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EMERGING TRENDS AND INNOVATIONS IN TEACHER EDUCATION: CLASSROOM OF THE FUTURE

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Abstract

Teacher education is a kind of program that demands a lot of transformation, investigation and a lot of universal changes. Teacher education programs should be designed in such a way that it fulfills the needs and demands of the changing society and world. In today's world Education is changing globally. Less is more, teaching philosophy is best for students learning. As a teacher, we should focus less on traditional teaching and lecture methods and should focus on active learning. As a teacher, we should focus on students' needs and should teach accordingly. We should try to make the whole class active during teaching. Always try to track the progress of the class from day one. Reflective responses to the learner, peer learning and experiential learning is very important for better learning of the students. Educators' responsibility is very important. Independent learning is very important from the perspective of a teacher. We should prepare students for lifelong learning and holistic development. The present article tries to explain the importance of best practices and innovations in teacher education programs and also explains the importance of some of the emerging trends of current teacher education.

Key words:

Concept mapping, peer tutoring, reflective learning, experiential learning

Introduction

Education is the most important tool which man has evolved for his own progress. Progress and dynamics of any nation depends upon its education system. If we specifically talk about the country like India, the role of education becomes much more important. Progress of any society depends upon the educational system which is followed by it. Quality of education is directly related to the type of education we are providing to the students. Today's classrooms are full of diversity. Diverse learning needs of students are increasing day by day. Teachers use different Innovative teaching methods and strategies in the classroom to satisfy the needs of students. Use of these innovative methods and strategies increased in the last decade very fast worldwide. According to NCTE (1998) “a teacher is the most important element in any educational program. He plays a central role in the implementation of the education process at any stage. The level of achievement of the learner is determined by teacher competence.” So the quality of education basically depends on the quality of teachers.

Meaning of innovation

Innovation is advancement of new ideas and practices in teaching and learning. Innovation in teacher education means doing things in a new way. Innovation encourages us to come up with something new, uncover something. It basically involves the new way to look at the solutions to any kind of problem and solving them differently. It involves creativity and problem solving skills. Innovative teaching means responsive teaching which gives students freedom and ownership of learning, involves or engage students, and develops those kind of competencies, so that they can survive in the difficult world.

Innovative teaching

Innovative teaching involves using innovative methods and teaching-learning materials for the benefit of students (Mandula, Meda, & Jain, 2012). According to Anderson and Neri (2012), innovative teaching and learning can involve virtual labs: learning activities based on real-life problems; learning environments with equipment, furnishings, materials, and audio-visual resources; and learning guides for students and the teacher. All of these are combined with methodologies that promote the use of active teaching techniques that help teachers develop their students' learning abilities. The key advice to teachers and students from diverse backgrounds are to know and respect their students; offer students flexibility, variety, and choice; make expectations clear; use accessible language; scaffold students learning; be available and approachable to guide student learning; and be a reflective practitioner (www.lowses.edu.au). innovative teaching is very necessary for the students to reach their full potential.

Need and importance of innovations and emerging trends in teacher education

Teacher education is a combination of teaching skills, pedagogical theory related knowledge and professional skills related to teaching. Right combination of all the 3 creates the right knowledge, attitude and skills in teachers for Holistic development. Students of today want flexibility, choice and variety. Students like flexible teachers, institutions and flexible modes of content delivery. It Is very necessary for higher education teachers that they should use innovative methods in their teaching by which they can prepare a better future for the

country and better human beings who can face the challenges of life. So better and innovative teacher training, pre service training and in service training is required,

The use of innovative teaching and learning strategies has been a true discussion topic for the last years. Creative and skilled teachers are being found using different innovative teaching methods at higher education levels. Many studies consider creativity as a personal trait and intellectual ability of different individuals, associating creativity with genius and intelligence (Albert & Runco, 1999).

Some innovations in teacher education

The focus of innovation in teaching and learning in teacher education is based on the trust that each and every student has the capacity to learn and become successful in life. A teacher should consider each student as he or she is possessing unique characteristics of personality that can be more polished by using creative and innovative teaching methods and strategies. Having an awareness of the process of learning is very helpful for teachers to identify the problems students are facing in some of the subjects (Westwood, 2013).

Some emerging trends and innovations in teacher education

There are many strategies, such as personalization, small learning communities, student advisories, multidisciplinary curricula, peer tutoring, peer instruction, and team teaching, collaborative teaching etc which are used by teachers at different higher levels of education. They may be personalization, small learning communities, student advisories, multidisciplinary curricula, peer tutoring, peer instruction, team teaching, and so on. The rapid growth of availability and competence of emergent technologies have provided many ways and methods of making the classroom teaching the innovative one (Hussain, Niwaz, Zaman, Dahar, & Akhtar, 2010). All the below stated methods are important for student engagement. Student engagement is very important from the perspective of teaching and learning. Student engagement is the most effective teaching strategy. Following are some emerging Trends and innovations and teacher education which can pave way for better future

- **Virtual learning**

Use of Technology as a tool always amplify the potential of teaching learning process

Covid-19 has increased the opportunities for virtual learning not only in higher education but in teacher education also. Covid-19 augmented the use of virtual classrooms and make the space for use of digital tool blended with traditional teaching

- **Concept based learning anytime anywhere**

Transition from traditional teacher education system to digital system increases concept base learning. This type of learning not only prepare students for better future but increases their understanding

- **Assessment of students by using artificial intelligence AI**

Assessment of students by using artificial intelligence not only reduces the personal bias but it gives a student's experience of personalized evaluation

- **Gamification and self-analysis**

Gamification has changed the attitude towards teaching and learning. It increases the students' engagement by enhancing their curiosity and interest. Learning through games not only makes teaching learning effective but it makes the whole process enjoyable and attractive

- **Experiential learning**

It is learning through reflection on doing. It is the process of learning through experience. It is a hands-on approach to education that moves beyond the classroom classroom and provides a more involved way of learning. Internship, practicum, service learning, simulations are few examples of experiential learning.

- **Purposeful learning**

We should try to engage our students in a type of learning by which they can enhance their knowledge, understanding and skills. Students should be aware about why and what they are learning.

- **Student voice is important**

Students have their own and unique perspectives towards teaching, learning and education. We should provide them proper opportunities to shape their learning actively.

- **ICT enabled tool for effective TL process**

Electronic technology today entered in almost every aspect of our life. Today's generations are growing up with technology and remote controls and also today's students want to read books with buttons and pressing keys. So inclusion of ICT tools is very important for effective teaching learning in teacher education.

- **Cooperative , collaborative and team teaching**

By using cooperative learning **in** the classroom we can engage mixed ability students to work together. Cooperative learning can be introduced in the teacher education classrooms by solving the puzzles of science and mathematics and by conducting experiments

Widens the knowledge sharing between students and faculty. Lesson plans are prepared by faculties in collaboration. In this type of best practice students get more guidance from teachers. Mentoring opportunities are enhanced and students benefit from the expertise of a group of faculties. By shared teaching students get more efficient doubt clearing by faculties.

- **Reflective teaching and reflective teacher education**

Reflective teaching is self-assessment of self-teaching. Where we as a practitioner always look back at the classes we have taken and analyze about the strong and weak points of our classes. It facilitates the development of future actions and improves our teaching.

- **Constructivism**

It involves students' active participation in any kind of activity. It improves students' active problem solving and critical thinking ability.

- **Flipping the classrooms**

In this strategy, class time is inverted to traditional lectures and fosters inquiry, application, and assessment to better engage individual learners and their needs. Students study material outside of class by reading, watching short pre-recorded video lectures, or researching assignments. Class time is used to help students work through the material in groups, or individually, for active learning, with an emphasis on higher-order thinking and application to complex problems.

- **Peer instruction/ tutoring**

Peer tutoring method refers to the method in which students help each other in teaching learning. Students assume an active role in their learning by researching topics that preoccupy them. Because of their increased involvement, students are more interested in the learning process. Peer tutoring is a kind of methods which has several benefits like it improves students' performance IT develop effective teaching strategies and above all it increases the participation of students and making teaching learning fun.

It is a great way to provide students with help from their classmates. With the help of peer tutoring we can help those student who face difficulties in learning and also increase their confidence this method allows students to learn from each other and learning becomes fun if we use Pearl tutoring in the classroom

- **Blended learning**

It is also called hybrid learning which combines the experiences of online learning and face to face learning where teachers work as facilitators of learning. It enriches students' learning experiences. It puts more responsibility on the students. Less direct instructions from the teacher and more discovery based methods from the side of teachers.

- **Soft skills**

Soft Skills are the essential qualities or personality traits that depict an individual's strength. They directly impact one's attitude, interpersonal relationships and the ability to perform various roles professionally. Soft skills give us an edge over others. Soft skills are key to the successful life. As a teacher educators we should try to teach students about soft skills and social emotional skills.

- **Personalized and paced learning**

Personalized learning means providing learning experience according to the needs of learner, his or her special skills attitude, preferences background and experience. Every teacher can provide personalized learning in the classroom to provide better experience is to the learner

- **Global and multicultural education**

A multicultural/global education is one that seeks to prepare students for “leadership, membership and follower-ship” within one’s community, state, nation and world. It examines the various interrelationships among individuals, between individuals and groups, and among groups. (Lamy, 1995).

- **Enquiry based instruction**

With the help of these type of instructions in the classroom teacher can pose thought provoke questions by which they can enhance the thinking and understanding power of student about any subject matter? This type of instruction increases student’s problem solving skills

Resisting factors in innovation and best practices in teacher education

- **Time management**

Time management is very important as far as the issue of innovative practices and best practices are concerned. Implementation of innovative strategies needs proper time and sometimes lack of time management works as a resisting factor in innovation.

- **Mentor issue** mentoring is also very important for innovations and best practices. Lack of good mentoring is a critical issue which resists innovation and best practices.

- **Lack of fund**

Lack of fund is the major constraint towards using new technology or technique.

Suggestions

To create an innovative, open, creative and trustworthy place for students to grow, take risks, and feel comfortable in their own patterns of learning, there are a few key actions teachers can take to create a more innovative and entrepreneurial classroom. The ability for students to connect, grow and innovate not only with class content, but also with each other, Some suggestions for teachers to increase students engagement and foster active learning in classroom

- **Know the learner**
- **Teach how to learn**
- **Learn by sharing**
- **Feedback is good**
- **Stay connected**
- **Rewarding learner participation**
- **Goals to grade connection**
- **Proper mindset**

- **Self-reflection**
- **Focus on outcomes**
- **Share the success and failure story**
- **Continue to improve**

Conclusion

New millennium is full of challenges, accordingly teacher education also needs a lot of changes. Teacher educators today need a lot of changes and intensive training regarding innovations and best practices. Ultimate goal of the teacher education program should be to create efficient and dynamic teachers, who can use a variety of strategies to satisfy the diverse needs of learners.

. Teachers have the responsibilities to create the tone and mood of the classroom if the culture of the classroom is positive then definitely we can bring authentic learning in the classroom we can give more opportunities to our students and we allow students to positively connect with not only content but with peers and with their teachers Higher education is growing as an international service and demands high quality, standards and recognition. To foster innovative teaching, curricula need to undergo a skillful and thorough development, where teachers can adopt different innovative teaching strategies according to the diverse needs of the students. It is indeed time to adapt the technologies to March with the times.

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