



**ORIGINAL RESEARCH PAPER**

**Education**

**NEED OF CREATIVE CLASSROOM ENVIRONMENT IN EDUCATION**

**KEY WORDS:**

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**ABSTRACT**

This article discusses the environment of the classroom and suggests that one which is creative and stimulating is of most benefit to both teachers and students. It is vitally important that children in school have a creative, stimulating classroom environment. Such an environment will stimulate their minds and make them much better learners and thinkers. The classroom environment should include lots of books, visual materials and activities. These entire requirements should be aimed at attracting and keeping the child's interest and promoting questioning and discussion. It is noticeable, that these facilities must be suited to the child's age and level of education.

**INTRODUCTION**

Educational methods have continually evolved over the years, but the classroom design remained largely the same, student desks aligned in rows facing the teacher. While teachers can certainly educate their students with this traditional layout, new and creative classroom designs offer educators more freedom to explore other teaching methods. Once they break away from a traditional classroom design, teachers often feel more valuable and creative as well.

**Traditional Classroom**

If the student is not interested in the topic being taught and nothing is done to stimulate and build an interest then learning will not take place. This situation is illustrated in the old traditional style of teaching where students sat at their desks all day listening to the teacher drone on in a way that does not stimulate interest. It is no doubt that in this nature of classroom environment everyone, including the teacher, is bored and tired. It is not beneficial to learning and getting the best from the students.

**Importance and Challenges of Creative Classroom**

A major factor in providing a stimulating and creative environment in the classroom is the attitude of the teacher. A teacher who is interested in the topic being taught and the student's development will naturally provide stimulus to the students and they will respond in turn by learning and being interested in the topic. A teacher who is bored and uninterested will only pass that attitude onto the students who will then, in turn, not be interested in the topic being taught and so will not learn anything. If the students are taught in a stimulating, creative classroom environment they will respond positively and learn because they are interested and awake. They will enjoy thinking and learning. Students taught in an environment of boredom and lack of creative stimulus will not be motivated to learn. They will be sleepy and tired and lack any interest in their work. For educators, it can be even more of a challenge to inspire creativity in students or hold our own creativity while trying to organize academic requirements, testing, and other issues in the classroom. It may be difficult but it's certainly not impossible, and accomplishing it can help to create a classroom environment that's more motivational, interesting, and educational for both us and our students.

**Planning for the Creative Classroom**

Plan for a range of teaching and learning styles so that as many pupils as possible have the opportunity to show their creativity. Role play can increase pupils' imaginative engagement and give them freedom to explore ideas. Hands-on experimentation, problem solving, discussion and collaborative work all provide excellent opportunities for creative thinking and behaviour. Never lose sight of the importance of knowledge and skills. Pupils are only able to engage creatively and purposefully with the challenges they encounter if they have solid knowledge and skills.

**Finding Creative Inspiration**

The following tips will help the teachers master the fundamentals and take the critical first step towards a more creative classroom.

- Be open to new ideas.
- Think outside the box.
- Find excitement.
- Get out of your comfort zone.
- Find inspirational places.
- Relax.
- Look for ideas everywhere.
- Take up a hobby.
- Follow a passion.

**Conditions for a Creative Classroom**

1. A Programme – long Approach
2. Progression - arrangements that help students become comfortable with 'tools', get them to use tools with less and less help and guidance, and end with them identifying for themselves situations which can be handled well by the use of a combination of the tools they have to hand.
3. Openness to choice-There may be limited choice between modules, but there can be a lot of choice within modules if they are designed on a core-and-application basis. Teachers introduce the key tools concepts, strategies, information sources and then have students practise them on problems that they, the students, choose/identify.
4. Narrative tasks- Where students are set new tasks that require them to draw from their learning in several modules and when these are not convergent tasks but ones that allow a variety of good responses, and then creativity is favoured. Teachers might find themselves considering the plausibility of the solutions and then awarding marks on the basis of students' accounts of their problem-working strategies.
5. An emphasis on learning for understanding rather than learning for extensive content mastery. There is evidence that an emphasis on coverage encourages superficiality. Superficiality is not conducive to creativity. Understanding, which comes from covering less ground with more emphasis on the underlying concepts, strategies and assumptions, is conducive to creativity. Put it another way: cover less material but in ways that help students to understand more about the domain and its complex learning outcomes.
6. Knowing students- If students understand the 'rules of the game' and why the programme is as it is, and then they are better placed to reflect and enter into the spirit of the creativity game. Students who do not know the rules are likely to try much harder to bargain it into familiar and safe shapes.
7. Portfolios- Owned by the student and central to metacognition, they encourage learners to sustain their own claims to achievement convergent and divergent in their own ways.
8. Openness to innovation-Possibilities for change need to be designed into the programme.
9. Sound evaluations- It has been implied that programmes that favour creativity are exact ones. Good programme evaluation practices, ones that go far beyond the standard module tick-list approaches, support exact academic practices.

**Uses of Creative Classroom Environment**

A stimulating classroom environment will also stimulate the teacher to do better. If the students are interested in the work and

learning about it then the teacher will in turn be stimulated to make the lessons more interesting. Thus a stimulating, creative classroom environment is to everyone's benefit. It will feed back onto itself and become more and more stimulating and creative to the benefit of teacher and students.

#### Role of Creativity in Today's Classroom and its Benefits

- **Learn with fun:** Creative classrooms give an event for students to learn with fun. The teaching activities such as storytelling and skits help them to learn without the stress of learning. Students are always fun loving and including creative activities along with curriculum gains their interest for learning. Teachers should uphold this quality in students from the lower classes itself and inspire them to believe in one's own creativity. Fun team building activities can be organized so as to promote creative thinking in groups and helping them to learn about accepting others' ideas.
- **Freedom of Expression:** Unlike the traditional teaching methods, the creative classrooms give them the opportunity to express themselves. Whether it is debate or classroom discussions or field trips, students have the chance to come out of their shells and become a part of it. This freedom of expression gives them a sense of goodness and happiness. Making some contributions in the learning sessions gives them a sense of satisfaction too. A creative approach to learning makes them more open with the puzzles that come their way and gives them a feeling of deed and pride.
- **Emotional Development:** Creative expression is important for a kid to activate up their emotional development. Importantly, this has to happen at their lower classes itself so that they grow up by responding well to the happenings around them. Creativity gives them that freedom to explore the environment and learn new things from them. Students would always love a classroom setting that helps them to explore freely without setting them any boundaries. When they can show off their true emotions in a creative manner in their classrooms, they can build up good confidence level.
- **Enhances Thinking Capability:** Creativity can stimulate creative thinking aptitude in students. That is why teachers promote activities such as open-ended questions, creative team building activities, brainstorming sessions and debates amidst busy curriculum schedules. Some teachers sensitively use these techniques to teach tough lessons to make children learn with fun and simplicity. Activities such as puppet shows will keep the students feel interested in the learning sessions and the flow of images in their mind gives them the pleasure of creativity. The open-ended questions will open them a world of imaginative thinking and they can come up with creative responses.
- **Reduced Stress and Anxiety:** When some time is set aside for creativity in between all the strenuous study times, it takes a lot of stress away from students. This sense of joy keeps them relaxed and reduces their anxiety which in turn helps them to prepare well for exams and excel in it. Integrating more hands-on learning and making room for visual reflection is really going to make a positive impact. Encouraging productive discussions as well as making the classroom layout more flexible all matters a lot in gearing up a creative classroom atmosphere.
- **Boosts problem solving skills:** The brainstorming activities involving puzzles can stimulate the skills of problem-solving in children. Creativity can really alter the way students approach a problem and it can be impressively optimistic once they go through creative teaching sessions. Creative problem solving can be encouraged in classrooms that help students to think out of the box and be more imaginative and innovative. With this way, the problems or opportunities are redefined by the students and the solutions or responses would be more innovative.
- **Improves focus and attention:** The average attention or awareness span of a lower class kid is just a few minutes. The conventional teaching methods would be boring for them and they may lose their focus in the midway. Including creative teaching strategies such as storytelling and skits are sure to improve their focus and attention and the study time would be

more productive. Playing memory games, taking regular breaks and intervals to bring in some creativity and setting a flexible classroom environment can make a lot of improvement in their attention span.

- **Better communicators:** A classroom environment that promotes creativity opens them a world of communication. Students can make better conversation and stimulate innovative thinking and talking sessions in their free time. This also triggers group problem solving and shared learning that gives them a feeling of togetherness. Classroom debates not only help them to think creatively but also understand and welcome others' views. This kind of shared creative experience helps them to open up to one another and grow up as better communicators.
- **Follow passions:** Working out the passions in addition to excelling in academics is important for a student to come up successful in life. A good classroom environment should give space for students to follow their passions whether it is music, dance, poetry, drawing or other art forms. This gives students a sense of happiness which in turn helps them to approach academics with a free mind. Setting aside time for such activities is really going to help them develop their creative talents in addition to academic brilliance. Students who rightly use these opportunities can come out of the school with flying colours.
- **Future opportunities:** A stimulating classroom can have charts that imagine the goals with timelines that help students to have a look on the go. The classrooms are the place where students get the basement for how successful they can be when they grow up. The skills and the confidence they gain throughout their school days are really going to make an impact in the way they prosper the career. In fact, creative persons have an upper hand in triggering future opportunities than those with a mere academic skill set. They can express freely during knock out rounds and the way they present themselves really matters in this competitive stage.
- **Innovative mind-set:** Open-ended questions and classroom discussions are two popular creative teaching strategies that help students to develop an innovative mind-set. Students get opportunity to think more critically about the question or subject and come up with innovative ideas. The friendly classroom discussions also aid them to think positively about others' ideas and contributions while thinking critically to produce something innovative. A stimulating classroom setting which is vibrant rather than black and white can do the trick to lower class students and teachers can make some effort to bring in some funniness between the lessons.
- **Drive lifelong learning:** A person with a creative mindset always has that desire to learn new things every time and this helps them to have that amazing feeling of lifelong learning. This would really keep them engaged and active throughout which in turn helps them to stay young always. A curious mind always loves to learn more and the creative classrooms can build up a curious mind-set in children through alternative ways. The education apps are on the rise with the growing mobile market and there are some remarkable apps.

#### CONCLUSION

Creativity now is as important in education as literacy, and we should treat it with the same status. Every child has some inherent creativity in them and proper guidance from the teacher coaxes and cultivates it to help them grow up as creative individuals. However, it is the role of a good teacher to bring in the right mix of creativity in classrooms and bring out the best in the students. The pleasure of creativity also contributes a lot to improved health and this helps them to have a continued growth in academics as well as world of creativity.

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