



# Facilitating Learning And Constructivist Strategies For Collaborative Classroom Environments.

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## Introduction

Facilitating is a very common and popular term in the emerging systems of education. The concept of facilitating learning opposed the traditional or one way passive teaching learning process. This concept is related to the active involvement of the learner. Basically the word 'facilitates' refers to helping or guiding the student to do a particular task of learning. This concept comes from the philosophy of constructivism and the psychology of constructivist teaching. Constructivist thinkers believed that knowledge is constructed by learners' active involvement in the learning process. It rejects the passive knowledge transmission to the learner from the teacher and encourages the concept of construction of own sense making process. The Constructivist approach of learning believes in the experience of the learner, the innovative ideas and prior knowledge and initial behaviour of the learner, and the socio-cultural interaction of the learner. The term is closely related to the perception of constructivism. In constructivist learning theory the role of teachers as the "Facilitators" for helping the students. In previous times teachers were more active than students but nowadays students are active participants and teachers are actively conscious to facilitate the student.

## Objective of the study

The objective of the study are,

1. To know the historical background of facilitating learning.
2. To understand the divergent thinking and application opportunities in the classroom.
3. To understand the motivational aspect in facilitating learning.
4. To understand the differentiate instruction in facilitating learning and How to manage the differentiated classroom situation.
5. To analyse the 5 E principles of teaching in the classroom.

## Methodology

This study is based on the primary and secondary data obtained from various sources.

These sources are classroom observation, the outcome analysis of learners, journals, books, blogs, websites, theoretical analysis, etc.

## Historical Background of The facilitating learning

If we analyse in depth the history, This concept is very old, the origin of the concept derived from Socrates's view. Socratic methods of teaching students are facilitated by teachers. Students arise many types of questions and the teacher discusses it with his students with the help of dialogue. Socrates said that "I cannot teach anything anybody I can only make them think"

If we analyse his idea, he opposed passive transmission knowledge. He can develop the thinking instrument of the student and encourage them to think they own. His method also provides students greater confidence about talking to large groups, allows them to develop the ability to argue forcefully and Persuasively and teaches them to think critically. We can say that it is a cooperative argument between individual best on the critical thinking approach. Rousseau also acknowledged the idea of facilitated learning. From the French revolution this idea was broadly accepted throughout the world. Rousseau highly opposed the concept of static discipline of traditional learning. He believed that the society is not the actual place for all round development of the learner. Teachers have to exclude students from society and nurture their needs and abilities. He said that. "The child is a book that the teacher has to learn from page to page." According to his analysis, a teacher should protect the child from mental conflicts, repression and all kinds of intellectual disorders. He believed that teachers should not interfere with the activity of the children. He coined the term called negative education which provides freedom to children to perform activities and tasks on his own. After him sir John Dewey analysed the position of teacher in the light of the philosophy pragmatism. He first introduced the application of problem solving approaches in the education process. He proposed the teacher as a helper and guide for the learner to solve the problem, practically the teacher must provide the opportunities for the natural development of inner credibility of the students. of operant conditioning we can see that the modification of desired behaviour of the rat is controlled by the food. But the constructivist said that this kind of extrinsic motivation is not much more effective. Facilitate learning is a very comprehensive and broad concept in the field of educational psychology that's why we need the intrinsic motivation of the learners. Because learners are actively involved in the learning process teachers help and guide them to solve the identified problem so the teacher has to create a situation where a learner is intrinsically motivated.

Intrinsic motivation is very effective and useful for the ideal facilitated learning in the classroom because it is executed by the principle of self satisfaction. Learners solve the problems for self reward, learners are affected and attached. An ideal facilitator must be aware about the motivational aspect in the classroom they have to encourage the intrinsic motivation. Because it is very useful for understanding the content.

### **Divergent thinking and application opportunities in the classroom**

Divergent thinking is the key point of creativity. They think specifically and analytically about something. These kinds of students intended to do multiple solutions to a problem. The approach of thinking is free flowing and multiple. Teacher's role as a facilitator to encourage the diverginity and create useful practical problems for students. Teachers must be aware that divergent learners want to apply their knowledge in a practical situation. So the teacher should create reflective situations for students, provide useful suggestions and supporting equipment for effective learning throughout problem solving. So there is a vital role of teachers to provide support to analyse and solve the problem. Only facilitating learning can create this kind of effective situation in the classroom. As a facilitator teacher can give these kinds of situations for the divergent learners to increase their creativity.

## How we increase the motivation of the students

This concept opposes the traditional systems and uses the modern strategies for the enrichment of the teaching learning process. We already know that motivation is an important aspect or factor of learning. Behaviourists Believe that motivation is always extrinsic. It is controlled by reward , incentives. If we analyse the skinner's theory of operant conditioning we can see that the modification of desired behaviour of the rat is controlled by the food. But the constructivist said that this kind of extrinsic motivation is not much more effective. Facilitate learning is a very comprehensive and broad concept in the field of educational psychology that's why we need the intrinsic motivation of the learners. Because learners are actively involved in the learning process teachers help and guide them to solve the identified problem so the teacher has to create a situation where a learner is intrinsically motivated. Intrinsic motivation is very effective and useful for the ideal facilitated learning in the classroom because it is executed by the principle of self satisfaction. Learners solve the problems for self reward,learners are affected and attached. An ideal facilitator must be aware about the motivational aspect in the classroom they have to encourage the intrinsic motivation. Because it is very useful for understanding the content.

## Differentiated instruction and understanding the diverse situations in classroom

Differentiated instruction is a very popular strategy for facilitating learning in the classroom. This concept was coined by Sir Carol Ann Tomilson Every learner in the classroom has some specific and distinct needs. Diversity of the classroom made by the distinct needs of these learners. As a facilitator the teacher must be aware of it. He creates the problematic situations and engages the learner for problem solving. The problems are related to the needs of the learners. This kind of teaching gives the opportunity for personalized learning. It is a flexible and effective choice to develop their creativity and novelty in their knowledge.The utility of the differentiated instruction depends on how a teacher creates a useful and healthy classroom atmosphere on the basis of student needs.

According to sir Tomilson the teacher can differentiate the instruction throughout four ways-

1. Differentiation in content
2. Differentiation in process
3. Differentiation in product
4. And differentiation in the learning environment.

## Application of the 5.E. principles of teaching in classroom

Facilitating learning is a useful application of constructivist teaching. In the 21st century it is a relevant approach for the classroom teaching-learning process. The 5 E system is the direct application in the classroom for the active involvement of all learners. Learners can manipulate their thinking instruments and actively participate in the learning process. This concept is given by Roger bybee, it is the acronyms of some words which are

**Engage** At the first stage the teacher must identify the instructional objective and

task to the students to demonstrate the nature of the instructional problem. Analyse the entry level behaviour of the Entry level behaviour or initial behaviour of the student. Make a particular meaningful connection between past and present learning experience. So the engagement is the most essential component for this kind of activity based facilitating learning.

**Explore** The second next essential stage is the stage of exploration. Students manipulate their thinking instrument, analyse the whole task and try to find the solution of the instructional problems. They are actively involved in the task and learn on their own. Teacher must be help and facilitate the students and provide the supporting equipments for their better problem solving.(scaffolding)

**Explain** At the third stage the teacher provides a brief explanation about the content to the student. Learners actively perceive the idea given by the teacher. Then learners make hypotheses and assumptions about the solution of the problem.

**Elaborate** At this stage trying to make connections .And to other related concepts they are trying to apply their understanding in the practical situations.The learners try to make their own definitions. They elaborate their knowledge for the practical solution of the stipulated problems.

**Evaluate** evaluation is the last but most essential component for this kind of activity based constructivist facilitated learning. In this stage,the teacher analysed the outcome of the learner on the basis of their terminal behaviour.

### **Importance of Teacher - learner relationship in facilitating learning**

Teacher student relationship is the most essential and crucial part of classroom teaching. Facilitating learning is a form of cooperative approach to the classroom teaching learning process. Facilitating learning comes from the philosophy of constructivism that's why it develops learner autonomy in classroom teaching. Teacher reinforced the student for the modified behaviour outcome. He creates a good platform for students to develop their self understanding. If the teacher-student relationship is strong and healthy in the classroom then the teacher can easily create a positive and free environment in the classroom. They can inspire the student and import the values and beliefs to them. For facilitating learning, teachers must support the student ,provide the helping equipment ,take the responsibility of the students, and create a practical useful problem to increase the divergent thinking of the students.

### **Conclusion**

In modern Times, the classroom teaching learning process is usually transformed into activity based course work. After the gradual development of pragmatic philosophy the importance of useful utility of experience directly applied in the education system. Learners are actively involved in the learning process. They make their own experience with the help of their own thinking instruments and social interactions.So teachers facilitate their thinking and create an open and free environment. This concept is called facilitating learning which is very important for modern constructivist classroom teaching.