

Redefining Space for Learning: Learning from the Home-Based Education Practice of Grup Belajar Bersama

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ABSTRACT

Learning is the acquisition of skills, knowledge, values, wisdom and understanding. It is a necessary ability for survival and can be a conscious act. The traditional methods of teaching people rely mostly on teacher-centred approach rather than the student-centred one. The teachers seem to be the main authority in transferring knowledge to the learners/students, a one-way traffic methodology. Students' aspirations or backgrounds are less considered if not neglected. Interactive or participatory methods are less accommodated. The building, the classrooms and other physical factors are treated as such a mere space to facilitate standard functions.

The development of ICT enables teaching and learning methodology to be improved or creatively applied. Ways of communication of information have the potential to alternate the traditional spaces of classrooms, the boxed design, and other facilities to a more variety, creative, innovative, flexible, accommodative, and participatory methods of learning and teaching process. The emerging new way of teaching and learning facilitated by the development of ICT is a home-based education. The easiness for people to seek information and new knowledge has led families to be more independent in fulfilling their needs for education. The new information and communication technology has made the learning space a new frontier of space, as far as the capacity of technology, one's creativity and imagination. ICT has introduced a new and extended space phenomena, the real and the virtual. The combination of roles of users (children & parents/educators) and architects-designers should be more interactive in designing a future education institution. This paper tries to relate the facts with the space availability in ICT and how the phenomena in educations have inspires educators in their creativity for teaching.

Keywords: *learning space, home based education and distance learning practice, participatory method.*