

Unique Learning Spaces around the World: Examples and Steps for Creating Similar Initiatives

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Abstract

This study examines alternative types of schools and learning spaces in impoverished areas around the world where access to traditional schools or additional education is difficult due to factors such as climate change, rural isolation, and poverty. The study describes five initiatives – the Boat Schools of Bangladesh, the Karachi Bus School, the Chinese Cave School, India’s Train Platform Schools, and Cambodia’s Tuk Tuk Schools – highlighting the grassroots movement of each alongside the different obstacles at play in each environment. Through comparisons, the study offers up a step-by-step model for educators wishing to bring low-cost education themselves to other areas in need around the world. The paper explains the nine-step process in detail and highlights the need for local buy-in and local leaders in any initiatives in order to avoid the white saviour complex.

Keywords: unique learning spaces, alternative schools, innovative education