

## INNOVATIVE TEACHING METHODS IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Dr. Shobhana Puranik

Teacher Educator, Pune

drshobhanapuranik@gmail.com

### ABSTRACT

*21st Century is the age of cataclysmic change and creativity. India needs educated man power in huge numbers. Traditional teaching learning methodology is outdated and best methods are to be identified to improve the required skills of the teachers and students. There exists a strong need to change pedagogy from fact-based traditional lecturing to interactive teaching with the aim of fostering durable and employability skills. To address this problem, innovation in teaching and learning has become essential. Adoption of various methods and strategies as mentioned in the paper will help in getting the desired outcome. The present paper describes innovative teaching methods being adopted by higher educational institutes in the country.*

**Keywords:** Innovative Teaching Methods, Higher Educational Institutes, Traditional Teaching

### INTRODUCTION

Education plays a key critical role universally for development of skilled workforce. Education is vital for the growth and development of any society. It imparts knowledge, skills and inculcates values and is responsible for building human capital which, drives and sets technological innovation and economic development. In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, information and knowledge stand out as very important and vital input for growth and survival of mankind. Education is not only the means of achieving social development but also an engine of advancement in an information era propelled by its wheels of knowledge and research. Quality teaching is that transforms students'

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perceptions and the way they go about applying their knowledge to real world problems. Teaching effectiveness techniques were applied by many researchers to assess the traditional teaching techniques, it is revealed that many students do not absorb the course content if the teaching is through traditional lecturing way. It is revealed that most students do not absorb the course content up to the expected level when taught through text book lecturing method. Hence improving the existing teaching learning methods and teaching with new innovative methods has become the need of the day. It has become necessary to identify the gaps in the teaching learning process and implement innovative teaching methodology. Educationists around the globe are advocating for innovating and improving the existing learning methods, and also for experimenting with new teaching styles. The use of innovative teaching methods by teachers helps to enhance the performance of students of diversity (Naz & Murad, 2017). The exponential pace of change in every aspect of lives i.e. work, technology, culture lifestyle and environment are needing new skills and knowledge from the students.

Although Lecturing has so far remained the dominant form of academic teaching in spite of continued attacks, critiques and intentions to suppress it and replace it with more efficient methods and procedures. Efforts have been made to introduce and experiment changes in the teaching methodology at number of institutions imparting higher education, lot of research has been carried out in this field. Ganyaupfu (2013) investigated that teacher-student interactive method was the most effective teaching method over the teacher -centered approach. These researches show that direct teaching is efficient in the transfer of knowledge, but is not sufficient for deeper understanding, problem solving and creativity. The focus of innovative teaching is based on the trust that every student has the capacity to learn and be successful in life. Senthilkumar and Kannappa (2017) claimed that innovative teaching methods provide more experience and help

students to tackle with work related problems. A teacher should perceive each student as possessing unique personality characteristics that can be more polished by using creative and innovative teaching methods. Having an awareness of the process of learning is very helpful for teachers to identify the problems students are facing. The main motive behind development of innovative teaching and learning styles is that all the students of the class participate and interact in the class instead of just listening and sitting idle so that maximum amount of knowledge is grasped by all the students in minimum amount of time and efforts.

## **INNOVATIVE TEACHING**

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We all know that education is an effective instrument to bring social change and upliftment of all the persons of the society. However, quality of education can only be enhanced by adoption of innovative teaching practices in order to make the contents interesting as well as to motivate the learners.

Innovative Teaching incorporates technology in to teaching learning methods to create a rich learning experience for students and a rewarding teaching experience for faculty (Khairnar, 2015). With the increase of the globalization, educators are required to have the ability to adapt to technological changes and meet the new needs to solve complex problems. To address this challenge, active methods of teaching and learning are required with a particular emphasis on making the connection between theory and practical application that helps the

students to understand the content of the course. With the use of these active methods, students are required to evaluate project scenarios with a diverse range of external and internal variables that require both technical and non-technical skills during the solution process. So, the use of active methods improves the understating of basic concepts, encourages deep and creative learning, and develops teamwork and communication skills.

## **IMPORTANT INNOVATIVE TEACHING METHODS**

### **Application of Multimedia tools**

In the present digital era multimedia is the most powerful way of communication. Many teachers are making effective use of combination of various digital media types such as text, images, audio and video, to teach students and it is found to be quite effective approach for transfer of knowledge. Traditional educational approaches have resulted in a mismatch between what is taught to the students and what is required by the employer. In order to enhance the creativity and analytical problem-solving ability of students, problem-based learning has been adopted by many institutions of higher education. Problem based learning is well supported by multimedia tools has effective impact on learning environment. Multimedia technology helps the teacher to represent in a more meaningful way (Jayashree,2017). Presentations of course material are prepared with the help of multimedia tools as per the requirement and audio-visual presentation is made in such a way that the students grasp the content and are motivated to pay attention on the content being presented and retain the information for longer time. Some of the multimedia technologies are Power point presentation, educational videos on U tube, Gyan Darshan broadcast, NPTEL video lectures, SWAYAM courses, MOOC etc.

## **Role Playing**

Role playing is a powerful tool that allows students to immediately apply content as they are put in the role of a decision maker who must make a decision with reference to policy formation and optimum resource allocation. This technique is an excellent tool for engaging students and allowing them to interact with their peers as they try to complete the task assigned to them in their specific role. Learning objectives can be better achieved by Role playing technique of teaching as the students understand the content better. This leads to better team work and cooperation among students. Many classroom problems can be sorted out and interpersonal relationship can be improved by role playing technique of teaching and learning. Role playing is a great way to impart education of complex nature through simplified way. Role playing helps the students to learn the academics through their personal involvement. Many teachers have used role playing effectively to help solve classroom interpersonal problems and to teach human-relations skills in the classroom. Literature, current and historical events can be effectively explained by dramatization of events in role playing. Role playing facilitates the students in (a) inter personal relationship. (b) Social behavior. (c) his evaluation of himself and his life style, and (d) the ways in which academic material may be relevant to his daily tasks.

Role playing has been used by many universities to stimulate learning and to create better understanding among members of student, faculty, and administrative bodies. Social scientists have used forms of role playing in colleges and institutes to present national and international problems.

The main advantage of role playing as an instructional technique is its active nature. Participants along with discussions on theoretical problems of behavior also discuss about alternate approaches of role play and new ways of behavior. Thus, there is a stress on active participation in learning that enhances the learning itself. By Role playing in the classroom necessary connection is made between knowing a principle and acting upon that knowledge. The mere addition of information neither solves classroom interpersonal problems nor teaches new social relations: interpersonal issues are resolved only as students or teachers begin to behave differently.

Thus, role playing can be seen as one technique in an educational procedure that is directed toward the scientific improvement of classroom learning and social behavior. Such a procedure assumes that learning needs to be through real-life experiences. Ideas are converted to action and theory is transformed in to practice in the class room. It can become a laboratory for problem identification, for experience and analysis and drawing conclusions.

### **Flipped Class Room**

In a traditional classroom or learning environment, learning is centered on a didactic teaching method. A teacher stands at the front of the classroom and delivers a lecture, and then assignments and problem-solving exercises are performed at home. In a flipped classroom, the order of events is “flipped.” Educational material and instructional content are delivered before the class session via online lectures, videos, or readings which the student can access and review at their own pace. The class session is then dedicated to more active learning processes with interactive application of knowledge through problem solving, case-based scenarios, or interactive discussions—all under the guidance of the teacher. With traditional learning, when students are doing homework or applying what they learned in class, it is usually at home. If they have a question, a teacher is not

available to help. In comparison, in a flipped learning environment, when students are applying new knowledge and concepts, the teacher or professional educator is present to answer questions because this work is being done in the classroom. A second advantage of a flipped classroom is that students can review lecture materials at their own pace and review and replay parts of the lecture as many times as they need. It also allows students who may have missed class to still view the lecture content.

### **Active Learning**

In active learning active participation, involvement, contribution and attention of each and every student is necessary as active learning is not teacher centered but student centered it requires more than listening a lecture. In active learning students enhance their thinking and creative ability, while working on some project student can think about the work being done and also think about the purpose behind what is done.

Active learning is achieved when students interact with the educational content in any way that can promote active thought which encourages them to think about the material rather than just transcribe the content. There are many active learning techniques that can be used. In its simplest form, active learning can be integrated into already designed lectures. Therefore, it can even be utilized in large lecture room settings.

It is an approach to analyze what they have read, written, thought, and learned. Any action which is course related and performed in the class room, apart from simply watching, listening and taking notes is active learning. In order to achieve optimum results, students are required to plan and prepare the learning process of their own, involve themselves in learning, regulate, control and retain the learning activities.

## **CONCLUSION**

Higher education pedagogy has under gone many changes during last two decades. Traditional methods of teaching although still being followed by many institutes however number of institutes have adopted innovative approaches of teaching and learning. Since it has been realized that innovation and creativity is the essence of learning hence teachers are also inclined to adopt newer methods of instruction. It has been concluded in many researchers that application of innovative methods of teaching and learning has resulted significantly in the student performance, it has also been reported by number of institutions that class room attendance has also been improved. Feedback on innovative methods of teaching from students and teachers is quite encouraging. Innovation is a continuous process and faculty members are applying innovative methods to enhance quality of education so as to develop creativity and empower people and ultimately to achieve the human development index of our country.

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