

## TEACHING TODAY: CHALLENGES AND REMEDIES

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### Abstract

*In today's world, education seems to be just a way of making students literate as it is a part of social upliftment. The purpose of this paper is to identify and analyze various challenges in today's education system and apply remedial actions. Conventional teaching method is a one way process where due to instructional strategy of teacher, students become passive. Teachers with poor quality adversely crushed the students' motivation and effective learning because of which students simply promote to be employable with less skills.*

*Teacher-student relationships are spirited to student success. Use of innovative teaching strategies in terms of resources, encouragement enhances learning experience and improves student success. Active learning like 'Learning by doing' effect provides positive results in terms of deeper learning, recalling and developing higher order reasoning skills in students. Efforts need to be taken to strengthen the accountability of teacher quality by developing, measuring and sustaining teacher effectiveness which directly reflects in student achievement.*

**Keywords:** *Education System, Teaching Practices, Learning Outcome, Quality of Teacher, Teaching Strategy, Student Improvement, Innovative Methods.*

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## TEACHING TODAY: CHALLENGES AND REMEDIES

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### Introduction:

In today's world, education seems to be just a way of making students literate as it is a part of social upliftment. The purpose of this paper is to identify and analyze various challenges in today's education system and apply remedial actions.

'Education is not filling a pail but the lighting of a fire.'

- William Butler Yeats.

Education is important in life because it gives basic survival skills, ability to complete tasks and work with others. It helps people to make decisions, develops critical thoughts which will affect their everyday lives. It promotes the feeling of physical, mental and social comfort by providing better life. Beyond these common reasons, education also enables people to contribute to their community and their country. But now a days students study only to score marks in exams, or to crack imp exams. Our education system is more exam oriented with lack of skills. Students are spending a lot of their parent's money to seek education and even then, they do not get the standard education and many of which struggle for existence to find employment of their choice. In a country like India, millions of students are victim of an unrealistic, meaningless, monotonous rat race. It also pushes brilliant students to commit suicide.

### Teaching Practices:

The quality of education system depends mainly on factors like quality of teachers, student's behavior, use of resources, parental support, skill based education, teacher-classroom practices, belief of both teacher and student about self-efficiency and more importantly student centered instructions. Many of the teachers have decided career in teaching as a passion because it is the lifelong learning noble profession meant for 'learning to learn'. The teacher has to acquire knowledge of the subject and pedagogy. He needs skills to support and guide learners and to understand the social and cultural dimension of education.

### Challenges in Teaching:

Challenges become an obstacle in a way of student learning. Our education system is a colonial education system geared towards generating white collared people. In a country like India, the institutes which provide higher education with higher grades or quality like IIT's are very few. Even in the world context of top numbered reputed institutes of higher education, they are scaled beyond 200. A study by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council showed that almost 90 per cent of the colleges and almost 70 per cent of the universities that the council

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graded were of moderate or are of poor quality. Also most of the institutes facing shortage of quality teachers. Education in India is not universally available to everyone.

### 1) Challenges in teaching with context of Teacher:

Now a day's teachers are expected to do much more things besides teaching. They are mainly dealing with complexity of work which includes unclear expectations from students, student behavior, higher workloads, planning for creative activities, administrative duties and so on. Much broader role of teacher expected at individual student level to deal with special needs, at the institute level in planning and managing, at society level to build up a rational relationship with parents for development of students.

### 2) Challenges in teaching with context of Student:

On the student's context, it is observed that most of the students who pass out from institutes of higher education are lacking the real life skills. They forget the knowledge after the end of semester exam. Years after years they get involved in just memorizing the information. The best memorizer is rewarded by the system, which founds to be great failure of our Indian education system. Students having higher education lacks with the abilities to analyze situations, fail to solve real life practical problems, and also deficient in integrated understanding of different branches of knowledge. Thus teachers have to concern on instructional methodologies like active learning, group discussions, case studies, problem solving sessions instead of giving simply lectures or Chalk and talk method. Teacher's poor performances also affect learning process.

### Remedies for Challenges in teaching:

#### 1) Learning Outcome:

A student learning outcome is a defined outcome of learning process that can be assessed by some way, thus it is measurable. Learning outcomes refer to the skills, knowledge, and attributes students should have upon completion of a particular course or program of study. Learning outcomes provide students with guidance for how to direct their learning as well as the language to describe what they are learning. They will help students know where a course is going. Learning outcomes can also help students to evaluate their progress toward reaching their goals.

In a course of a study, learning outcomes plays major role in development of student. Student will be able to effectively evaluate research designs, methods and conclusions. They will be able to assess their own strengths, weaknesses, and omissions and be able to adjust future performance in light of their self-assessments. Also students will be able to effectively communicate both formally and informally through speaking, writing, and listening. They will be able to collaborate in designing and implementing problem.

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## 2) Quality of a teacher

Efforts need to be taken to strengthen the accountability of teacher quality by developing, measuring and sustaining teacher effectiveness which directly reflects in student achievement. We will have to improve initial teacher education which finds a good balance between pedagogical skills and subject knowledge, between theory and practical experience in real classrooms. Induction programs need to be arranged for less experienced or newly entered teachers for clearing the ideas of teaching profession.

Moreover we will have to encourage lifelong learning of a teacher. Teachers are self-directed learners. They are engaging in assessing their own development needs, evaluating their own effectiveness. They are also engaging in research, who are developing new knowledge and who are innovating.

Skilled teachers should be able to :

- find resources needed for improvement of students
- use effective teaching strategies
- believes and work on active learning
- participate in development of institute
- use ICT (Information and Communication Technology)
- responds positively to new demands and innovations in teaching

## 3) Teaching Strategies and Student Improvement:

Teacher-student relationships are spirited to student success. Use of innovative teaching strategies in terms of resources, encouragement enhances learning experience and improves student success. Active learning like 'Learning by doing' effect provides positive results in terms of deeper learning, recalling and developing higher order reasoning skills in students. All research shows that we learn by Doing. That is, by applying what we have learned, in order to answer questions.

Some of the effective teaching strategies to achieve success of every student are

- recognizing individual differences of students, apply techniques that are best suited to every student by considering student's abilities (Student centered learning)
- building positive relationships with students
- providing encouragements to students for the responsibilities of their own learning.
- Relate bookish technology with real time technology
- providing better infrastructure
- brainstorming sessions for concept clearance
- arranging group discussions, seminars
- arranging workshops
- promoting problem based learning, case study
- arranging field visits, implant trainings to focus on real life situations
- promoting creativity

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- use of humor to handle complex tasks by improving understanding
- use methods like recall, summarize, question, connect and comment
- provide group based activities
- practicing role play
- online interactions, chats for quick reply
- video demonstrations, clips
- self assessment ways of learning like questionnaire, rubrics
- Use of technology and multimedia
- use methods to promote student's thought process

### **Innovative methods for effective teaching:**

Innovative methods play an important role in strengthening the education system. It has been investigated that in the educational context, innovative methods like framing creativity in curriculum, use of ICT and digital media, teacher's skill development should be implemented for better education. The goal of our new education system should be to create entrepreneurs, innovators, artists, scientists, thinkers and writers who can establish the foundation of a knowledge-based economy rather than the low-quality service provider. Some of the innovative methods are given below which serve the purpose of a knowledge-based economy for the development of students as well as the nation.

#### **1) Framing creativity in curriculum:**

In the context of education, framing creativity in curriculum is provided through a literature review. The review systematically covered scientific literature, policy documents, research reports from international organizations and recent projects relevant for creativity in learning and teaching.

#### **2) Use of ICT and digital media:**

Effects of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) advance teacher and school community, learning environment and teaching practices. ICT skills change rapidly as new applications replace old ones, and new tools and applications come on the market every month. ICT has become a part of ordinary life. It is an effective teaching tool for lifelong learning.

#### **3) Advance pedagogy – E learning:**

Advanced pedagogy enhances teaching and learning performances. Along with conventional methods if we use E-learning, it creates a rich learning experience for students and a rewarding teaching experience for the teacher. Teaching with technology engages students with different kinds of stimuli serving the purpose of activity-based learning.

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**4) Better examination system:**

Traditional examination methods never test thought process, instead it simply reflects memorizing skill of student. Involvement of graded system in exam tests true potential of a student.

**5) Skill based education:**

Such education enables the learners to acquire knowledge as a measure of life long learning.

**Conclusion**

The purpose of this paper is to identify India as a 'Knowledge Economy'. Although, higher education in India has expanded very rapidly but most of the population remains illiterate. Such illiterate people are excluded from utilization of benefits of development. On the other hand the students getting higher education fail to solve real life problems. We need to overcome such challenges by new dimensions of skills and technology, enhancing innovative and responsive practices of teachers, focusing on skilled teachers for lifelong learning process.

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