

TEACHING TODAY: CHALLENGES AND REMEDIES**Paikrao Ravi Haridas**

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Teaching is challenging, yet rewarding career choice. Teacher must learn to constantly adapt to students' needs. Many times, this means dealing with a variety of problems in the classroom, many of which are all too common occurrences. A good teacher must be able to recognize these common problems, and work to find solutions. Even a small tweak in our teaching methods can help to create a more productive and casual environment for both the teacher and students. The paper deals with the challenges like students' behavior, curriculum, teacher quality, and assessment that the teachers encounter in education system on one side and minimizing the complexities of teaching on the other side. My effort is to focus on teachers' objective to take enough time to explore and learn new ways of teaching that will improve instructional practices to transfer the information to students. By adopting new ways and initiatives almost always take more time and patience, but at last they increase students learning and engagement.

Key Words:- *Cyber Bullying, Parents Involvement, Education System, Public Perception, Cellphones, Bureaucratic Work, Technology and New Ideas, Problem-Based Learning, Case Study, Teaching Practices.*

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- Paikrao Ravi Haridas

Introduction

Teaching is a complex profession depending on the area of working. Teachers encounter many problems in the teaching profession than it has to be. But, of course, there can also be substantial benefits and rewards for those who decide that they want a career in teaching. It is quite true that every job has its own unique set of challenges, and teaching is no different.

The paper throws light on the challenges and problems that teachers encounter today and possible remedies in terms of adopting different techniques and styles to reduce these challenges as well.

Challenges that Teachers Encounter

1. Disrespectful Behaviour, Risk of Lawsuit, and Cyber Bullying

Disrespectful behavior from students is also a problem that teachers usually face. Especially teens of this era show such behavior to their teachers as they see disrespectful attitude towards teachers in different movies or show.

Teachers are sometimes afraid to discipline a student because of risk of law suit if they fail to handle situation correctly. Teachers require support of parents, administration, and boards/ universities in this regards.

By cyber bullying we mean the persistent acts in cyberspace intended to make life unpleasant for another person. It's a world of information through the internet. Social networking sites are a perfect place to display the impulsiveness of children. They find satisfaction in challenging teachers mentally, socially, and physically.

2. Teacher Quality

Teaching is one of the most complicated jobs today. It demands broad knowledge of subject matter, curriculum, and standards; enthusiasm, a caring attitude, and a love of learning;

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knowledge of discipline and classroom management techniques; and a desire to make a difference in the lives of young people. Today teachers have need to cope up with all these factors to give quality teaching for providing a good platform to the students from their academic and career point of view.

3. Assessment

Teachers use assessment to inform instructional decision, motivate, and reward students. They continuously use what students know and how they have come to that understanding by way of reviewing assignments, managing discussions, asking questions, listening to students conversations, answering questions, and observing students as they work in class. It means the teachers are very much busy in conducting different tests to improve the performance of the students.

4. Parent Involvement

Teacher expects parent involvement to support learning process. Practically speaking, either parent squat behind the bush to avoid being seen or they have just theatrical approach when they encounter teachers. For instance, parents prepare the mind set of their children to revise or read repeatedly at home instead of asking them to supervise the addition of fractions.

5. Public Perception

Public has a very poor perception about the kind of education system practiced in India is that a child goes to school to finish his or her schooling, and to college to get degree. Every child who ever been a part of Indian education system is victim of bookish knowledge. Unfortunately, a beautiful image of the teacher is being spoiled in the existed education system.

6. Bureaucratic Work

Today teacher is very much engaged in bureaucratic work. He is struggling with effectively managing time for the many other activities, events, academic responsibilities, mechanical, non- technical work that only utilizes precious teaching time.

7. Technology and New Ideas

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Trying something new can be scary, and it is completely understandable when a teacher says he or she is afraid to do something different. The inherent nature of our educator is to teach and share knowledge by adopting different ways and approaches.

Remedies to minimize Challenges

1. Using, Adapting and Designing Technology

When teachers integrate technology applications into the curriculum, they knowingly or unknowingly are curriculum developers. Regardless of how extensively technology is used (one program or multiple programs) or how state of the art the technology applications being used might be (word processing, laser disc, CD-ROM), any technology integration requires that teachers engage in rethinking, reshifting, and reshaping their curriculum.

2. Classroom Management

It is important as an educator to find a variety of strategies that assist one in overcoming that challenge that class management poses. Creating a strong relationship with students, having lessons that are students-centered, and establishing clear expectations of students all aid in constructing an effective classroom management structure.

3. Need to Enhance Quality Education System and Employment

In this regard I would like to refer the name of ex- president of our India, Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Sir who believed that our education system requires certain reforms, both in terms of spirit and practicality of the knowledge imparted. He believed in a different approach towards the issue of unemployment. He emphasized on a holistic view of the current employment scenario. On the 54th foundation day of IIT Bombay, Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam stated-

‘In the present context, the education system has to be designed in a way that produces large number of employment generators and not just employment seeker’

Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Sir means to say that the introduction of a particular skill set at a younger age will promote entrepreneurship in the country. This kind of education system will generate job creators instead of job seekers. So, enhancing employment by designing curriculum

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on outcome- based education is the only way to change the poor perception of public towards education system and teachers at last.

4. **Problem- Based Learning**

Problem- based learning (PBL) is an instructional method that challenges students to “learn to learn”, working in groups to seek solutions to real world problems. It provides opportunities to examine and try out what you know, discovers what you need to learn, helps to achieve higher performance in teams, improves communications skills, and practice skills as well. That is what the teachers should apply this method to bring transformation in the learning process.

5. **Team- Based Learning**

Team- based learning (TBL) is a fairly new approach to teaching in which students rely on each other for their own learning and are held accountable for coming to class prepared. Research has found that students are more responsible and more engaged when team- based learning is implemented. It is responsibility of an educator to engage such learning to assess the students.

6. **Teaching with Cases**

Case studies present students with real- life problems and enable them to apply what they have learned in the classroom to real- life situations. Cases also encourage students to develop logical problem solving skills and, if used in teams, group interaction skills is developed. Students define problems, analyze possible alternative actions and provide solutions with a rationale for their choices.

7. **Let Students Surf to Success**

Since most colleges and universities are adopting internet-based learning as an option for earning a degree, it only makes sense to introduce students of all ages to the concept early and often. By creating a digital curriculum of approved websites with supporting web-based resources from EBSCO, such as e-books, online databases and digital magazines, a teacher can

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increase student engagement, expose them to new and interesting content, and involve them in online collaborative activities that trigger critical thinking and creativity.

Summing- up

Thus, the innovation in the teaching is must to make the teaching and learning process more interesting. It was rightly quoted by Ignacio ‘Nacho’ Estrada that-

“If a child can’t learn the way we teach, maybe we should teach the way they learn”.

A good teacher should have a passion for teaching and should love teaching, not for making money, prestige, or glory. Beyond doubt, teachers are the great scholars, but they should adopt innovative teaching methods based on the new technology to enhance the students’ experience of learning.

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