

Change & Effect of Teaching and Teaching methods: With special reference to Indian Scenario

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ABSTRACT

Teaching methods in India encompass a diverse range of approaches influenced by historical, cultural, and socio-economic factors. Traditional methods, such as rote learning and lecture-based instruction, have been predominant, focusing on memorization and standardized testing. However, recent educational reforms are shifting towards more student-centric approaches. Modern methods include experiential learning, project-based learning, and the integration of technology in classrooms. These innovative approaches aim to enhance critical thinking, creativity, and practical skills among students. Despite these advancements, challenges such as infrastructure limitations, regional disparities, and a need for teacher training persist. The ongoing evolution in teaching methods reflects India's efforts to adapt its educational practices to meet global standards and address the needs of a diverse student population.

Introduction

Teaching methods in India have a rich history rooted in traditional practices, evolving significantly over time with the influence of modern educational theories and technologies. Traditionally, the Indian education system was centred around the **Guru-Shishya** (teacher-disciple) model, where the student lived with the teacher and learned through direct instruction, observation, and practice. This method emphasized personal attention and a holistic approach to education, focusing not only on academic learning but also on the development of character and spiritual values.

As formal schooling systems were introduced, especially under British colonial rule, the lecture-based method became predominant. In this method, the teacher is the primary source of knowledge, and students are expected to listen, take notes, and absorb the information presented. This method is still widely used in India, especially in higher education and in preparing students for standardized exams. The lecture method is efficient for covering a large syllabus and managing large classroom sizes, which are common in India. However, it has been critiqued for being too teacher-centric, limiting student interaction, and not catering to different learning styles.

In primary and secondary education, rote learning has traditionally been a significant aspect of teaching in India. This method involves memorization of facts, formulas, and information, often without a deep understanding of the subject matter. Rote learning is primarily driven by the exam-oriented nature of the Indian education system, where success in examinations is highly valued. While this method can help in quickly recalling information, it is often criticized for stifling creativity, critical thinking, and the ability to apply knowledge in real-world situations.

The shift towards more progressive teaching methods began in the latter half of the 20th century, influenced by educational reforms and global pedagogical trends. There has been a growing emphasis on student-centred learning, where the focus shifts from the teacher to the student. In this approach, students are encouraged to take an active role in their learning process. Methods such as group discussions, project-based learning, and experiential learning have been increasingly incorporated into classrooms. These methods promote collaboration, critical thinking, and practical application of knowledge.

With the advent of technology, digital and blended learning methods have become more prevalent in Indian classrooms. The use of multimedia tools, online resources, and educational software has transformed the way teaching and learning occur. E-learning platforms and smart classrooms are becoming more common, especially in urban areas and higher educational institutions. These tools provide interactive content, instant feedback, and the ability to learn at one's own pace. The COVID-19 pandemic further accelerated the adoption of online learning, making it a critical part of the educational landscape in India.

Another significant trend in Indian education is the integration of activity-based learning, particularly in primary education. This method encourages learning through hands-on activities, experiments, and real-life experiences. It aims to make learning more engaging and relevant to students' everyday lives. Activity-based learning is seen as a way to move away from rote memorization and towards a deeper understanding of concepts.

In rural areas and under-resourced schools, however, the adoption of these modern teaching methods can be slower due to challenges such as lack of infrastructure, trained teachers, and access to technology. In such contexts, traditional methods may still dominate, although efforts are being made by the government and NGOs to improve the quality of education through teacher training programs and the provision of educational materials.

The Indian education system is also seeing a rise in inclusive teaching practices, especially in urban and private schools. These methods aim to cater to diverse student needs, including those with learning disabilities, different linguistic backgrounds, and varying levels of academic ability. Differentiated instruction, where teachers modify their teaching strategies to accommodate individual learning styles and needs, is becoming more recognized and implemented.

The teaching method in India

Teaching methods in India are diverse and continue to evolve. While traditional methods like lectures and rote learning are still prevalent, especially in exam-oriented environments, there is a growing emphasis on student-centred, experiential, and digital learning approaches. The diversity of teaching methods reflects the challenges and opportunities within the Indian education system, as it balances the need to cater to a large and diverse student population with the demands of a rapidly changing world. The future of teaching in India is likely to see further integration of technology, a greater focus on critical thinking and creativity, and continued efforts to make education more inclusive and accessible to all.

The teaching methods have evolved significantly, transitioning from traditional approaches to more modern, technology-driven methods. Here is a comparison between the old and new teaching methods:

Old Teaching Methods:

1. Teacher-Centric Learning:

Traditional teaching methods in India were largely teacher-centric, where the teacher was the primary source of knowledge. The focus was on rote learning and memorization. This method ensured that students mastered foundational knowledge and discipline. It also allowed teachers to cover a broad syllabus efficiently. In other hand This approach often limited critical thinking and creativity. Students were less encouraged to question or engage in discussions, leading to passive learning.

2. Chalk-and-Talk:

The predominant method was the "chalk-and-talk" approach, where teachers would lecture while writing key

points on a blackboard. It was a straightforward and cost-effective way to deliver information to a large group of students. In other hand This method was less interactive and often monotonous, making it difficult for students to stay engaged or develop a deep understanding of the material.

3. Emphasis on Exams:

The education system was heavily focused on exams and assessments, with success measured primarily through scores. It provided clear benchmarks for academic achievement. In other hand It created immense pressure on students, often leading to stress and burnout. The emphasis on exams also discouraged holistic learning and skill development.

New Teaching Methods:

1. Student-Centric Learning:

Modern teaching methods place the student at the centre of the learning process. This includes personalized learning experiences that cater to the individual needs and interests of students. It encourages active participation, critical thinking, and problem-solving. Students are more engaged and motivated to learn. In other hand Implementing student-centric learning can be resource-intensive and requires well-trained teachers who can adapt to different learning styles.

2. Use of Technology:

The integration of digital tools like smart boards, e-learning platforms, and multimedia resources has transformed classrooms into interactive learning environments. In positive manner Technology enhances accessibility to a wide range of learning materials and allows for interactive and visual learning, which can improve retention and understanding. In other hand Over-reliance on technology can sometimes distract students and widen the digital divide, particularly in rural areas with limited access to digital infrastructure.

3. Experiential Learning:

Modern methods emphasize experiential learning, including project-based learning, group work, and real-world problem-solving activities. This approach helps students apply theoretical knowledge to practical situations, fostering deeper understanding and skill development. In other hand. It can be challenging to assess experiential learning objectively, and it may require more time and resources than traditional methods.

4. Continuous Assessment:

Instead of focusing solely on final exams, new methods use continuous assessment techniques like quizzes, presentations, and group projects. Continuous assessment provides a more comprehensive evaluation of a student's abilities and reduces exam-related stress. In other hand It may increase the workload for both students and teachers and can sometimes lead to inconsistent grading standards.

While old teaching methods in India were effective in imparting basic knowledge and discipline, they often lacked the engagement and critical thinking required in today's rapidly changing world. New teaching methods, with their focus on student engagement, technology integration, and continuous assessment, aim to create a more holistic and adaptable learning environment. However, these methods also come with challenges, such as resource requirements and ensuring equal access to technology across diverse regions

Recent trends in teaching Library Science in India are driven by the need to adapt to evolving information management practices and technology integration. a key trend include:

Technology Integration: There is a growing emphasis on integrating emerging technologies like Artificial Intelligence (AI), Internet of Things (IoT), and Big Data into the curriculum. These technologies are transforming how information is managed and accessed, making it essential for library science students to gain expertise in these areas. Courses are increasingly including modules on digital libraries, data management, and AI-driven information retrieval systems. Integrating technology into the teaching of Library Science offers a range of advantages and disadvantages for students.

Advantages:

- Enhanced Learning Experience:** Technology allows for interactive and engaging learning environments. Tools like digital libraries, virtual reality, and online databases provide students with hands-on experience in managing and retrieving information, making learning more practical and immersive.

2. **Access to Global Resources:** Through online platforms and digital libraries, students can access a vast array of resources beyond what is available in their physical library. This exposure to global resources enriches their knowledge and broadens their perspective.
3. **Flexible Learning:** E-learning platforms and digital tools enable students to learn at their own pace, which is particularly beneficial for distance learners or those who need to balance studies with other responsibilities. Recorded lectures, online tutorials, and discussion forums are examples of how technology facilitates flexible learning.
4. **Skill Development:** Learning to use advanced information technologies prepares students for modern library and information science roles, where digital literacy and proficiency with technology are increasingly crucial. This makes them more competitive in the job market.

Disadvantages:

1. **Digital Divide:** Not all students have equal access to the necessary technology or the internet, leading to disparities in learning opportunities. This digital divide can result in some students falling behind their peers.
2. **Over-reliance on Technology:** An overemphasis on technology can lead to a reduced focus on traditional library skills such as cataloguing, critical thinking, and the ethical management of information. This might result in a workforce less equipped to handle non-digital library environments.
3. **Technical Challenges:** Students may face difficulties in accessing or using certain technologies, which can hinder their learning. Issues such as software glitches, cybersecurity concerns, and the need for continuous updates can disrupt the learning process.
4. **Reduction in Interpersonal Skills:** With the increased use of digital tools, there is a risk that students may have fewer opportunities to develop interpersonal skills, which are essential for roles that involve user interaction and public service in libraries.

Conclusion

Overall, while technology integration in teaching Library Science offers significant benefits in terms of access and skill development, it also requires careful management to avoid exacerbating inequalities and ensuring a balanced education that includes both digital and traditional library competencies. Modern library science education is placing greater importance on enhancing user engagement through tools like augmented reality, gamification, and user-focused interfaces. These innovations help libraries remain relevant by offering interactive and personalized experiences to users, aligning with global trends in library services. There is a significant shift towards offering Library Science programs through online and distance education modes. This approach not only increases accessibility for students across the country but also aligns with the broader digital transformation in education. Enrolment in Library Science programs in India shows considerable diversity across states. For example, Tamil Nadu is leading in the number of graduates, with a higher proportion of female students enrolled. The gender ratio and state-wise distribution reflect broader socio-economic patterns and the demand for library science professionals across different regions. Academic institutions are increasingly focusing on research in Library and Information Science (LIS), promoting a deeper understanding of contemporary challenges in information management. This includes studies on user behaviour, digital archiving, and the role of libraries in supporting social justice and community engagement. These trends indicate a dynamic and evolving field that is responding to both technological advancements and societal needs, positioning Library Science education in India to meet future demands effectively.

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