

15. Teaching practice - what our country needs?

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Teaching practice, just like other things demands innovative and out of the box thinking. This is required in order to adopt the learners to get ready for an innovative world, which is dominated by digital and communication advancements. The keywords in this context should be innovation, curiosity for invention, inquisitive learning and the most important aspect called creativity.

Creativity helps student learners to face technical challenges and nurtures their problem-solving skills. The creativity and the inspiration, when encouraged on young minds, they will be good assets and great intellectuals, and this would impact the innovations and growth of the society in a positive way. Creative intelligence drives innovation. The imagination and originality of young minds should be enhanced for a good cause. An effective and a high- quality education system should provide such kind of a positive impact on the learners.

Now starting at the effective teaching practices, a good

teacher plays a major role here to impart this kind of knowledge and encourage the student thinking in this direction. They should be aware of more effective teaching techniques and trained for various learner appropriate teaching strategies. This would help the teachers to engage the learners in a more interesting way. In this context, educating the teacher is essential to improve creative teaching process. Teachers should keep them informative and updated professionally through some continuous learning methods and assessments. They should also undertake specialised skill development and high-quality training programmes in order to keep them more innovative and engaging.

There should be more encouragement and positive response from teachers for creative contributions of learners and also to provide the learners with the required freedom to explore in the form of questions and discussions. Teaching with a chalk and talk or even with attractive PowerPoint for hours might not work well if the learner participation or discussion is not encouraged. The teacher could encourage learner interaction as a part of modern revolutionary teaching methods. This sort of practice leads to independent and critical thinking among the learners and they will be in a position to communicate their views in a better way. The learners can take responsibility for their own learning by means of self-reflections and questions. A learner trained in this manner, will be able to exercise initiatives in real life projects and be able to work effectively in teams, communicate better and move towards excellence and

innovation in a faster pace.

Demonstration and relating concepts with practical examples would excite the interest of the learners. A highly conceptual idea is remembered better when taught through visualisation. The practical knowledge of the learners gets enhanced by the activity-based learning techniques. A field visit or an industrial training and internships would help the students learn more about the real world and appreciate about how the knowledge obtained in the class room, in fact gets applied to the real world. This will give them a connectivity of their learning to the real world. The connection and association with the real world would go a long way for their career growth aspects. The expectations of the global work force from the student learners are to make the individuals effectively engage with each other by creative tasks and be adaptive to a lifelong learning approach. All the learners should be exposed to these practices as a part of comprehensive learning experience.

The next important role is played by a conceptually organised curriculum. The curriculum should be strengthened from global perspective and modern era skills requirements. Critical thinking-based assessments and grading should be part of such a curriculum rather than a curriculum based on memorising facts, information and formulae. Better assessment methods should be framed rather than essay-based exams. Flexible and focussed lesson - plans should be essential part of a curriculum which can help students to grasp difficult concepts. From students' point of view, choice-based credit systems are

good initiative and encourages students to choose subjects based on their interest. An ultimate achievement for a well-designed curriculum is to make the students think about ideas and concepts in new ways. Schools and classrooms need to promote a more learner – centred approach. From the learner experience feedback, the core challenges need to be identified and appropriate action plans need to be taken.

A special emphasis should be provided for the learning environment that promotes stress- free learning. All type of conventional and identified academic outcomes needs to be redefined, new outcomes which go beyond academics should be identified for a better learning experience. These outcomes should be a blend of academic contents such as creativity and problem solving, interpersonal and communicative skills so as to enhance the competency and the learning experience.

Some important and encouraging efforts can be taken from the government and NGOs to reform the education sector and bring about high-quality teaching and learning practices to be implemented in India. Every teacher’s day the government awards and recognises the best teachers all over the country. such people could further be encouraged by sending them to high performing nations in education sectors like Singapore, China and Korea to get trained and adopt the best practices implemented in those countries. Opportunities should be provided for the interested and willing teachers to spend their summer or winter breaks for these kinds of exchange and visiting teacher type assignments. Such teachers should be

financially well supported so that, the best teachers could gain new perspectives and learn excellent teaching practices, which could be useful for our country.

A creative and well-trained teacher, an organised and innovative curriculum and a better learning environment all these things play vital roles in the aspects of improving the teaching practices. Efforts should be made to build, strengthen and sustain these aspects, which is essential for the development of a nation's intellectual growth. In addition to the knowledge and skills development, there should also be emphasis on values and ethics in the modern teaching practices.