

Drastic Change in Teacher-Taught Relationship and Teaching Techniques – An Analysis

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ABSTRACT: Change is the basic law of nature and so is the motto of the present paper. Change can come in many forms in our lives. It might come forcefully like a tidal wave, or creep along incrementally like a glacier. It might come in the form of devastating tragedy, difficult choices, broken relationships, or even new opportunities. The latest methods and techniques to be used for an effective teaching is the demand of the hour. But even though change is often difficult, many times it's also for the best. Accomplishing anything great in life requires significant change that pushes us beyond our comfort zones. These days the old methods of teaching using just chalk-boards or whiteboard and marker are not sufficient to bring the rays of knowledge in the class rooms. Many schools, today, are using smart classes for the sake of better understanding of the students and effective teaching on the part of teachers. On the other hand the colleges and universities prefer use of OHP's in almost all the class rooms for the same purpose. Many times, the only way to improve our lives is to force ourselves to undergo difficult change. That might mean breaking up and leaving a stale – but comfortable – relationship, leaving a mediocre – but stable – job, moving away from a nice – but uninspiring – location, or anything else that's holding us back from accomplishing our dreams. But along with the use of these gadgets there has to be a change in the pedagogy of teaching as well. Some live examples may be cited, the students may be taken to a place of history, some practical strategies may be used...these all are some of the examples of innovative methods of teaching and learning. These days there is a trend which is rapidly gaining momentum and popularity i.e. the trend of virtual classes or Google classes. Of course, dealing with uninvited change in our lives is often difficult and painful. In many cases, instigating major, but necessary, change in our life can be just as painful. But whatever change you're dealing with, know that how you cope with that change will have an impact on your future. Our Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi has also started a campaign of making India Computer literate under the name of "Digital India", which will also be a part of discussion in this paper. The pros and cons are always there with any novel idea or methodology. The present paper intends to throw some light on all these inter-related issues.

I. INTRODUCTION:

“Man cannot discover new oceans unless he has the courage to lose sight of the shore.” It has been very rightly remarked by Andre Gide. Teaching today is no less than an art, the simple reason is gone are the days when the students used to reside in the GURUKULS under the safe wings of their teachers and got to learn the things. It was believed that the disciples would surely come up with flying colours after completion of their SHIKSHA. At the end of their learning phase and actually at the time of completion they would show their regard to the teachers in the form of certain gifts, monetary help or providing certain domestic amenities. During those days the teacher-taught relationship was a revered and pious relationship. There is no second opinion about it that those values have surely become extinct these days. Neither the students keep their teachers on a very high and respectful pedestal nor do the teachers treat the students as their own responsibility to be trained and taught...yes, there is a very big responsibility for all the teachers to shoulder that is to pass on truest form of information to their

students as the student is solely going to trust the teacher at a tender stage of his learning and this process is very likely to go on until the student acquaints himself with the newest definitions or the appropriate channels of learning. There is no teacher equal to mother and there's nothing more contagious than the dignity of a father. In the most natural way, mother is the prime-most teacher of an infant. Thereafter comes the turn of father who supports the mother in her teaching the child. Apart from these, curiosity of the person also works as a teacher of the person. But here we will not talk about these primitive teachers of mankind. Instead we will discuss about formal educational teachers of students. The best teacher is not the one who knows most but the one who is most capable of reducing knowledge to that simple compound of the obvious and wonderful. A teacher is often required for learning something, particularly at a tender age when self-conscience is in the budding stage. In such a situation, the teacher forces some knowledge in to the brain of the student. But not all this knowledge is grasped by the student and this where teacher-taught relationship plays an important role.

We accept some information only when we find the source to trust-worthy and reliable. This acceptance is applicable to grasping knowledge from a teacher also. So, we have two basic attributes of a teacher as 'trust-worthiness' and 'reliability'. These attributes make the student to respect the teacher. This is the basic attribute of a student.

Now, resuming my initial statement that teaching today is no less than an art. These days almost every educational institution has gone quite savvy by making use of the latest technology and gadgets. We may readily find smart classes in almost all the leading private schools and the frequent use of projectors in almost all the leading colleges/universities. Is it right to do so? To a great extent...yes, because we read in teaching methodologies during our B.Ed. that teaching through audio-visuals imparts a very deep impact on the minds of the learners and additionally it leaves a permanent or long lasting impact on the mind of the students, moreover the teaching becomes easier and the class-room becomes an interesting place where the students are not easily ready to lose track of the teaching content. But, is it possible to follow the same way of teaching every time you move in the class room or every day you discuss a new topic? I guess NO.

There can be a balance between verbal classes and smart classes, because there can be no proper learning without the interference or better to say that an active role of a vibrant and enthusiastic teacher. There is no second opinion about it that there may be very bright chances of complacency if you are going to teach the same topic in five different rooms a day or to say for consistently two to three years to similar age groups. A question may arise how to get rid of boredom and how to make the classes interesting. The answer is with the teacher only, that is it is up to him/her to bring a new flavor every time in a similar topic and to make it as interesting as possible so that the students are willing to receive it.

Our revered Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi has raised an alarm to make every educationist aware about the direst necessity of computer literacy and, so, he has started a new campaign to make our country a place of revived learning by transforming it from India to DIGITAL India. What does it actually mean? It is actually a program to make India prepared for knowledge future where the main focus will be on making technology central to enable change. It is proposed to be an Umbrella program – covering many departments. But is a farthest dream which will take time to realize, by then we need to understand certain reasons for the problems of teaching in our country. Here I have tried to point out some of the recurrent issues:

Concept of subject-wise teachers is more practicable and accepted world-wide. Under this concept, the teachers are

able to prove their worth and the students find them trust-worthy and reliable. Job of a teacher is to communicate with the student in the way the latter may understand. So, every teacher has to have mastery over communication skills. This is in addition to having deep knowledge of the subject of teaching. This is just like a language which is only a medium of gaining knowledge, and not the knowledge itself. Even then knowledge of the language of communication is primary to the knowledge of the subject of teaching. Similarly, art and science of communication comes before the knowledge of the subject of the teacher. This puts a third parameter on the performance of a teacher. Communication is not what is said or intended by the source - the teacher, but what is received and grasped by the sink - the student. Even the teacher is required to prepare the student to receive and grasp before delivering knowledge of the subject. This is like evoking and interest and curiosity in the mind of the student for knowing the subject matter. For this evocation also, the teacher is to have trust-worthiness and reliability in the eyes of the student.

Some Factors Responsible for the Change in Teacher-Taught Relationship with special reference to English subject:-

1. Lack of clear-cut aims – The teachers know that they have to teach English subject since it is included in the syllabus. The students understand that they must study this subject as they will be examined in it. In English medium schools, English is taught right from the very beginning. Whatever the situation, students learn English as a knowledge subject and not as a skill subject.

2. Over-crowded classes – Sixty to seventy students is regarded as the normal class-size and in certain cases (merged sections), the class size is 100 to 120 students. It becomes very difficult for a teacher to pay due attention to individual students and this is very much desirable in an English classroom.

3. Faulty methods of teaching – Use of translation method, getting bilingual, no attention is ever paid to pronunciation practice, listening comprehension and structure practice. These are some of the flaws which require to be mended whole heartedly and religiously.

4. Lack of competent teachers – Those who follow old methods of teaching and have never cared to look for something better in new techniques; They generally make use of limited vocabulary. No or for name sake only use of universal pronunciation is made which widens the gap between teacher and the taught..

5. Apathy to new techniques and procedures – Most of the teachers even today are both ignorant and apathetic to the new techniques and procedures of teaching English. They feel it below their dignity to be a part of development programmes or some sort of training sessions.

6. Faulty approach to the teaching of grammar – Grammar is taught for the sake of teaching only, not as a tool. The students are neither given sufficient practice nor is the grammar teaching correlated with some practical examples giving certain situations. This makes grammar class a boring and lifeless class.

7. Non-availability of good text-books – Books used are either sub-standard or no books are used at all in some cases. In some institutions just pick and choose method for solving exercises of grammar is used or at the most certain extracted exercises from internet sources are discussed.

8. Inadequate provision of teaching aids - English is a foreign and a second language for Indian students. A language can generally be learnt when there is an environment for it and most importantly when that language is used in our day to day life. A language teacher can work wonders by providing the students such an environment where they get ample opportunities to interact with each other in this language and hence get a command on this language. For this purpose Language labs prove to be a great help, but even in today's advanced and high-tech era not every school/college can afford these gadgets.

9. Insufficient provision for the subject in the timetable – We all know that English has become a global language today and it functions as a window to the outer world. The private schools in cities and especially metropolitan cities are doing a remarkable job in this regard but in government schools English is introduced in the V or VI class.

10. Faulty evaluation system – There are generally four skills in communication i.e. Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing. Out of these four the first two, the most important ones are completely neglected as we don't have an environment where people talk to us in English or we may do the same, eventually only two skills reading and writing are promoted. Moreover our evaluation system also encourages cramming and the knowledge of a few rules of grammar. The questions asked for require no thinking, no imagination and no skill.

11. Domination of a conservative head or senior – Sometimes, the domination of a conservative Head/ senior creates a difficult situation for a progressive teacher. Such a head does not allow a promising and energetic teacher to implement latest techniques of teaching; rather he/she is convinced to follow the same age-old, stereotyped and

examination-ridden methods of teaching, as he is more concerned about good results than about students' grasp of the language.

12. Parental interference – Gone are the days when parents used to consider the teachers next to God. These days, parents sometimes are not satisfied with the pace of syllabus covered or the methods of teaching being followed and they would offer suggestions as if they were the master of the subject.

There are so many other challenges in the way to realize Digital India dream. Even after so many hassles in the way to effective teaching and learning, we are no less in the field of quality teaching and long lasting learning as there are so many renowned schools/colleges/universities where already certain modern methods of teaching-learning are being used. Some of them may be mentioned here, which have become an inseparable part of ICT (Information and communications technology) they are:

Distance e-Learning

The distance learning home is accessible to students with disabilities. Distance courses allow students with disabilities to continue living at home while they are studying, to share documents, lessons, exchange ideas and make presentations. Using a computer is a common component of the training and studying process.

Reading digital and audio libraries

Students with intellectual, hearing or reading disabilities, impaired sight, dyslexia and other disabilities are now able to follow educational courses via digital and audio libraries, accessing their material, content and resources via the Internet. Students can connect from home and read or hear the relevant books, without having to go to the local university or library.

Internet, broadband for persons with disabilities

People with disabilities are today using the Internet, which builds their capacity to communicate with each other at a distance. Using the Internet helps them to gather and understand public information and news, to participate in leisure interests with others, to chat, shop, manage their finances, and write to authorities and friends. A computer with a broadband connection provides opportunities for improved participation in everyday life and independent living.

Winning communication

Persons with disabilities are now able to communicate with others online, taking e-learning courses and interacting with the instructor and other students through online discussion forums. Since learners often find it hard to manage synchronous communication, they may experience problems working on the many elements active simultaneously during

an online course. The moderator or facilitator of the course will therefore ensure that all learners understand and act on the information presented. The moderator will also monitor the relationship between what is happening on screen, what the presenter may be saying, and what is appearing in print.

II. CONCLUSION

The above discussed points definitely tell us the corrective usage of technology that we are making today, but still there is a long way to go. Many secrets are still lying in the womb of future. It may be possible that we are able to disclose those secrets in the near future. To quote some Hollywood movies' I may share here on this pedestal, how beautifully rather creatively those people have foreseen future and portrayed in their movies, may it be about a concept of aliens- the third world, or about the end of the world in 2012 [as it was supposed to be or just a rumor], or may it be the concept of BCI (Brain Computer Interface), where in a number of gadgets are attached to a human body and a computer system. That human just thinks or imagines to make any of his limbs move up or down and a robot that is attached to the system, does the same on the behalf of that human being, I repeat my word that a human being just imagines to do it and the robot exactly does it...isn't it wonderful?...obviously yes, but as I just said that there is a long way to go to achieve this end, because this concept was a matter of sheer imagination by certain scientists and the similar concept was portrayed in the movie. But it is also equally true that there can be no smoke without fire and I actually have watched such a documentary on Discovery channel showing the same concept where it was in its budding stage.

The era today is very creative and innovative; we just have to locate a right channel and then make efforts in that particular direction. And once if we made it, I guess there's nothing that can stop us making India as Digital India.

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