Chapter 74: A case for Enhancing and Developing` Classroom Environment in Saudi Arabia Schools from United States Educational Prospective and Experience

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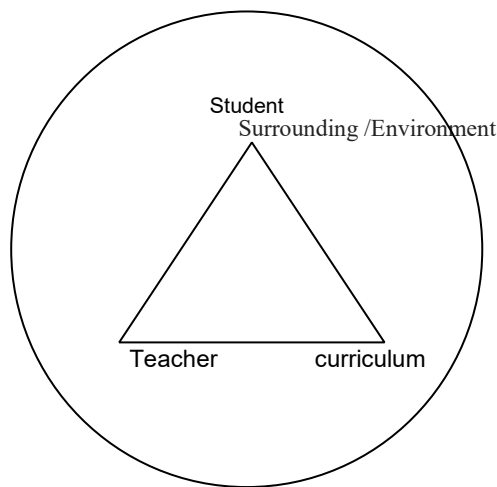
Introduction

concerning issue to any nation in the world. It is really important that Education is the most teachers focus in preparing and organising their classrooms to achieve the highest educational gies and century education strate stgoals and these objectives are updated by using the latest 21 how is it affects students' performance and abilities. The existing problem facing many Saudi century stteachers' is their classroom environment and the latest methods used in the 21 in the concept of classroom schools. It is clear that there are similarities and differences environment between Saudi Arabia and United States educational perspective. This capstone will focus on the differences between the two countries and enables me as an educational nge in classroom environments back home reformer to show how I could start to make a cha and make school a more engaging place for all students. The american experience was very beneficial from the American education experience and I need to start thinking how can I onment when I travel back home and make my make a change about my classroom envir classroom a better place for my students. There are many issues that really attracted me during the weeks of observations in Brookline schools. These concerns and problems will be grouped classroom Environment, Teaching Materials, Teaching Methods such into categories which are based learning, and lastly, -on projects, project-as diverse questioning, precise language, hands f a positive and lively atmosphere. The main solution to this problem is the teacher himself. I the teachers build a lively and attractive classroom environment starting from planning, assigning and setting the goals, aims, strategies, motivations, teaching materials and using the all these categories will ,latest teaching methods and making a positive classroom atmosphere century classrooms that will lead our students to feel stprepare our classrooms and make it a 21 comfortable and ready for innovations, creativity, asking questions and they will defiantly start niques, methods and tools have been discussed in our think widely and wisely. These tech Ministry of Education often and are focus on enhancing the classroom environment. So, an important strategic objective of our Ministry of Education in Saudi Arabia is improving the t that simulates creativity and innovation which linked to the goals of educational environmen the Saudi Arabia vision 2030. Building a classroom environment with a positive atmosphere makes the students freely work, think, innovate, ask, share, and analyze their work from idual to group work in a colorful and attractive environmentindiv.

Third Strategic Goal	Improve the educational environment that stimulates creativity and innovation
Link to Vision Goals 2030	- Consolidate positive values and build an independent personality for the citizen - Providing citizens with the knowledge and skills to adapt the needs of the future labour market Developing the skills of young people and making good use of them

Saudi Arabia Vision 2030

Educational Philosophy supporting Educational Classroom Environment

The educational philosophy behind this reform examines techniques, goals, objectives, types, and importance of education. The philosophy emphasizes term the link between the base of hy of education and conceptual analysis and the description of the new approach. The philosop the philosophy of learning refers either to the academic field of applied philosophy or to one of the philosophies of education that promote a particular educational type or vision that and its objectives (Philips, 2007). The ,examines the definition of education, its meaning philosophy of education may be related to the educational process or educational classroom motivation, which means that it may be part of the motivation that leads to the goals. The or a disciplined philosophy, means attention to concepts, ;results of teaching and learning (objectives, and methods of discipline.(Noddings, 1995

Student
Surrounding /Environment

Teacher   curriculum

(COMMONPLACES OF EDUCATION (Schwab, 1973 4

In the modern philosophy of education there are many philosophies that focus on the environment. For example, Progressive/experimental educational philosophy really focuses on d citizens in teacher and students. The aim of this perspective is to help students become goo innovation and problem solving which will improve the society. By creating a social classroom environment where good learning experience can happen, schools supply the ated on innovations students with skills for solving problems and make our students very motiv and creative solutions. This modern education philosophy really meets the goals of Saudi Arabia educational vision 2030. The most support for this modern philosophy of education are .John Dewey, A.S. Neil, and Lavy
ucational philosophy that focuses on studentAnother important ed

environment is the constructivist. As opposed to what prevailed in the past, we find modern theories say that the real learning will not build from hearing the knowledge or science with and repeating it constantly in front of the teacher. In the constructivist the learners memorizing theories the learner builds the knowledge internally affected by the surrounding environment, ng the society, and language. Every learner has his own special way of learning in understandi knowledge. So, the preoccupation of the teacher in sending the knowledge to the learner and the confirmation and replication are not useful in building the information as he wants in the ave gained popularity in recent mind of the learner. The roots of this constructivist theory h years. This idea is not modern. Trends toward constructionist theory can be seen in the works BC), all of whom spoke about "knowledge 470-of Socrates, Plato and Aristotle (320 u have to rely on sensory experiences when formation". St. Augustine (mid 300 BC) says, "Yo ".people look for the truth
Although the main philosophy of construction is attributed to Jean Piaget (19861980), produced similar results more than a century ago, he stressed the need (1827-Bastaluzi (1746 opt educational methods on the natural development of the child and his thoughts and to ad feelings, which he stressed the importance of the senses as tools for learning, and advocated ome and family linking educational curricula with children's experiences in their lives at h environments. It is not strange to see that this constructivist theory has historical roots ages across the centuries. It is also not a strange that several philosophers and theorists give this he only modern theorists have tried to install theory a huge attention during decades while t these important ideas in an integrated and comprehensive theory. Make of the foundations of the modern base of growth psychology is from Jean Piaget, who unified the philosophy and n on the thinking and intelligence of children, and he opened the psychology to focus attentio .way to a new perspective and a new organization in education and psychology
Constructivism is derived from the construction of a building and it derived from the Latin ing, meaning the way a building is constructed. So, education it can be origin of the build defined as a "vision or theory of learning and child development, the child is active in building ."life-his thinking patterns from the interaction of his abilities with real The structure is expressed in its simplest form and its meanings are explained by the fact that knowledge is actively adopted by the learner and does not receive it negatively from the environment Learning principles of the structural theory has several concerns and aspects.
The individual builds knowledge within his mind and the individual interprets what he receives and builds the meaning based on his information. The society in which the individual lives has a significant impact

Learning is inseparable from the developmental relationship .on building the knowledge between self and subject. Since error is as much an opportunity and a position through which knowledge is built as understanding, they are both necessary conditions for learning. Finally, is paired with Learning
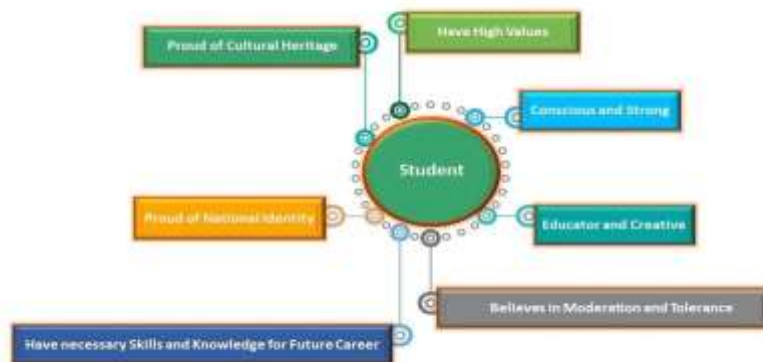.experience rather than indoctrination and Learning transcends and negates disorder
Concepts based on the constructive learning are the concepts of adaption, compatibility, .absorption, appropriateness My educational philosophy focus on 21st century classroom environment in which students can think critically, innovate, create, analyse, and work collaboratively to create questions that improve the performance of students and enables them to be a success as well as a good citizens. Teachers also play an important role in educational processes with their passionate motivation, caring, and serving as a role model. Through solid preparation, commitment, loyalty, experience, training, and reflection, a great teacher expands the consideration of how to link his/her environment of world class schooling.
classrooms are [st]The differences between the traditional classroom and the constructive 21 described in the table below:

Comparison aspect	Traditional classrooms	Constructive classrooms
Curriculum	- deliver the knowledge from part to all, and focuses on .basic skills - fixed curriculum - Depends on school .books	- deliver the knowledge from all to part, and concentrate on great concepts and thinking .skills - Answering the student's questions and .build on their interests - Depends heavily on primary sources of data and materials being .handled
Students |Role	- white empty boards the teacher filled it with information - student work individually	plain different Thinkers ex - -theories about the world. Team work for students
Teachers Role	- Generally follows a pattern to convey .information to students - looking for the right answer to prove students' learning	The teacher generally - behaves in an interactive manner and makes the learning environment -suitable for students. looking for the views of the students to accommodate his current concepts to

		use it in subsequent lessons later.
Assessment/Evaluation	Usually using exams/ test or short quizzes	Interactions occur when teaching through the teacher monitoring students when they work, creating exhibitions, or holding positions.

There are certain problems in Saudi Arabian school environments that really need to be changed in order to make our schools more modern and 21st century schools. Basically, the most important strategy that our ministry of education can focus on is the classroom educational environment. So, we face lot of problems among the classroom environment and we are really want to start making a change. These problems considered as collaboration work among students, project-based learning, raising curious questions, asking, organising, posters, live project, expert speeches and so on. This project is building a change throughout schools in the world. These changes are mainly focus on immersion into one of the best teachers themselves and the how they change their classrooms and make it as an active and innovating environment.
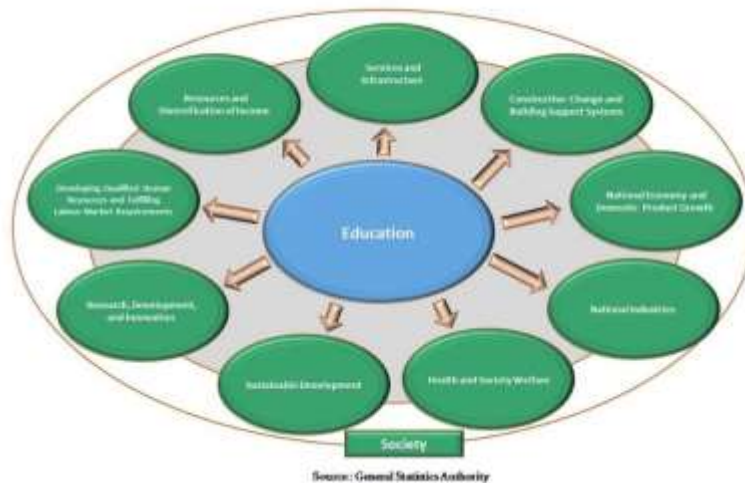

Ideal Student: characteristics Education vision 2030.

proposed of solution Related research in support

Saudi Arabia Educational vision 2030

"The Education in Saudi Arabia is the necessary that will help which base relies the aspirations of our people towards progress and advancement in science and knowledge" The custodian of the King Salman. It is clear that the government of Saudi Arabia want to focus on education in order to make Saudi Arabia a modern education platform for its citizens and country which others. This vision includes set of goals that build an important part of the education and leads to a great changes that the government depends on. These goals have been has been set by the National Transformation program NTP and the Ministry of Education

nvironment improvements which which are training and developing the teachers, the learning e leads to creativity and innovation, teaching methods improvement, enhancing students values and core skills, engage the private sector into the governments schools, and focus on the f education based on the labour market demands students and guide them to have high level o .and develop

Source: General Statistics Authority

Constructivism and Social Constructivism in the Classroom

The general overview of this classroom method is that the attitude of the teachers toward students must change. Students must play the important part in the classroom and teachers s always think of works as a monitor. In this constructive classroom both teachers and student fully understanding the knowledge as they can share ideas, think, ask questions that explore more knowledge. Solving problems is the main feature in this constructive classroom. nswers, find solutions, the new Students always ask question, think about a topic, related a .questions comes later on so students investigate more
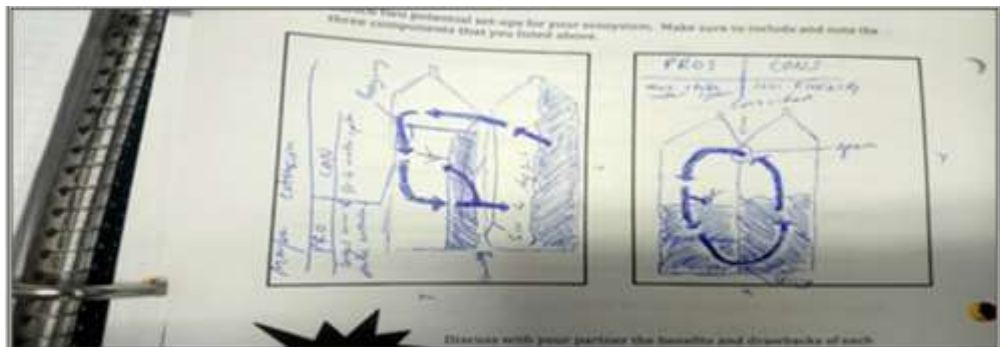
Learning, Innovation and tech

Schools should be teaching seven skills among students in order to match the prospective of hat the writer indicates that there are seven skills are century education. It is clearly t [st]the 21 very important to be tough among students. These skills are critical thinking and problem solving, collaboration across networks and leading by influence, agility and adaptability, repreneurialism, effective oral and written communication, accessing and initiative and ent analysing information and finally, curiosity and imagination. The writer really wants to change These .the traditional teaching methods and make the students to think more than to memorise skills can be better developed in a classroom that is active, innovate, and encouraging. Dull, colorless classrooms discourage these skills.

Students work on their own time to master the skills online or on small groups instead of chieve A, B or C results. This technique is used in 1960s by Benjamin thinking how they a based learning which makes -Bloom, a university professor. This approach is called mastery e the students to work in groups or using the online resources to get the skills and answers to th questions. If the there are some drawbacks among students they need to try it again and again until they move on. Moheeb a maths teacher uses this technique in his school and it shows that

based -y use the masterythe students really gain the needed skills and do better when the learning. There has been an improvement among the student after using this approach in their performance. Students in this approach assed by three color scale. Red means not doing well ng, green is matching and doing well and the and needs more practice, yellow means approachi blue means exceeding it proficiency. This approach really encourages students to think of
  .learning and gain the skills using collaborative work or using online tasks
  .ion periodClassroom Environment based on the Immers

There are many aspects that really attract me during the immersion period in one of the best graders in Baker [th]schools in the world. Ms Godie is a science teacher who teaches mostly 7 her class and to see and observe how school in Brookline. I am really lucky to be assigned to she build her classroom and sets her goals towards her students and making her classroom a century classroom. There are plenty of things that really make me think clearly how I will [st]21 rld classroom environment. These consideration are: the make my classroom match her wo out boards, -number of students, group tables, posters, student's names, curiosity board, shout agenda board, homework board, classroom rules, late sheet, bathroom sheet, students posters, out sheets, live projects, fish tanks, flowers, classroom colors, telephone, books, -kstudents wor tools, science equipment, computers, printer, scientist speeches, motivations words, students nts observations, drawers, students safety box, flash cards, team working, pair working, stude thinking, questioning, imaginations, teaching methods, teaching materials and positive
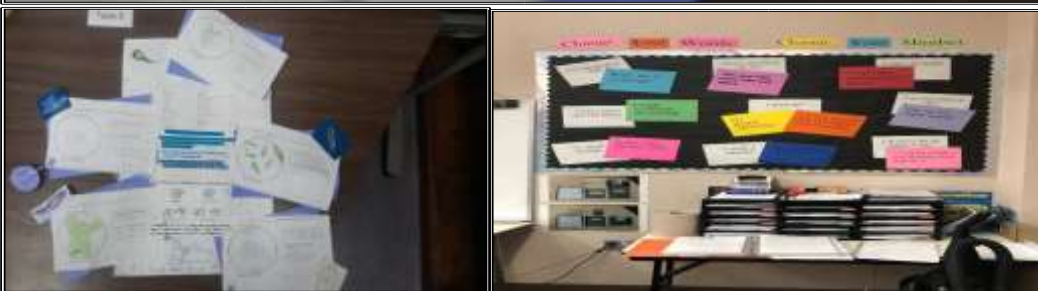 .atmosphere
century techniques are strongly involves in [st]Some of the phots that really shows how 21
  Brookline schools:

T hese   are some of the teaching methods during a classroom using the[st]21 centurytechniques

C   ollaboration   plays an important part in the eedional process in the
   modern schooling

P   osters   in the American schnawle agreat   role in the schooling process

.Books fairs strongly affect the education in the current education

Action Plan
The action plan for my capstone project consists of strategies, goals and steps in order to aging century global oriented by creating more attracting, eng stmake our schools 21 .classrooms and school environment
The third strategic goal in Saudi Arabia educational vision 2020 matches my capstone project which is to enrich and improve the educational classroom environment which leads our ely, and innovate. This action plan consists of stages that students to motivate, think creativ global oriented stlead to enrich our classroom and enhance its environment to match the 21 :school and classes. Saudi Arabia education visions 2020 goals are described in this graph Education Saudi Arabia vision 2020.

The stages of my action plan are described in details as follows:

The basic goal for my capstone project is that school classrooms in Saudi Arabia think clearly how to make schools classroom environments a better place for our students and teachers, a positive atmosphere. I place allowing them to use the modern teaching methods, materials and will start by implementing these strategies, techniques and ideas into my classroom using the latest enhanced environment which leads my students to motivate, think better, innovate, and

ally implemented in the American schools which build their creativity. These features are re plays an important role in their educational system. Optimistically, I will do my best to implement and use these features into my classroom and eventually the school district will ide me with the support in order to make this change a success and assist, guide, help and prov .reality

The smaller and measurable goals that needed to achieve the broader goals is to start from my own school classrooms and build an enhanced class with high standard educational environment that meets the 21 st educational classroom environment. After that, I plan to start spreading it among other classrooms in my school and the benefits will reach all the school. Importantly, the school district will give the schools a chance to use these techniques and tools to enhance their classroom environment and benefi t from it. The expectations are remarkable and great because we are lucky enough to have this chance to study, learn, observe and immerse into one of the world's top educational systems.

The current situation of our Saudi classrooms is mainly focused o n traditional teaching which consists of a white board and markers. Some teachers are really modern and use the latest techniques and tools to enhance the classroom environment because they might had a chance to study abroad or even some of them are up-to-date using the online education platforms and self study which leads them to be more effective and creative. However, most Saudi teachers are not familiar with these modern tools and that's why we need to start make a change among those teachers because the students will definitely benefit from it widely.

I will begin by creating a team in my school to start building a change is this challenging matter. We fortunately have a very open-minded principal who will push us and lead us to success. A small group of teachers or assistant will add a positive impact and significant feature which can lead our classroom educational environments to be enhanced and modernised. It is really important for our students to gain from both changing the teaching methods, materi als and building a positive environment to make students think critically, ask questions, work in pairs or groups, create posters, write innovation statements and build all the positive classroom environment.

There are many Teachers and administrative wo rkers involved in this project in order to maximise the benefits widely. Those people are:

Principal Mr. Ali Hakamy

Vice Principal Mr. Hussam Mualmi

Tech admission Mr Ibrahim Bahawi

Assistance workers in school, Mr

Justify and guidance teacher Mr Majed Buaetii

Healthcare teachers in school Mr MuhiAldeen Alshareef and Mr ALhakami

Student's resource teacher Mr Alamoudi

35 Teachers in the school, 14 classrooms, IT lab, student resource, science lab, school halls and cafeteria

Leading the project and organising it starts from the principal. We need to meet at the beginning of the year and outline everything that needs to be considered in the classrooms for is best to support me by making a teachers and students. The principal of the school will do h committee we call it School Enriching. Its aim is to monitor, help, and guide our teachers to establish a world class classrooms environment for our students. Another important support is ts and enable him to help me during the process of building a to free one of the school assistan century school and classroom environment st21.

century classroom stThe approvals that needed to be secure for implementing a 21 ese considerations. We will environment are the several steps we need to take to implement th start from the principal, then the teachers plus the support from the school district, and finally the head of education in Jazan in the southern part of Saudi Arabia if necessary. In addition, community members to be part of this change and to give we also need to allow parents and them a clear view of these world class changes and how it will affect the students work positively and leads them to be great thinkers, creative and innovative. We will also create to advise us students committee.

The timetable to conduct this plan from the beginning to the end begins with training the teachers weekly. We have 35 teachers in our school and some of them have the ability to classroom and start think clearly change their teaching style, materials, atmosphere in their strategies, skills, collaboration, innovation and all these aspects are key parts of stabout the 21 my plan. Meetings, presentations, talks, and visits are key concepts for building the important change.

sterts can advise the teachers to make their classroom environment a 21Educational exp century classrooms because it will help teachers and students to be creative, innovative and n great thinkers. Supervisors with long years of experience specially that those who have bee trained abroad might be a great chance for us to invite them and let them deliver a speech or even visit our classrooms and observe our classroom and gives us their suggestions, nment widely. perspective and feedback so we can improve our school performance and enviro An important stage during the changing phase is that we might schedule expert's visits to our schools and allow them to deliver speeches, or even organise workshops and allow the from them teachers, students and even the community to learn and benefit.

Stakeholders are really important to be involved during the phases of improvements. Parents, religious people and business people are very significant to make a change. Parents, religious ill support it as much as they can and we people and business really trust the school and they w are hoping that they support it steadily. We need to start thinking about convening meetings monthly and enabling parents, religious and business leaders to see how we are changing our its aspects. When they regularly meet us in our school we school to be modern in all of definitely will gain more financial and moral support.

The plans might suffer from obstacles during the implementation period in our school. We to make a change. Also, we might find old might face some old school teachers that don't want parents that they

don't want to participate in supporting the school either financially or attending school meetings. These drawbacks might happen during the implementation process, but it's not a e will however try to convince them to join usmajor problem. W.

The determination of success and failure really depends on mostly the students. Improving Student presentations, results, life, skills, curious questions and their general performance are

century classroom environment ᵗᵗWe need clearly to think how these 21 .the major goals features are the best for our students based on the performance that these students acquire and .gain throughout their school study and life

The budget needed to conduct this reform plan is split into three parts.

• Funds needed to plan the reform

• (Capital expenses (once in a year

• Annual expenses to continually move this reform forward

Part	Amount	Sources	Budget used for
Funds to plan the reform	SAR 20000	Educational Distract branch office in the villages	,Smart board, books Internet, meetings and extra materials
Capital expenses	SAR for each 10000 school every semester	Educational District in the town	Train the teachers, workshops
Annual expenses	SAR 5000	Ministry of Education	Prizes, certificates and final ceremony

Another possible source might help to enrich the school budget is by the students' parents, society and business organisations. We can use one or more of the techniques that the schools by hosting a book store at in the United States use like collecting money using a school trip or the school or even organise ceremonies in the schools and sponsored by business companies. .These are all ideas that might help to build a strong budget for this change in schools

concerns into my schools and procedures. The There are stages to start implementing these first steps are to define budget matters and think clearly how we can gain it for the school, district and other external resources. After that, we bring all the materials that needed to .om and build the right environment as well as train our school teachersclassro ᵗᵗestablish a 21 The success of this project regarding the students' performance, achievement and their improvement makes this project a open project to other schools and definitely the school ict will recommend it and start implement it in other schools. In addition, there is another distr striking benefit from this project is that the third strategy that the Ministry of Education trategies. We will century s ᵗᵗfocusing on is building classroom environment using the 21 receive lot of support also for the student's parents, relatives and the society. Kohn say's "to help kids engage in reflection, we have to work with them rather than doing things to them". I her to start think how can I make my classroom think it is really important for me as a teac environment a place for my student to think, ask, be creative and innovate. It is really important that we emphasise among us and our students so they use all the techniques, s towards building the future of our country. We are the methods, tools, equipment and idea ones that had this great opportunity towards building our schools by engaging in this emersion program. I will do my best to enable my students to benefit from this experience and also to .mong other teachers in my schoolspread it a

The evaluation and assessment plan for this capstone project needs to be assisted by formative and summative components. The formative consists of small exams among teachers and d by seeing how is it efficient for both of them and students. These test or exams are measure how it reflect among the students' performance in order to see the differences between an old environment. The stclassroom environment and a classroom environment that uses the 21 used to impact two groups. One is controlled group that uses the old summative component is classroom stclassroom environment and the other one uses all the tools and techniques that 21 uses. Then, we test them and question them and see what the difference is and how the s feel among the two classrooms environment. We will use surveys and interviews with student students and parents to learn about the results of the change. The results of course needs a time three years in a row to ,and plans. Basically, we are going to do for several years. For example see how the progress of the students and teachers developed and the progress has several components to be tested and measure. For instance, we want to learn about how student's developed and how it affects work, thinking, innovation and being creative have been century stpositively on their performance and work. We are sure it will demonstrates that 21 classroom environment is better than traditional environment and it is a positive match our .expectations

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