

TRANSFORMING EDUCATION THROUGH COMPETENCY - BASED TEACHING: A TWENTY - FIRST CENTURY PERSPECTIVE

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Abstract

Teachers nowadays are responsible for much more than just passing on information. They need to encourage students to take responsibility for the school's objectives, nurture thinking critically and solving problems skills, and guarantee that they are computer literate. Also, they need to include communities and families in the educational process by encouraging kids to develop twenty - first - century abilities like creativity, teamwork, and critical thinking and communication and integrating these talents into key topics. Teachers must evaluate their instructional strategies and use authentic assessments that show student progress and promote lifelong learning if they are to educate pupils for a complicated and ever-changing environment. Schools must adapt their curriculum to stay up with technological changes. Parents, teachers, educational institutions, politicians, and businesses must all continuously evaluate the system of education and implement new approaches. The importance of competency-based education and the educator's duty to prepare students for the digital age are emphasised. With the fast advancement of technology and the connectivity of people, businesses, and cultures throughout the globe, educators must provide students with the information and skills they need to flourish in a world that is changing quickly.

Key Words: 21st century, Competency-Based teaching, Blended Teaching, digital literacy

Introduction

India is regarded as one of the best nations for students by the education sector. Although education is the passing on of skills and knowledge from one person to another, learning is the basic process of acquiring knowledge and information. Our lives have been profoundly affected by the introduction of contemporary technology advancements, and this extends to how we connect, work, study, and educate. As a direct result of these changes, new terms like "technology natives," "virtual immigrants," and "digital divide" have been created. The 21st century has introduced new teaching techniques that adapt to varied learning preferences, constantly and for every subject, yet it is doubtful whether learning will ever take place in the same manner that it does today.

It's a point of discussion these days to define what a "teacher of the twenty-first century" is. Good pupils are produced in large part by excellent professors. The achievement of a student is influenced by a variety of distinctive elements. But, individuals who are informed and driven make the best instructors. So, it is crucial that we pay attention to how we engage and support both beginning and seasoned instructors. Modern technology developments have changed how we educate ourselves and learn. Due to its well-regarded education sector, India has become a preferred choice for students. Learning is the process of obtaining information and knowledge, while education is the dissemination of information and knowledge. Terminologies like "technology natives," "virtual immigrants," and "digital divide" have emerged as a result of the development of technology. These adjustments have resulted in

innovative teaching strategies that accommodate a range of learning styles and guarantee that students may study anytime, anyplace.

Being a "teacher of the twenty-first century" is a notion that is now being discussed. Several variables influence pupils' achievement in school. Nonetheless, effective instructors play a critical role in developing good pupils. Those who are knowledgeable and motivated make the best instructors. As a result, it's crucial to concentrate on how we engage and nurture both beginning and seasoned instructors.

The traditional perception of the guru as an unfailing source of wisdom and ability has changed in India. This change is a reflection of the general tendency worldwide to educate kids for an uncertain and changing future. The idea of accountability is essential in figuring out if someone is answerable for their conduct. Others predict that education will change into a self-directed process where students use cutting-edge technology to improve their current talents and learn new ones. The emergence of anytime, everywhere networking is expected to revolutionize education, according to computer aficionados. There are worries that this strategy would make professors, textbooks, and courses outdated. While technology may undoubtedly support the learning process, it's important to recognise the efforts of teachers who develop conceptual understanding and intellectual courses.

Education shouldn't be limited to a collection of unrelated tasks where students just pick up knowledge and abilities. The emphasis should be on transdisciplinary knowledge and skills via meaningful interactions between instructors and students. Updates to the curriculum should be made with feedback from the community, academy, and market. The development of intellectual curricula and the provision of intellectual coaching are crucial components of education that technology cannot take the place of. Nevertheless, by fostering learning communities that go beyond conventional classroom education, technology may improve communication and broaden the learning environment. These networks provide educators, students, and professionals access to one another, fostering a more all-encompassing and thorough educational process.

A further indication of the shifting educational paradigm is the move towards project-based learning, learner-driven learning, and lifelong learning. No longer are students required to just remember facts and recite them verbatim during tests.

It is crucial to remember that face-to-face interactions between professors and pupils should not be replaced by technology. Although technology may undoubtedly support learning, it cannot take the place of the interpersonal ties and connections that are crucial to good teaching and learning.

The necessity to educate students for an uncertain and quickly changing future is reflected in the shifting educational paradigm in India and throughout the globe. Technology may undoubtedly help with this process, but it shouldn't take the place of educators, who play a crucial role in developing intellectual curricula and offering intellectual coaching. The secret to preparing kids for the problems of the future is a comprehensive approach to education that incorporates meaningful interactions between instructors and students and promotes project-based learning and lifetime learning.

Main aim of 21st century Education

Children nowadays need to get a modern education that places a strong emphasis on the development of their critical thinking, decision-making, and facilitation skills. Even if

students are unsure of how to approach the issues of the real world, this form of education is crucial for equipping them to do so. Students must also develop the ability to get along with people from different origins and lifestyles, since this is an essential skill in today's society. In order to do this, modern education must emphasise diversity and educate pupils about social mores, cultural norms, and moral principles.

Traditional academic specialities, in which students were required to follow a certain topic of study and specialise in it, are a thing of the past. Interdisciplinary learning, where students may study a range of courses and gain knowledge across many sectors, is the centre of the modern educational environment. With this strategy, they may get a wider perspective and adjust to the shifting needs of the contemporary world. Modern education aspires to create well-rounded people who have a variety of knowledge and abilities that equip them for the difficulties of the real world. It shifts the emphasis away from a tight concentration on conventional academic disciplines and places an emphasis instead on facilitation, critical thinking, decision-making, inclusion, and interdisciplinary learning.

Future-oriented education must focus on skills

Education includes a variety of skills and viewpoints that are essential for success in a variety of entrepreneurship-related disciplines, and it goes beyond just conveying core information. Entrepreneurship used to be thought of as the process of starting new businesses, but it has now expanded to include venture management and scaling. The future of education is expected to put an emphasis on peer learning, personalised learning, and lower class sizes that allow for vibrant interactions in order to prepare students for these many difficulties. The dynamic between teachers and students is expected to shift significantly as more schools use flipped classroom strategies.

The focus of contemporary education is on applying knowledge in real-world contexts rather than the memorization of material from textbooks. In response to this demand, the idea of "Education 4.0" has evolved, putting an emphasis on adaptable learning routes, the acquisition of life skills, student-centered teaching strategies, and the use of technology. Moreover, critical and analytical thinking are crucial components of contemporary education since they are necessary for success in the labour market.

The ability to overcome challenges and apply information in secure settings may be developed in pupils via project-based learning, field excursions, and other activities. Modern educational techniques may assist pupils in moving from just knowing something to acting on it by bridging the theory-practice divide. Using this strategy, the learning curve may be greatly sped up, and cognition and behaviour can both noticeably advance. Students who acquire these traits will thus be better equipped to succeed in a range of professions and more likely to find rewarding employment in the future.

Modern education attempts to nurture students' personal development and extend their viewpoints in addition to developing their practical knowledge and abilities. This entails learning practical skills that are essential for success in any sector, such as good communication, problem-solving, and flexibility. Modern educational approaches support students in developing a profound awareness of themselves and their surroundings by fostering critical thinking and reflection. Collaboration, creativity, and invention are heavily emphasised in current educational approaches to help students reach these objectives. Students may acquire the knowledge and dispositions necessary to prosper in a world that is changing quickly by collaborating in teams and investigating novel concepts. In addition to

encouraging diversity, inclusion, and social responsibility, this collaborative approach makes sure that students are prepared to take on the complicated issues of the 21st century.

Ultimately, a comprehensive, student-centered approach that prioritises transferable skills, personal development, and social responsibility will likely define the future of education. Teachers may assist students in acquiring the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary to thrive in any area as well as to have a good influence on their communities and the wider world by adopting new technology, flexible learning pathways, and creative teaching techniques.

Competency-Based teaching

The 1970s saw a rise in the use of competency-based education (CBE), notably in secondary and postsecondary educational settings. Its main objective was to specify, acquire, and display the competences required for a certain job or profession. A competency-based programme has three basic parts: defining skills, creating standards for performance levels, and evaluating competencies. In this approach, competences are the abilities, attitudes, and knowledge needed to do a certain activity. Nowadays, many colleges and institutions include using a library as one of the fundamental skills, and students are taught how to utilise the facilities and resources available to them to find books on a variety of subjects.

The importance placed on the validity of the educational process and the actual application of information and skills is one of the main characteristics of CBE. In order to succeed in today's culture and industry, it is important to have higher-order thinking skills, cross-disciplinary thinking, and problem-solving approaches. Students may utilise CBE to show their competence at both the national and international levels.

There are several benefits of incorporating CBE into educational programmes. It makes sure that students can apply their knowledge and abilities in real-world settings and that they develop the particular competences necessary for their chosen jobs or professions. Also, this method challenges pupils to think critically and creatively, which might aid in the development of these skills. Moreover, CBE may be tailored to match the requirements of specific learners, enabling them to advance at their own speed and show their competency in a number of ways.

Overall, CBE provides a promising approach to education that places an emphasis on the use of knowledge and skills in real-world situations. Teachers may make sure that students are ready for their chosen occupations and can successfully contribute to society by concentrating on certain abilities and providing clear standards for performance.

Linking Learning and Teaching Styles

If a student's learning style and the educational framework are complementary, it is expected that they would learn more effectively.

For instance, giving visual information to someone who learns visually could be helpful.

To get better marks for their individual courses, instructors' teaching strategies and students' learning styles must be coordinated. Its congruence enables the student to foresee the teacher's expectations for the required responses. The student, who is analytical by nature, wants to consider and consider throughout exams. Before responding to a question, a teacher must evaluate their teaching strategy. Nonetheless, there may sometimes be a disconnect

between the preferred learning styles of students and their professors. I can now add and accept new learning preferences as a result.

Blended Teaching

Blended learning gives students a range of opportunities to demonstrate their talents while appealing to different learning styles. It also helps students develop the independent learning and self-directed learning skills that are necessary for lifelong learners. Online resources are being added to students' toolkits in addition to notebooks, physical tasks, and "standing and delivering" presentations in class. This toolkit helps students become more prepared for postsecondary study and the workforce. By extending education and training beyond the walls of the conventional classroom, blended learning fosters the development of critical thinking, cooperation, teamwork, and global awareness.

For blended learning to be successful, educators must create a strategy that integrates the advantages of face-to-face and online learning environments while also addressing a range of academic and professional learning goals, varied student capacities, and institutional needs. This study focuses on instructors' impressions of mixed teaching, despite the fact that there has been significant research on students' viewpoints of blended learning. Two areas for improvement emerged from an examination of the literature:

- Teacher perceptions of blended learning;
- Shifting teacher responsibilities, particularly in curriculum design and methodology.

Digital Literacy: The most important skill in the twenty-first century is digital literacy. Only people who are computer savvy may apply for the majority of employment openings. Teachers in the modern educational system need to be digital aware. Although though technology will never completely replace instructors, a teacher who is computer literate may succeed in the current climate. Digital literacy is a crucial life skill in today's expanding and international educational society. In order to properly integrate digital technology in the classroom and across the school, a teacher must be proficient in a few critical areas. If educators make the most of ICTs and digital technology, students will undoubtedly profit. It's time to establish the foundation for the rapidly expanding global educational society of future. The study examined the advantages and disadvantages of digital learning as well as the function of parents in the current multiethnic educational system.

Education in India: The beautiful profession of teaching shapes a person's personality, potential, and future. The highest accolade a teacher can get is having a positive impact on students' learning. Teaching is more challenging and complicated than ever in today's world. Respect, disagreement, and rudeness are on the increase while student tolerance declines. The abundance of information sources available today, such as the internet, television, violent movies, and other sources, as well as stress, rivalry, and other factors. It's becoming more and more clear that modern instructors are quite different from teachers of the past as education advances thanks to technology. Learning is facilitated by the academics. A teacher in the twenty-first century puts the needs of the students first by helping them to develop skills like effective cooperation, effective communication, and higher order thinking. Teachers must develop wholly original, fresh approaches to teaching. Together with teaching, a teacher's duties also include mentoring and facilitation. A range of teaching tactics assisted by technology must be used to engage students in their studies and convey information.

21 St Century Teacher Characters

Instructors in the 21st century must consider their students' needs and prepare them for future problems. Teachers are regarded to have tough and demanding occupations. A high-quality

professional teacher development programme is crucial for the formation of a high-calibre professional teaching force. The development programme must incorporate the usage of technology in the educational setting.

1. Student classrooms and individualised instruction: Because students have access to all information, there is no need to lecture them or provide them with materials that are designed to be appropriate for all students. Delivering individualised training is not only possible but desired since each student is unique and has distinct requirements, objectives, and personalities. When given the freedom to make their own decisions, students take responsibility for their education, develop stronger intrinsic motivation, and put in more effort—a combination that maximises learning results.

2. Students as creators: Despite having access to cutting-edge technology nowadays, many students still only utilise it for calling, texting, and communicating to their loved ones. While they are now referred to as "digital natives," many students are not at ease creating digital material. They have sophisticated technology at their disposal that can be used to create blog, graphics, novels, how-to video, and lessons, to name a few, yet they are nevertheless required to switch it off and complete worksheets and handouts in many classes. Sadly, these papers sometimes get thrown out after being graded. Many students aren't even interested in finishing them, much alone keeping them or using them again in the future. The blogs, videos, or digital stories that students create may be stunning and creative, and they may be proud of them and want to show them off to others.

3. Invest in new technologies: In order to provide pupils options, it is important to possess one's own practical knowledge and ability. It is not possible to learn a tool once and for all since technology is always evolving. The good news is that everyone can get started right away since both new and seasoned educators are unfamiliar with new technology.

4. Tour the world: Modern technology makes it easy to have a personal understanding of various cultures and people. Textbooks are still helpful, of course, but nothing compares to actually speaking with individuals who are from other cultures and learning their languages and communication techniques.

5. Use your smart phone to its full potential: When students are encouraged to see their technology as helpful tools that promote learning rather than as distractions, they start to utilise their devices as such. In my early years of teaching, I recall prohibiting mobile phones and making an effort to individually explain every new vocabulary word and provide each student with an answer—methods I would never consider using today.

6. Become paperless: Another crucial aspect of becoming paperless is leveraging technology to arrange educational materials and activities on one's own website. This may enhance students' learning experiences. By exchanging links and having online discussions in place of a steady stream of paper, students may access and disseminate course material in a more organised way.

7. Work together: Technology helps instructors and students work together. The creation of digital tools, presentations, and projects in collaboration with other instructors and students will reflect real-world experiences beyond the classroom. Working together should go beyond emailing papers or making PowerPoint presentations. Since they are seldom

developed beyond a chat or a written plan, many excellent ideas are lost. Global collaboration has the potential to drastically alter our lives.

8. Take part in Twitter chats: Attending Twitter chats is the most affordable and effective approach to promote one's professional development, share knowledge, and keep up with industry trends and advancements. Amazing speeches are given every day, and we can now meet people and build professional networks without having to attend conferences, which helps us advance professionally and learn more.

9. Connect: Find others who are interested in the same things you are. Once again, modern technology allows us to communicate with anybody, anywhere, at any time. Do you have reservations about a colleague or friend? Just follow, join, inquire of, or notify someone on social media to connect.

10. Project-based learning: Considering that today's kids have access to real resources online, professionals everywhere, and friends who are studying the same topic elsewhere, using textbooks to instruct them is rather antiquated. Students nowadays should develop their own driving questions, do independent research, speak with experts, and present final projects while using the available technologies. They only need direction from their teacher.

11. Leave a positive digital footprint: Today's educators should be able to use social media responsibly, create resources that can be shared, and produce and disseminate important information. Despite the fact that educators themselves have a desire to utilise social media to share their ideas and photographs, we cannot expect our students to behave properly online if we don't ourselves. Being professional both offline and online may help you establish a solid online presence and provide your pupils with a positive role model.

12. Keep learning: When new tools and technologies are developed, it is essential to keep learning and adjusting.

Conclusion

A technological revolution has affected every facet of civilisation. Due to the quick advancements in technology and the changing values of pupils, instructors are working in a period of transition. As long as they use these tools deliberately and analytically, teachers may be ready to use them. For education to be at its greatest level, technology must be used. To help pre-service teachers learn more effectively, the courses that address teaching psychology must be incorporated in their growth phases. To effectively nurture young children, they should get their education in a pleasant and accepting environment. Teachers in the making should be confident in their ability to communicate their subject matter. A teacher who is an expert in the subject matter they are teaching will never forget it. The instructors of today must be competent and furnished with cutting-edge resources and techniques. Technology utilisation is required for effective learning.

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