



## RELEVANCE OF VIRTUAL CLASSROOM TO THE PRESENT EDUCATION SYSTEM

DR.C.B.VIKRAM

Assistant Professor, JSS Institute of Education, Sakleshpur, Hassan District, Karnataka

### Abstract:

*The importance of powerful teaching is increasingly important in contemporary society. Standards for learning are now higher than they have ever been before, as citizens and workers need greater preparation, knowledge, skill and usage of modern gadgets to survive and succeed. Technology is rapidly reshaping our world, and education is no different. A virtual classroom has emerged as a game-changer, transforming how we teach and learn. By eliminating physical boundaries, they open up endless education opportunities. A virtual classroom is of course a precious gadget which is an online teaching and learning environment where teachers and students can present course materials, engage and interact with other members of the virtual class, and work in groups together. The environment can be web based accessed through a portal or software based and requires a downloadable executable file. The virtual classroom allows teachers to attend a classroom from anywhere in the world and aims to provide a teaching experience that is similar to a real classroom. The present paper mainly focuses on relevance or emphasis of virtual classroom to the present education system.*

**Keywords:** Virtual Classroom, Relevance, Education System.

### INTRODUCTION

Education has a very important role in human life. The need of Education is a prime because it takes care of the development of all aspects of human personality. Education helps an individual to soar heights of excellence through rational thinking and attain supremacy and nobility,

making him the roof and crown of all creations. The use of virtual class room in the education system i.e., teaching-learning programmes, adds knowledge and experience to the students in new ways of learning by using technological resources. Virtual classrooms consists of a mixture of synchronous i.e., real time

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and asynchronous events i.e., self paced. They are special application of computer and network technologies to the task of education.

The key distinction of a virtual classroom is that it takes place in a live, synchronous setting. Online course work can involve the viewing of pre-recorded, asynchronous material, but virtual classroom settings involve live interaction between instructors and participants. Students who learn in virtual classrooms will often get to meet and learn with children from all over the world and from different cultures and backgrounds. Insights into how other cultures and people approach problem solving can help children to better their own skills. The present paper will describe the main features of virtual classroom, its uses and discuss the importance of virtual classroom to the present education system.

## **BACKGROUND**

A virtual classroom is a video conferencing tool where instructors and participants engage with each other and with the learning material. The difference with other video conferencing tools is that virtual classrooms offer an added set of features that are essential to a learning environment. Just as the term 'Virtual means a simulation of the real thing; a virtual classroom is a simulated classroom via internet, which provides a convenient communication environment for distance learners just like traditional face to face

classroom. Virtual classroom software applications often employ multiple synchronous technologies such as web conferencing, video conferencing, live streaming and web based to provide remote students with the ability to collaborate in real time. To enhance the process, applications may also provide a student with asynchronous communication tools such as message boards and charts capabilities.

Virtual classroom platforms are unlike correspondence courses. Virtual classroom is a higher interactive platform that uses videoconference technology to stimulate a real classroom environment wherein the participants interact face to face with the teacher seeing, hearing and asking questions just like in a real classroom. A virtual classroom is a powerful and interactive platform that brings together asking professionals from across the nation.

## **TYPES OF VIRTUAL CLASSROOM**

A virtual classroom enables students to access quality teachers anywhere on the planet so long as they both have a reliable internet connection. This can break down most of the common barriers to synchronous learning: cost, distance and timing. Virtual classrooms can work very well and are the future of learning. Online learning is something that students at all stages in the education system can use, and to great affect too.

Virtual classrooms are online modules, which give every participant a chance of

communicating, sharing videos, and interact with each other. You can either access the lessons through virtual classroom app or a website. Every student and tutor has to log in to meet at the learning environment. For a better learning environment, students will have to use virtual classroom tools such as Skype to make sure communication is effective. The following details include 4 different types of virtual classrooms;

### 1. ENRICHED VIRTUAL CLASSROOM

This type of model permits every student to carry out most of their online projects at home. However, the students can have a one-on-one session with their tutors. You do not have to attend the class on a daily basis. You may attend some lessons for two days of the week depending on your time schedule. This platform transforms the experience of many students out there through the online learning method. Tutor Room is a good example of the enriched virtual classroom. This is a platform, which offers a good tutoring management. It can also sell and supply virtual classroom app to any company that needs to customize their needs.

### 2. ROTATION MODEL VIRTUAL CLASSROOM

This involves a single subject, which all the students can be part of. It is a common model, which falls under blended learning. The students will rotate or stick to a single schedule with or without the discretion of teachers. Most of the time,

students will rotate during a group discussion. It has different kinds of models; they include.

- a) **Lab rotation** – In this kind of model, students carry out their lessons in one of the computer labs instead of a classroom.
- b) **Individual rotation** – The individual will rotate depending on his or her learning requirements. In this case, a tutor will not determine the rotation of this student.
- c) **Station rotation** – Students use a virtual classroom app to carry out their projects. They can take part in reading stories, reviewing their skills and administer their assessments among others.

### 3. FULLY VIRTUAL CLASSROOM

It is a model that aims at researching, conceptualizing, and designing. All the schoolwork should be done online; hence, it means, students will never meet up with others to have an interactive session. However, they can communicate through a synchronized virtual classroom app. A good example of this type of classroom includes SJSU. The following are benefits that you can outsource from this type of virtual classroom are;

- a) Technology is the root of everything. This means you will learn how to adapt to new advancements and technologies, which can help you in the learning environment.
- b) The school focuses on the welfare of every student. The faculties, which

make use of this model puts all their efforts and energy to make sure their students are getting the best.

- c) You will benefit from the school's resources including career counseling and support team among others.

#### **4. FLEXVIRTUAL CLASSROOM:**

This model that focuses on teaching the learners, who are non-traditional. In this platform, instructions, as well as learning materials, are provided. Tutors are always available and students can come up with new concepts independently. This method of teaching offers its learners a flexible environment for learning. The students can always leave and attend the classroom anytime they want. Here are the benefits of considering the flex model.

- Students can learn anytime they want.
- Joining the school is affordable.

#### **FEATURES OF VIRTUAL CLASSROOM**

Virtual classrooms can vary in appearance depending on the software or platform being used, but they generally share some common features. Here are a few typical features of Virtual classrooms;

***Intuitive User Interface:*** A virtual classroom should have an easy user interface so learners can navigate the platform easily. When the User Interface (UI) is simple, it becomes easy for learners to find the relevant course materials, collaborate with instructors,

take assessments, and complete their courses on time.

***Easy Access:*** Making course materials easily accessible is crucial for helping participants learn effectively. That way, they can focus on learning while the tool takes care of all the technical aspects.

***Video Conferencing:*** Another feature that a virtual classroom should provide is video conferencing. It's like bringing the classroom right into the participants' homes. With such tools, learners and instructors can see each other and participate in discussions like in traditional classrooms. This human connection adds a personal touch to online learning, making it more natural and engaging.

***Collaboration:*** Virtual classrooms should support seamless collaboration so that learners and instructors can connect in real-time and exchange ideas. In addition, it promotes active participation, engagement, and social interaction. When learners collaborate, they can learn from each other and acquire fresh ideas and innovative perspectives. This way, online learning becomes engaging and fosters teamwork and critical thinking.

***Breakout Rooms:*** This is another feature you should find in a virtual classroom. Breakout rooms facilitate discussions among small groups and collaborative activities. Breakout rooms are beneficial as they enable the instructors to divide the learners into small groups, encouraging

active participation and peer-to-peer interaction and promoting engagement.

**Attendance Tracking:** Most virtual classrooms have an attendance tracking feature, enabling instructors and trainers to track attendance and monitor participation. Attendance data also helps maintain accurate records for administrative purposes, such as grading and reporting. Moreover, tracking attendance promotes a sense of responsibility among learners, encouraging active participation and involvement in the virtual classroom.

**Content Security:** Another crucial thing for any content creator is content security. When it comes to virtual classrooms, organizations, and educational institutions need complete control over their content. An ideal virtual classroom solution should offer robust security features, including authentication and access controls. They help prevent unauthorized individuals from accessing, using, or downloading sensitive data.

**Course Creation:** Virtual classrooms also help with the effortless creation of high-quality courses. Whether you want to create from scratch or use readymade courses or templates, you can easily do both. Most virtual classrooms have prebuilt courses and templates, which enable you to create engaging content out of the box. The best part is that you can add multimedia, such as images, videos, podcasts and presentations to make it more interactive.

**Anytime Anywhere Learning:** The best thing about a virtual classroom is that it enables your learners to participate in training sessions at their own pace and convenience. Most virtual classroom software provides the flexibility to choose whether to make your courses public or restrict access through passwords and the online classroom materials are accessible 24/7, providing learners with continuous availability.

**Training Large Groups:** Whether you have a few learners or a large group, virtual classroom platforms make training effortless. You can easily organize learners based on their department or location. Create structured learning paths using course bundles based on learners' needs. Enjoy the convenience of training small groups or even thousands, with streamlined management and enhanced user experience.

**Real-Time Tracking:** Tracking learner progress is a crucial feature that you will find in a virtual classroom platform. With this feature, instructors can monitor and assess learners' performance throughout their training life cycle. Virtual classroom platforms often provide tools that enable instructors to track various aspects of learner progress, such as course completion, attendance, course engagement, and participation rates. By having access to real-time data, instructors can identify areas where learners may need additional support and training for effective learning outcomes.

### FEW EXAMPLES OF VIRTUAL CLASSROOM

**Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs):** As the name suggests, these courses are available for everyone. MOOCs are free web-based learning programs that may not always provide academic credit but can offer certification, which can be helpful for academic or professional studies. These courses contain traditional materials made available online to learners. Examples include recorded video lectures, problem sets, interactive learning modules, quizzes, etc.

**Boot Camps:** In the context of training and development, boot camps are short and intensive courses that prepare learners for a particular role or industry. Boot camps are often known for their condensed and accelerated learning format, usually ranging from a few weeks to months. They are conducted via virtual classrooms through a mix and match of video conferencing and live lectures.

**Online Degree Programs:** Most colleges and universities provide their courses through virtual platforms, enabling learners to opt for remote or in-person classes. While certain courses adopt a blend of virtual classrooms and interactive discussions, others primarily rely on asynchronous delivery, allowing students to access the course material at their own pace.

**Rotation Model, Flexible Model and Enriched Model** are also some of the popular examples for Virtual Classroom.

### RELEVANCE OF VIRTUAL LEARNING CLASSROOMS

**Increased inclusivity:** The first benefit of virtual classroom learning is that shy students will often find virtual classes much better to participate in. It means they don't have the anxiety that might come by raising a hand in a real classroom with other students watching them.

**Improved accessibility:** Virtual classrooms are accessible to any student providing they have access to a computer and stable internet connection. It doesn't matter what their mobility is like, they are able to login to a virtual classroom and start learning. The course materials for the student online course can be accessed at any time over the Internet.

**Community and relationship building:** Another benefit to virtual classroom learning environment is that they also let students build relationships with other students they share interests with. They can then collaborate on projects and talk through ideas which can also help with their teamwork skills.

**Cost savings:** There is no need for expensive travel. As well as saving travel costs, virtual classrooms will also reduce your student carbon footprint related to gas and fuel. Many virtual classrooms will often be far cheaper than a traditional establishment such as a college.

**Expanded world view:** Students who learn in virtual classrooms will often get to meet and learn with children from all over the world and from different cultures and backgrounds. Insights into how other

cultures and people approach problem solving can help children to better their own skills.

**Improved technical skills:** By virtue of being on a computer during the virtual lessons, students can learn new technical skills and become more proficient with the keyboard and applications.

**Immediate feedback on learning:** Most online learning classrooms provide the opportunity for immediate feedback as opposed to traditional classrooms where teachers take the work home to mark it. This can accelerate a Students learning, letting them progress a lot quicker than they might do in their school or college.

**Greater flexibility and comfort:** Students can learn at their own pace with pre-recorded virtual classes, dipping in and out when it's the best time for them. It's also more comfortable learning from home and can be better option for children who have a physical disability where traditional establishments may be challenging to access.

**The Ability to Use Multimedia Content:** An online classroom software system allows you to create and upload multimedia content such as audio, video, images, presentations, and more. This makes learning more comprehensive and enriching for everyone involved. A traditional classroom environment permits no room for such a delivery method.

**Timesaving:** Much time can be saved by a virtual classroom environment. Students and instructors don't need to commute, feedback is faster (as mentioned) and all

participating and leading the class are better able to adapt the class to their schedule rather than always needing to schedule around the class.

## CONCLUSION

A virtual classroom is an online learning environment that allows teachers and students to communicate, interact, collaborate, and explain ideas. A virtual classroom enables students to access quality teachers anywhere on the planet so long as they both have a reliable internet connection. Online courses teach students how to manage their time better since the student bears the responsibility of engaging with the course instead of simply showing up to class on an assigned day and time. As a result, students not only gain knowledge from the coursework, but they also sharpen their time management skills. Both learning and tutoring have gone to a new level in the online education industry. The reason why education is transforming rapidly is that technology has provided new methods for learners and tutors. The technology also gives you the opportunity of carrying out the virtual classrooms comparison after going through the reviews of different people. They have considered these types of virtual classroom, you can choose what will serve you best.

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