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# NAVRIKA

A JOURNAL OF EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND EDUCATION

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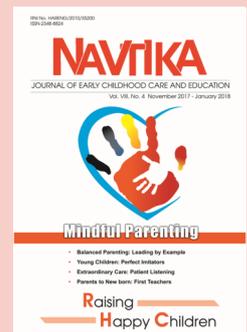
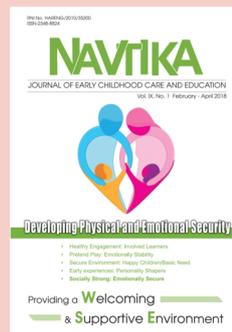
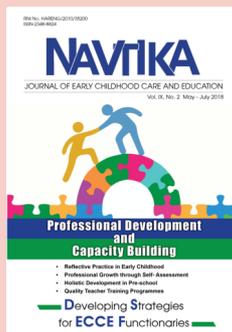
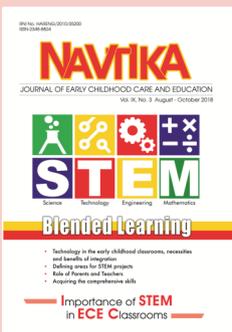
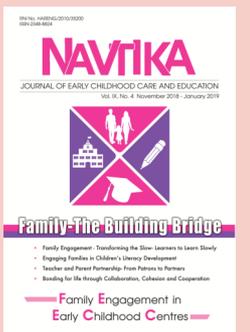
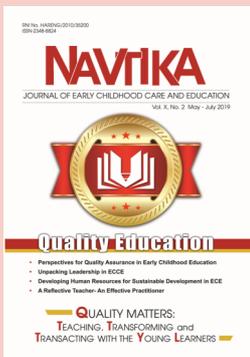
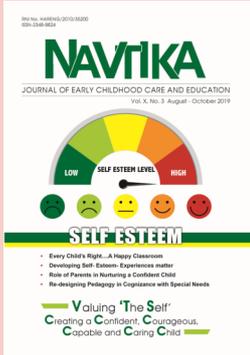
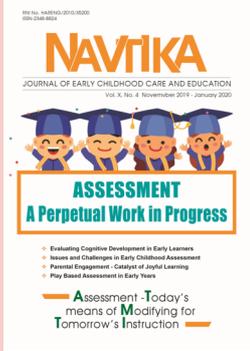
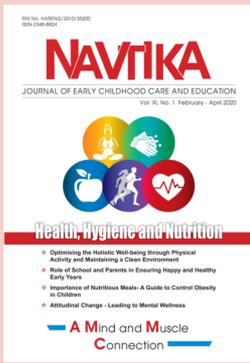


## Digital Learning

- ❖ Transforming Education in India: Innovative Digital Mechanisms
- ❖ Digital Competencies: Essential Tools for the Future
- ❖ Computeracy: Treading with Safety and Security
- ❖ Forging Partnership in Learning: Online Assessments

Digital Literacy

Keeping You Updated



# NAVTIKA

A JOURNAL OF EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND EDUCATION

Navtika is a journal that serves as a practical guide for teachers, parents and other caregivers who nurture and monitor children during the foundational years, i.e., 3-6 years and 6-8 years. It seeks to inform, deepen knowledge and address parental concerns, empowering teachers and parents to deliver better care. The journal publishes original work based on standards of excellence and expert views. The articles offer interesting insights into various aspects of children's well being.

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# EDITOR IN CHIEF'S DESK

**Dear Reader**

### **Digitization is the Way Forward!**

The current pandemic has affected the global education system. According to a study conducted by UNESCO in March 2020, about 1.3 billion learners around the world could not attend school or university.

As a result of the mainstream school closure caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, students worldwide are currently compelled to practice online education. The compelling reason forced the teaching fraternity to educate themselves and then impart the teaching-learning process through the digital platforms available.

Students using digital learning tools and technology became more engaged in the process and more interested in enhancing their knowledge base. They may not even realize that they are actively learning since they are learning through engaging methods such as problem-solving-games, quizzes and storytelling.

Since digital learning is far more interactive than voluminous textbooks or one-sided lectures, they provide better context, a greater sense of perspective, and more engaging activities than traditional methods. This allows students to better connect with the learning material. Besides, the digital platform offers a more exciting and engaging medium to provide information. This is reflected in the students' retention rates and test scores. Also, when students can track their progress, it can improve motivation and accountability.

Digital learning tools and technology enable educators to share information with other educators in real-time rapidly. The explosion of free and open content and tools has created an environment of shared economy. By embracing digital devices and connected learning, classrooms around the country and the globe can coordinate with one another to share insights and boost knowledge, experience, and communication skills. The digitization is reaching out to the rural areas so that all children have access.

The digital teaching-learning experience also raises concerns regarding the rising digital media misuse. Several types of threats – phishing pages and emails related to online learning platforms, video conferencing applications and cyber safety measures. affect the education industry. Apart from malware, educational institutions are also at increased risk of data breaches and student privacy violations. 'Zoombombing' became part of the general lexicon after pranksters and ill-intentioned individuals began taking advantage of Zoom's security weaknesses to break into private meetings. Among the victims were schools, with several online classrooms being interrupted by users making lewd comments or streaming pornography.

For better and safe outcomes, strict cyber safety measures should be taken. The educators and students should be given a set of cyber safety rules such as keeping the privacy settings on, keeping strong passwords and timely updation of antivirus etc. This issue of Navtika addresses the benefits and concerns faced by the early childhood educators as well as parents. **The articles received from the experts have been reviewed by our peers to validate the functionality in classroom application.**

Happy Reading!

**Dr. (Mrs.) Indu Khetarpal**  
Editor in Chief

# Guest Editor's Note

The year 2020 saw a total revamp of the education system globally. The teaching community demanded a complete makeover to cope with the unprecedented outbreak of the pandemic. While educational institutions remain closed for the safety of the students, their future is worst affected worldwide and studies show that a large number of students are being denied access to education worldwide. Therefore, a good and robust education system is required to overcome the gap that has been created by the outbreak of COVID 19.

Despite the delivery of lessons by radio, television and online, teachers' and parents' best efforts, many students remain out of reach. Unable to deliver on-campus learning during the coronavirus pandemic, educational institutions have scrambled to provide academic continuity through 'emergency remote teaching.'

When the emergency will subside, and everyday life will take time to return to near normalcy, educational institutions will have the need to do more. There is a good likelihood that virtual learning — in some capacity — will remain a significant part of education for the foreseeable future. The policymakers and management will have to prepare for an intermediate transition period and begin future-proofing their institutions for the long term.

Time has come to build a mature digital learning ecosystem and design a new theoretical paradigm (Punctuated Equilibrium as coined by Tushman and Romanelli, 1985). This would help analyse and strategise changes in educational institutions that would enable them to deal with readiness for change and transformational change.

The post-COVID education system undoubtedly is heading towards a hybrid classroom giving online and offline methods equal weightage. Educationists are trying their best to cater to the students' needs and incorporate a happiness quotient to STEAM, making online teaching-learning a fun-filled experience for their holistic development.

E-learning forums offer a multitude of benefits such as reduced transportation costs and flexible learning modules for students. The complete integration of technology and education, however, requires top-level design for curriculum, resources, teaching-learning processes and evaluation system. The ball has been set in motion, how we move forward will definitely add value to future learning pedagogy.

Artificial Intelligence(AI) has helped bring about changes in educational concepts and models, learning behaviours, cognitive styles and learning models. Digital learning is here to stay.

I hope this excellent theme of 'Digital Learning' in this issue of the Journal will take the readers through different aspects of online teaching-learning methodologies and equip the practitioner with innovative skills for a seamless transition.

**Prof. Amarendra P Behera**  
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# Designing and Managing an Impactful Virtual Classroom

Dr. Dhanya. N

## ABSTRACT

Children are growing up in a rapidly changing technological era that is distinctively different from their parents or grandparents. It is apparent that young children use new technologies in their daily lives and are quite adept at it. The old learning system had confined both teachers and students to the same classroom and physical location. Advancing Internet technologies has opened up new paradigms of delivering content that falls under a virtual learning environment. Virtual learning has become a product of necessity.

A virtual classroom is an asynchronous based online learning environment that provides collaboration, interaction and learning materials to learners. This online environment can provide flexible learning situations, live interaction between teachers and students, diverse opportunities and backup support for the physical classrooms. In virtual classrooms, several virtual tools are used to engage the learner with interesting activities. It combines conventional face to face classrooms with new elements of digital learning. This article examines the impact of digital education and virtual classroom management.

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