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The ClassPad-project as a student centred learning environment.

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Summary: A student centred learning environment (SCLE) may be categorized by two main characteristics: degree of collaboration and ways of decision making. This article analyses student working during the ClassPad project, first to determine the students' degree of collaboration and their power of decision making during the project, and secondly to clarify the role of school culture in student pair discussions during the project. The results show that the ClassPad project was a purely student centred learning environment for all students. Students' autonomy ranged from student oriented decision making, where students made decisions how to use teacher's learning material to minimalist instruction, to situations, where students had full autonomy over their work. Students' degree of collaboration ranged from non-cooperative to collaborative, depending on the phase of the project. Student pair discussion analysis revealed that informal school culture played a significant role during the project. The ClassPad project introduced new ways of organizing versatile SCLE, in which students may be offered a multidimensional learning environment. The SCLE process requires teachers to be flexible with their management of learning, and to trust the students. Though student conversation included considerable informal, off-topic discussion, the student centred learning facilitated interaction and dialogue, in particular, encouraged the paired students to participate in the problem solving process.

Classification: D40 C70

Keywords: student-centred learning environment; school culture; collaboration