

# **Innovative Practices in Higher Education Pedagogy**

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## **Abstract**

This paper discusses the novel methods of teaching and suggest other useful teaching methods that can be attempted in imparting knowledge to the students. Higher education can be defined as education at a college or university where subjects are studied in great detail and at an advanced level. Teaching involves the process of sending and receiving information. The goal of every teacher is to impart knowledge as the way he/she understood it. Any communication methods that serve this purpose without destroying the objective can be considered as innovative methods of teaching. The use of innovative methods in teaching has the potential to empower people, build up governance and energise the effort to achieve a well developed community.

***Keywords : Higher Education, Communication, Innovative Methods, Governance***

## **Introduction**

Pedagogy is the discipline that deals with the theory and practice of teaching and how these influence student learning process. It is the study of being a teacher or the process of education. Pedagogy as a science that explores the processes by which society deliberately can transmit its accumulated knowledge, skills, and values from one generation to another, from one hand, and activate individual person's growth – from another. The major pedagogical question is how to enhance students learning and meet the needs of various types of learners? How to make the students employable?

The term innovation derives from the Latin word *innovatus*, which means "to renew or change". Innovation generally refers to the creation of better or more effective products, processes, technologies, or ideas that are accepted by those in charge of education – teachers, administrators, parents, etc.

Innovative practices in pedagogy may include educational goals set by the student and teacher, strategies or styles of instruction, the educator's own philosophical beliefs, the student's

background knowledge and experience, the curriculum, modern technological devices, monitoring and examination system and others.

The role of teachers has shifted from being a subject matter expert who transmits information to act as a facilitator of student learning in the knowledge world. Modern reforms emphasize teachers develop students' capabilities in problem solving, teamwork, and learning to learn and reflective thinking.

## **Innovative Practices in Pedagogy**

### **Crossover Teaching**

Teaching in informal settings, such as museums, zoos, science and technology centers and clubs. This can link educational content with issues that matter to learners in their lives. These connections work in both directions. Teaching in colleges can be enriched by experiences from everyday life; crossover teaching can be deepened by adding questions and knowledge from the classroom. These connected experiences spark further interest and motivation to learn.

Under this method a teacher propose and discuss a question in the classroom, then students to explore that question during field visit, industrial visit. The students by collecting photos or notes as evidence, then share their findings back in the class to produce individual or group answers. This method enhances the strengths of both environments and supply learners with authentic and engaging opportunities for learning. Since learning occurs over a lifetime, drawing on experiences across multiple settings, the opportunity gets wider opportunity.

### **Peer Teaching**

Peer teaching is a method by which one student instructs another student in material on which the first is an expert and the second is a novice. Students feel more comfortable and open when interacting with a peer. Direct interaction between students promotes active learning. Teaching peers is one of the best ways to develop mastery. Teachers can be facilitators during peer teaching classes and can share their observations and can add value addition to the topics discussed.

## **Adaptive Teaching**

All learners are different. However, most educational presentations and materials are the same for all. This creates a learning problem, by putting a burden on the learner to figure out how to engage with the content. It means that some learners will be bored, others will be lost, and very few are likely to discover paths through the content that result in optimal learning. Adaptive teaching offers a solution to this problem. It uses data about a learner's previous and current learning to create a personalized path through educational content.

Adaptive teaching systems recommend the best places to start new content and when to review old content. They also provide various tools for monitoring one's progress. They build on longstanding learning practices, such as textbook reading, and add a layer of computer-guided support. Data such as time spent reading and self-assessment scores can form a basis for guiding each learner through educational materials. Adaptive teaching can either be applied to classroom activities or in online environments where learners control their own pace of study.

## **Creativity in Teaching**

For the benefit of the learning fraternity, an innovative pedagogical idea is to make use of creative tools that will excite the artistic senses of students.

Subjects like science, maths and history are best taught through creative means when students are prompted to come up with varied ideas. It is this freedom to explore their creative side that helps students to quickly recall the ideas that were discussed in the class as part of lecturing. For example, teacher who teaches environmental studies may ask the student to make a rain water harvesting model.

## **Brainstorming Techniques**

Brainstorming is a potent exercise to infuse excitement into learning. When the students are encouraged to come up with different ideas without the fear of being judged whether their idea is right or wrong, they will find brainstorming sessions engaging and interesting. They will begin to actively participate in such sessions by following certain ground rules that should be in place before the start of the session.

## **Blended Teaching Approach**

Modern technology has indeed changed the face of every sphere that is connected to mankind. Classroom lectures teamed with AV tools, students will benefit in more ways than one. Apart from sharpening their audio and visual skills, they will also start to understand the concepts better and deeper. The common version of blended learning is "flipping," where students learn the material at home using a MOOC<sup>1</sup> platform and then the instructor "guides by the side" in the classroom.

## **Practice School / Internship**

Practice School is a system which aims to link industry experience with university instruction. Under this system, students may be asked to go to various organizations during their final semester. By hands on training in an organization, the students get well accustomed to the routine systems and activities. By utilizing this system, the students will be able to understand the office procedures, etiquettes, intricacies of interaction with customers. This will make them well equipped to get placements. The students also get an opportunity to correlate the work environment and academic environment. They will be well prepared to face professional life.

## **Outbound Training / Activity Based Approach**

The Outbound Training is a technique used to enhance the efficiency of students through Experiential Learning. In other words, taking the students away from the regular class room environment into the outdoors and are assigned some challenging task or activity that needs to be completed by them within a given time frame.

Outbound training aims at improving the interpersonal, communication and leadership skills of the students.

Generally, the outbound training comprises of a series of exercises and games such as treasure hunt, trekking, camping, raft racing, etc. built around the training theme and are carried out by the students in teams.

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<sup>1</sup> Massive Open Online Courses

Effectiveness of Outbound Training includes improved teamwork abilities, enhanced leadership qualities, resolving intra-group or personal conflicts, nourishment of interpersonal skills, intra-group relations and communication skills.

### **Conclusion**

The core objective of teaching is passing on the information or knowledge to the minds of the students. Any method using computers or modifying the existing conventional chalk-talk method are innovative if they ultimately serve the attainment of core objective of teaching.

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