

ARVR & Ai in Classroom: Middle East's Largest VR Education Program Launched for Public Schools

Dubai is hitting another major milestone with VR based STEM Lab Program for schools

DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, February 1, 2019 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Over a million students and thousands of teachers across the Middle East have experienced the most immersive technologies. Their collective huge response in favor of these technologies and the positive impact they have on education has already led many schools in Dubai to introduce the modern learning methodologies in classrooms. These schools have termed VR technology as “a powerful learning tool”.



Educators immersed in Virtual Reality lessons with Google Expeditions

VIRTUAL REALITY FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Moving forward, the education ecosystem in UAE is now hitting another major milestone with VRXOne’s VR based STEM Lab Program for schools. Designed around the Classroom Format, the initiative is the largest program of its kind helping educators to implement VR, AR and Ai led education in schools across the Middle East. A massive initiative to put the region on world’s map as the most advanced in classroom learning solutions and teaching aides.

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His Excellency Omar Sultan Bin Olama, Artificial Intelligence Minister

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Prior to it, UAE government’s A Million Coders Program and subsequently, [VRXOne’s One Million Expeditions](#) for Emirati

youth, gained immense response for their impact in enhancing students’ learning abilities. It comes as no surprise then that immersive technologies are dictating a massive shift in human-technology interaction. And VR based STEM Lab is the next step in classroom education not only locally but globally as well. Instead of moving around a mouse or tapping on a screen, we are able to step inside and explore the realities of our universe in the virtual world.

We know for a fact that the early adoption of these immersive technologies is a must as per the government's vision of a knowledge-based economy. It is the only way to close the gap between education and job markets at a rapid pace. And VRXOne's VR based Lab Program helps to work towards that goal by providing the youth with the most immersive learning solutions.

"VRXOne has the largest library of VR/AR/Ai lessons available in Arabic Language covering a huge range of STEM Subjects."

VR FOR STEM EDUCATION - LEADING THE WAY

Virtual Reality has emerged as the ultimate medium for delivering "experiential learning". No other methodology even comes close in impact. The fact that no physical or geographical boundaries stand in the way of this technology, is reason alone for its huge impact. Add to that the element of safety and cost-effectiveness and you have a win-win combination.

Virtual Reality is the ideal technology and well-suited to delivering the learning in STEM subjects. Since all these disciplines – Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics – are based on highly critical thinking and applied knowledge, VR is the perfect fit for STEM education.

VRXOne's VR based Classroom Format offers the most advanced level standalone program today equipped with machine learning applications allowing the teachers full control of the curriculum-aligned virtual lessons. VRXOne has the largest library of VR/AR/Ai lessons available in Arabic Language covering a huge range of STEM subjects. No longer does a student need physical presence in a science lab to understand a concept thoroughly. Every VR class provides pedagogically sound, engaging content to students for proper exploration and understanding. For instance, VR technology eliminates the need for a microscope to examine an organism or to study the DNA sequencing. The VR lab actually provides full immersion for further exploration of DNA and the atom at the molecular level. Something which is not possible in a physical lab.

Such are the opportunities available to STEM students today in the UAE made possible through the VR technology. These captivating lessons are the way forward for the youth to develop the right skill-set needed for the future markets in the era of technology. Moreover, the technology is exactly in line with the innovation goals of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of UAE and Ruler of Dubai,



Thousands of Virtual Reality lessons in Arabic language



Students at Riffa Views School Bahrain Immersed in Virtual Reality based lesson

"Our vision for development is driven by a deep understanding of the future needs, and built on proactive ideas because we want to be in first place globally. Our methodology for development is based on the launch of initiatives that can be applied anywhere in the world and creating a global model for not only our economy but also for the global economy,"

LEARNING LANGUAGES IS FUN WITH VR

Learning a new language is one of the most exciting as well as daunting things for a student or any individual. There is always an initial hesitation with a new way to pronounce, speak and interact. VR helps to eliminate the element of hesitation and self-consciousness by providing scenario-based, highly interactive environments to develop new language skills. It can put you in a class full of learners or amongst the native speakers to perfect your command over language.

Because VR experiences support interaction and are able to replicate different situations, there isn't a more realistic way to learn a language than reality itself. With VR, you could either be buying cannoli on the streets of Sicily or asking for directions in Turkey. There is the added benefit of instant feedback on pronunciation and suggestions for vocabulary to further enrich your learning experience. The Head of Languages at Methodist Ladies' College in Melbourne, Chloe Briand opines that VR helps to build students' confidence and reduce the level of anxiety associated with learning languages, "This is a tool that you use to practise and improve on your fluency and accuracy in a real-life scenario, without feeling self-conscious in front of a native speaker. It's the perfect segue between a relaxed familiar environment and the outside world."

BUILDING A VR LESSON IS EASY

Being a great interactive medium, it is fairly easy to build and create a lesson in VR for both teachers and students. For instance, it is as easy as '1,2,3' to get a class started on a Google Expedition. But in case you wanted something more, you could easily use Google StreetView to create an exclusive expedition of your own. Visit the famous landmarks or walk through historical places.

By virtue of being a virtual medium, VR can put you in any location, inside a lab or an archeological site in an instant. There are boundless opportunities to explore and learn with VR so much so that not only does it remove geographical walls but time-bound as well. You can explore the lengths of Roman Colosseum or walk on the Acropolis of Athens. It is all within reach with VR.

BRINGING AUGMENTED REALITY IN SCHOOLS

In the same fashion, Augmented Reality enhances the learning experience for STEM lessons. You can use it to examine the 3D models of plants, animals as well as the natural features in your class. Students can go "deeper" in a lesson by rotating, swiping, and zooming in and out of a model at will. They can even take photos or videos of the model within their surroundings.

AR is a great learning technology and brings huge value to everyday lesson plans. Aligned with the standards of the UAE Ministry of Education, the platform supports all kinds of different visual overlays and hundreds of lesson plans with valuable educational content.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE FOR TODAY'S CLASSROOM

Immersive technologies can help us to make classroom learning fun and exciting as well as more relevant and comprehensive. But at the same time, it is important to monitor the students'

performance to ensure positive outcomes and compliance with the educational standards.

This is where Artificial Intelligence helps to customize lessons for students providing cross-reference between subjects to support interdisciplinary learning. Moreover, automation of processes through Ai - such as performance monitoring, feedback, marking, tracking growth etc. - provide further assistance in the class freeing up more time for teachers.

On the part of students, Ai helps them understand concepts better and self-pace their studies. It also inculcates innovative and entrepreneurial thinking in the students something which is the need of the day. Sreejit Chakrabarty, the Director of Robotics and Artificial Intelligence at Gems Education Dubai, says that Ai opens a huge door of opportunities for young minds, "Naturally, this Ai literacy brings in and helps students to extend their knowledge of English, Maths and Coding. For example, by seeing how their programming strategies are reflected in the learning and behaviour of a machine, they can better grasp abstract concepts such as cause and effect. They can also get immediate feedback from the machine and iterate their ideas based upon this. These are powerful opportunities for learning in a cross-disciplinary way."

TEACHERS ARE READY FOR VR EDUCATION IN THE UAE

Arab teachers view the virtual and augmented reality apps as invaluable mediums to support "deeper learning" practices. As more and more content is being developed to align with curriculum requirements, the teachers find it immensely helpful to inspire curiosity to learn and ingenuity to create in their students.

Martha McCleary, Head of Digital Literacy at Foremarke School Dubai, shares her experience of VR in the classroom and how it has helped to involve students in the learning process, "We have been using VR to visit faraway places and go on virtual field trips. This heightens engagement in lessons as children get to experience new environments. Recently we have begun looking at creating our own VR experiences. The children are busy creating online galleries of their work. Beyond learning about VR, this engages the children in learning about design and user experience."

One of the GEM schools, The Winchester School at Jebel Ali has also teamed up with VRXOne to improve learning productivity of their students using VR and Ai. The Vice-Principal of the school, Dr. Ritika Anand believes that these immersive technologies become the basis to provide a thorough and holistic learning experience to the students, "Student experience is the biggest testimonial of a school's commitment to provide holistic learning. The use of technologies like VR is aligned with the concept of experiential learning in pedagogy. Such technologies encourage inquisitiveness, innovation and excellence, and ultimately lead to bigger impact through nation development."

STUDENTS READY FOR [EXPO 2020](#) AND THE YEAR OF INNOVATION AHEAD

In the wake of these immersive learning experiences, students are well-equipped for the year of innovation ahead. Ai has a huge part to play in [UAE's National Innovation Strategy](#). Consequently, it is also a major component of Expo 2020 as well. As UAE gears towards the fast approaching event, the students are enthusiastically curious about using Ai to put their imagination to work and manifest their innovative ideas into reality.

The Emirati youth is more than ready for the upcoming challenges ahead backed by their mentor and the State Minister for Artificial Intelligence, His Excellency Omar Sultan Bin Olama, "Youth have a responsibility to contribute to the development of the region and look into the use of future technologies for a better future for all." Speaking to a conference in Sharjah, he stressed upon the importance of Ai as part of youth's everyday life now and said, "Each of you have to be aware how to use it and develop it for you to be able to adopt it."

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