



## **Educational Technology and Authentic Learning: Impetus for Research and Innovation**

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### **ABSTRACT**

The impact of globalization on education is unprecedented. Another revolution is needed to transform educational systems and to prepare graduates for 21<sup>st</sup> century working environment. During the past several decades, an academic revolution has taken place in higher education marked by transformations unprecedented in their mission, roles and scope. Even at the gradual level, evolution has accelerated from geologic speed to Internet speed that could make Artificial Intelligence at par with human intelligence. Hence, the importance of research and innovation in pushing the frontier of knowledge is never been so critical. Authentic learning, educational technologies, multi-literacies, innovative thinking, and research-based practice are keys to 21<sup>st</sup> century learning model. Authentic learning typically focuses on real-world, complex problems and their solution using role-play exercises, problem-based activities, case studies, and participation in virtual communities of practice. The learning environments are inherently multidisciplinary. The purpose of this article is to revisit authentic learning as a dynamic tool to enhance learning and to provide opportunities for students to engage in higher order thinking and active learning. In addition, the article also explores some of the new ways that students can use research, innovation, and technology as a way to enhance learning. Nevertheless, the challenges of changing demographics, mind-set, rapid technological changes, and resources are overwhelming. Thus, a new paradigm for the learning innovation is urgently needed.

**Keywords:** Future paradigm, education, technology, research, innovation