

Relevance of Skilful Learning of Students at Secondary Stage in the Context of Indian Classrooms

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***Abstract:** Education is a vital component in every child's life and it is true to say that an educated man can bring revolutions in the society. But have we ever thought that this education reaches to how many students and with what components of teaching learning material? It takes many years to revolutionize things and these positive changes are brought about by educated and enlightened minds. Teaching is no longer theoretical and stereotypical; it has undergone many modifications and is considered a skilful profession. Only a skilful teacher can very well understand purposeful learning of students and accordingly devise strategies and methods of teaching. In this paper, we are trying to unveil the dire need of skilful teaching and learning in schools especially at secondary stage. As teacher educators, our initiatives are important as social reformers to promote the learning strategies. Imparting education is important but today's scenario needs skilful teaching and training of students for them to become efficient as well as skilled personnel in the future world, especially the adolescents.*

***Keywords:** Skilful learning, Secondary Education, Teaching and Training, adolescents*

INTRODUCTION

As said by Kofi Annan, "There is no trust more sacred than the one the world holds with children, there is no more important than ensuring that their rights are respected, that their welfare is protected, that their lives are free from fear and want and that they can grow up in peace."

Education is pertinent at every stage and it is true that at the initial stages there is a dire need for infusing skills in the students so that they are better equipped with the enlightening ideas emerging in society that provides them awareness to lead successful and peaceful lives in the ever changing environment.

As our paper focuses that education should be skilful and through education only, it can be achieved by inculcating some skills like self-awareness and problem solving skills in a child.

It is true that there have been many recent developments in the education system that focuses on skilful and practical approach to teaching and in relation to this; many changes have come up in

the Indian classrooms. For example, Introduction of Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation (CCE) and Right to Education (RTE). These modifications have resulted in progressive changes in the teaching –learning situations. All these developments are possible if there is an integrated approach to be used by teachers who are competent enough to enhance and develop such skills in students who are able to transcend their approach towards practicability in learning . This will help them to apply practical knowledge in their daily lives. With this, the students' insight into the subjects will be more practical coupled with reasoning and critical thinking.

NEED OF THE STUDY

“The highest education is that which does not merely give us information but makes our life in harmony with all existence”- Rabindranath Tagore

1. Adolescents today are inclining towards aggressive behavior and less receptivity to values. Therefore, skills that enable them to understand and better grasp the balance in their lives are essential.
2. The main function of Education is to enable the child to develop ambivertness in his/her personality. This will help them to control their extreme behavior and absorb composed behavior.
3. The teaching- learning should be such that makes students more confident, aware and sensitive towards society and their needs. So not only theoretical basis of knowledge will serve the purpose of educating the students but adding such activities that shine their personalities.
4. Skills should be incorporated in students that enable them to understand and empathize students with individual differences in context of physical, intellectual and social backgrounds.
5. There is an urgent need to alter our teaching from theoretical perspective to practical approach. Still today in many classrooms we will find teaching methods that are traditional and do not stimulate the minds of the students.
6. Infuse activities such as role plays, language/mathematical games etc. in the classrooms, so as to create an interesting atmosphere .
7. It is the right of every child to receive such knowledge that focuses on skills required by them in their daily lives.
8. The teachers in the present scenario should be skillful in his/her approach of teaching, and then only they will be able to communicate and transfer the skills to the students.
9. The teachers should also be competent enough to develop skills in students to make their lives successful and their learning lifelong.
10. Through skilful learning, students can grasp knowledge in a practical approach and can use that knowledge critically to many situations in their lives.

WAYS TO INCORPORATE SKILLS IN TEACHING-LEARNING PROCESS

As said by *Jiddu Krishnamurti*, “When we talk about understanding, surely it takes place only when the mind listens completely - the mind being your heart, your nerves, your ears- when you give your whole attention to it.”

Here in this paper, we need to stress that learning of students should be such that enhances their cognitive, affective and psychomotor domains.

So, Teaching should not only conform to providing superficial acquaintance with the concepts prescribed in the syllabus in the schools but should promote learning and applying of knowledge in the real life situations. There should be open-mindedness and insight in teachers on how to develop such methods and techniques that help students in understanding knowledge in a better way.

1. Learning should be such that :

1. Investigate information gathered from variety of sources	2. Interpret the concepts learned in every subjects.	3. Reflect upon facts learned that includes their feelings, emotions and thoughts.
4. Empathize with others' feelings, thoughts and beliefs.	5. Analysis of the facts and situations after comprehending the situation.	6. Synthesis the information and compile the concepts .
7. Express their reflections and analysis in the situations.	8. Apply knowledge in many situations.	9. Evaluate the different ideas and beliefs for drawing a conclusion.

- The teaching methods and techniques like field trips, role plays, discussions and use of technological audio-visual aids etc. should be regularly used in the classrooms.
- As mentioned before that inclusion of CCE has upgraded methods to be used and there are prescribed outlines for every subject focusing on the techniques to be used and skills to be enhanced in the students. Those techniques can be best applied with increased usage of activity based methods such as project method, problem solving method etc.
- Encourage participation of students in activities by giving equal chance to every child, thereby enhancing the psychomotor domain of the students.
- Showing different kinds of documentaries of legendary significance to students, so that they imbibe in them the qualities of leading a peaceful and successful life.

6. Promoting exchange programs of students within country and outside country to better expose them to different scenario and simultaneously respect different cultures.
7. Increased discussions in classrooms with regular reinforcement to be given to students.
8. Encourage students for social participation in the form of service to the needy and old age people so that they become responsible citizens.
9. Reflective inquiry should be encouraged by teachers that will enable the students to comprehend the need to assimilate and apply knowledge in different contexts.
10. Teaching should enhance Skills such as creativity in students so that they are able to solve their problems creatively and critically.
11. The teaching learning process should be such that enables a child to self-introspect his/her hidden talents and skills.
12. The examination question papers should be drafted in such a manner that quizzes their cognitive as well as affective domains in order to give them scope for skilful reflect upon their knowledge and attitude in the form of presentation of answers.
13. The teaching –learning process should be equipped with such methods and techniques that develops the Intelligence Quotient (IQ) as well as Emotional quotient (EQ) in a balanced framework.
14. Technological integration of methods and techniques to be used by teachers to better equip students with skills associated with applying knowledge through technological devices.
15. Schools should not only provide facilities but make them accessible to teachers and students .With this the teachers can effectively and efficiently integrate knowledge and application in their teaching –learning process.

CONCLUSION

It is very true that mere theoretical knowledge is far very different from generation of new concepts. The role of schools and teachers should be to promote generation of new ideas by students and not focusing on theoretical knowledge only .As Educators and teachers are the pillars of teaching and training, this training needs to be in consonance with developing skills in students. Mere providing knowledge to students in tight compartments of facts and concepts is not applicable in today's scenario, our approach should be towards experimenting new methods and techniques, diagnosing the difficulties that students feel and providing remedial teaching at appropriate time.

“Educationists should build the capacities of the spirit of inquiry, creativity, entrepreneurial and moral leadership among students and become their role model.” Abdul Kalam

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