

Learning Centre in the Village/Slum

Children growth cannot be viewed in isolation. Children learning and development largely depend on the teachers and also on the stimulating environment that contributes to their holistic development. The learning centres should not be viewed as a typical classroom where the main purpose is only teaching and learning. Learning centres provide a wider approach where the children develops both scholastic and co-scholastic skills. Learning centres are designed to provide age and developmentally appropriate activities.

Learning centres provides a platform for children's cognitive, physical, language and socio-emotional development. The learning centre acts a medium for children to express self, learn from peers, adults and the environment develop basic values that lead to lifelong learning. This also helps in attending the individual child needs.

The centres also give an opportunity to the teachers to think beyond the classic study materials and school textbooks. Both teachers and children get lot of scope to encourage and express independence and creativity. It also facilitates teacher to teacher interaction, child to child interaction and child to teacher interaction. For intentional teaching and learning, materials and structured activities can be used for both child guided experiences and adult-guided experiences.

For children and teachers to experience interest and engagement, to solve problems, to exchange ideas with peers, and to learn appropriate social behaviours, learning centres are ideal. Teacher facilitates the children learning through teacher guided interactions and activities. Children have choices to decide the method of activity, use of materials etc. Based on the planned curriculum, teachers support children's learning.

The learning centre also facilitates learning of parents and the community through children and visa -a -versa. Children can impart learning through spreading awareness messages, display/exhibitions and participation in school events. Thus learning centres are for betterment of children, teachers, parents, community and society at large.