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Teaching Methods and Its Importance: A Study

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Abstract:

Teaching is an interactive process of relationship between the environment and the response of the learners. It is a science and its history is pristine. With the right teaching method, educators can create an enjoyable and productive classroom experience for students. The students can learn important academic and social skills to last for lifetime. Now-a-days, educational method has become the topic of national discourse as the evolution of teaching method has travelled a long journey to the present time. Particular skills and knowledge are required to be successful use of teaching method in the field of teaching-learning.

Keywords: interactive, pristine, discourse, evolution, teaching-learning.

Introduction:

The term 'teaching method' called methodology is a broad one which means techniques used in the teaching. Teaching is a science that has its origin and rules. It can be observed, measured, evaluated and trained on its skills. This is made vibrant by the use of teaching technique which is a mode of executing a plan for aiding learning on the part of the learners.

Topic for discussion:

Teaching method is a selection of method used by the teachers to teach the subject matter. It is clear to follow. The teaching methods help the students to be masters on the course of the content and how to use that expertise in particular contexts. Teaching strategy, considered different, is a collection of different methods which are used by the teachers to teach the subject material. The strategies may vary from lesson to lesson.

Objectives of the study:

The present study is carried out to meet different needs which can be numbered as----

- It is thought that to attract the students' attention in the classroom to the topic taught is an important task on the part of a teacher which is made easier and interesting by the use of technique. It is tried to gauge how far the use of technique is effective.
- One need of the study is to look whether proper use of techniques in teaching makes the students interested in the subjects by creating an eagerness to learn more.
- It is expected to bring changes in students' attitude, behaviour and conduct by the study.
- Acquisition of knowledge is another important aspect of this study on teaching method and its importance.
- Through this study, it is endeavored to know regarding the promotion of belief by way of improvement of the learning skills of the students.

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Methodology:

An analytical method was adopted to study the topic. The data gathered from the secondary sources in the form of books, journals, periodicals were pursued, evaluated and interpreted. Afterwards, the following lines are penned in the shape of an academic writing. Internet access was also a force in this regard.

History of teaching method:

The history of teaching methods is pristine as about 3000B.C. education became more conscious or self-reflecting with the advent of writing. Particular skills and knowledge were required in specialized occupations such as scribe and astronomy. Educational method became the topic of national discourse. Socratic Method was introduced by Plato¹ in his Dialogues². The evolution of teaching method has travelled a long journey to the present time innovating sophisticated teaching tools to generate learning in different fields.

Discussion:

Teaching is an interactive process of relationship between the environment and the response of the learner though the learner has a partial role which must be judged in the final analysis of its results. It is considered the learner's learning. Klalki³ **defined** teaching methods as the methods and procedures for planned and organized formation of the processes of science. **Danilov**⁴ defined teaching methods as a system of conscious and purposeful actions in order to regulate the cognitive and practical activity of the student.

The subject matter to be taught and the nature of the learner are the two important and integral ingredients of the method used in teaching-learning. To make a teaching method an appropriate and efficient one, it has to take into consideration the three things viz. the learner, the nature of the subject matter and the type of teaching. Keeping these things in mind, the approaches for teaching are to be sorted out. The approaches are broadly classified into two:

1. **Teacher-centered** 2. **Student- centered**. In the teacher-centered called authoritarian approach, the teachers are the figures of authority and the students are viewed as 'empty vessels. They are to receive information passively where the teachers play a primary role of passing knowledge and information to the students. In this approach, teaching and assessment are viewed as two separate entities. In the student-centered called authoritative approach, both the teachers and the students play an equally active role in the learning process. The name of this is **learner-centered**. The teachers help in the comprehension of the material leading to learning and this learning is measured through assessments such as group projects, student portfolios, class participation, presentation of seminar paper etc.

Teachers are an essential part of our society but teaching can be a difficult and stressful job at times. To make it easy and stress free, the teachers have to adopt certain methods and styles which are perfect for different learning environment. Out of these, some are discussed below. They are-

1. Online Learning:

This method, though not usual norm for most teachers, has become mandatory after the Covid-19 pandemic. Online teachers often enjoy the freedom of working from home,

^{1.} Plato (428/27 BC-348/347) was a Greek philosopher born in Athens.

^{2.} Dialogues: Book by Plato, published in 1871. It offers a philosophy that has guided man through the ages.

^{3.} Klafki: Wolfgang Klafki (1927-2016), Poland, German University teacher and non-fiction writer.

^{4.} Danilov: Oleksiy Danilov (1962--), a politician from Ukraine. He is the current Secretary of the National Security and Defense Council.

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choosing their working hours being their own masters. It is the process of educating others using the internet through individual or group video calls, webinars or messaging platforms. Normally, it is a combination of things to keep students engaged.

2. Experiential Learning:

Learning is a product of experience. It is to be adopted to generate learning in the classroom and beyond. We gather experiences from the world and the people around us which are to be explored. This theory is from David Kolb²⁵ experimental learning styles which consider the role of all our experiences in learning. The learning can be from emotion, cognition and environment. It is a great teaching method because it encourages creativity, helps students learn from mistakes, fosters reflective thinking and prepares students for future experiences.

3. Differentiation:

It is a learning method that tailors instructions to students depending on their individual needs. It will be more useful in mixed-ability classes if it managed sensitively. In this regard, it is important for teachers to ensure that they create an inclusive classroom where students of all abilities are welcome regardless of gender, race, sexuality or disability. This theory should not be used to make some students feel inferior to others.

4. Blended Learning:

This method is a combination of traditional face-to-face learning and technology-based learning. This has become more popular after Covid-19 pandemic. It is more helpful both for the students and teachers because it forms a middle ground between the traditional and technology-based methods. It uses enough technology to keep students focused and interested and at the same time it also provides opportunities for students to talk in person to the teachers and fellow classmates which are invaluable.

5. Game based Learning:

Game-based learning called gamification is a great way to engage students particularly in primary and secondary education. This is a method implementing game-like elements into non-gaming activities to enhance motivation. Video games, mobile applications, simple playground and board games are the accelerators of this method. However, gamification should not necessarily be used in serious context as such context requires more serious discussion. It is felt that too much game-based learning is likely to remove some of the fun and increased motivation felt by the children.

6. Personalized method:

In this learning, teachers encourage students to follow personalized, self-directed learning plans which are inspired by their specific interests and skills. Students can advance at their own pace moving forward or spending extra time as needed. Teachers offer instructions, traditional or online. They review the progress and meet the students to make any needed changes to the learning plans.

7. Expeditionary method:

The students are taken out of the classrooms to the real world, to the community where they can receive educational values from learning experiences. In this regard, trips can be to New Delhi to learn about the workings of government or can be to Kaziranga to study about nature

^{5.} David Kolb: (1939-), an American educational theorist whose interests and publications focus on experimental learning, the individual and social change, career development, executive and professional education and more.

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in relation to environment. Technology can be used to augment the study but the primary focus is on the physical aspect.

8. Inquiry-based learning:

In this method, the teachers offer support and guidance to the students who are more active in their own learning. The students participate in different projects, develop their own questions, conduct research and then demonstrate the results of their works. The demonstrations can be through self-made videos, web pages or formal presentations.

Conclusion:

To stop the pen, it can be reasserted that the teaching process is a science which has several methods viz. lecture, discussion, hot chair, brain-storming and others. The use of these methods raises the efficiency of the teachers in the classrooms leading to the efficiency of general education.

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