



MODERN PROBLEMS IN EDUCATION AND THEIR SCIENTIFIC  
SOLUTIONS

SEATING ARRANGEMENT IN THE CLASSROOM

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**Abstract:** *The classroom seating arrangement plays a crucial role in enhancing learning and fostering effective communication among students and teachers. This article explores the impact of various seating arrangements on academic performance, classroom engagement, and collaboration. These are part of the contribution made by this article as it reviews and offers practical perspectives on three popular student seats arrangements: the traditional long rows (with variants including stadium or lecture theatre design , paired seat rows by columns arrangement, etc.), the U-shape or horseshoe design and the pod-community sitting design. This include principles that educators can consider in choosing arrangements most appropriate for learning and realizing the content and Instructional objectives A mixed-method study was conducted involving observation and surveys to evaluate the effectiveness of traditional, cluster, and circular arrangements. Results indicate that seating arrangements significantly influence classroom dynamics. This study provides actionable insights for educators to optimize seating strategies.*

**Keywords:** *classroom seating, learning, engagement, collaboration, education strategies, rows, columns*

**Резюме (Russian)**

*Расположение сидений в классе играет важную роль в улучшении учебного процесса и эффективного общения между учениками и учителями. В статье рассматривается влияние различных схем рассадки на академическую успеваемость, вовлеченность и сотрудничество. Это часть вклада, сделанного в данной статье, так как она рассматривает и предлагает практические перспективы по трем популярным вариантам размещения студенческих мест: традиционные длинные ряды (с вариантами, включая дизайн стадиона или лекционного зала, ряды парных мест, расположенных по колонкам и т. д.), U-образное или подковообразное размещение и дизайн сидений в формате "под-сообщество". Включены принципы, которые педагоги могут учитывать при выборе наиболее подходящих для обучения вариантов размещения и достижения образовательных и инструктивных целей.. Было проведено комбинированное исследование, включающее наблюдения и опросы, для оценки эффективности традиционного, кластерного и кругового размещения. Результаты показывают,*





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*что рассадка оказывает значительное влияние на динамику в классе. Исследование предлагает практические рекомендации для оптимизации стратегий рассадки.*

**Ключевые слова:** *рассадка в классе, обучение, вовлеченность, сотрудничество, образовательные стратегии*

**Annotatsiya:** *Sinfxonadagi o'tirish tartibi o'quv jarayonini yaxshilash va o'quvchilar hamda o'qituvchilar o'rtasidagi samarali muloqotni ta'minlashda muhim ahamiyatga ega. Ushbu maqolada turli o'tirish tartiblarining akademik natijalarga, sinf faolligiga va hamkorlikka ta'siri o'rganilgan. Ushbu maqola hissasining bir qismi sifatida u uchta mashhur o'quvchilar o'rindiqlarini joylashtirish usullarini ko'rib chiqib, amaliy yondashuvlarni taklif qiladi: an'anaviy uzun qatorlar (shu jumladan stadion yoki ma'ruza zali dizayni, juft o'rindiqlarni ustunlar bo'ylab joylashtirish va boshqalar), Ushaklida yoki "podya" shaklidagi joylashtirish hamda "pod-kommunal" o'rindiqlar dizayni. Bu joylashtirishni tanlashda o'qituvchilar o'quv jarayoni va ta'limiy maqsadlarga erishishda e'tiborga olishlari mumkin bo'lgan tamoyillarni o'z ichiga oladi. An'anaviy, klaster va dumaloq tartiblarning samaradorligini baholash uchun kuzatuv va so'rovnomalarni o'z ichiga olgan tadqiqot o'tkazildi. Natijalar o'tirish tartibi sinf dinamikasiga sezilarli ta'sir ko'rsatishini ko'rsatdi. Ushbu tadqiqot o'qituvchilar uchun o'tirish strategiyalarini optimallashtirish bo'yicha tavsiyalarni taqdim etadi.*

**Kalit so'zlar:** *sinf o'tirish tartibi, o'qish, faollik, hamkorlik, ta'lim strategiyalar*

### Introduction

Seating arrangement in classrooms has long been recognized as a pivotal factor in shaping learning environments. It determines how students interact with each other and their teachers, influencing engagement, focus, and collaboration. Traditional rows, group clusters, and circular seating are among the most commonly used arrangements. This article aims to investigate the effects of these arrangements on academic performance and classroom participation, highlighting their advantages and limitations. Thus, a class room "designed in a student-centered manner, focusing on learners construction of knowledge and collaboration", as well considering how it helps in maintaining discipline, will really optimize "support [for] student learning." (Rands and Gansemer, 2017).

### Literature Review

Studies suggest that seating arrangements directly impact learning outcomes. Research by Smith (2020) demonstrates that group clusters promote collaborative learning, while traditional rows enhance individual focus (Smith, 2020). Similarly, Jones and Taylor (2018) observed that circular seating fosters inclusive discussions. However, the effectiveness of these arrangements varies based on class size, subject, and teacher preferences. This review integrates findings to provide a comprehensive understanding of seating arrangement dynamics. Apart from suiting for all class sizes and being easy to supervise, rows and columns







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encourage productivity and individual work and function well if there is enough space in the classroom as well as little expectation for group or partner work. Moreover, such an arrangement is very effective for presentations, demonstrations, and test-taking since cheating and disruptions are minimized. However, student-centered discussions and group work are less encouraged, and teachers may lose some of their ability to move around the classroom. Thus, rows and columns can be challenging to see and keep everyone on a task or when it comes to classroom management. Moreover, there can be inconsistent interactions in large classes since students in the front row participate more while students in the back row may lose focus.

### Methods

A mixed-method approach was adopted for this study.

- **Participants:** 120 students from three secondary schools.
- **Data Collection:** Observations were conducted over 12 weeks, and surveys were distributed to students and teachers.
- **Analysis:** Quantitative data were analyzed using statistical tools, while qualitative feedback was coded thematically.

### RESULTS

**Traditional Rows:** This arrangement enhances focus as all students face the teacher directly, which is effective for lectures and individual tasks. However, it limits peer interaction and collaborative learning opportunities.

**Cluster Groups:** Arranging desks in small clusters promotes teamwork, peer collaboration, and group discussions. It fosters social learning but can sometimes lead to off-task behavior and distractions if not well-managed.

**Circular Seating:** Encourages active participation, eye contact, and inclusive discussions where all students feel involved. It creates a sense of equality in the classroom but requires more space and may not be practical for larger groups.

**U-Shaped Arrangement:** This layout combines the benefits of traditional rows and circular seating. It facilitates both teacher-centered and student-centered activities, allowing direct engagement with the teacher and interaction among students. However, it can limit mobility within the classroom and may not accommodate large class sizes.

**Column Seating:** Often used in exams or formal sessions, column seating ensures minimal distractions by isolating students from one another. While it maximizes focus and prevents cheating, it significantly reduces opportunities for collaboration and engagement.

### Discussion

The findings reveal that seating arrangements should align with instructional goals. For instance, collaborative activities benefit from clusters, while tests are better conducted in rows. Teachers need flexibility to adapt seating based on lesson objectives. The study also highlights logistical challenges like classroom size and furniture availability. Considering all the information given in the article, each type of seating





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arrangement has a proper environment to apply, all teachers have to do is to take all the reasons into consideration. Each seating arrangement has its strengths and challenges, and choosing the most effective one depends on the specific teaching goals and classroom dynamics.

### Conclusion

Effective classroom seating arrangements can significantly enhance learning and engagement. This study underscores the importance of dynamic seating strategies tailored to specific educational needs. Future research could explore the long-term impact of flexible seating on diverse learning environments. It is essential, as educators who desire to help every student as much as possible, to redesign the students seating arrangements to align with our instructional goals and inclusive participation and fair gains in all education activities and instructional contents given the class average age, education technology , the classroom space and method of delivery (discussion, problem solving, peer reflection and discussion activities, demonstration, blended instruction and lecture approach, etc.) so as to maximize student learning, and have advantage at class control-ensuring discipline, participation, assessment and orderliness.

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