

Editorial

Principles of Effective Teaching and Learning

Teaching may be defined as interaction between teacher and students under teacher's responsibility in order to bring about expected changes in the students' behaviour. Purpose of teaching is to facilitate fruitful learning. Teaching becomes more effective when it is stimulating and encouraging for the students and information presented in structured and well-organized form. It helps students to achieve the goal of the session and guide students to become a self-directed learner.

Learning is change of behaviour in terms of knowledge, skill and attitude. Learning process become effective if objectives are clearly understood by the students and when there is scope of active participation. Specific timely feedback is essential to promote better learning.

In Schema model, learning process has got 3 steps

Schema activation

Before presenting new information in the class, teacher needs to activate existing knowledge which is relevant to the new information. Teacher can do it by asking questions, reviewing the previous knowledge.

Schema construction

This process enables students to assimilate new knowledge on the base of previous knowledge.

Schema refinement

Towards the end of the session, teacher should review the key points and summarize the information that has been presented. Students can re-examine the nature of the knowledge and refine it as necessary. Summarization helps in long time memorization of the presented information.

Available evidence showed that student adopt two approaches in their ways of learning knowns as surface approach and deep approach.

Surface approach is concerned with learning the words but not the meaning behind it. In this type of superficial learning the student swallow the information passively and regurgitate the facts during examination. Students adopting surface approach will not be able to gain full understanding of a concept or overview a topic. It is not possible for him to grasp the main ideas.

Deep approach is more concerned with comprehending the ideas behind the words. It is an active process. Students following deep approach will be able to integrate knowledge and can apply gained knowledge in solving problems in his field of work which is beyond classroom territory. This approach emphasizes understanding rather than memorization resulting in long time retention of knowledge and guide the learner to become a lifelong learner.

Teaching methodologies and assessment system play important roles in adopting learning approaches.

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