRTUAL TRAINING

Virtual Training means the training which is done in a simulated or virtual environment, or when the locations of the learner and the instructor are separate. It refers to the online spaces that are designed for training.



Fig 4 : Virtual Training

Virtual training can be done synchronously or asynchronously. Virtual training and virtual training environments are designed to replicate the traditional learning experience and classrooms.

They're typically part of a larger training platform such as a virtual campus. Virtual training can also be defined as an online classroom delivery tool in a Virtual classroom within a Virtual Learning Environment.

CONCLUSION:

All the education research shows that more participation in discussion leads to better learning outcomes. The higher the participation, the more likely students will complete the course and experience a deep learning that stays with them for longer, and feel satisfied and fulfilled by the learning experience.

The quarantine period has made the teaching staff and students more proactive. Video and reference links are being shared with students before the class to give them a gist of the whole session; it also provides them a window for preparation leading to increased participation during class assignments."

The teachers are also motivating students to explore creativity, cherish family bonds, play indoor games, learn novel skills, imbibe yoga as a daily habit, read e-books, consume nutritious food and stay safe at home.

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