



Innovative teaching methods for enhancing the quality of education

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Abstract: A paradigm shift is the need of the hour in the education sector especially when it comes to enriching its quality. Moreover, the system of education has undergone revolutionary advancements with the dawn of the new era where teaching is considered as the most inspiring and noble profession. To meet the intensifying challenges in the field of education and transform the pupils into enlightened individuals, a great need is felt for innovative teaching methods. Applying the perfect teaching method is an obstacle on the way to guaranteeing effective learning. Teaching methods refer to many tactics which a teacher employs to teach the lesson content to the learners. It is governed by certain principles and procedures which guides teachers to realize the desired learning outcomes and usher in qualitative improvement in the field of education. Hence, this paper aims to bring to the forefront a wide range of innovative teaching methods for enhancing the quality of education. It is hoped that the content of this paper promotes a better understanding of teaching and its various methods that can be incorporated in the teaching-learning process.

Key Words: Education, teaching, innovative teaching methods, quality education.

1. INTRODUCTION:

A paradigm shift is the need of the hour in the education sector especially when it comes to enriching its quality as the nature of teaching has changed drastically over the years to meet the growing demands of our ever-changing society, the evolution of pedagogy and the advent of Information and Communication Technology. It has changed the traditional role of teachers as the fount of all knowledge to the modern role as facilitator in the present context. Application of innovative teaching methods has become a crucial skill for teachers because it significantly enhances inter-alia the student learning process. Experimenting with innovative approaches can benefit both the teacher and the students.

2. CONCEPT OF TEACHING:

The system of education has undergone revolutionary advancements with the dawn of the new era where teaching is considered as the most inspiring and noble profession for the very fact that, a teacher deals with the most sensitive of subject-matter, i.e., human child. One major challenge for ensuring effective learning is the application of appropriate teaching methods (What needs to be taught and delivered, and how to teach and deliver). Methods of teaching imply various approaches that the teacher utilizes to imbibe the subject matter in the learners. It is governed by certain principles which guide teachers to realize the desired learning outcomes and usher in qualitative improvement in the field of education. Method of teaching is a tactic used by the teacher to teach the content to his/her pupils grounded on certain aims so as to help students learn more effectively and efficiently. Quality education and effective learning depends to a large extent on the availability of various methods of teaching. Since teaching is a purposeful activity carried out in a skilled manner to bring positive changes in the learners, the teachers amongst other things must be abreast with certain maxims of teaching so as to empower them to be able and productive as they perform their duties. The pupils are challenged by the teacher on 3 (three) domains viz. affective, cognitive, and psycho-motor. Therefore, teaching means to communicate knowledge, causing constructive alteration in attitude and imbibing skills utilizing numerous activities as the tools. However, the task of a teacher is incomplete until evaluation is executed on whether the pre-determined objectives have been attained.

3. INNOVATIVE TEACHING METHODS FOR QUALITY EDUCATION:

Teachers are at the centre of quality education. To meet the intensifying challenges in the field of education and transform the pupils into enlightened individuals, a great need is felt for innovative teaching methods. Teaching encompasses a multifarious interaction of factors such as political, social, economic and cultural. The logistics of



education are continuously altering, and creatively engages with the social transformation. Therefore, it is essential that this aspect of modern education be mirrored in the methods of teaching with its constant growing needs.

The following are some of the innovative teaching methods which maybe applied for enhancing the quality of education:

3.1. QR Codes: QR (Quick Response) codes are simple to design with multiple applications for all grade levels. It helps the learners to access information by scanning the code using a digital gadget. QR Codes helps the learners in the following ways:

- Assess their responses
- Extend information found in textbooks
- Accessing relevant tutorial videos
- Linking the learners to Google maps.

3.2. Project-Based Learning: This teaching approach helps the learners to think critically, solve problems efficiently, collaborate effectively, and manage themselves competently. This teaching method makes use of cooperation, digital apparatus, and skills of problem solving to find out suitable answers to the questions. Through this method, the students develop in-depth knowledge of the content, power of critical thinking, creative potential, and communication skills.

3.3. Massive Open Online Course (MOOC): It is a web-based platform which provides unlimited number of students worldwide for distance learning program with the best institutes in the world. A number of Massive Open Online Courses utilizes lecturing through video similar to the conventional type but technology-incorporated. Here, the subject-matter transaction is done through video lecture recordings, and online assessments and readings, including varied levels of pupil-pupil and pupil-teacher interface. MOOC can be structured on a specific course or may be less structured. MOOCs is beneficial for those who seek certificate courses, vocational courses and continuing education.

3.4. Active Learning Classrooms (ALC): ALCs are said to be student-centered, technologically enhanced classrooms effortlessly identified with large tables and moveable seating designed to facilitate and promote active learning. Normally in ALCs, there is a microphone, a whiteboard and a flat screen monitor for displaying the pupil's effort at each table. ALCs also have a teaching station that allows the instructor to select, project and highlight student work from any particular table. ALCs are referred to as 'smart classrooms' or 'flexible classrooms,' which offer a new way to think about the classroom experience.

3.5. Jigsaws: This method involves the use of cooperation, which facilitates the learners to generate learning on their own. Here, the learners are placed in groups and assigned with different piece of information. When applying this technique, students become experts on the subject-matter as they tutor their own peers. Once all the group members have learned the information, they are assigned a new group consisting of members from each of the other groups. Jigsaw method facilitates the students to craft their own learning which further engages the students and motivates them to share their information with their peers.

3.6. E-Book: It is a book publication made available in digital form, consisting of texts, images or both readable on the flat-panel displays of computers or other electronic devices. E-textbooks can easily be converted to audio files which help the students to listen to their lessons anytime, anywhere. E-books or e-textbooks are cheaper compared to traditional textbooks. It can be downloaded to a computer or any kind of reading devices and is read on the screen.

3.7. Computer Simulations: Computer Simulations are tools to support learning. Computer Simulation helps the learners to actively engage in knowledge acquisition and encourage taking responsibility of their own learning. In computer simulation, the content is designed in context of the real world and their own lives. It has the potential to enhance student problem solving skills and the way how the teachers teach and students learn. They facilitate in bringing even the most abstract concept to life for the students and incorporate otherwise impossible or impractical experiences into the classroom. Computer Simulation can also be used as an effective tool for teaching and demonstrating concepts to the learners.

3.8. Flipped Classroom/ Learning: It is a teaching method where traditional teaching-learning system is reversed. In this method, the relevant materials are given to the learners in advance, and the main class timing is utilized for interaction and other activities for effective learning. A Flipped Classroom facilitates students' collaboration with one another. In such classrooms, instruction is learner-centered where the learners explore topics in greater depth and get



meaningful learning opportunities. In Flipped Classrooms, content delivery may take a variety of forms like, video lessons, online collaborative discussions, digital research and text readings. This type of learning emphasizes on freedom of expression, full of activities, lively classroom transactions, maximum participation of students and self-evaluation.

3.9. Inquiry-Based Learning: Inquiry-based learning is an important teaching method which is based on the principle that students learn best when they construct their own learning. This method stimulates students' inquisitiveness and teachers are facilitators. This method facilitates the pupils in questioning and researching, which ensures their maximum learning and participation. This teaching method is based on the following four steps:

- Developing questions
- Researching the topic
- Presenting the subject-matter learned
- Evaluating

3.10. Crossover Learning: This type of teaching takes place outside the formal educational situation in the form of an informal educational set-up. These connected experiences between formal and informal education (crossover) sparks further interest and motivation in the learners. This innovative teaching method tries to take advantage of both formal and informal educational settings and facilitate the learners with meaningful and interesting prospects for enhancing the quality of learning. Utilizing crossover learning as a teaching method is advantageous for gaining access to different experiences from unique learning situations.

3.11. Incidental Learning: It implies unexpected or inadvertent learning. This type of learning may take place during an action that is apparently not linked to what is being learned. Incidental learning occurs in the absence of a teacher, absence of course content and does not guarantee any certificates or degrees. Nevertheless, this type of learning is universal. Every one of us encounters incidental learning events in our lives. It helps in connecting the missing dots of information and knowledge, and learning new or unexpected things.

3.12. Learning through Argumentation: Learning through Argumentation is a method of teaching which allow students to refine their ideas, viewpoints with their peers. This method involves the use of active interaction, use of motivation or encouragement, clarity of or meaningful elucidation of the topic by the teacher, and using maximum scientific language statements. Through this method, the pupils are imbibed with the values of active listening, productive response and democratic participation.

3.13. Computational Thinking: This approach involves the following steps in the thinking process:

- From complex to simple or whole to parts
- Linking of previous knowledge or experiences with the new problem at hand
- Simplifying and refining for clarity of the solution
- Designing a methodology to solve the problem
- Reviewing the procedure

This method of computational thinking can form a part of disciplines such as mathematics, science, art, etc. The objective of this method is not only to enhance the computational ability but also, to develop in the learners the ability to solve many problems they might encounter in their lives.

3.14. Analytics of Emotions: This innovative teaching method involves the use of computer for assisting the teacher. The inclusion of computer as an aid for the teacher helps him to detect different emotional responses of the students so that the teacher can make the teaching-learning transaction more effective basing on such feedbacks. Two types of analysis can be done through the help of computer under this method such as:

- Detecting students' responses to questions and number of correct responses.
- Detecting students' emotions such as their level of attention, state of mind, concentration, etc. through their facial expressions and body language.

3.15. Embodied Learning: This method of learning is based on the idea that our physical actions and interactions with the surroundings are intimately linked to our process of learning. Here, the objective is that, our cognitive, psychomotor, and affective aspects join forces for optimum learning. Embodied learning method advocates that self-awareness and



knowledge of how we respond to different environmental situations will help us in more effective learning and quality life.

3.16. Wisely Managed Classroom Technology: This teaching-learning method involves the use of modern technological gadgets, applications and websites to enhance the quality of learning. Due to increase in the number of different gadgets and numerous learning apps, learners can now learn and complete their tasks even outside of the classroom. This trend is helpful for both the teachers and the students and ultimately bringing about positive learning outcomes. However, it is the ardent responsibility of the teachers to decide which learning application and website are more suitable for the students. Many applications and websites have options for reprogramming and redesigning the content according to the teachers' needs. These websites and applications have high prospects of enhancing the quality of learning if utilized wisely.

3.17. Adaptive Teaching: This method of teaching is an appropriate method for solving the problems arising out of individual differences in the classroom or teaching-learning environment. Adaptive teaching method utilizes information regarding the pupil's history, his potentialities, abilities, interests, attitude and other personality characteristics for guaranteeing effective learning. This system of teaching is flexible and adaptive in such a way that it has avenues for structuring, designing and improvising variety of teaching-learning methods for enhancing the quality of learning. Adaptive teaching also has self-evaluation option, and learning through different modes at one's own tempo of learning.

4. CONCLUSION:

Learners today are in need of new methods and techniques in acquiring both theoretical and practical knowledge to equip themselves with skills for tackling various life challenges. Therefore, schools, colleges, and universities need to embrace innovative teaching methods in their approach. Hence, this paper aims to bring to the forefront a wide range of innovative teaching methods for enhancing the quality of education. The various methods highlighted in this paper may not be applicable in every educational institution or teaching-learning environment. As such, it is suggested that the methods be experimented first and applied according to the situation with improvisations if required. It is hoped that the content of this paper promotes better understanding of teaching and the various methods highlighted above that can be incorporated in the teaching-learning process.

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