

## MODERN TEACHING AND LEARNING METHODS

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### ABSTRACT

Education is the most potent weapon to dispel the darkness of ignorance. In this rapidly changing world, we need excellent teaching methods those can bring an overall change in the teaching-learning process, but unfortunately, teaching methods remain almost same, hammering the output of learning. The use of innovative methods in educational institutions has the potential not only to improve education, but also to empower people, strengthen governance and galvanize the effort to achieve the human development goal for the country. We can adopt many strategies which include multimedia-based learning, mind-maps, use of humour, the concept of flipped class-rooms, role-playing and scenario analysis. These methods can replace traditional methods of teaching. These newer methods yield more positive results, putting more thrust on active learning, where students freely and openly interact with one another and participate with more eagerness and enthusiasm. Such methods are the dire necessity of the period to culminate desirable results.

**KEYWORDS:** Education, Teaching-Learning Process, Strategy, Innovative Methods.

### INTRODUCTION

Education is the most compelling weapon to realize our dreams and to change them into reality. With the advent of technology and modernization, many changes took place those really changed the very fabric or the structure of the society. New discoveries and inventions have opened new vistas for the humans to explore the world. Hence, to realize all this, we need excellent methods of teaching. Earlier methods of teaching have become obsolete, that is why, we need new and fresh methods of teaching to get desirable results. Innovative teaching is the dire necessity of the time. Modern learners need

modern techniques and methods, for that reason, we cannot rely upon the old-fashioned methods. Innovative methods are necessary for all teachers in order to meet the educational needs of the new pupils. Today, we need practical learning, a learning that was well sought after by Chinese philosopher Confucius.

There are numerous methods and techniques that can foster the process of learning. These methods are not only innovative but also learner friendly. Such methods can be of great appeal and interest. Following are the few methods that can be handy in teaching-learning process:

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## MIND MAP

A **mind map** is a diagram used to visually organize information. A mind map is hierarchical and shows relationships among pieces of the whole.<sup>1</sup>

At present times, a mind map is a dominant graphic technique which comes out with a universal key that has the potential to unlock the brain. It improves overall skills of the students in a single, unique and dominant way. This technique helps the brain to function in number of ways. In the late 60s, Tony Buzan developed mind maps as a way of helping students make notes that used only key words and images, but in the time to come mind maps are used by teachers to explain concepts in an innovative way. They can be made with much ease and are much quicker to make and to retain and recall because of their visual appeal. Mind map gives

freedom to the learner to use cross-references related to different elements of the map. A Mind Map can be utilized in most of the aspects of the life where better knowledge and candid thinking are required to ameliorate human performance. Usually, a mind map is a diagram used to organize information visually.

A mind map is hierarchical and shows relationships among pieces of the whole. It is often created around a single concept, drawn as an image in the center of a blank page, to which associated representations of ideas such as images, words and parts of words are added. Major ideas are connected directly to the central concept, and other ideas branch out from those. Mind maps can be drawn by hand, either as "rough notes" during a lecture, meeting or planning session, for example, or as higher quality pictures when more time is available.<sup>2</sup>

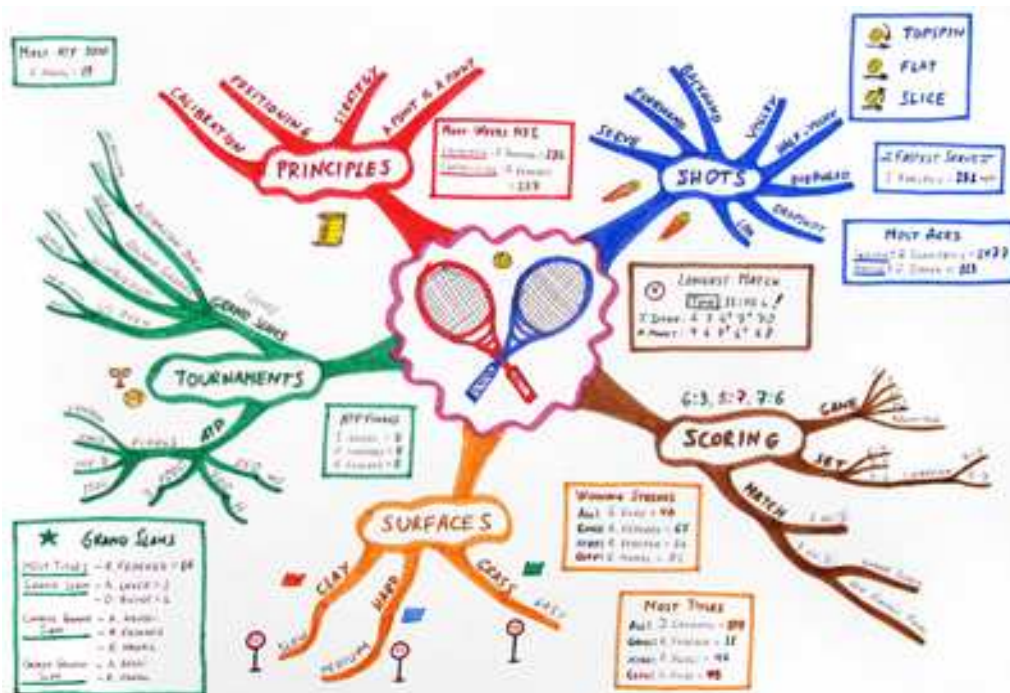


Figure 1.A mind map about tennis (Wikipedia)

## TEACHING WITH SENSE OF HUMOUR – “HUMOUR AN EFFECTIVE MEDIUM OF TEACHING”

These days the burden of syllabus is crushing the students. Students start to feel awkward and also

they feel uneasiness while learning or grasping such a vast ocean of knowledge. One after another lecture they have to go with the same monotonous process. No matter how efficient is the teacher, but his teaching becomes dull owing to aforementioned reason. So the question arises

how to make teaching effective and interesting? The most appropriate answer would be to use humour in the class. A good humour is a great tool to practice successful teaching. Many a times, it has been noticed and observed that a teacher who blends his teaching with humour becomes more successful as a teacher. This humour helps the teacher to release the burden from the students and to make them more attentive in the class. The proper use of the humour will fetch good results. Learners make their active participation in this process and yield better results. Humour functions like a stress buster for the students. Students who lack concentration in the class can get benefits from the same. This remedy never lets the students to feel bored, and it is universally acknowledged that if someone feels bored in any specific work, then he cannot realize his goals. Therefore, every student loves a teacher who is jolly and humorous in a one way or the other.

Everyone seeks a teacher with an infectious sense of humor. Looking at the lighter side of life not only fosters cordial relations between professors and students, but also provides welcome relief while trying to follow a difficult lecture on a complicated subject. When there is a willingness 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 easy. We are convinced both by experience and research that using humour in teaching is a very effective tool for both the teacher and student. Humor strengthens the relationship 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 ability to relax people, reduce tension, and thereby create an atmosphere conducive for learning and communication. Numerous studies in the field of advertising have noted that humor is the most effective tool for enhancing recall of advertisements. It is easy to

create a humor in the classroom by reading books of jokes and to listen to professional comics. The students should be encouraged to take notes, especially to learn about the professionals' use of such techniques as exaggeration, pauses, and timing. Observe reality and exaggerate it - much humor lies in observations about real life and truthful situations. In conclusion, humor not only plays an important role in the healing process but is also very important in education.<sup>3</sup>

### **FLIPPED CLASS-ROOMS**

The concept of flipped classroom is becoming trendy and getting world-wide acclaim. In a flipped classroom, students generally watch lecture online, at home, according to their requirement or according to their pace. The discussion between teacher and students takes place through internet. The two key components of flipped classroom that make it modern and learner friendly are technology and activity learning. If learning is a poor, then the chances of failure become many folds. Consequently, there would be a high dropout rate. But as far as flipped classroom method is concerned, the dropout rate is less as it gives an ample time to the learner to learn things at his desirable pace. Number of videos of lectures can be uploaded for students who miss classes or fail to attend classes owing to different reasons.

Flipped classroom method provides teachers enough time to help out students. What else is interesting in this kind of learning is the feedback. Students get instant feedback. Flipped classrooms have resulted in great success. The pass percentage has mushroomed drastically and students no longer end up with incomplete home works due to frustration. In a flipped classroom, the problems of the students are solved by using new and innovative methods by the teachers, and this practice is far better than traditional methods of teaching.

A flipped classroom is an instructional strategy and a type of blended learning that reverses the traditional learning environment by delivering instructional content, often online, outside of the classroom. It moves activities, including those that may have traditionally been considered homework, into the classroom. In a flipped classroom, students watch online lectures, collaborate in online discussions, or carry out research at home and engage in concepts in the classroom with the guidance of a mentor.<sup>4</sup>

## **MULTIMEDIA**

Multimedia learning is the process of learning, usually in a classroom or similarly structured environment, through the use of multimedia presentations and teaching methods. This can typically be applied to any subject and generally any sort of learning process can either be achieved or enhanced through a careful application of multimedia materials. Multimedia learning is often closely connected to the use of technology in the classroom, as advances in technology have often made incorporation of multimedia easier and more complete. In general, the term “multimedia” is used to refer to any type of application or activity that utilizes different types of media or formats in the presentation of ideas. With regard to education, multimedia learning usually means the use of different types of media to teach a lesson with further examples or activities for students. This type of learning can be as simple as using film clips of footage shot during World War II while learning about the war in a history class, or as complicated as having students use computer software to create simulations in a physics class.<sup>5</sup>

## **ROLE PLAY AND SCENARIO ANALYSIS**

Role playing is a technique in which an artificial environment is created deliberately to deal with the realistic situations of the life. This is an interesting technique or method in which learning becomes maximum. This method puts

the students in real like situations in which they have to act accordingly. This method enables the students to handle any situation with more realistic approach, hence makes the students self-dependent or self-reliant. This is an excellent tool for engaging students that allow them to act together with their peers as they try to accomplish the task in their specific role. This work can be done in cooperative groups.

Similarly scenario analysis is also a practical tool of learning by providing firsthand knowledge to the learners. Science and engineering courses have practical but in support of those practical if students are given a scenario and other options to solve a particular issue, then the students are exposed to decision making in a given environment (Dr. Damodharan and Rengarajan).

After having at length discussion, we can surely foresee that future of learning lies in the hands of technology and new ground-breaking methods that also involve technology. David Warlick rightly remarks that we need technology in every classroom and in every student and teacher’s hand, because it is the pen and paper of our time, and it is the lens through which we experience much of our world. Therefore, a great premium must be laid upon technology, and technology should be used in the classroom in form of multimedia-based learning. Apart from this, all the aforementioned methods of learning can play pivotal role in determining the future of our generation. We can’t rely upon traditional methods of learning, being out-dated. The modern world demands modern and unique framework to acquire knowledge. In this connection, John Dewy-a famous educationist, remarks, “...if we teach today as we taught yesterday, we rob our children of tomorrow.” Old methods of learning might have ruled the classrooms for decades, but at present we need innovative and stylish methods of teaching to safeguard the future of our learners. Earlier methods of teaching limit the chance of student interaction, but new methods provide an ample

space for interaction, resulting in more fruitful results.

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