

THE ADVANTAGES OF IMPLEMENTING FLEXIBLE SEATING IN THE MODERN PHILIPPINE CLASSROOM

by:

SHYAM N. ORIBELLO

Teacher III, Hermosa National High School

Flexible seating in the classroom refers to the use of alternative seating arrangements that allow students to choose where and how they want to work within the classroom. This can include things like standing desks, bean bag chairs, and yoga balls, as well as more traditional options like desks and chairs.

There are several reasons why flexible seating should be implemented in the Philippine classroom.

First, flexible seating can improve student engagement and motivation. When students are given the opportunity to choose their own seating arrangements, they feel more in control of their learning environment and are more likely to be motivated to participate in class. This can lead to an increase in overall academic achievement.

Second, flexible seating can promote a sense of community and collaboration within the classroom. When students are seated in a traditional classroom setting, they are often isolated from one another, which can make it difficult for them to work together and collaborate. Flexible seating allows students to move around and work in groups, encouraging teamwork and social interaction.

Third, flexible seating can support different learning styles and needs. Every student learns differently, and flexible seating allows for a variety of seating options that can accommodate different learning styles and needs. For example, a student who struggles with attention may benefit from a standing desk, while a student who prefers a more relaxed environment may prefer a bean bag chair.

Fourth, flexible seating can improve posture and comfort, which can lead to better concentration and focus. Traditional classroom seating can be uncomfortable, especially for students who are required to sit in the same position for long periods of time. Flexible seating allows students to find a seating arrangement that is comfortable and conducive to learning.

Finally, flexible seating can be cost-effective and environmentally friendly. While some alternative seating options may require an initial investment, they can be more durable and long-lasting than traditional classroom furniture, resulting in cost savings in the long run. Additionally, many flexible seating options are made from eco-friendly materials, making them a more sustainable choice for the classroom.

All in all, there are a lot of advantageous factors that can result from implementing flexible seating in the modern Philippine classroom. To top it all off, it is very easy to implement and could potentially cost less than the traditional classroom setup in the long run. Hence, we should more focus and resources should be dedicated to implementing this change in the classroom.

References:

Minero, E. (2015). Flexible Seating Elevates Student Engagement. Edutopia; George Lucas Educational Foundation. <https://www.edutopia.org/practice/flexible-classrooms-providing-learning-environment-kids-need>

Wagoner, A. (2018). Rows are out... 21st Century redesign of classroom seating. Special Education Resource. <https://specialedresource.com/9-benefits-of-flexible-seating-in-education>