



INNOVATIVE TEACHING METHODS IN HIGHER EDUCATION

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ABSTRACT:

Education plays a very crucial role in the development of any country or society. In the modern age, there are many changes in teaching-learning methods as traditional methods are becoming outdated and new approaches are being adopted for skill development and employability. New technologies are accommodating modifications in pedagogy and making teaching more effective globally (Khaimar). Education is a robust tool for social change, and innovative teaching practices are essential for improving educational quality.

Teachers have multiple responsibilities such as classroom management, student engagement, and use of instructional technologies (Kaur). To make learning more effective, teachers must adopt modern tools such as smart classrooms, virtual libraries, project-based learning, and AI, which enhance critical thinking, creativity, and real-world skills (Khaimar; Moore & Kearsley, 2011).

Keywords: *Innovative, Crucial, Virtual, Pursuits, Global.*

INTRODUCTION :

The term “innovation” originates from the Latin *innovare*, meaning to introduce something new. Today, innovation refers to improving existing systems for better outcomes. Traditional teaching methods focus on teacher-centered approaches such as lectures, rote learning, and standardized testing (Vyas). Teachers play a dominant role, while students passively receive knowledge. Conventional teaching methods focus on teacher centered approach with direct instruction stressing on fundamental skills through methods like lectures, textbook readings, rote memorization, emphasizing discipline repetition and standardized to build fundamental knowledgekey techniques include drill and practice, chalk, black board and standardized tests.

Research shows that teacher-student interactive methods are more effective than purely teacher-centered approaches. While direct instruction helps in knowledge transfer, it is insufficient for

developing creativity and problem-solving skills (Ganyaupfu, 2013).

Educationists around the globe are advocating for innovating and improving the existing learning methods, and also for experimenting with new teaching styles. The use of innovative teaching methods by teachers helps to enhance the performance of students of diversity (Naz & Murad, 2017). . Chanting and repeating texts helped to preserve huge amount of knowledge. The traditional teaching method has vast scope for providing active learning . The active learning environment is basically on account of students interacting.

NEP 2020 has brought so many modifications in higher education in India. This policy causes to make education more resilientpractical and advantageous for students. Under the norms of NEP students are provided freedom to select subjects from different streams, it means there

is no drastic detachment between arts, commerce and science

In ancient India, the Gurukul system emphasized teacher-centered learning with moral and spiritual development. Knowledge was transmitted through oral methods such as recitation and repetition (Vyas). However, modern education demands interactive and skill-based approaches.

Innovative teaching methods help students deal with real-world challenges and enhance employability (Senthilkumar & Kannappa, 2017).

NEP 2020 and Educational Reform

The National Education Policy (2020) has introduced major reforms in Indian education, making it more flexible, skill-based, and multidisciplinary. It emphasizes competency-based learning and practical knowledge (American Institute for Research, 2018).

Students are given the freedom to choose subjects across streams, enhancing their skills and career opportunities. The policy also introduces multiple entry and exit options, internships, and research-based learning. Blended learning, combining online and offline modes, is also encouraged (Moore & Kearsley, 2011). The policy promotes critical thinking, analytical skills, and reduces dependence on rote learning.

Changing Nature of Teaching and Learning

Education has evolved significantly due to rapid technological advancements. Teaching is no longer limited to lectures; instead, it involves interactive and creative methods.

Students today prefer practical, relevant, and skill-oriented learning. Understanding the learning process helps teachers identify student difficulties and improve outcomes (Park & Reuter-Lorenz, 2009).

The aim of innovative teaching is to ensure active participation of all students, making learning more effective and engaging.

Innovative Teaching Methods

Innovative teaching plays a key role in improving education quality and promoting social transformation (Khaimar). **Innovative teaching methods**– Education is very robust instrument for social change and transformation and innovative teaching practice is only way to increase the quality of our education. The use of innovative methods in educational institutions has the potential not only to improve education but also to develop creativity empower people and achieve the goal for nation

- **Technology-based learning:** Enhances engagement and media literacy (Khaimar 2015)
- **Collaborative teaching:** Encourages teamwork and shared learning (Kaur)
- **Case study method:** Develops critical thinking and problem-solving skills (Kaur)
- **Interactive boards and tools:** Improve understanding and engagement

Modern classrooms are diverse, with students bringing varied experiences and perspectives. These learners require flexible and inclusive teaching approaches (Cross, 1980; Jarvis, 2010).

Important reform in school education

- New 5+3+3+4 structure changes 10+2 focusing on early childhood care. Foundational middle stages emphasis with middle learning
- Multilingualism – mother tongue/ regional language introduction till grade 5 at least to make conceptual understanding.
- Holistic and skill based - It shifts from rote learning from competency based, integrating arts sports and life skills
- Assessment reform board exam will test core concepts and application.
- Higher education reform – There should be huge reform in higher education to make more flexible and useful.

Key Innovative Methods

- **Project-Based Learning:** Students solve real-world problems (Senthilkumar & Kannappa, 2017)
- **Blended Learning:** Combines online and face-to-face learning (Moore & Kearsley, 2011)
- **Flipped Classroom:** Students learn at home and apply knowledge in class (Khaimar 2015)
- **Inquiry-Based Learning:** Encourages questioning and exploration (Kaur)

Support Systems in Higher Education

Academic support services such as writing centers and skill workshops help students bridge learning gaps. Career counseling helps learners apply education to professional growth (Jarvis, 2010). Mature learners bring valuable life experiences and motivation, enriching the learning environment (Cross, 1980).

CONCLUSION :

In the modern educational landscape, innovative teaching methods are essential for empowering learners. These methods enhance creativity, critical thinking, and employability. Educational institutions must adopt flexible and inclusive approaches to meet the needs of diverse learners. In the current emerging landscape of higher education, it is compulsory to employ innovative teaching methods to empower modern learners. In recent we see that innovative teaching method is very useful to learners. The unique strength that mature learners bring to the classroom including their life experiences, motivation and diverse perspectives can prominently enrich the education experience for all students. So it's very important for educational institutions to adapt innovative teaching methods.

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