

## Learner Centered Teaching to Promote Effective Learning in Students

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***Abstract:** Learning is influenced by the teaching style of a teacher and if it is effective then the learning in students also becomes effective. It is important to realize that teaching should be learner-centered, that is to say, it should involve innovative methods and techniques that conform to students' way of understanding to assure permanent learning in students. A teacher's role is not restricted to only giving lectures in the classrooms but creating such a class environment that kindle the mind of students and simultaneously arouse and maintain interest in the topic taught and discussed. Moreover a teacher should create such a learning environment wherein students are able to enhance their academic as well as non-academic aspects. In this paper the focus is on discussing the importance of creating a learner centered environment and the various methods and techniques that can be employed by teachers to create and promote learner- centered environment for effective teaching-learning in the classrooms.*

***Keywords:** Learner- Centered Teaching, Methods and techniques*

### Introduction

Learning should be permanent and lifelong. When we talk of what a child learns in a class should be comprehensible it means that the facts taught and discussed in the class should remain in his/her mind for lifetime. There should be no memorization of the facts and every topic taught should be logical and sequenced so that student can comfortably assimilate the knowledgeable facts discussed in the class. Effective learning always takes place in supportive classroom and such a class environment should be created by the teachers that enable the students to comprehend the topics taught and discussed in class and are able to link with cognitively higher level facts.

There are many numerous methods and techniques that a teacher can use to create such an environment in class wherein learners are enthused with a spirit of actually learning the facts and are interested to know more and learn. It is often seen that in a large class, it is very difficult to create interest and concentration of students for a long time. Moreover owing to the individual differences, it is difficult to tap the progress of learning of all students at the same time. More efforts are required to cater to all students and understanding their psychology. So therefore,

keeping in mind these things, teachers should create such an environment in class wherein students are engaged in discussions and brainstorming the ideas generated in the class and develop their critical thinking.

### **Need of Learner Centered Teaching**

1. When we see students' rote memorizing the facts, we always think that students will not gain anything from this, rather they will get more confused with the facts. This is because they are passing the grades without comprehending the facts and concepts. And once the concept at any stage is not clear they will result in confusions and illogical sequence of learning will proceed thereon.
2. Students' class environment should be flexible. It should not be rigid that forces the students to adjust in the class, instead it should become a platform to increase their critical thinking and logical reasoning.
3. Learner centered teaching increases solidarity among students as they get motivated to work in groups and build more understanding among peers.
4. Knowledge retention is important and this can only happen if knowledge is better transacted and made clear to the students. This can best be done in a learner centered classroom.
5. It caters to the individual differences in class as many students are different at many levels so it is necessary to cater to their demands and needs to better get equipped with knowledgeable facts.
6. Innovative techniques should be more focused that stimulate the mind and interest of students in understanding the logical facts.
7. Students show increased interest in classroom activities when teachers take an interest in students as individual, call them by their name and interact with them not only in the classrooms but also after classes.
8. Teachers should maintain rapport with the students and create a supportive class environment so as to better understand the psychology of the students that will indeed help them to deal effectively with students.
9. Many students are only physically present in the classroom and are not concentrating in the class, so for this reason also creating learner centered environment is of great importance.
10. Reinforcement is required to students for effectively imbibing the knowledgeable facts and in a learner centered teaching, reinforcement is provided utmost for their maximum input in understanding the facts logically.

### **A Learner Centered Class Environment can be created in the following ways:**

1. Creating a Supportive Learning Environment

Class environment plays an important role in increasing the interest of Students. Making the Students comfortable in class is very important for learning to take place. It should be cognitively as well as affectively stimulating for the learners. There should be discussions, debates and activities wherein students work and study in groups. To mention few these are:

- (a) Cooperative Learning –The fact that students learn effectively by doing something active than be simply listening supports cooperative learning as a method. Cooperation enhances learning as many weak students are combined with gifted or intelligent students so that both of them help understand the facts in an effective manner.
  - (b) Project Method- Under this method, students work in groups .Certain projects are given to the students and students need to complete their work. In this teachers should create heterogeneous groups to cater to individual differences in students.
  - (c) Role Play- Under this technique, students are given a theme and they are required to enact those roles. This increases their social understanding, confidence level etc. and increase the interest in class.
  - (d) Discussion- Discussion in class will break the monotony of lecturing in the class and will include brainstorming the ideas generated in the class by the students.
2. Transacting knowledge in a logical manner- A teacher should be very clear as to how to transact the knowledge and skills to the students. The facts should be logically sequenced supported with examples, those facts should be transacted in small portions according to the cognitive age of the students. Moreover, teacher should create such a coherent supportive learning environment for students that enables them to analyze the facts and then again synthesis those facts in a sequenced manner.
  3. Reflective thinking in students should be focused by the teacher. A teacher’s task is complete when students raise questions in class and there are discussions on those facts among them. Students should reflect on whatever is taught to the students and not just memorize the facts.
  4. Comprehending the facts in a sequenced manner by the students should be focused. The prior experiences of students about those topics taught in the class should be logically linked with the present knowledge transacted in the class and should build a base for future understanding of the facts.
  5. Question-answer technique should also be used frequently in class to maintain the interest and concentration of the students in the class.
  6. The lesson should be properly concluded by recapitulating the complete topic taught in the class by citing examples that students had provided while in discussion in the class or by questioning etc.
  7. Innovative techniques should be used to create and maintain interest and a learner centered environment like devising and using some educational games in the class pertaining to the subject and taught in the class.

8. There are many individual differences among students, so teaching strategies should be such that cater to all the students and in between the class, those students should be identified that require remedial or extra classes.
9. The class environment should be such that the students are continuously encouraged and motivated to discuss and develop critical thinking in them. Both intrinsically and extrinsically the students should be motivated to learn in a sequenced manner and not just memorize the facts.
10. Anecdotal and cumulative records of students should be prepared, maintained and studied by the teachers so as to better understand the academic as well as social background of the students.

### Conclusion

Learner centered teaching is important so as to better equip them of dynamic capabilities both in terms of knowledge as well as practical skills. If a concept is clearly understood by the child, that conceptual clarity will always remain with him/her, so as teachers our endeavor should be to transact the facts in a logical sequenced manner and make sure that learning has taken place in the class. Our task is not limited to giving lectures in the class but to create such a learning environment in class where in students are encouraged and motivated to learn the facts. Therefore, learner centered teaching should be focused and actually implemented in the classes to better educate the students and prepare them well for the future world.

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