Innovative Teaching and Learning Methodologies for Higher Education Institutions

Mrs.Manju H (Author)

Asst.Professor

Dept. Of Commerce

SDM college of Business Management Mangaluru-575001

Contact No-9448931260

Email-manjushivadham@gmail.com

Mrs.Shashikala K.G (Co-Author)

Asst.Professor

Dept. Of Economics

SDM college of Business Management Mangaluru-575001

Contact No- 9449052726

Email- kala_k5@yahoo.com

Abstract

Education is a very powerful mechanism for social change and transformation. Innovative teaching practice is the only way to enhance the quality of education. Education is an engine for the augmentation and progress of any society. Nowadays information and knowledge be prominent as central and critical input for growth and survival. The role of education is to make sure that while academic staff does teach, what is taught should also be intelligible to students emanating from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and that they hastily become familiar with the expected standards. Conventional assessment methodologies in higher education are progressively more under the spotlight. Teaching and learning are dynamic compliments of knowledge sharing at a time of increasingly rapid technological advancements. Key performance indicator of any educational institution is the quality in education especially in teaching and learning areas. Faculty members are constantly looking for new and effective ways to engage the students in the learning process. Innovative teaching and learning methodologies such as short lecture, simulation, role-playing, portfolio development and problem-based learning (PBL) are valuable in addressing the rapid technological advances and developing workplaces that will be required in the foreseeable future.

Keywords: Innovative teaching and learning, Effective education, simulation, portfolios, problem-based learning.

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INTRODUCTION

Education plays an important role in today's world. In excess of the decades there had been rapid increase in the higher education system. Our education system is geared towards teaching and testing knowledge at every level as divergent to teaching skills .Teaching and learning are dynamic complements of knowledge sharing at a time of increasingly rapid technological advancements. Creativity and innovation is the soul of teaching and learning including in the social sciences discipline .Gone are the days of a Professor delivering a lecture while standing behind a platform in a huge lecture hall in a one-way communication mode where his or her words are words of God, and students sit quietly embracing his or her words, active taking down notes, those days have long been over and they have been replaced with more innovative and creative ways of disseminating, sharing and facilitating knowledge development in students. The intention of education is not just making a student literate, but adds rationale thinking, knowledgeable and self sufficiency. At present, many institutions are stirring towards problem-based learning as a solution to producing graduates who are creative and can think critically, analytically, and solve problems. From the time when knowledge is no longer an end but a means to creating enhanced problem solvers and encourage lifelong learning. Problem-based learning is becoming progressively more popular in educational institutions as a tool to address the inadequacies of traditional teaching. The teacher uses multimedia to transform the contents of the material. It helps the student to represent in a more meaningful way, using different media elements. These media rudiments can be converted into digital form, tailored and customized for the final presentation. The focal point must shift from 'talk and chalk' to how students learn and lecturers need to instill a deep approach to learning by giving students varied innovative stimulating learning environments in order to create a deeper learning. Information is collected purely from secondary sources of information like journals and magazines and literature survey.

Literature review

Braskamp and Ory, (1994) include both teaching and learning in their definition: "creation of situations in which appropriate learning occurs; shaping those situations is what successful teachers have learned to do effectively". Many students fall short to complete their studies at university but may still benefit from skills that are developed while at an institution, especially the confidence they obtain from new life experiences (Quinn et al., 2005). There are a number of traits required of the innovative lecturer which include humility, courage, impartiality, open-mindedness, empathy, enthusiasm, judgment and imagination (Hare, 1993). Learning should be the outcome of lecturer inspiration and facilitation and the students' learning-focused activities in which they are engaged and for which they assume ownership (Biggs, 1999). High-quality learning outcomes are attainable provided that students assume greater control over their own learning (Boud, 1990)van den Broek (2012) along with various aspects of learning suggested that students must acquire the skill to find out the matches between an assignment in hand and former capabilities and knowledge. Research clearly demonstrates the importance to students of feeling valued and respected and the impact this has on the development of a greater sense of belonging and a positive self-concept (Midobuche, 1999).A significant part of valuing students and facilitating their success lies in knowing them. Stromer (1991) argued that to know how to teach students, we must first understand them. Teachers should be capable of adapting curricula and syllabus while remaining within the main theme of subject. They should be innovative in their teaching methods and should adopt different strategies to facilitate every single individual of their classroom according to the capabilities and differences of students (Guri-Rosenblit, Šebková, & Teichler, 2007).

Importance of innovative methods in teaching learning process

Education is very powerful instrument for social change and transformation and innovative teaching practices only way to enhance the quality of our education. The use innovative methods in educational institutions has the potential not only to improve education but also to develop creativity, empower people, strengthen governance and galvanize the effort to achieve the human development goal for the country. It is clear that traditional methodologies of 'talk and chalk' which are teacher centered are not adequate for current students and that effective teaching and learning is not taking place at the desired level. Learning occurs position

when insight is gained, and when the processes are understood, in short when interaction has taken place between the lecturer and the learners and between learners and their peers. It is the chore of a lecturer to impede learning and to motivate, encourage and mentor students to achieve academically with the use of innovative methods and to generally prop up interest in their subject which should go beyond the our walls of a lecturer room. Students require sufficient opportunity to share ideas with the lecturer as well as with their peers and this becomes difficult if nigh impossible especially with large groups of students in one class. The progress of student learning in higher education in the framework of teaching and learning is currently a global cause for concern. Humor strengthens the bond between student and teacher, reduces stress, makes a course more interesting and if relevant to the subject, may even enhance recall of the material. Humor has the capacity to relax people, reduce stress and tension, and thereby create an atmosphere conducive for learning and communication.

Innovative approaches in teaching and learning

- Classroom and course management innovations, including new ways of teaching that promote student engagement, reorganization of a courses that improves students' ability to apply what they learn, course content that clarifies chronological changes in theory, novel coursework that lead to increased student engagement, student publications, and/or activities that bring students from diverse backgrounds together.
- Leadership in novelty that forges innovative paths and inspires others within and beyond the institution, including mentoring colleagues about pioneering approaches, working in administrative and service positions to promote innovation, vigorously participating in committees to promote or create innovation and other pathways that enhance learning.
- Championing latest visions of teaching excellence through the scholarship of teaching and learning, including professional contributions to discussions, presentations, newsletters, publications, and other modes for sharing innovation.

Benefits

- It makes learning fascinating and engaging, especially for younger generations raised on the latest technology.
- It allows for quicker and more efficient delivery of lessons, both in the classroom and at home.
- It reduces the necessitate for textbooks and other printed material, lowering long-term costs incurred by schools and students.
- It makes collaboration easier. Students, teachers, and parents can converse and collaborate more effectively.
- It helps to fabricate technology-based skills, allowing students to learn, early on, to embrace and take advantage of the tools technology offers.

Learning outcomes:

- Qualitative: better knowledge, more effective skills, important competencies, character development, values, dispositions, effective job placement, and job performance; and

- Quantitative: improved learning parameters such as test results, volume of information learned, amount of skills or competencies developed, college enrollment numbers, measured student performance, retention, attrition, graduation rate, number of students in class, cost, and time efficiency.

Modern Teaching Methods – An Evaluation:

Contemporary Teaching Method: The hasty growth of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) has challenged the traditional technique of teaching and changed the educational landscape globally. The teaching method is now alienated into two different ways of thinking on education, one is customary and other one is ICT Method. Across the world, information technology is spectacularly altering the way students; faculty and staff learn and work. Internet-equipped phones, handheld computers, digital cameras, and MP3 players are revolutionizing the college life. As the stipulate for technology continues to augment, colleges and universities are moving all sorts of student services, from laundry monitoring to snack delivery online. Modern Teaching Methods are: A) Multimedia Learning Process: Multimedia, is

the permutation of various digital media types such as text, metaphors, audio and video, into an integrated multi-sensory interactive application or presentation to transmit information to an audience. Traditional educational approaches have resulted in a disparity between what is taught to the students and what the industry requirements. As such, several institutions are moving towards problem based learning as a elucidation to producing graduates who are creative; think critically and logically, to solve problems. B) Mind Map: Mind maps were urbanized in the late 60s by Tony Buzan as a way of helping students make notes that used only key words and images, but mind map can be used by teachers to explicate concepts in an innovative way. They are much faster to make and much easier to remember and assessment because of their visual quality. The nonlinear temperament of mind maps makes it easy to link and cross-reference diverse elements of the map. The key idea behind mind mapping is that we learn and remember more effectively by means of the full range of visual and sensory apparatus at our disposal. Pictures, music, color, even touch and smell play a part in our learning armory will help to International Journal of Current Research and Modern Education (IJCRME) ISSN (Online): 2455 - 5428 (www.rdmodernresearch.com) Volume I, Issue I, 2016 253 recollect information for long time. The key is to build up mind maps that make the majority of these things building on our own creativity, thinking and cross linking between ideas that survive in our own minds. C) Teaching with Sense of Humor – "Humor an Effective Medium of Teaching": Everyone loves a teacher with a communicable sense of humor. When there is a readiness to change, there is hope for progress in any field. Teaching is a challenge. Learning is a challenge. Combining both effectively is a challenge. Being humorous is a challenge. However, laughing is effortless. We are convinced both by occurrence and research that using humor in teaching is a very effective tool for both the teacher and student. Humor strengthens the relationship between student and teacher, reduces pressure, makes a course more fascinating and if pertinent to the subject, may even boost recall of the material. Humor has the knack to relax people, reduce tension, and thereby create an atmosphere conducive for learning and communication. D) Z to A Approach: This approach attempts to elucidate the application part of a particular concept first. The teacher should elucidate the application of a scrupulous concept first and explain the effects of such applications. E) Mnemonics Words- Words –Words Approach: Here the teacher makes it clear to the students he can just go on saying mnemonics or its connected meaning in words. Here he goes on saying only words instead of sentence, and once they come to a basic understanding of

the meaning of a meticulous concept then the teacher will explain in sentences. F) Role Playing and Scenario Analysis Based Teaching: Role playing and scenario analysis is frequently used in organizations that try to analyze a predicament pertaining to the organization, and this is also used in management institutions. There is a fragile balance with technology use in the classroom. Teachers must use technology in a wisely managed way and with a assortment of activities. Numerous activities that lead to student engagement are Google Docs, YouTube videos, Quizlet, Kahoot and the Remind app. These innovative apps and websites can help teachers slot in their students, remind them about imminent assignments and homework, provide visual learning through videos, organize student learning, provide group effort, and provide check-ups on learning through games and online quizzes. The methods like:

- Innovation throughout Play, Role-Play and Games.
- Innovative Teaching and Learning Practices by means of Student Partnerships
- Teaching and Learning Innovations Using contemporary Technologies
- Innovation through Case-based Teaching and Learning
- Innovation through bona fide Learning Environments
- Experiences and Field Work.
- Innovative Teaching and Learning practices with E-learning.

Teaching and Learning are the two consistent processes in imparting superiority education. Learning follows teaching and teaching follows learning. Stronger the teaching learning course of action, stronger the quality education. The purpose of this teaching learning process is to fortify student's overall skills and to get good university results. Thus, the procedure enables students to be industry ready. To strengthen the student learning abilities in innovative teaching learning process, the students are divided into groups. Each faction consists of 10-15 students fortified by a faculty member. The faculty associate interacts with assigned student group at customary intervals and records student details like feedback, attendance, and learning problems. To improve their communication skills and confidence level, they can be provided with a platform to give presentations, participate in group discussions and debates. The training programmes are necessary to impart Logical, Interpersonal, Communication and Technical Skills. Through training, students get revelation to new technologies, thereby securing placements in the best industries. Alliance is an essential life skill in a globalised environment,

the driving force of all enterprises. In an educational institution, this dexterity can best be fostered in the classroom by allowing students to work in groups. Educators are planting the seed of a collaborative mind as early as primary school, where young children are motivated to create, plan, and organize group presentations of stories, skits, or poems. Throughout, teachers facilitate students chalk out their plans, endow with them key points, supervise their work, and build team spirit. These teaching strategies persuade students to use their imagination to dig deep when engaging with the content of the lesson. The students are dynamically involved with the learning and can work with their peers in collaborative groups to showcase their learning.

Students are self-sufficient and problem finders and they will seek guidance from themselves, motivation is intrinsic, they respect individual differences and they are able to study through observation and thereby they can acquire knowledge through the study materials. In recent teaching methods also there are some difficulties to learn and they have to face the challenges in modern competitive world. Using humor in teaching is a very valuable tool for both the teacher and student. Humor strengthens the relationship between student and teacher, reduces stress, and makes a course more interesting. Multimedia helps the student to represent in a more meaningful way, using different media elements. Traditional methodologies of 'talk and chalk' which are teacher centered are not adequate for current students and that effective teaching and learning is not taking place at the desired level. Study shows the number of traits required of the innovative lecturer which include humility, courage, impartiality, open-mindedness, empathy, enthusiasm, judgment and imagination. High-quality erudition outcomes are achievable provided that students assume greater control over their own learning.

The researchers advocate that the teaching would be highly effective if the teacher start to use the current multimedia technologies like usage of computers extensively or some modifications in the conventional mode of teaching. It is alleged that the core objective of teaching is passing on the information or knowledge to the minds of the students. Any technique using computers or modifying the vacant conventional chalk-talk method are innovative if they ultimately serve the attainment of core objective of teaching. Ultimately the teaching people are pleased when they could get in touch with the students community with his ideas and views. So, teaching depends upon triumphant mode of communication and Innovation though we mean the changes that we intend to be included in our medium of communication or even inclusion of

some other elements in communicating information. Take the help of apparatus to stimulate creativity. Include playful games or forms of visual exercises that will excite young minds and imprison their interest. Encourage different ideas; give them the freedom to investigate. Integrate audio-visual materials to supplement textbooks during your sessions. Infusing real-world experiences into your commands will make teaching moments fresh, and enrich classroom learning. Lecturer must facilitate learning and to motivate, egg on and mentor students to achieve academically with the use of innovative methods and to generally promote attention in their subject which should go ahead of the our walls of a lecturer room.

Conclusion:

A new confront is to look for the teaching ways that can address their desires. We can make out that the Information and communication technology has made numerous innovations in the field of teaching and also made a radical change from the old paradigm of teaching and learning. In the new paradigm of learning, the role of student is more imperative than teachers. The concepts of paperless and pen less classroom are budding as an alternative to the old teaching learning method. Currently there is democratization of knowledge and the role of the teacher is changing to that of facilitator. We need to have interactive teaching and this varying role of education is predictable with the introduction of multimedia technology and the spawning of a technologically-savvy generation of youths. To counter to such diverse needs of the students at higher educational level innovative teaching and differentiated strategies and methods are being used by the teachers in their classes.