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Redefining the Role of a Teacher in the 21st Century

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Abstract

Since ages the role of a teacher has been taken as to deliver the lecture and to transform the ideas from a sender to the receiver i.e students. The purpose of this paper is to examine the age old methods of teaching and technology based learning which can be useful to impart knowledge to the students and to change the role of a teacher in teaching. In teaching, the medium of instruction is taken up either in English or in regional languages but just as sending and receiving information. Ultimately, a teacher is trying his/her best way to communicate the ideas to the students as they have learnt in their schools or at university. 21st century in itself is a revolutionary century not only in the fields of science but in each and every field. Present century demands the changes in sharing the knowledge to the students by using innovative methods in teaching. Any method of teaching which serves the purpose without destroying the objective could be considered as innovative methods of teaching. The use of innovative tools in the educational field will not only serve the best in education but also will enhance the skill of an individual which will help to achieve the greater goal of human development of the country.

Introduction:

The word education shows the mankind a right direction if a person is well educated. The agenda of education is to make a student read, write and understand the medium of communication i.e to make him/her a literate person. With the burning desire to change will guide a person to progress in any field that can be humanities or science but it happens only through education. The spark of creativity can be lit by the teacher in the mind of a student. As Swami Vivekananda has rightly said, "Education is the manifestation of perfection already in man" The word 'Irqa' in the first word of first verse in Quran means to Read. Education is thus the starting point of every human activity. Education is that light which shows the path to every individual who gets onto it. If it does not succeed to saw the seeds of self-revelation and commitment towards oneself then it's not the fault of the education but it's an individual's only. It should generate the flame to learn with full zeal and enthusiasm. Education should become a fun and thrill to them rather than burden and boredom. It is an integral part of their growth and helps them become good citizens. Here the role a teacher plays a vital role to channelize the knowledge to the students in this knowledge system. 21st century runs on the wheel called technology. Every child has become a tech savvy thereby they expect the ride of getting knowledge should be through technology only. In today's era, information and knowledge stand out as very important and critical input for growth and survival. Rather than looking at education simply as a means of achieving social upliftment, the society must view education also as an engine of



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advancement in an information era propelled by its wheels of knowledge and research leading to development.

The Methods:

Since Plato and Aristotle or before their age the education is provided through lecture system. When Aristotle use to teach in huge hall he use to communicate the ideas twice so that each student can get the idea. The same tradition of sharing the knowledge within the teachers has carried on till the last century and towards the first decade of the present century. The traditional method of teaching is been evaluated critically.

Traditional Teaching Method:

Teaching in higher education since the ancient times is taught as sending the message by the teacher and receiving the same by the students. It has become the same tradition which has been evaluated in pre-technological era. In terms of the delivery medium, the educator can deliver the message via the “chalk-and-talk” method and overhead projector (OHP) transparencies. This directed instruction model has its foundations embedded in the behavioral learning perspective (Skinner, 1938) and it is a popular technique, which has been used for decades as an educational strategy in all institutions of learning. Basically, the teacher controls the instructional process, the content is delivered to the entire class and the teacher tends to emphasize factual knowledge. In other words, the teacher delivers the lecture content and the students listen to the lecture. Thus, the learning mode tends to be passive and the learners play little part in their learning process (Orlich et al.,1998). It has been found in most universities by many teachers and students that the conventional lecture approach in classroom is of limited effectiveness in both teaching and learning. In such a lecture students assume a purely passive role and their concentration fades off after 15-20 minutes. Some limitations which may prevail in traditional teaching method are $\frac{3}{4}$ Teaching in classroom using chalk and talk is “one way flow” of information. The teachers deliver the lecture without taking any kind of feedback from the students and hence the boring method of teaching continues for decades. But the present generation cannot hold even 20 minutes of such kind of lecture as there is very less amount of interaction between the student and the lecturer during the lecture.

INNOVATION IN THE FIELD OF TEACHING:

MULTIMEDIA LEARNING PROCESS



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I hear and I forget.

I see and I believe.

I do and I understand. - Confucius

The term multimedia is the amalgamation of various digital media which includes audio and visual information to the audience. Traditional educational approaches have resulted in a mismatch between what is taught to the students and what the industry needs. As such, many institutions are moving towards problem based learning as a solution to producing graduates who are creative; think critically and analytically, to solve problems. In this paper, we focus on using multimedia technology as an innovative teaching and learning strategy in a problem-based learning environment by giving the students a multimedia project to train them in this skill set. Since these traditional approaches do not encourage students to question what they have learnt or to associate with previously acquired knowledge (Teo & Wong, 2000), problem-based learning is seen as an innovative measure to encourage students to learn how to learn via real-life problems (Boud & Feletti, 1999).

The use of multimedia will help a teacher to represent the thoughts in better way and can modify at any point of time during the lecture. By incorporating digital media elements into the project, the students are able to learn better since they use multiple sensory modalities, which would make them more motivated to pay more attention to the information presented and retain the information better. Another advantage of using multimedia will be assigning the students to work in group for a given topic. It will enhance the skills of team management and which fill the ideas of particular topic.

OTHER INNOVATIVE TOOLS SUGGESTED:

There are various other methods which a teacher can use during delivering a lecture. It will help the teachers and students to have a live discussion on the particular topic. The researchers suggest some of the methods can very well be applied by the modern teachers. The following methods which are suggested are an extension to the traditional methods of teaching.

- **USE OF ANIMATION**

Present generation students clearly understand the world of animations as technology has made them to set their minds in animated versions. If a teacher uses the animated versions of their particular topic, it will help the students to grasp the ideas and it will make their mind concentrated on the topic. Many a times even the



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average student will come up with the best discussions when the student learns through animated movies or through graphics. The weakness of the tool is majority of the teachers would have to be skilled for sharing it in knowledge system.

- **TEACHING WITH SENSE OF HUMOUR – “HUMOUR AN EFFECTIVE MEDIUM OF TEACHING”**

Everyone loves a teacher with an infectious sense of humor. Humor strengthens the relationship between student and teacher, reduces stress, makes a course more interesting and if relevant to the subject, may even enhance recall of the material. Looking at the lighter side of life not only fosters cordial relations between professors and students, but also provides welcome relief while trying to follow a difficult lecture on a complicated subject. When there is a willingness to change, there is hope for progress in any field. Teaching is a challenge. Learning is a challenge. Combining both effectively is a challenge. Being humorous is a challenge. However, laughing is easy. We are convinced both by experience and research that using humour in teaching is a very effective tool for both the teacher and student.

- **ROLE PLAYING AND SCENARIO ANALYSIS BASED TEACHING**

Being a teacher of English, the researcher has found that the effective mode of keeping a student interest is to put them into situations. Role playing and scenario analysis is mostly used in organizations that try to analyze a problem pertaining to the organization, and this is also used in management institutions. But the similar kind of practice can be tried in other specialization too like science and engineering. Science and engineering courses have practical but in support of those practical if students are given a scenario and other options to solve a particular issue, then the students are exposed to decision making in a given environment.

For example, in teaching accounting the role of accountant can be explained by role playing technique. Invoice and bills can be given to students and asked them to assume the role of accountant. Here the real entries pertaining to transactions are made by the student and this is more practical approach to teaching where theory is supplemented by proper practical knowledge. Similar kind of technique can be applied in management, engineering and science courses.

CONCLUSION:

Across the world, information technology is dramatically altering the way students; faculty and staff learn and work. Internet-ready phones, handheld computers, digital cameras, and MP3 players are revolutionizing



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the college life. As the demand for technology continues to rise, colleges and universities are moving all sorts of student services, from laundry monitoring to snack delivery online. Technology is also changing the classroom experience. With the tablet technology allow professors to make notes on charts and spreadsheets and send them directly to their students' PCs and he will get a feed back from each student. In the new paradigm of learning, the role of student is more important than teachers. The concepts of paperless and penless classroom are emerging as an alternative to the old teaching learning method. These days we need to have interactive teaching and this changing role of education is inevitable with the introduction of multimedia technology and the spawning of a technologically-savvy generation of youths. The researchers recommend that the teaching would be highly effective if the teacher start to use the recent multimedia technologies like usage of computers extensively or some modifications in the conventional mode of teaching. The use of computers may be very well practiced in the environment where the use of such technology is highly possible, but there must be some sort of innovation which can also be practiced in an environment where such use of technology is on its way to growth. The researchers believe that the core objective of teaching is passing on the information or knowledge to the minds of the students.



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