

ISSN 2278-8808

An International Peer Reviewed

**SCHOLARLY RESEARCH JOURNAL
FOR INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES**



Innovations in Teacher Education: An Integration of Modern Techniques with Traditional ones

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Abstract

The challenges faced by teacher education institutions raise pertinent questions for both the school systems and the governments. On one hand, the school system has to grapple with the problems of teacher quality and the increasing student and societal expectations, Governments on the other hand are struggling to provide the teacher education system an environment that fosters innovation and match the requirements of the school sector. This calls for a breakthrough and innovative thinking on the part of all the stakeholders.

This paper is an attempt to integrate the modern techniques with the traditional one to enhance the quality of teacher and in turn teacher education.

Keywords: Teacher education, Innovation, Modern Techniques, Quality.

Introduction

The demand for qualified and quality teachers has been continuously increasing at world over. There has been an unprecedented expansion of school education especially in the developing countries, which is the cause behind such demand, and hence the teacher education programmes have acquired renewed significance. It has become imperative that the effort and resources mobilized towards teacher education are effective and field relevant.

Accordingly this has given a vital area in terms of grooming a quality teacher so as to impart a quality education. An attempt is made with the help of this paper to combine some of the modern techniques with the traditional one to enhance the deliverables. The areas that have been discussed in this study are as under

- Classroom Management
- Teacher Preparations:
- Innovations in Instructional approach
- Classroom handling techniques

1. Classroom Management

It is one of the important areas which play a vital role while conducting class. The factors which comes under classroom management are

- Cleanliness of room
- Seating Arrangements of students
- Charts and tables for display

Basically it talks about the physical evidences of the service industries. A pilot study carried by author amongst the sample size of 500 students from different school revealed that these factors are very important from the moral point of view. These factors help to provide a good

ambience in the classroom to boost the morale of the students even before the start of actual class work.

2. Teacher Preparations

This is the heart of the process. It was found during the survey that most of the teachers don't have any teaching plan. Most of the senior teachers give more importance to their experience rather than preparing and updating their teaching notes. In this preparation following two factors are very important as

- a. The content requirement (Course-work)
- b. Beyond the course work

The course work is developed and designed by the experts in that specific area and one need to bind by that. But the other factor which talks about covering that course work by going beyond it. During ancient days students were supposed to away from their parents and there was a GURU and SHISYA culture for the formal education, here the author is discussing same philosophy with modern approach of case study methods and situation analysis.

3. Innovations in Instructional approach

The methodology or approach for the instruction is also very important from learning point of view. Here the emphasis should be given for the learning and not for merely forcing the students to mugging-up. The students should be forced to think and apply their mind. The output should not be because of test of memory but it should be because of test of knowledge. By combining some of the traditional approach with current modern techniques author can suggest some of the innovative techniques that can be used by the teacher as a tool

for instructional approach. These tools can be applied separately or in a combination depending upon the course work. These techniques are as under

- Role Plays
- Street plays
- Out of Box thinking
- Beyond Syllabus
- Teaching Aids
 - ◆ OHP
 - ◆ LCD / DLP Projector
 - ◆ Video Conferencing

Finally it should be a balance integration of coursework and case studies. The last point of discussion is about the classroom handling techniques which is discussed in next section.

4. Classroom handling techniques

This is the technique if used properly, can lead for motivation for both students as well as teacher. Some techniques suggested under this by the author are as

- a. Stress Management
- b. Questionnaire techniques
- c. Feedback approach

Conclusion

Innovations and initiatives in teacher education referred to the extent to which they are being responsive to the types of developments and the changed emphasis currently occurring in the schooling systems. Any mismatch between changes in school systems and the response of teacher education establishments to these changes can then be identified. For example, the use of colored chalk and basic audio-visual materials may be regarded as being an educational innovation in some developing countries in the region, while in other more affluent countries innovations may largely refer to the development and use of sophisticated computer facilities.

Educational innovation refers to an idea or practice new to a specific educational context that meets unsatisfied needs. It is the introduction or promotion of new ideas and methods that are devised in education and/or school practices which have a substantial effect on changing the existing patterns of behavior of the group or groups involved. Innovative strategies imply the development of new ideas which are disseminated and utilized; they usually occur in response to particular problems that exist in the education systems.

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