

A Comprehensive Analysis of Various Teaching Strategies and Innovations at Higher Education Level

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Abstract

Teaching strategy helps the teacher to establish interaction between him and his students and the curriculum or subject matter. The selection of effective strategies of teaching in different streams of education at higher level is a challenge of modern time. We are experiencing massive changes in the form of globalisation, liberalisation and privatization. In this situation our learners have face a great challenge for their future. Therefore, a teacher has a great responsibility to change the situation. First of all he/she should adopt permissive style of strategies such as heuristics, project strategy, review, group discussion, paper presentation, independent study, computer assisted instruction, etc. for making our teaching effective, so that students can move back towards their classrooms. In order to make his/her teaching effective, they can use various strategies and innovations to modify their teaching. Some of them are related with ICT and some are without ICT. Strategies such as workshop, conference, seminar, panel discussion, symposium, informal group plan, various co-operative learning techniques such as Jigsaw, think-pair-share, three-step interview, round table, group investigation, student teams achievement division, round robin brain storming, three-minute review, etc. can be used successfully without ICT in order to change teaching-learning process. On the other hand, due to vital role of ICT in present scenario of globalisation and liberalisation, the teacher can take the help of ICT for teaching. The new communication and information technologies have profoundly affected our social structure. There is a growing interdependence between technology, information and society. The use of communication technologies in education at higher level has been identified. The computing and telecommunication technologies are enabling the teacher to develop multimedia in which text, voice, pictures, simulation, etc. can be integrated and delivered through computers as an interactive learning package.

To compete and survive in the competitive world of higher education it is essential for teachers to create, adopt and utilize new technologies for higher education. With the use of above strategies either with ICT or without ICT a teacher can innovate his teaching method according to need of society. And with this, higher education of India will cross the country's border and will change the world into a 'global village'.

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Introduction

Teaching is a social process on which the political system, social philosophy, values and culture of every nation leave their impression. It can be defined by various ways, e.g. in *laissez-faire* political system it is an arrangement and manipulation of situation in which there are gaps and obstructions which an individual will seek to overcome and from which he will learn in the course of doing so. Quality teaching can be defined as the ability to captivate students during the lesson, to stimulate them intellectually and move them emotionally to install in them a love for the subject and a desire to learn more about it, to motivate them to work on their own, to see them satisfaction of assisting them to grow into a self actualised individual. For effective teaching, it is necessary to select & use appropriate teaching strategies and innovations because they play significant role in increasing the effectiveness and quality in teaching. Teaching strategy helps the teacher to establish interaction between him and his students and the curriculum or subject matter. The selection of effective strategies of teaching in different streams of education at higher level is a challenge of modern time because higher education occupies the top most stage of formal education in the present educational system of our country. Teaching at higher education means acquiring knowledge, adding to the existing knowledge, transmitting knowledge and generating new knowledge, students at this level are mentally mature and can analyse, synthesize and grasp the concepts easily.

Therefore, the modes of education of higher level have to be different. But we can see in our colleges and universities teachers use only autocratic strategies for teaching, such as lecture & theoretical. Lecture method is the oldest method of teaching used at higher education level by most of lecturers for presentation of subject matter from a long time. In this method students function as passive listeners and they get a few chances for responding and they start feeling boredom. But we are experiencing massive changes in the form of globalisation, liberalisation and privatisation. In this situation our learners have face a great challenge for their future. Due to old and autocratic method of teaching, they do not show interest in classroom studies, as this type of studies waste their time only and they do not go to classrooms, instead of it they prepare notes from books and other resources. Some times they take the help of already prepared materials such as published notes or model papers. Due to availability of already prepared notes, they do not want to go into classrooms, because there is nothing to satisfy their curiosity. Our current education system is not helpful in getting any kind of job and students feel insecurity for their future. The low rate of attendance of students at degree level is seen almost in every college. On the other hand, we can see that our students prefer job oriented courses related to modern technologies. They can join the institutions providing professional courses such as medical, engineering, MBA, BBA, BCA, MCA, etc. because this knowledge helps them for getting a job. In these courses lecturers take the help

of modern technologies for making their work effective. It appears interesting and different from traditional pattern of education. Distance education courses of IGNOU and other open universities are based on modern technologies and students can learn with his speed and available times. Besides it he can do his jobs simultaneously. It appears to him that he is utilizing his time and learn something different. But in to traditional educational institution they enter only for getting a degree because they know very well that this degree is helpful in obtaining a job. But they become failed in their work due to lack of knowledge of practical utility of it. In our practical examinations, marks depend on approach of candidates to examiner irrespective of the fact that he has complete knowledge of subject or not. Therefore, our students cannot take the benefit of education of conventional type. It shows that we have to need a change in various teaching strategies and apply innovations to brought effectiveness in our teaching.

Strategies and Innovations without ICT

Teacher has a responsibility to change the level of higher education. We can make a change in our teaching by adopting permissive style of strategies such as heuristics, project strategy, review, group discussion, paper presentation, independent study, etc. for making our teaching effective and interesting, so that students can move back towards their classrooms. Besides it, teacher should tell them about professional utility of it and its importance for their future. Some socialised strategies of teaching at higher

education level are directed group plan, self-directed group plan, symposium, seminar, panel discussion, conference, workshop, blended learning, various cooperative learning techniques such as Jigsaw, think-pais-share, three step interview, round table, group investigations, student teams-achievement divisions, round robin brain storming, three minute review can be used to improve the position of higher education without ICT. A vast majority of our students view learning organisation as a competitive enterprise where one tries to do better than other. A negative interdependence in cutthroat competition is running the environment of the learning organisations as well as the entire society.

This is resulting into social imbalance, increase in use of short cuts and malpractices, feeling of jealous and hatred and non-cooperative behaviour. Therefore, for generating a healthy, cooperative and value-based environment in the higher learning organisations, these strategies play as an effective measure of learning.

Present century is the age of ICT. Teaching-learning process can be made more effective by the use of ICT. Due to rapid shift of educational technologies and political force we have to change our educational system in the period of globalisation. ICT is an important tool to transfer the present isolated, teacher-centred, book-centred learning environment into a rich student-centred environment. The aim of ICT is to transfer the old traditional paradigm of teaching-learning to new paradigm. ICT has the capacity to accelerate major changes both in pre-service teacher training as

well as in in-service teacher professional development. In order to make our teaching effective, ICT can play a vital role. At degree college and university level, almost all institutions have computer and internet facilities. The teacher can take the help of these facilities for teaching. At degree level students are mature and they can be taught easily by using these technologies. Teachers can prepare programmes for teaching or they can take the help of programmes prepared by other lecturers. Students can also prepare software for self-study under guidance of teacher. Various kinds of teaching-learning aids such as text books, references books, encyclopaedia, documents and clippings, self-instructional modulus, case studies and case reports, gramophone, audio tapes/discs, radio broadcast, telephonic conversation, slide, filmstrip, transparency, microfilm, computer, television, close circuit television, multimedia computer, etc. can be used for effective teaching. Our laboratories and libraries should be enriched with new technologies. Students should be motivated to learn by doing & showing instead of telling. Teachers should be resourceful person for them. Our teachers can take the help of modern technologies for update their knowledge. They should be changed according to need of time and students. Modern technology helps them for effective teaching. Students can also learn according to their need and time by distance education. Modern technologies play a vital role in it. The teachers of arts and commerce group should take the benefit of modern technologies because

in these subjects students do not take the benefit of knowledge of teachers, as a number of teachers use autocratic style of teaching which make their students as passive learners. Students also think that the knowledge of these subjects is not helpful for their future. It is the duty of subject experts to change the entire atmosphere in the light of new technologies. The new communication and information technologies have profoundly affected our social structure. There is a growing interdependence between technology, information and society. The use of communication technologies in education at higher level has been identified. The computing and telecommunication technologies are enabling the teacher to develop multimedia in which text, voice, pictures, simulation, etc. can be integrated and delivered through computers as an interactive learning package. By adopting above technologies teaching can be made interesting for learning.

To compete and survive in the competitive world of higher education it is essential for teachers of degree colleges and universities to create, adopt and utilize new technologies for higher education. Various new information and communication technologies such as interactive broadcasting, tele-text, video-text, computer, video disc, electronic-mail, communication satellite, telephone, fax, teleconferencing, VSATs, Internet can be helpful in this direction.

Conclusion

It may be concluded here that for successful teaching there should be a balance between different teaching

strategies either with ICT or without ICT. All these strategies, if employed systematically and vigilantly are helpful in achieving higher objectives and developing various abilities and skills in them. With the use of above technologies a teacher can innovate his teaching method according to need of society and students. And with this, higher education of India will cross the country's border and will change the world into a 'global village'.