

Process of Teaching and Learning: A Paradigm Shift

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Abstract

This is the necessity to secure the future of education. Therefore, the teacher is the role-hero that can do it by imparting the education through self-learning methods with the appropriate learning styles and speed of learner. Earlier it was believed that teaching and learning are teacher based/centred process, but after the change of perspectives, it became child oriented/focused. The teacher of today is not only a teacher; now he has become supporter, helper, partner and colleague of the learner. Therefore, the need of the time is to change the process of teaching and learning according to the needs of the learner with careful cultivation of experiences. The teacher in present era must create an environment of divergent thinking about research and teaching to find out the missing links between theory and practice to fulfil the gap which has always existed. It is a unique responsibility of teacher as a social reformer to satisfy the needs of not only societies but of a country. This research article emphasises on the innovative changes of the teaching and learning.

Key words: Teaching, Learning, Child centred learning, Experiential learning.

One day I was teaching table of seventeen in my classroom. But even after struggling hard, I was unable to make my students learn. Suddenly, a student belonging to western Rajasthan said to me that he would recite the table of seventeen. He started like that “*Satre ku satre, mini kaan katre, mini diyo moti, satre dua chaunti*”. What was this? I was shocked although it was a natural way of teaching and learning. Most of the time, we neglect originality and strength of the learner due to the apprehension of degrading the status of education. (Mahatma Gandhi, 1942) also says “*a teacher, who establishes rapport with the taught, becomes one with them, learns more from them than he teaches them. He who learns nothing from his disciples is, in my opinion, worthless. Whenever I talk with someone, I learn from him. I take from him more than I give him. In this way, a true teacher regards himself as a student of his students. If you will teach your pupils with this attitude, you will benefit much from them.*” (Talk to Khadi Vidyalaya Students, Sevagram, Sevak, 15 February 1942 CW 75, p. 269)

A teacher can change the teaching and learning into a game with his teaching styles. Teaching is not only an activity of the mind but also a function of the heart. If we suppose that teacher is a magician who helps to dream of success in life. The good teacher tells his story to give new experiences to his students. There is a need to focus on learning strategy and to support the learner by innovative ideas. According to Marzano (2007) past studies

gives quantitative information about the influence of effective teacher and democratic school on the academic achievement of a learner, therefore the role of a teacher as well as school is entirely directionally proportional. A teacher must prepare his lesson according to different techniques so that students may enjoy the study.

A report which was published in 1966 known as *Equality in Educational Opportunity*, which is also commonly known as Coleman Report, 1966 asks some fundamental questions about the teaching and learning process. In the light of this report, Marzano wrote a book in 2007 entitled as *The Art and Science of Teaching*. This report and book were the miracles and strong evidence in favour of schools and teachers to prove the responsibility and worry about the learners. Since then further studies have shown confirmation for the different decisions with a discussion that operative schools can make a plentiful variance in the attainment of the learners. The last decades of the 20th century also cleared the picture of schools and its innovative teaching-learning processes. The schools have setup their infrastructures and manpower capabilities with an effective teaching-learning environment.

Every person cannot be a teacher if he is properly not skilled with the teaching profession. As we know that Socrates gave quiz method for learning and teaching. As Aristotle once said that *“For the things we have to learn before we can do them, we learn by doing them.”* Aristotle suggested that education which can provide practical knowledge will be useful. Aristotle highlighted in his work that *“Anything that we have to learn to do we learn by the actual doing of it... We become just by doing just acts, temperate by doing temperate ones, brave by doing brave ones.”* Aristotle was not a professor but was its prototype. He gave his valuable period of life for the teaching and learning. Although his work was not like research, is written in that manner that we are using his work as an ideal research.

Every teacher should start his lesson by the real example and must finish it by teaching the use and application of it. Today it is needed to insert understanding with an ability for application of knowledge. The real teacher evaluates achievement of his student using formative approaches. Therefore, the continuous and comprehensive evaluation (CCE) is the proper tool for interactive evaluation. According to Bloom *“If there is no interaction in the classroom, no any type learning and teaching can take place.”* So what should do a teacher?

A teacher is a reformer who reforms the education system, an instructor who instructs the learner, a maker who makes the future of learner, a driver who drives the curriculum, a generator who generates the knowledge and many things more. The teacher converts teaching in the transformational process. He transmits the knowledge to the learner to generate ideas. Teacher grants some special power to develop the capacity for self-monitoring and self-directing the ideas. Therefore, a teacher can make some changes by some new implementations.

Implementations in classrooms

The teacher is the main knowledge resource as well as for the students in the classroom where the teacher implements some new features of teaching and learning. For example, walls of the classroom may be painted colourful or with formulas, trees, forest, statements, etc. Classrooms must be well ventilated and airy so that student can be breathing easily. Schools must be free from crowded area and away from cities to provide a peaceful environment for teaching and learning.

Curriculum

The curriculum is the basic for all educations; therefore, an active and well-balanced curriculum can arouse the interest of students with the fulfilment of their needs. A curriculum

that provides skill oriented practice and empirical knowledge will be useful to support futuristic planning of teaching and learning for the institutions.

Constructive approach

A teacher should be a good practitioner of their profession. Today there are so many innovations which are taking place in the area of teaching and learning. Teacher who were teaching on the blackboard, now are teaching on the computer where colourful images appear in many types with three-dimensional vision. Now a day's teacher is present everywhere owing to the availability of the internet, youtube and other social websites.

Change in behaviour

Now today there are no conventional boundations with the teaching and learning. Because education has become child centred. Therefore, it is not important that what a teacher wants to teach. If a student wants to play a game, then he is free. Today it is expected from the teacher to be a friend of learner who takes equal part in every co-curricular activity. Earlier in Ashram system, the teacher behaved like a father. Therefore, a teacher must change in his behaviour and functioning according to learner's choice and need.

Educational tour

Educational tour is the concept which provides empirical and real knowledge. Today, it is essential to understand the psychology of the learner. If a teacher who does not know about his learner cannot be able to teach his student. According to Gestaltism, knowledge of whole and development of insight is the learning. Therefore, possible historical places, botanical gardens, science exhibitions, scientific libraries, scientific museums, art exhibitions, book fares, science fares, etc. must be shown by the relevant teacher with the proper guide in the area.

Playing movies in classrooms

Today the teachers of the new generation are developing a new concept of playing educational, scientific, historical, conceptual and sometimes animated movies in the classroom to create curiosity in the mind of the learner. Because only the dynamic teacher knows, how? He can help to concentrate the student on the topic to learn. By the movies, the teacher wants to give the real knowledge of learning by fun. He gives knowledge about the technology that how can it works.

Connecting with learners

Only a good teacher has the ability to connect with the learners of his class and learners of everywhere. Today the teacher must havethese qualities like patience, humour, pedagogical knowledge, acceptance of situations, promoter of inclusion, commitment, risk-taking, decision making, etc. Then only he will be successful to connect with learners.

Change in Classroom setup

We know that the place of teaching and learning also affects the learning and teaching. Therefore, setup of the classroom should be changed according to students' choice. A classroom with multicolour and painted with natural scenes gives a feeling of closeness to

nature. A classroom with trees and butterflies gives intellectual happiness that helps to activate the brain for self-learning.

Time to yoga

It has been proven that we can improve our mental health through *Yoga*. **The Harvard Crimson**, a news paper of Cambridge University, concluded that *“Practicing yoga instead of taking a traditional physical education class can be an effective way for improving the mental health of high school students.”*

(Flak and Coulon, 1985) explored in his research that *“Many people believe that today’s children are here to teach us about the society in which we live. Our society is too stressful, violent and fast-paced. How can stressed, overworked teachers ever hope to meet National Curriculum demands and achieve their learning objectives when their pupils are equally stressed, agitated, aggressive, overly emotional, and mentally exhausted? Through its philosophy and practices that are rooted in ancient yogic tradition RYE techniques help teachers to redress the balance between their pupils’ bodies and minds, simultaneously imparting the joy of learning and living.”*

Friendly environment for teaching and learning

Today, It is being believed that schools are the places of torture by stick, but now these are formed in a place of learning with fun. The schools of new generations are creating the environment of happiness among learners and giving suggestions for best performance.

Teaching and learning are significant responsibilities, it’s not merely jobs. Education is the mystery for the learner where the role of a teacher is not to open this mystery but to help to search the proper ways of disclosing this mystery by the learner himself. Today, teaching is not an act. It is becoming an art of understanding the learner, his needs, his psychology, his functioning, his mental stages, his stress, his happiness, his weakness, his strong sides and science of learning. In his book, *The Republic* Plato wrote *“That’s what education should be,” I said, “the art of orientation. Educators should devise the simplest and most effective methods of turning minds around. It shouldn’t be the art of implanting sight in the organ, but should proceed on the understanding that the organ already has the capacity, but is improperly aligned and isn’t facing the right way.”* It is believed that a teacher has the third eye by which he can see what a learner wants. Sometimes the teacher is called as future predictors due to his ability to know the strength and ways to increase the stamina of the learner. Alexander the great (king of the Greek kingdom of Macedon) said for his great teacher Aristotle that *“I am indebted to my father for living, but to my teacher for living well. Therefore, “Those who educate children well are more to be honoured than they who produce them; for these only gave them life, those, the art of living well.”*

The teacher must be taught such type that the learner can be able to create self-awareness to monitor other comprehensive difficulties of his subject. It was the past when “chalk with talk” method was used to teach. But in this continuous growing world, there is a compulsion to change the techniques of teaching by the teacher and learning by the learner. Here are some methods of impactful teaching and meaningful learning.

Spaced learning

It is the method where a teacher provides some breaks after teaching. But in this type of method brain storming techniques are used to develop insight. The break may be according to the choice of learners like they can play a game, can hear songs, can see the movie, etc. After a short break, teacher again repeats the topic only to understand the concepts.

Flexible free day

It is not possible for everyone to learn all days according to teacher's plan. Therefore, a good teacher should change the pattern to teach. One day of the week, the teacher should give the opportunity to choose, what the learners want to do on this free day.

Engage in Community Services

It is the requirement of society and aim of education to engage the learner in the functioning of society, and it is also an art to involve the learner in social works and to prepare the learner to spread humanity in the community. A teacher must be social and must have the trend to help society.

Making Teaching Strategies

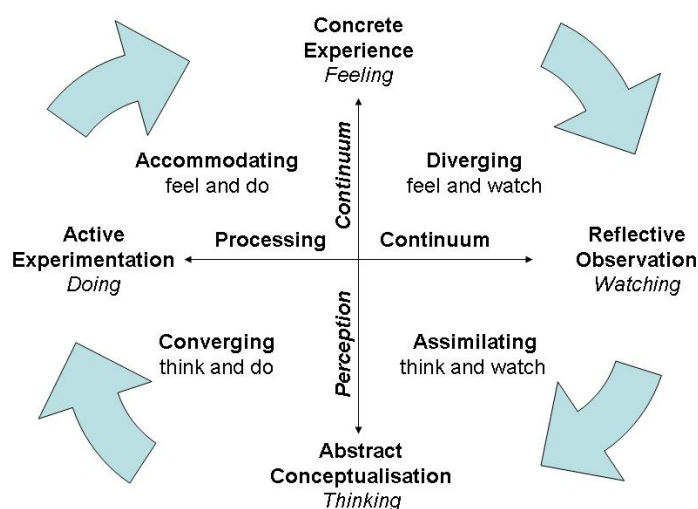
The teaching strategies can be categorised in convergent and divergent teaching. The convergent teaching is teacher centred and structured where passive alertness of student is necessary, but divergent teaching is child centred where active alertness of learner is important. In convergent teaching, the learner cannot impart his knowledge but in divergent he can. A teacher can teach by the divergent teaching method with following instructions-

- ✓ By knowing the level of ability and speed of learning of individual.
- ✓ By identifying the styles of learning of the learner.
- ✓ By identifying the personality of the learner.
- ✓ By making the inter-disciplinary curriculum.

In favour of the science of learning Kolb (1999) described the styles of learning. Kolb claims that actual knowledge and mental conceptualisation redirect left and right brain to think individually. He believes that experiences reflect the styles of learnings while learning styles are not related to personality traits. He gave a model for the learning process. In which he emphasises on four type of learning process as –

- ✓ **Divergent learning** (related to Innovation and imagination)
- ✓ **Assimilation learning** (related to empirical and inductive knowledge)
- ✓ **Convergent learning** (related to application of ideas and problem solving)

- ✓ **Accommodation learning** (related to intuition and trial and error)



Model of Learning Process

Source: <http://www.nwlink.com/~donclark/hrd/styles/kolb.html>

Sergiovanni (1994) found in his research that to create an environment for shaping the learners into an interconnected and helpful learning society, the teacher must need to impart his efforts for the effectiveness of the teaching by models, joyful mood, openness, responsive development, honesty and loving about students.

Learning and Teaching as Experience

Kolb (1984) wrote that learning based on experiences is useful to insert fundamental views through the behavioural changes. He suggests the theory of *Experiential Learning* after understanding the previous studies of John Dewey, Kurt Lewin, Jean Piaget and Bruner. Kolb wrote that basic concepts of Pragmatism, Field theory of learning and Cognitive theory of learning were learning through self-experiences. In the Lewinian model of action research and laboratory, training emphasises that the *feedback* helps to modify the experiences. Therefore, in the process of learning and teaching, there is a need to insert feedback (reinforcement) to support and to effective the learning and teaching. Kolb wrote that Piaget's model of cognitive learning gives information to decide the type and need of experience. Piaget's model describes stages of cognitive growth from birth to about 14-16 years where Piaget classified this period into four stages as *the sensory motor stage* (0-2 years), *pre-operational stage* (2-7 years), *concrete operational stage* (7-11 years) and finally *formal operational stage* (11 to about 16 years). Every stage gives information about that what type of experiences is to learn. By the help of this information, a teacher can mould the learning of the learner and can choose the right teaching method to effective his teaching. It is to understand for every teacher that learning must be conceived as a process, not as outcomes. Because according to behavioural theories of learning (are given by J.B. Watson, Clark Hull, B.F. Skinner and others) behaviour is termed as outcomes. Learning is an evolving process whose products represent only historical records not awareness for the future.

Conclusion

Conclusively we found that the education that cannot help to the learner to prepare for life must be removed from the curriculum. According to Dewey, a teacher should know the ways and techniques to motivate the learner and to create interest for learning. The teacher must teach with the proper planning. Our view suggests that the experiences of the learner should be planned so that he can use in future when need. Following steps can be useful for the teachers and learners to change the knowledge in experiences through cognition-

1. To motivate the learner intrinsic to activate self.
2. Every individual must be taught according to their needs.
3. Education must be according to running and current context.
4. The teacher should never be fixed the teaching techniques and behaviour.
5. Cooperative learning should be promoted.
6. Teaching and learning must be well planned.
7. Education must do enable to the learner to use his experiences.
8. A teacher must be served as helper, motivator, guide, supervisor and arranger of experiences.
9. *Kilpatrick* (the student of *John Dewey* and who gave the *Project method of teaching*) suggested that experiences must be arranged as a project so that it can be used in future.
10. The content and study material should be according to universal needs.

We are thankful to only those teachers and schools whose contribution is being priceless and non-refundable. Every professional can disobey the rules of societies but a teacher how can? Sometimes he (the teacher) is known for work and development, some time for character and morality. He does efforts to help his students to establish goals and to reach success. He every time track progress of his student is not only in classrooms but also in play grounds. He never satisfies until his student does not attain his goal.

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