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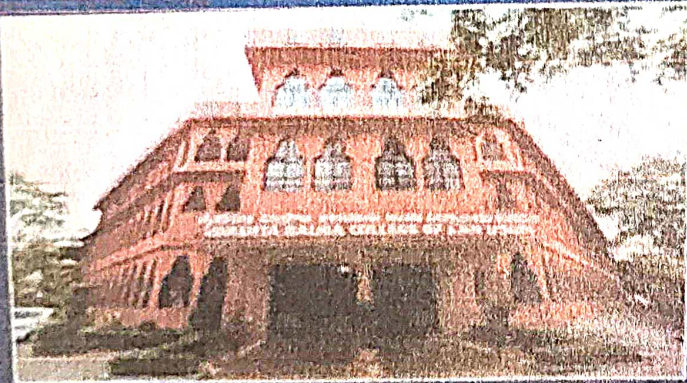


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AN OVERVIEW ON CHANGING DIMENSIONS OF TEACHING AND LEARNING METHODOLOGY IN HIGHER EDUCATION AT PRESENT SCENARIO

ABSTRACT

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Teaching and Learning are constant process through which imparting knowledge and education is made possible. The methodology of teaching and learning has changed with the change of time. During olden days, this process used to happen through Gurukul system and students used to learn Vedic and spiritual subjects. Afterwards, formal education system commenced and methodology of teaching and learning also changed. Technology also started playing its role in teaching and learning. Now we have project-based learning, collaborative learning, problem-based learning, research-based learning, integrative and activity-based learning and so on. Even in Higher Education, it may be professional, or technical or any other value education, teaching and learning mechanism must be followed and there will be curriculum framed for that purpose. Methodology followed may be different from one teacher to another. Online teaching and learning are a recent trend not only developed, even applied during pandemic worldwide. But whatever may be the methodology, learning should shape the life of the learner.

Keywords: Teaching and Learning, Transformation, Technology and Technological tools, comprehensive study, digital platform.

Introduction

“Today, schools need to prepare students for more rapid economic and social change than ever before, for jobs that have not yet been created, to use technologies that have not yet been invented, and to solve social problems that we don’t yet know will arise.”²- Andreas Schleicher

Through Teaching and Learning, education can be imparted by the teacher to the Learner. Because of the presence of complexity and dynamism in the current scenario it demands considerable changes

¹ Assistant Professor of Law, SDM Law College Centre for Post Graduate Studies and Research in Law Mangaluru.
² YIGAL ROSEN, STEVE FERRARA, MARYAM MOSHARRAF, HANDBOOK OF RESEARCH ON TECHNOLOGY TOOLS FOR REAL-WORLD SKILL DEVELOPMENT, (INFORMATION SCIENCE REFERENCE-IGI GLOBAL-USA, 2016).



in education system as well. Earlier, it was said that education is for life, not for living. But need of life has necessitated education to become an instrument for learning, earning and for living.

Changing Goals of Education

Teaching and learning goals must focus on research-oriented approach and teachers need to transmit their knowledge to the students and inculcate in students the habit of self-expression and independent learning. The approach of teaching was convergent earlier, which has gradually shifted to divergent now. Convergent approach focuses on subject matter teaching and divergent highlights on self-directed learning or open ended one.³ In recent years, the main motive of getting educated is to find proper employment and to develop entrepreneurship to be self-employed.

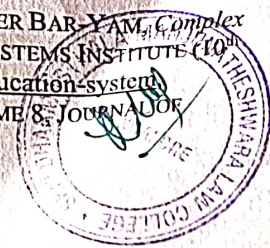
Changes in Methodology-both Teaching and Learning

During olden days, Gurukul was the main centre of learning and students used to get well-versed in various facets of knowledge on Vedas, Dharmasatras, Sutra, and other subjects which are closely connected to divine and spiritual matters. Even martial arts also taught to the students along with other subjects. In present formal education system, classroom teaching and learning became popular and we can also clearly find the transformation in subjects taught. Higher education was imparted through Universities like Nalanda, Taxila, Vikramashila, by different scholars and later Government has established various higher education universities, colleges and institutions, at the same time, even private entities also opened the same.⁴

As the time passes, remarkable changes are taken place even in methodology of both teaching and learning. Using technology and technological tools in teaching and effective use of them in learning process is a new phenomenon. In the 21st century, unique and progressive teaching methods are developed and it has opened new horizons of learning. There was transformation in technology where it changed from blackboard to digital boards. In 20th century, we have identified an unprecedented advancement in technology for which education sector is not an exception. New Education policy also contributed new ideas for both the teachers and students to adopt.

³ MIRIAM BAR-YAM, KATHLEEN RHOADES, LINDA BOOTH SWEENEY, JIM KAPUT, AND YANEER BAR-YAM, *Complex Systems Perspectives on Education And The Education System*, NEW ENGLAND COMPLEX SYSTEMS INSTITUTE (June 2021), <https://necsi.edu/changes-in-the-teaching-and-learning-process-in-a-complex-education-system>

⁴ YOUNIS AHMAD SHEIKH, *Higher Education in India: Challenges and Opportunities*, VOLUME 8 JOURNAL OF EDUCATION AND PRACTICE, 39(2017).



The knowledge, skills, and character, formulates different dimensions of learning now. There is need for the students of present generation to become both specialists and generalists on a particular subject, learning a field of study in depth and there is need to develop a faculty in them to appreciate and understand as to how their specialty connects to other disciplines. Along with teaching through traditional methods, discussion method of teaching also helps a lot for the students wherein proposal of ideas, discussion and arguments with rebuttals can be made. For such discussions to happen, students should come prepared to the class and it will give a strong foundation for the students for tomorrow in their career.⁵

In addition, we the teachers must familiarize students to interdisciplinary knowledge required to tackle certain challenges faced by the society in present scenario. For example, along with formal legal education, students if they involved in legal aid activities, they can feel the pulse of people and will come to know the reality of life for some extent. There is need of supporting students to utilize their skills to apply their knowledge to new problems. When we teach law subjects, clinical method will help the teachers most in making the students to understand the concept easily.⁶

If we support students to be knowledgeable, learned and to apply their skill wherever required is not sufficient, present world also demands character development among students to contribute for a better world tomorrow. Discussion, interaction and skill of interpretation must be inculcated among the student's community, which will contribute for the enhancement of their capabilities for self-learning and analysis. Not only the method of teaching, even curriculum design also plays a prominent role in learning process. It should motivate students to develop critical thinking ability, analysing capacity and quality of interpretation as well.⁷

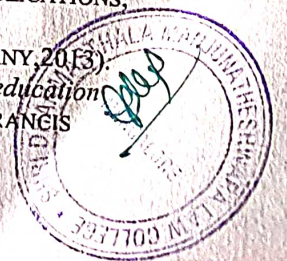
In Law teaching, case study methods can also be followed, as it followed in the law schools of UK, USA, etc. But students should be well equipped with the principles of law to apply and analyse the same.⁸

⁵ SHEETHAL KANWAL, NOTES ON LEGAL EDUCATION AND RESEARCH METHODOLOGY, 41 (AMAR LAW PUBLICATIONS, 2ND ED, 2019)

⁶ N R MADHAVA MENON, A HANDBOOK ON CLINICAL LEGAL EDUCATION, 9 (1ST ED, EASTEN BOOK COMPANY, 2013).

⁷ MARCIA DEVLIN & GAYANI SAMARA WICKREMA, *The criteria of effective teaching in a changing higher education context*, VOLUME 29, HIGHER EDUCATION RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT, 113, (ROUTLEDGE-TAYLOR AND FRANCIS GROUP, 2010).

⁸ G P TRIPATHI, LEGAL EDUCATION IN INDIA, 38 (1ST ED, CENTRAL LAW PUBLICATIONS, 2016)



Now it's the need of the hour to prepare students to face the professional challenges tomorrow. They must be prepared in such a way that; they can build their own identity in the field they work. Such kind of professional training which can mould them to fit to the work environment.⁹

Teaching and Learning-Issues and Challenges

Both teaching and learning has several issues and challenges, which may be related to methodology adopted in teaching, or pertaining to curriculum delivery system, or relating to teaching environment. Learners also facing issues especially relating to language, in understanding the theme, difficulty in following the teaching methodology, difficulties while pursuing research, and their learning environment.

The main issues and challenges faced by the teachers are as follows: -

1. *Methods of Inspiring Students*-Guiding students to be more self-directed is a challenging task for the teachers. Mere class control is not sufficient on the part of teachers, it is required to ensure that teaching strategies keep students more concentrated on learning because of different learning styles and behaviours, they have to be prevented from getting distracted in the classroom and students should be kept attentive and focused on learning and understanding the class as well. Changed Learning strategies and constant change in learning process had put greater challenge to the teachers in recent years. Earlier, students just used to listen in the class as they used to play a passive role in the class, now it turned in to active and interactive one.
2. *Finding Learning Outcomes*-Mere teaching is not sufficient, getting feedback also must for the teachers to apply new methodologies and strategy in teaching is required. Finding a parameter to measure the students potential and level of understanding the class is also poses a big challenge in teaching. student who is not performing good in the class earlier, may perform better later and vice versa.
3. *Maintaining a balance in teaching by personalising*- Some time, teachers need to teach and explain in an elaborate manner and some other times in precise. On the one hand diversifying teaching and keeping it simple on the other is a tough task to do. Teacher should forget all other matters other than

⁹ JUDITH A. RAMALEY, *The Changing Role of Higher Education: Learning to Deal with Wicked Problems*, VOLUME 18, JOURNAL OF HIGHER EDUCATION OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT, 18 (UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA, 2014).



teaching in the class. Words or illustrations used by the teacher should not create conflict or confusion, rather it must be suitable to the situation and topic.

4. Monitoring students outside the classroom- The responsibilities of teachers may not end with the end of teaching in the class, they have an extra added pressure to make students involved in learning process outside the classroom. Because they will be scattered in different environments and making them to be involved in learning further is a tough way to go. In higher education system, giving homework to do after the class is not popular and they can be handled by assigning certain projects to them.

5. Management of teaching with administrative works-Apart from teaching, preparation for teaching, evaluation of projects and students' assignments, conducting exams and paper evaluation are also added work to the teachers. Other than these, certain administrative works are also must be done by them like preparation of some reports, analysis of strength and weakness, conducting certain surveys preparation of performance indicators etc. For the teacher's personal advancement and for professional excellence, they need to attend refresher courses, orientation programmes, faculty development programmes, along with certain short-term courses to be completed. In universities and Government and Aided colleges, different departmental works are also allotted along with teaching.

6. Adopting technological tools with Changing Technology-Most of the teachers are used to with the traditional method of teaching like chock and talk or lecture methods with some group discussion. ITC in teaching, and other technology also puts a challenge to the teachers. During pandemic, we had no other option left instead to go for online classes which can only be conducted through the help of technological tools in a digital platform.¹⁰ But study of certain subjects includes, reasoning, analysis and interpretation, which can be better equipped to the students through simulative exercises in the physical classroom only.

7. Maintaining a process of parents' involvement-To monitor the performance of students, involvement of parents in education system is mandatory. The teachers and education institutions find some mechanism to reach the progress and problems of their children and ward to their parents and guardians. Parents Teachers association is also formulated often by calling their meetings, rapport can be developed. But still, the constant connection with all parents by the teachers is quite difficult to find in higher education system. As students are grown up, parents are not much worried about

¹⁰ QIAN TANG, TRANSFORMING EDUCATION: THE POWER OF ICT POLICIES, (UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION, FRANCE, 2011).



their children in most cases and some other cases, children stay away from parents for their education.¹¹ In such situation, it gives a challenge to the teachers to monitor their progress and learning beyond the classroom.

Even the learners also facing certain problems during their studies. They are mainly like increased cost of higher education, change in learning environment which may lead to homesickness, problem of time management, political interference for some extent, work and learn process for financial setup etc. So, usually such challenges and issues encounter the students of higher education and they need to focus on education by combating those issues.

Conclusion

The ultimate purpose of teaching is to ensure that the last student with the least securing mark should be involved in learning process. There must be effective delivery system and comprehensive involvement on the part of students, through which this purpose can be served.

¹¹ MASA DURISIC, MILA BUNIJEVAC, *Parental involvement as an important factor for successful education*, VOLUME 8, CENTRE FOR EDUCATIONAL POLICY STUDIES JOURNAL, 140 (2017).

