

An approach to make a learner knowledge creator rather Than information bank

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Abstract:

Education in India has many facets from historic time to present time which was implemented by different systems/ institutions. **During the ancient time**, education system was unique and well defined and having component like public administration, military, arts, four Vedas, philosophy education. That time there were various learning methods like memorization, Critical Analysis, Storytelling, Question and Answer method, Hands-on method used to teach the students/learner? **In the medieval education system** various foreign rulers and several traders from around the world entered in our country and settled. During this period the learning techniques are almost the same as the ancient period but there was some shift of focus like focus on improving the handwriting of students, maximum religious studies imparted and teaching of grammar. **As soon as modern education system in India came with English Language** teaching was confined to classrooms only. In this period , different methods of teaching learning used like lecturing, demonstrating, collaborating etc. But as we all know technology during the ancient and medieval education system were not present due to which the fact finding was much tedious task. But in modern education system due to the lots of intervention by technology, students have changed the way they do things. Technology has had a great impact on education over the years which change their learning styles. Students can rely on technology to provide them whatever they need in just a single click; network offers unlimited opportunities to find information – necessary books, encyclopaedic information etc. But as we know the excessive use of anything will cause problems, similarly excessive use of technology also make **our learner an information bank rather than knowledge creator by finding the fact only**. To overcome this issue our education system should develop such kind of environment where a learner will develop a practice to attain thorough knowledge of the concepts, questions those existing norms and rationale. There are some suggestive methods by which we may improve the learning skills of a learner like analytical skills may be improve by searching for connections and reasons (why, what , how) , solve mathematics problem, play brain games etc. and Critical Thinking Skills may improve by Honing learner’s questions skill and question your assumptions etc. Some recommendations also given for teachers/ Parents to improve skills in a learner and best utilization of technologies. Finally, it is concluded that whatever the period of education systems teaching learning methodology is an important. But as technology comes in picture with so many features make our learning easy, simple and effortless and also makes our learner very lazy in searching out the facts from analysis point of view. Therefore, if the learners are trained to analyze the information and have their own understanding on the same they will become the creator of new knowledge for the upcoming generations rather than reproducing the same existing knowledge.

Keywords: Lecturing, Demonstrating, Collaborating, Analytic, Critical, Opportunities, Philosophy, Analysis, Storytelling

Background

Education System of India has many facets from ancient time to present time. Basically Education

System of India divided into three eras **Ancient Education System, Medieval Education system & Modern Education System**. But in

all the ages of education systems a question is always same “What is the outcome of Learning“. And may be answer is also the same i.e **learning that helps them to be happy, responsible, healthy and productive citizens**. Now the question is “Who is good students” and the answer is “A good student is the one who is imbibe with some qualities like Attitude towards the subject, Academic skills which include ability to read, write, speak and clear communicate, Ability to apply the results of his/her learning into a creative way, perceptiveness; How well a student can interpret and perceive meanings from a conversation greatly, Self discipline, Understanding rather than memorizing”. It is the fact despite of era of Education system i.e “Today’s students are tomorrow’s leaders”. And their skills help them to determine their bright future and career.

Ancient Education System-

In the ancient time Teachers who called Gurus and their students were lived together in a place. Due to which a close relationship existed between the students and the teacher. The teacher used to pay individual attention on his students and used to teach them according to their aptitude and capability. All learning was closely linked to nature and to life, and not confined to memorizing some information. At this time Guru’s imparted the Knowledge orally and there were the different methods of learning like:

- Memorization: indefinite repetition and rehearsal by both the teacher and the students.
- **Critical Analysis: Students could be differed from their teachers on their any concept and even teachers** subscribe to their views which show that gurus were open to new ideas and views articulated by their students.
- **Story telling**– The teacher used stories to explain the concept.
- **Question and Answer method**– Students used to ask questions and the teacher used to discuss at length on the topics and clear their doubts.
- **Hands-on method**– This method was commonly used at that time. As students were away from their home and they had to

do all the work which made them a perfect human being with all qualities related to administration, human resource and family skills.

Medieval Education System-

Medieval period witnessed a radical transformation in the Indian subcontinent. During this period various foreign rulers and several traders from around the world entered in our country and settled. Besides, religion, society and culture, Education in medieval India also experienced a new perspective. In this period the teacher was respected as during the ancient period. There was intimate relationship between the teacher and the students, although the practice of living with the teacher was not as common with some community. During this period the learning techniques are almost the same as the ancient period but there was some shift of focus like.

- At this time, there were no printed books for the beginners. Wooden books (taktis) were used to improve their writing skills. Also taught the calligraphy to the students to improve and make beautiful handwriting.
- Teaching of Grammar: Grammar was taught as it was considered very valuable in teaching the languages.
- Religious Instructions were imparted.

Modern Education System

Modern Education System in India came in 1830s including English Language. The curriculum was confined to “modern” subjects such as science and mathematics, and subjects like metaphysics and philosophy were considered unnecessary. Teaching was confined to classrooms and the link with nature was broken, as also the close relationship between the teacher and the student.

So, who is a skilled student? **Historically, the term ‘student’ refers to anyone who learns something.** But in Modern Education System, the recent definition of a “student” is mostly used to refer to anyone who attends school, college, or university.

In this period, following are different methods of teaching and learning:

- **Lecturing**
During the lecturing the students plays a passive role which may hinder learning. While this

method facilitates large-class communication, the lecturer must make constant and conscious effort to become aware of student problems and engage the students to give verbal feedback.

- **Demonstrating**

Demonstrating is the process of teaching through examples or experiments. For example, a Physics teacher may teach an idea of prism by performing an experiment for students in physics lab. It is very useful to prove a fact through a combination of visual evidence and associated reasoning. This methodology is similar to storytelling and examples in that they allow students to personally relate to the presented information.

- **Collaborating**

Through Collaborative methodology students actively participate in the learning process by sharing and listening each other ideas. Due to this techniques students took the personal interest in the topic of the study which helps them to build their logical and personal thinking. Group projects and Group discussions are examples of this methodology. Teachers may also use collaboration to assess student's abilities to work as a team, leadership skills, and presentation skills. Classroom discussion is the most common type of Collaborative.

Other than the above methodologies, there are so many methodologies available which help in teaching learning process of a learner (students) to make a student 21st century learner. One of the biggest interventions is the technological aspects in education in the modern education system,

Technological Intervention in Education:

During the ancient and medieval period of education system, the resources of teaching and learning were limited for the teachers and learners/students respectively. The teaching learning materials that were majorly available and used in schools were the blackboards, various subject textbooks and Knowledge of a teacher. **Due to the limited resources and even restricted intervention of technological aspects in education, the fact finding in the earlier days was a much tedious task. Ever since technology has come into picture, students have changed the way they do things. Technology has had a great impact on education over the years which change their**

learning styles. Students can rely on technology to provide them whatever they need in just a single click; network offers unlimited opportunities to find information – necessary books, encyclopaedic information, scientific articles, a documentary video, etc. Also for students the fact that they can now share their homework, found the information by e-mail, parents also get the information about their ward very easily through technology. In fact it is easier for teachers to express their knowledge and also add on to their knowledge using technology.

In the earlier times, to study the spherical shape of the earth, a student had to refer to varied textbooks to get a better understanding and rationale for the spherical shape of the earth against the school of thought that believed that the earth was flat. However, in the current scenario the usage of technology has been a significant blessing in the education, wherein, a student or a teacher can easily access the internet and get the various facts for their ready reference. Furthermore, the usage of internet has made the fact finding very easy and handy not only through literature mode but also through audio visual modes, 3D virtual modes which makes it effortless for the students to imbibe the information.

Impacts of use to excessive technology

Nevertheless, there also exist some hazards to the easy fact findings i.e through technology, which involve that the learners are unable to have an in depth understanding of the subjects. The knowledge and education so gained limits the learners to be a mere information bank without having the understanding of the rationale and processes of certain concepts. For instance, with the use of internet and technology a learner may easily get the information about the period and who all are associated with the **“Non-Cooperation Movement started by Mahatma Gandhi”**, but it is equally important for a learner to know and understand the reasons and circumstances under which the Non-cooperation movement was started by father of nation Gandhi ji. **Technology helps us in finding the solution of many problems like we can find data, facts, geographic conditions, Science related facts, In fact so**

many history related facts. But sometime easy fact finding process also make us lazy like, if we have to find out any information we always use the search engine, without putting stress on our brain.

What should we do to overcome this issue?

Our education system should develop a kind of environment which **helps a learner to become knowledge creator rather than information bank**. A learner should develop a practice to attain thorough knowledge of the concepts, questions those existing norms and rationale, they will be merely reduced to be the information banks rather than the knowledge creator. It is very essential for the learners to be aware of both the sides of the coin and critically review both the aspects to develop their own perspective and thoughts on various social and political issues that exist. We as a teacher / parent should try to imbibe some skills in our children like we have to make them think that why it happened and what is the reason behind this. For instance, until a learner is made aware of the pros and cons of a social concern like increasing drop-out rate in schools, they might not to be aware of the severe hazards of illiteracy and unemployment in the near future in our country , also why Mahatma Gandhi ji involved in the freedom movement. **Therefore, if the learners are trained to analyze the information and have their own understanding on the same they will become the creator of new knowledge for the upcoming generations rather than reproducing the same existing knowledge.** By fulfilling the aims of education, the learners will not only develop a critical eye towards the information but will also develop a creative hand towards dissemination of information.

According to the National Curriculum Framework, 2005, the aim of education is to promote the holistic development of the learners. Education aims at developing critical, analytical and creative thought process in the learners. There is a direct need for the learners to get in touch with the in-depth roots and rationale of the concepts and information provided to them.

Suggestive methods by which a learner may become knowledge creator rather than

information bank

There are some following suggestive methods by which we may improve the learner's skills

Analytical Skills

- Search for connections and reasons (why, what , how)
- **Think: cause and effect.** Consider the repercussions of a prolonged drought. What is the impact of the drought? Look beyond the obvious.
- **Think: similarities / dissimilarities between things.** How are all living things the same? What similar things do both humans and spiders need to exist?
- **Think: connections in history & about future perspective.** What cycles, patterns, or other common trends do we see? For instance, in American history, consider how periods of reform are often ended by conflict (the Progressive Era and World War One, the New Deal and World War Two, the Great Society and the Vietnam War
- Solve Mathematics Problem
- Play Brain Games like Logic Puzzles through books or may be on Internet or video games that encourage the development of analytical skills
- Reading books & debating
- Think more about things : avoid picking simplest and easiest right away
- Pay attention to details
 - For example, when viewing a forest, try to view individual trees and the uniqueness and place each tree has in the forest.
 - When meeting new people try to memorize the special things associated with them like name, their thoughts etc.
- **Be responsible**
- **Challenge yourself with little things**
- **Critical Thinking Skills;** Critical Thinking is the art of using reason to analyze ideas and dig deeper to get to our true potential.
- Honing learner's Questions skill
 - Question your assumptions
 - **Don't take information on authority until you've investigated it yourself**
 - **Question things;** to be told to

question...everything? e.g How do fish fall from the sky in the middle of Australia?

Similarly there are so many methods of How to improve the skills

(Self awareness, Empathy, Critical thinking, Creative thinking, Decision Making, Problem Solving, Effective Communication, Interpersonal relationship, coping with stress, coping with emotions, cognitive & Aesthetic skills)

As per WHO, Life skills help a child to deal with the following

- Demands of Modern Life
- Poor Parenting
- Changing family Structure
- Dysfunctional relationships
- New Understanding of young people needs
- Decline of religion
- Rapid Sociocultural change

Recommendations for teachers / Parents for improving skills in a learner and best utilization of technologies:

- The teachers and parents must aim to increase the curiosity amongst the learners to learn the new things and concepts.
- The education or teaching practices must not promote mere rote learning and emission of the same information in the examinations.
- Teaching practices must focus on developing the critical view point amongst the learners, wherein the learners are able to question the existing trends and pattern and evolve with their creative thought processes and empirical researches.
- The assessment and examination system must not be to judge the retention capacities of different learners rather the assessments must be done to evaluate the learner's creative and out of the box thinking.
- The teachers and parents must provide an open space for the learners to learn and explore at their own pace. Learners must also be provided with an environment wherein s/he feels comfortable to explore and

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question.

- The homework assignments given should be such wherein the learner can express their creativity and portray the existing information with the usage of technology in varied ways.

It is also suggestive that we should prepare entire Educational Policy and curriculum in such a way that it will help to induce all skills in a learner. Activities must be designed to imbibe skills. Teacher's Manual must be aligned with it for the ready information. e.g ICT in Education Curriculum for Secondary & Primary Level in Delhi are developed on the same pattern.

Conclusion

Education System in India has been through from so many eras. And each era has its due importance of learning by various teaching learning techniques by their Gurus/ maulavi/ teachers. Technology has changed the way society looks, the way the classroom looks. The 21st century society demands a technologically advanced person. Technology in modern system plays an important role in learning process, it solves problem, provide information etc. very easily. **But as we know river always want a proper direction for the flow of water for its best usage and if river flows without any direction or bouded way it will be become flood which will destroy its best usage.** Similarly our learners have to give proper direction or guidance by every stakeholders (teachers, parents etc.) For the best utilization of technology so that our leraners will become Knowledge Creator rather than Information bank. **If the learners are trained to analyze the information and have their own understanding on the same they will become the creator of new knowledge for the upcoming generations rather than reproducing the same existing knowledge. and to accomplish this task each and every stakeholder will have to participate to improve their learning skills by different techniques.**

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