

REFLECTIVE TEACHING

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Abstract

Teaching is not only a process giving information, knowledge and skill to the student whatever he needs to know based on the syllabus of particular class. It is more than that. It is giving exposure to all kinds of experiences. It includes both academic and non-academic aspects. Teachers are the one spends lot of time with children. Compared to parents most of the children listened to the teachers and obey the words of them. By believing that teachers would teach and take care of their children well, parents are sending students to schools. It is important for a teacher to make a child as a useful member of the society. Teachers are the builders of the nation so they need to perform their role effectively. Students should be inspired by teachers the way they take lesson, the way they speaks, the way they behave with others etc., teacher should act as a role model to the students. The role of teacher and their teaching make impact on the students. By knowing all these things, the teacher has to perform their duty successfully. To perform efficient teacher has to reflect their teaching aspect. We can also call it as self evaluation. The teacher has to evaluate their performance, where they are good at and where they need to concentrate. They have to monitor themselves. It is important for the teachers to become aware of their own work and how it has done by them. Teachers can enhance their teaching skills through reflective teaching. It is directly proportional to the quality of learning. It is not the summary of what has happened in the classroom. It is a systematic approach to looking within what I have done in the classroom teaching. It requires a good recall of entire classroom experience. It is the combination of both self- observation and self-evaluation. It is all about awareness of how teaching has taken place and analysis of how it can be made more effective. In this paper, we are going to discuss about reflective teaching and its techniques.

Keywords: teacher, teaching, reflective teaching.

Reflective teaching

Reflective teaching is one in which teachers think about their teaching style, way of delivering the content, behavior with students in the classroom etc., and analyzing that how certain concept has been taught by them and how the performance can be improved for better learning attainment of the students. It improves the quality of teaching as well as enhances the learners understanding. During the time of teacher training programme student teachers need to practice micro-teaching skills. It is also a form of reflective teaching. In micro-teaching, student teachers take single skill, small content, short duration and teach to a small number of students. But in reflective teaching teacher need to incorporate all the teaching skills and take class to the real students. Then by recalling the episode of classroom they can do reflective teaching. A teacher wants to improve their teaching during in-service time they need to practice reflective teaching. Teachers who want to progress themselves and have a desire to develop student learning must practice reflective teaching.

Need of reflective teaching

- It helps to evaluate the quality of teaching.
- It provides opportunity for self-observation and self-evaluation.
- It allows the teacher to identify their strengths.
- It helps teacher to discover the areas of improvement.
- It allows the teacher to introspect about their teaching.
- It helps to improve teaching skills.
- It helps to behave professionally.

- It allows the teacher to take criticism positively.
- It improve student learning.

REFLECTIVE TEACHING TECHNIQUES

Student feedback

A teacher can get feedback from students. It may be formal or informal. Students give their opinion orally or write elaborately in a paper. The technique may look simple but it is productive. It gives awareness to the teachers what is good in their teaching and what they need to improve. Also it provides information about how students are feeling about the teacher's class, behavior, talk and what they like from the teacher etc. Teachers must take class based on the students need, level and ability. So it's better to get feedback from students.

Teacher's diary

Teacher can have a notebook with them and right down what has happened in the classroom. It includes both teacher and student how they felt and behaved during a lesson. It provides insights to the teacher what worked and what not worked. An ideal time to write diary is soon after class ends. Because after sometime teacher may not able to recall the incidents sequentially.

Questioning

Teachers may ask questions to evaluate themselves.

- How I spoke in class?
- How I answered when student raised doubt?
- Is the answer adequate?
- What is my reaction, if the students misbehave?
- How I behaved, when I can't able to clear student doubt?
- How were my facial expressions during class?
- What mistake I have done today?
- How can I rectify mu mistakes?
- Why some students are inattentive in class?
- Did I give enough space to student during interaction?

Video recording

Teacher can take a video of their lesson. Comparing to writing incidents in the diary, video recording is very useful. Because in writing they couldn't remember all the things what has happened in the classroom. In case of video recording they get the clear picture of the lesson what they have taught. Teachers can see activities of student and themselves during the class. Being able to know what works effectively may save you time in the future.

Colleague / Expert feedback

Teacher can ask a colleague to observe their lesson and give a feedback. They give suggestion to teacher that where they have to focus, where they are doing mistake, how to handle students, the right way to interact with student etc. It will helpful to the teachers to acquire knowledge, to enhance teaching, to rectify mistake in teaching and to develop professionalism.

Conclusion

Reflective teaching plays key role in professional development. Teaching needs to be evaluated continuously. A teacher taught particular content to the students. If teacher not received or asked feedback from anyone then how she knew that she taught lesson successfully and student got better understanding in certain topic or the lesson was not up to the mark. Without feedback teacher does not know about their teaching performance. Teachers who want to improve their teaching practices and techniques sure, they need to make use of feedback effectively and made changes in their teaching methodologies and approaches. Teachers personally feel happy when their student clearly understanding the concept and they accomplish well in exams. It gives self-satisfaction to the teachers. Reflective teaching helps teacher in number of ways. It gives awareness to the teachers how they should behave in classroom, how they should interact with students, how to make the concept easier to the students, how to handle the students if they misbehave, how to teach the content etc. Teachers who want to make their teaching fruitful the students, they should reflect their teaching. It helps them to be efficient in professional as well as personal. These skills they incorporate in their personal life too. Ultimately, it will increase the quality of learning process. Evaluation of teaching helps teacher in making their future instruction plans.

References

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