

PLS WEBINAR

REPORT

# WAYS OF LEARNING

Wednesday, 10 March 2021

**pallavan**  
आओ सीखना सीखें

Pallavan  
Learning  
Systems

TABLE OF CONTENTS

02	Introduction
04	Learning how to learn
06	Changing roles of self, teachers, and parents/family members
08	Defining learning in the digital era
10	Q&A sessions
11	Takeaways
12	A synthesis
14	Webinar video

---

## Introduction

Pallavan Learning Systems conducted its 7<sup>th</sup> Webinar on the topic '*Ways of Learning*' on Wednesday, 10 March 2021.

It has become evident that the focus of education should not be on what we learn but rather on how we learn. That is why the emphasis has to shift from content knowledge and be placed on skills and processes. At the same time, technology is increasingly becoming an indispensable medium in education, and both teachers and students are quickly adapting to innovative ways of learning.

This webinar was geared towards understanding how students are navigating the new terrain mentioned above. Through this interactive webinar consisting of student moderators and speakers, we sought to listen to their experiences and insights in order to gauge how their learning journey is constantly transforming and evolving. We hoped to understand what innovative strategies have led to positive outcomes, and what ensuing and foreseeable challenges remain. It was envisaged that the webinar would help us to better prepare for present and future challenges as well as hone our idea of education and learning.

The webinar had two moderators who set the tone for the webinar and moderated the discussions. There were nine speakers who gave their insights on various issues pertaining to education and learning. The three broad themes of discussion were:

- Learning how to learn
- Changing roles of self, teachers, and parents/family members
- Defining learning in the digital era

In addition to the moderators and speakers, there were three participants who were specifically assigned the responsibility of asking questions after each thematic round. There was also a separate Q&A session where audience questions were posed to the panelists. Following the Q&A session, the two moderators presented their main takeaways from the webinar.

The list of student participants, their respective schools and their roles in the webinar is given below.

<b>Names of Participants</b>	<b>Participating Schools</b>	<b>Roles &amp; Responsibility</b>
Nendra Namgyel Wangchuk	The Royal Academy, Bhutan	Moderator
Kabir Vellayan Subbiah	The Doon School, India	Moderator
Sanwariya Nagar	Pallavan Jhalawar School, India	Theme 1, Speaker 1
Anushree Chakrabarti	S.F.X. Greenherald International School, Bangladesh	Theme 1, Speaker 2
Baramee Punyabukkana	Panyaprateep School, Thailand	Theme 1, Speaker 3
Samridh Bahety	Mayo College, India	Theme 2, Speaker 1
Pranjal Misra	Sanskriti School, India	Theme 2, Speaker 2
Chetan Wadhvani	Shiv Nadar School – Noida, India	Theme 2, Speaker 3
Kinley Wangmo	Dechencholing School, Bhutan	Theme 3, Speaker 1
Chris John Paul Cherayath	Delhi Private School Sharjah, UAE	Theme 3, Speaker 2
Keshav Dudhani	Scindia School, India	Theme 3, Speaker 3
Manan Ahuja	Vasant Valley School, India	Q&A
Sonam Tsering	Tibetan Children's Village School, India	Q&A
Kinzang Dendup	Wangbama School, Bhutan	Q&A

The webinar comprised more than 115 active participants including students, teachers, parents, school heads and learners from all walks of life.

---

## Learning how to learn

The first theme of the webinar was 'learning how to learn'. The speakers agreed that the emphasis of education should be on the process of learning and not just content or rote learning. The salient points discussed under this theme are presented below:

### *Constant learning mode:*

In the current scenario, technology and availability of information are making content knowledge increasingly obsolete. Focusing on the process of learning and inculcating the skills to learn are more important because they enable us to be in a constant learning mode. We need to be able to identify how we learn best and at the same time understand the rationale behind why we learn. The notion of 'learning how to learn' needs to be based on three important strategies:

- How to become better learners
- How to conduct inquiry and construct knowledge
- How to become self-directed learners

### *Learn from ourselves:*

Often, we view resources such as teachers, textbooks, television, and the internet as our main sources of learning. It is important that we include ourselves as a crucial source of information, experience, and knowledge. We need to inculcate the habit of learning from ourselves by using ourselves as a valuable repository of experience and knowledge. We should be able to look within, introspect and value our knowledge and judgment as an important basis of learning.

### *Practical and experiential learning:*

In order to 'learn how to learn', we need to ensure that learning is easy, efficient, and desirable. We need to understand that learning is most effective when it is practical, relatable, and experiential. We should be able to experience what we are learning and apply what we have learnt in our day-to-day lives. Since schools play a crucial role in the pedagogy and methodology of learning, it is important that they employ the most effective tools and techniques to bring about effective learning.

---

*Simple tips to enhance learning:*

In addition to pedagogy and methodology, we need to ensure that we are taking care of ourselves so that we are in the best position to learn. We need to get proper sleep on a daily basis, in addition to receiving a balanced diet and ample exercise. We should test many learning strategies and identify those that work for us. Some examples of effective learning techniques are mnemonics, visual aid and diagrams, and interactive applications.

*Four Noble Truths:*

The Buddhist teaching of the Four Noble Truths can be adopted in our learning process as a design thinking approach to solve problems and seek solutions in creative and innovative ways. The four steps in this process are:

- Identifying the pain point
- Finding the cause of the pain
- Visualizing success associated with the goal
- Questioning how to achieve the goal

Perhaps, the best way to reiterate that skills and processes are more important than mere content is the famous saying, ‘Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day. Teach him to fish and he will eat for a lifetime!’

*The Buddhist teaching of the Four Noble Truths can be adopted in our learning process as a design thinking approach to solve problems and seek solutions in creative and innovative ways.*

---

## Changing roles of self, teachers, and parents/family members

The next theme of the webinar dealt with ‘changing roles of self, teachers and parents/family members’ in relation to education. The main points discussed under the theme are given below:

### *Ownership of one’s own learning:*

The pandemic and the lockdown have presented many challenges, but they have also provided many avenues of opportunity. Perhaps, most importantly, they have offered an opportunity for learners to explore their relationship with themselves and others. Since students were unable to attend physical classes, they spent more time with themselves at home. For most of the learners, this meant reflecting and introspecting on their goals, challenges, and aspirations. Through this process, they were able to develop a more mature relationship with themselves and take a proactive role in their own learning. At the same time, since they did not have teachers to guide them physically, they had to become more self-aware and responsible for their learning.

### *Teachers as mentors and learners:*

Teachers had to rethink their role due to the lockdown and the move to online classes. Since teachers were unable to interact physically and gauge their learners’ level of understanding, they had to think of innovative ways to keep their learners motivated and conduct effective assessment. They realized that they needed to go beyond academics and ensure that other facets of their learners’ lives, such as their emotional and social wellbeing, were cared for. Effectively, they became mentors who sought to develop a stronger bond with their learners online in the absence of physical interactions. At the same time, teachers themselves became active learners because they had to understand online technological tools and employ them on a daily basis to deliver their teaching effectively.

### *Parents as a crucial partner:*

Perhaps, one of the best things that has come out of the pandemic is the involvement of parents and family members in their children’s learning process. Since lockdown required students to stay at home, they spent quality time with their family, offering a

unique opportunity for parents and family members to be more involved and invested in their children's education and life. At the same time, parents and teachers began to communicate more to discuss and strategize learning experiences for the learners at home. This presented a shift from schools being an isolated institution to a partnership among the school, teachers, family members and learners.

*Changing pedagogy and methodology:*

The pandemic and the ensuing lockdown meant that teaching pedagogy and learning methodology had to be reconstructed to cater to the needs of the learners and be more effective on the online platform. There was an effort to create interactive learning experiences online by using visual aids and relevant applications. The online platform worked better for some students, especially introverted learners who were more comfortable asking questions and contributing to discussions virtually.

As someone rightly said, 'The measure of intelligence is the ability to change.' We need to acknowledge that life is dynamic, and the only constant is change. How we adapt to the changing environment, situations and roles depends on us.

*Teachers realized that they needed to go beyond academics and ensure that other facets of their learners' lives, such as their emotional and social wellbeing, were cared for. Effectively, they became mentors who sought to develop a stronger bond with their learners online in the absence of physical interactions.*

---

## Defining learning in the digital era

The third theme of the webinar was ‘defining learning in the digital era’. The salient points discussed under this theme are presented below:

### *Advantages of online learning:*

If it was not for technology, education and schooling would have come to a standstill during the pandemic and lockdown. Even though physical schools were closed, learning still continued because we were able to avail technology to create and conduct learning experiences online. Digital technology is also transforming the traditional learning model by infusing new approaches, methodologies, and tools into the learning process. Now, we are able to learn anytime and from anywhere which is beneficial and convenient to both teachers and students.

### *Challenges of online learning:*

The move towards online teaching and learning can be quite difficult if it is done in a swift and uncoordinated manner. The plethora of platforms, methodologies, and applications for conducting online learning can be daunting for most people, especially those who are still on their way to becoming digital-literate or digital-competent. The lack of physical touch or interaction is another huge challenge for online learning. Also, the sessions are mostly focused on the theory, so we need to find ways to bring a practical element to online learning. Perhaps, the most important challenge of online learning is the digital divide; we need to acknowledge the existing digital gap and address the issues of accessibility and connectivity.

### *Hybrid learning is here to stay:*

If we look at the world 50 years ago or 100 years ago, a lot has changed. How we travel, communicate, or earn a living have undergone tremendous transformations. However, the traditional classroom setting has not changed much. Maybe, it is time to reflect on why that is and think about how we can enhance our learning process. In today’s times, education cannot be devoid of technology; in that sense, the pandemic has been merely a catalyst, speeding up the process of the move towards online learning. Technology and digital tools have fundamentally changed our mind frame regarding learning and

shifted the focus from teaching to learning. The hybrid learning model is the future of learning, whereby we can avail the best of both models – convenience and efficiency of the digital as well as the social real-life interaction of a physical setting.

*Even though physical schools were closed, learning still continued because we were able to avail technology to create and conduct learning experiences online. Digital technology is also transforming the traditional learning model by infusing new approaches, methodologies, and tools into the learning process.*

## Q&A sessions

There was a Q&A session after every theme was presented and discussed. Then, there was a separate session where audience questions were posed to the panelists.

The first Q&A session dealt with the following issues: being a balanced learner, relationship between age and learning, and providing innovative and practical solutions for different ways of learning. The second session looked at questions of who is experiencing the most change in the current system of schooling and how we can compensate for the lack of physical touch during online interactions. The third Q&A session dealt with ways to stay motivated and focused during online classes.

The audience Q&A session touched upon many important points such as ways for teachers to enhance online teaching, how we can address the digital divide, and the need to acknowledge the changing relationship among teachers and students. There was also a discussion on the purpose of education as well as the perceived future of education.

*Balanced learner*  
*Purpose of education*  
*Perceived future of education*  
*Relationship between age and learning*  
*How can we address the digital divide?*  
*Ways for teachers to enhance online teaching*  
*Ways to stay motivated and focused during online classes*  
*Who is experiencing the most change in the current system of schooling?*  
*Need to acknowledge the changing relationship among teachers and students*  
*Providing innovative and practical solutions for different ways of learning*  
*How can we compensate for the lack of physical touch during online interactions?*

---

## Takeaways

After the Q&A session, the two moderators presented their takeaways from the webinar. The main points are listed below:

- Learning is a skill that we all need to inculcate
- Learning is a lifelong process; we can continue to actively learn at any age. What we require is the passion and the motivation to do so
- Learning is so much more than retaining information and relying on the theory or content. We should be able to learn through experience and know how to apply our learnt knowledge in our day-to-day lives
- We need to take ownership of our own learning so we can chart our unique individual growth
- The roles of teachers and parents are constantly changing and evolving. We need to acknowledge that the learning environment will continue to change, and it is our responsibility to adapt
- Technology and the hybrid model are here to stay. We need to use digital learning to fill in the gaps in our traditional model and arrive at new efficient and effective models
- We should be able to use technology to our advantage instead of creating a situation where technology will (mis)use us
- Learning should focus on wholistic development, so we become better human beings

---

A Synthesis by Pallavan Learning Systems

## Ways of Learning

In the current scenario, technology and availability of information are making content knowledge increasingly obsolete. Focusing on the process of learning and inculcating the skills to learn are more important because they enable us to be in a constant learning mode. We need to be able to identify how we learn best and at the same time understand the rationale behind why we learn. Often, we view resources such as teachers, textbooks, television, and the internet as our main sources of learning. It is important that we include ourselves as a crucial source of information, experience, and knowledge. We need to inculcate the habit of learning from ourselves by using ourselves as a valuable repository of experience and knowledge. We should be able to look within, introspect and value our knowledge and judgment as an important basis of learning.

In order to 'learn how to learn', we need to ensure that learning is easy, efficient, and desirable. We need to understand that learning is most effective when it is practical, relatable, and experiential. We should be able to experience what we are learning and apply what we have learnt in our day-to-day lives. In addition to pedagogy and methodology, we need to ensure that we are taking care of ourselves so that we are in the best position to learn. We need to get proper sleep on a daily basis, in addition to receiving a balanced diet and ample exercise.

The pandemic and the lockdown have presented many challenges, but they have also provided many avenues of opportunity. Perhaps, most importantly, they have offered an opportunity for learners to explore their relationship with themselves and others. Learners have been able to develop a more mature relationship with themselves and take a proactive role in their own learning. Also, since they did not have teachers to guide them physically, they had to become more self-aware and responsible for their learning.

Teachers had to rethink their role due to the lockdown and the move to online classes. Since teachers were unable to interact physically and gauge their learners' level of

---

understanding, they had to think of innovative ways to keep their learners motivated and conduct effective assessment. At the same time, teachers themselves became active learners because they had to understand online technological tools and employ them on a daily basis to deliver their teaching effectively. The lockdown also offered a unique opportunity for parents and family members to be more involved and invested in their children's education and life. Also, parents and teachers began to communicate more to discuss and strategize learning experiences for the learners at home. This presented a shift from schools being an isolated institution to a partnership among the school, teachers, family members and learners.

If it was not for technology, education and schooling would have come to a standstill during the pandemic and lockdown. Even though physical schools were closed, learning still continued because we were able to avail technology to create and conduct learning experiences online. Digital technology is also transforming the traditional learning model by infusing new approaches, methodologies, and tools into the learning process. Now, we are able to learn anytime and from anywhere which is beneficial and convenient to both teachers and students. However, there are ongoing challenges associated with digital learning. The plethora of platforms, methodologies, and applications for conducting online learning can be daunting for most people, especially those who are still on their way to becoming digital-literate or digital-competent. The lack of physical touch or interaction is another huge challenge for online learning. Perhaps, the most important challenge of online learning is the digital divide; we need to acknowledge the existing digital gap and address the issues of accessibility and connectivity.

In today's times, education cannot be devoid of technology; in that sense, the pandemic has been merely a catalyst, speeding up the process of the move towards online learning. Technology and digital tools have fundamentally changed our mind frame regarding learning and shifted the focus from teaching to learning. The hybrid learning model is the future of learning, whereby we can avail the best of both models – convenience and efficiency of the digital as well as the social real-life interaction of a physical setting.



To watch the video of this webinar [click here](#)  
[Click here](#) to watch earlier videos of the webinar series

---

## Pallavan Learning Systems Pvt. Ltd.

DDA Complex LSC, Building No.4, 3rd Floor, Pocket 6 & 7, Sector-C,  
Vasant Kunj, New Delhi 110070, India

[contact@plspvt.com](mailto:contact@plspvt.com)  
[www.pallavanlearningsystems.com](http://www.pallavanlearningsystems.com)

