



## **Smart Classes- A New Expression Of Learning**

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***Abstract:***

*The computer age is here, this cannot be debated. This paper critically evaluates the necessity of introduction of the most innovative technology i.e. the smart classes in the teaching-learning process. Up until recently, research in technology has focussed on the debate between conventional classrooms and smart classrooms teaching. Whatever may be the situation, whatever technological advancements may take place in the field of education but in all the cases, the role of the teacher was and will be the same 'a catalyst'. The newest challenge will be only how to use the technology to individualize instruction to help students meet standards and achieve their goals.*

***Key words:*** smart classes, expression, learning, innovative, technology

**1.Introduction**

- “We need technology in every classroom and in every student and teacher’s hand because it is the pen and paper of our time and it is the lens through which we experience much of our world”.

David Warlick

21<sup>st</sup> century is an era of transition in every walk of life. Whether we talk about art, culture, science or technology, change is observed in every dimension. Similarly this transition is observed in the field of education as well. Let’s go back to the olden days when education was imparted in ‘gurukuls’ and the whole teaching-learning process used to be carried out under the tree shade. With the passing of time schools were formed and a proper curriculum was framed for the learners. The teachers were given various trainings and emphasis was given to the different methodology and use of different teaching aids. With the advancement of science technology our whole universe has become one. We find that the students of today’s time are more curious to explore things and want to gain in-depth knowledge about every subject. To cater the needs the curriculum is revised on a regular basis and different strategies are designed for the students. 21<sup>st</sup> century is the age of computers. With the help of computers there are tremendous outbursts of inventions and innovations around the world. When every zone is getting affected then how is it possible that the most important zone i.e. our educational system remained untouched. As time is changing, so must the methods, strategies and techniques should also change. Teachers must receive adequate on-going training, technological use must be matched to the curriculum, philosophy and theory of learning and adequate numbers of learning material must be conveniently located within the classroom. To meet these needs, the most innovative revolutionary technology implemented in the field of education is the application of smart classrooms. This modern technology is used globally to gratify the essentials of the learners. It is must sure that implementation of this technology will uplift the standards of education. Through this approach it is assumed that most of the problems arising at the individual level will be rectified and the output in the form of students’ achievement will be surprisingly better.

## **2. Definition Of Smart Classroom**

There is not a definite definition of a smart class but for understanding purpose it can be stated as: A smart classroom is one occupied with multimedia components designed to enhance teaching-learning practice.

## **3. Traditional Classrooms V/S Smart Classrooms**

Both the above terms are the two sides of the same coin i.e. “Teaching-Learning” process. When we compare the two terms we find that the former type of classrooms are the one in which instructions are confined on the four walls. There is a definite pattern to be observed while in the case of later, it is not so. It doesn't mean that traditional classes are not appropriate but with the time one has to change. As John Dewey said, “If we teach today as we taught yesterday, we rob our children of tomorrow.” Therefore it is the need of the hour to integrate student-teacher-technology as one. Introduction of smart classrooms does not mean to uproot the conventional ways rather it means the integration of old with new. Shortly after the internet explosion of the 1990s, technology was immediately integrated into the classrooms. But that doesn't mean that the conventional forms will be replaced by the newer ones. The traditional ones cannot be swapped completely. In Bhopal itself, the concept of smart classes is quite fresh, and it might take some time to become accustomed with the present system. There are several opinions regarding the traditional and smart classes. Firstly I would like to emphasis on the conventional system which is still prevailing in the major parts of the country. In the traditional system the teacher is the only controller of the learning environments. Power and responsibility are held by the teacher and they play the role of instructor and decision maker. In this method the teachers regard students as having ‘knowledge holes’ that need to be filled with information. In short, the traditional teacher views that it is the teacher that causes learning to occur (Novak, 1998). Though the teacher is the most important factor in the learning process but being an human being there are chances of making mistakes and it is also difficult for a single teacher to offer ocean of knowledge. In such a situation a teacher is assisted and updated with the modern technological know-how, which enables the learning process more effective and efficient. It is rather next to impossible to uproot the old system completely because the instruction process is not complete without the teacher-learner interaction. There are people who misunderstand the concept of smart classes. Smart class is actually an interactive way of learning in which the teachers are provided with essential tools so as to manage the classrooms,

assess the students and encourage group effort. Many of the places have already introduced smart classrooms in their institutes and it's time for the other institutes to up rise who is still following the rigid conventional pattern. As the time changes, so must the style of teaching should also be changed. Introduction of smart classes can play a massive role in this revolution. It can be assumed that all the confines of the conventional system will get resolved if only the teachers understand their responsibility of disposing the technological knowledge to the right hands and in the right manner. By reflecting on the growing best practices of technology integration and by avoiding unproductive practices, teachers are better able to "make research-based decisions regarding the most beneficial approaches to technology . . . in educational settings" (Valdez et al., 1999, p.iii). We must recognize the speed with which technology progresses and be alert by adjusting our techniques as necessary. It also is appropriate to acknowledge that some technology applications remain constant when properly inserted into an aligned curricular plan. Although technology offers teachers one of the most powerful helpers impacting how education is provided and improved, the ultimate success of our educational institutes still remains in training and supporting quality, exceptional frontline teachers.

#### **4. Advantages Of Smart Classes**

- It is an innovative method of instruction.
- The virtual classroom transcends the boundaries of location, time and space providing a flexible learning environment.
- It has the potential to cater the needs of every single student since it works at an individual level.
- Keeps the students focussed on learning.
- The teachers can easily assess student's understanding.
- It encourages peer work.
- It is based on modern learning principles.
- It is good for anytime learning.
- A well designed module allows a student to visualize the concept much better than static images.
- It is creative and unique method of learning things.

- Teachers can design their own modules and bring relevant modifications if required.
- The student of today's era is an efficient computer user so learning through this method ensures learning with fun.
- Students get more opportunities to share ideas with classmates.
- It provides an excellent way for experts to explain a geographically dispersed group of students without difficulty.
- Teachers can revise the lessons and address their suggestions on the individual accounts of the students.
- It is convenient to arrange subject proficient lectures from the best technological institutes across the globe.
- Since the learning process, not necessarily be confined to walls, therefore students can interact with other students around the world and can enhance their knowledge.
- Interactive learning is improved.
- Curriculum is more flexible and open. It is mostly based on self-evaluation.
- It keeps the teacher up-to-date by informing the entire events of the classroom.
- Immediate feedback and suggestions are possible through this method.
- Can perform tasks at higher degree of accuracy.
- Each and every child can learn at its own pace.
- It develops self-confidence and self-esteem as they master the digital skills.
- Untapped future potential.

### **5.Limitations Of Smart Class**

- Teacher should be friendly with the multifaceted use of the software. If the teacher finds difficulty in handling the software, then it would be difficult for the students as well.
- Higher cost.
- Not much democratization in education.
- Lack of technological infrastructure and teaching materials in rural areas.
- Technical know-how may hinder the learning process.
- Some teachers have not understood the purposes of smart classrooms or what they were expected to do there.

- Continuous exposure may cause health problems like heart problems, eyes strain, deafness etc.
- Sometimes it is distracting and students are unmotivated to go to the educational institutes.

### **6. Conclusion**

Since the beginning of time technology has helped us out as a human race. From the invention of wheel to the internet, technology has been a great factor on the way our civilization has grown. In this age computers play a vital role in education and we hear about smart classes every day. This is a new revolutionary program in the educational system. It is a fact that every new thing seems to be difficult until it becomes easy but when one gets familiar, it is the most enjoyable experience for both for the instructor and the students to explore new things. The technology available today has made a wealth of knowledge available to students, which offers great potential for the speed and style of teaching. Information is presented in so many ways that any type of learner, whether gifted or disabled can find and use the necessary material. Teachers need to prepare students for a technical world requiring self- initiative in learning, precision in processes and the ability to identify and analyse pertinent information. Research is needed to ensure that other psychological and social issues in child development are considered as new technological strategies are implemented. We must ensure that students do not lose the nuances of interpersonal communication as they become technically oriented. Ornstein and Hunkins (1998) summarize these concerns by cautioning that we must avoid a misuse of technology, denying students “the opportunity to engage in his or her own creative participation to experience a real field experience, [and] to seek answers to his or her questions.”

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