

CREATIVE TEACHING TECHNIQUES

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ABSTRACT




Education is the manifestation of the perfection already in man. Education must provide life-building, man-making, character making assimilation of ideas. Education should help a person build a healthy and dynamic frame of mind to enable him to meet the challenges of life. It should try to prevent, through proper training, any future evils in people and society which are likely to further complicate the problems of human beings. The present article is a study on teaching techniques.

Keywords: *Education, Teacher, Pupils, Teaching Techniques.*

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THE QUALITY OF A “TRUE TEACHER”

The only true teacher is the one who can immediately come down to the level of the student, and transfer his/her soul to the student's soul and see through the student's eyes and hear through the student's ears and understand through his/her mind. Teacher's life and personality should be like a blazing fire which could have a positive influence on the pupils in their future. Exposure to exemplary role models, particularly when they are teachers, and also to wholesome curriculum materials that impart culturally-approved values to the young is critical to

character education. Teaching fraternity should plan their strategies according to the learning styles of the children. The techniques used should address all levels of the multiple intelligence, giving room for creativity. We are always trying to polish up the outside. What is the use in polishing up the outside when there is nothing inside? The end and aim of all training is to make the man grow.

PRE REQUISITE OF PUPILS

Training the mind should be a student's highest priority, and not simply the accumulation, the memorizing and repeating the facts. So the very

essence of education is concentration of mind, not the collecting of the data. Students must train their mind to be more attentive and more mindful. The student must learn how to detach his/her mind from distractions that impose themselves in spite of himself/herself. Simultaneously, he/she must direct the mind to the desired subject and focus the full force of his/her mind on it. Will-power is necessary not only to conduct the learning process, but also strengthen one's character.

THE ROLE OF PARENTS IN ENCOURAGING CREATIVITY IN THEIR CHILDREN

Parents play a vital role in building the personality of their children. Creativity should be encouraged by the parents since the childhood of every child. This is very interesting, challenging and very productive. Children, by nature, ask many questions to their parents, as it is a very natural behaviour to be inquisitive. All the parents must answer every question asked by their children which results in building self-confidence, develop rapport, a strong parental bond and emotional well being of the children. If their questions are not answered once, they may never ask the same question again in their life. This results in damage of million brain cells permanently. Every day, every minute of childhood is very crucial in the process of learning.

Due to the rapid changes that are happening in our society, not so healthy, children's curiosity, creativity and challenging questions are being ignored and discouraged by the parents knowingly or unknowingly due to their non-involvement with children or else. The electronic gadget which is "a ready to use" instrument is not at all allowing the working memory, which is an important function of the brain, to work naturally. The working memory should be enhanced on daily basis continuously, constantly and consistently to encourage creativity from childhood. Gadgets, especially the electronics, are obstructing the natural phenomena of brain development which has its serious impacts on behavioural aspects of present generation. The mental stress, strain, arrogance, adamant, irresponsible and aggressive behaviour are the byproducts of getting addicted to these gadgets. The parents have to intervene and realize their mistake

immediately otherwise the word "CREATIVITY" will fade out slowly and permanently in the life of our children.

THE ROLE OF EDUCATION

There is no doubt that today's education neglects training of the mind in all aspects, but it also neglects the spiritual side of human beings. People's minds are not directed to higher pursuits of life with the result that their hidden potentials are not revealed. Then what should be the role of Education? Transformation is more important than information. Artificial wants have been created; and every poor man, whether he has money or not desires to have those wants satisfied, and when he cannot, he struggles, and dies in the struggle. Thus in order to be worthwhile and effective, education must be rooted in religion and evidently not in dogma. They should not only be given education to make them self-reliant but also they should work out their own salvation, hopes for their long-term progress. Education should be a lifelong process and there is a need to move away from rote learning. Education is not the amount of information that is put into your brain and runs riot there, undigested, all your life. In the present system of education, the mind is crammed with facts before it knows how to think, which is wrong.

TECHNIQUES TO BE USED FOR CREATIVE TEACHING

Teaching fraternity must build rapport with the student fraternity at all levels irrespective of any course, any background. We build too many walls and not enough bridges that should be avoided. Most of the teaching classes are lecturing method which should be changed into Activity oriented to the optimum level. Discuss the objectives of the lessons in detail with the students; organize seminars by expertised guest faculties in those areas. While discussing the objectives of that lesson, discuss about areas of application, future importance while doing higher education. Relate it to real life. Quote the examples from biographies or autobiographies of great achievers. Guide the students to give seminars individually or in a group depending on the content of the lessons. Guide them to handle complements and criticisms. Organize interclass, intercollegiate,

interstate seminars. Let the students get the best exposure to the field/ concept. Let the students become the members of different clubs headed by the HODs of the subjects. Avoid fixing the students' knowledge to the syllabus. Give extended information by arranging field trips, industry visits etc. as per the case may be. Don't try to teach agricultural related topics within the four walls. Invite a farmer who is following the scientific method of farming and allow the students to have interaction with him. He can be the best person to answer the questions accurately than anybody else with theoretical knowledge. Then arrange for an educational trip to his farm. Let the students have debates over advantages and disadvantage of the concepts. Listen to the challenges faced by the students, guide them. Be friendly, not a friend. Add some humour in the process. Spend extra time whenever necessary, when projects are given, act as a member of the team rather than as a leader of the team. During the process of doing the project, educate the students about the lessons we can learn out of failures. During the process of teaching, never generalize, reduce unhealthy gaps. Be a person to be remembered throughout their life. The joy of giving makes you feel rich.

TRAIN THE STUDENTS TO UNDERSTAND

- ❖ Patience is an important quality; but we want things immediately.
- ❖ If you dedicate yourself to the world you will be given the energy and the strength to do great things.
- ❖ Put enthusiasm into everything.
- ❖ Facing the darker side.
- ❖ Leadership qualities, decision making, to come out of fear of failure.
- ❖ Be exact and don't exaggerate.
- ❖ How to make hard rock dance to your tunes.
- ❖ Miracles are not that difficult to happen when everybody is focusing on one COMMON CAUSE.

THE ROLE OF CREATIVE TECHNIQUES IN TEACHING

- All the students have the potential for creativity although they may differ in the degree of creativity that they possess.
- Creativity is not synonymous with intelligence. A highly intelligent individual may not necessarily be highly creative.
- Creativity does not take place in a vacuum. The more knowledge and experiences the children have the better are the foundations on which they will build their creative efforts.
- A stimulating and encouraging environment can, therefore, do a great deal to enhance the creativity in a child.

THINGS TO BE AVOIDED

- An authoritarian and strict atmosphere can hinder the development of creativity in students.
- Don't create an authoritarian climate with the children with stress on structure rules and regulations.
- Avoid providing readymade patterns.
- Avoid correcting, redraw, and remake a child's creative product. Remember it is his/her way of representing his/her experience.
- Negative thoughts weaken men. In many cases parents are constantly taxing their sons/ daughters to read and write, telling them that they never learn anything, calling them fools and so forth, the latter do actually turn out to be so in many cases. If you speak kind words to boys/girls and encourage them, they are bound to improve in time. Talk to the parents.
- In language and literature, in poetry and the arts, in everything we must point out not the mistakes that students are making in their thoughts and actions, but the way in which they will gradually be able to do these things better.
- Pointing out mistakes, wounds a man's feelings.

The first duty is to educate the people. The greatness of a teacher consists in the simplicity of his/her

language.

ENCOURAGING CREATIVITY

- Accept and appreciate individual differences.
- Encourage children to be spontaneous in their expression of feelings and ideas.
- Encourage children to explore, be curious and to ask questions.
- Provide children with a variety of experiences which will form the basis for their creativity to blossom.
- Provide children with open-ended questions/ materials that give them scope to use it in many different ways. They should not hinder their creativity.
- Appreciate even a small contribution / work done by every student even if it can still do with a lot of improvement.
- Encourage them to BE CURIOUS, NOT JUDGEMENTAL
- Quote the examples of great personalities from different field who had failed in their first/initial attempts yet achieved, like Henry Ford, Soichiro Honda, Bill Gates, Akio Morita – Sony, Charlie Chaplin, Abraham Lincoln etc.

MAJOR AREAS THAT NEED ATTENTION

- Creative movement.
- Creative expression. Narrate motivational stories
- Creative thinking – should be able to answer open-ended questions spontaneously and with imagination. Open-ended question will stimulate their imagination and don't have a single correct answer.

Our pedagogues are making parrots of our students and ruining their brains by cramming a lot of subjects into them. What a fuss and fury about graduating and after a few days all cools down! Many of them think that what the Westerners have are all good! At last they cannot keep the wolf from the door! How

does this matter if this higher education remains or goes.

Does higher education mean mere study of material sciences and turning out things of everyday use by machinery? The use of higher education is to find out how to solve the problems of life. If creativity is not encouraged from the primary education and students are not allowed to explore, experiment and experience their theoretical knowledge, we are pressurising half of their lives in the universities filled with a collection of other people's thoughts which in turn prepare a lot of useful, practical slaves for a little money working unwillingly throughout their lives! What can we expect from such a mass of young people? Neither they have holistic growth nor do they contribute towards the growth of the world.

Universities should concentrate on cultural exchange programme at global level, so that students exchange their creativity and accomplish something in their personal and professional life. We must have institutions to train teachers who must go about preaching religion and giving secular education to our young people; they must carry both. What we need is to study different branches of the knowledge that is our own and with it the English language and Western science; we need technical education and all else that may develop industries so that our youth, instead of seeking for service, using their creativity and applying their knowledge may earn enough to provide for themselves and save for their future. Practical experience is the only best teacher we have in our life. We may read books, hear lectures, and talk miles, but experience is the eye-opener. It is best as it is. We learn through smiles and tears. Practice is absolutely necessary. We may sit and listen, read and learn for hours, days and years together, if we don't practice, we will not get one step further. It all depends on practice. Many things we don't understand until we experience them. It is practice first, and knowledge afterwards.

The education that is given without practical experience and encouraging creativity of the students is one-sided. This is weakening and killing by inches day by day. If not so why do we come across with the "so called educated" people are taking extreme steps in their life for meager issues. Even

after having medical and engineering and many more professional certificates to their credit; our youth is crying about joblessness, why cannot they create their own individually or as a team? The irony of the fact is that they have only theoretical knowledge acquired by rote learning for the sake of marks and certificate and don't possess ideas how to move further. This is purely due to lack of creative and productive thinking. Neither they are allowed to think creatively nor have they made any attempt to do so.

The children are made to cram too much of useless matter, and are incarcerated in school rooms fifty or seventy in each, five hours together. We have forgotten that the future health of the man is in the child. It is forgotten that nature can never be cheated and things cannot be pushed too early. We must learn to wait. Nothing is more important than that the child must have a strong and healthy body. Creativity can provide relaxation and provide children physical health and mental growth simultaneously. So creativity should be encouraged at all levels. The creative techniques should be updated from time to time as per the need of the hour and as per the culture of the society. If creativity is not introduced and encouraged in education, it is just a shadow of knowledge and not real knowledge. When we are imparting the shadow of the knowledge, we should also enjoy the shadow of joy and not the real one.

Modify your dreams or magnify your skills

Make the right investments in your "TODAYS"
and script beautiful and wonderful "TOMORROWS".