

EFFECTIVENESS OF SIX THINKING HATS TECHNIQUE ON THE PROBLEM SOLVING ABILITY: AN EXPERIMENTAL STUDY

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Abstract : Law students are the future of the legal profession. The present system of legal education does not afford the opportunity for the development of requisite practical skills and it is producing law graduates who lack good problem solving and analytical skills. In order to overcome this situation, innovative methods should be adopted in legal education. Hence the researcher has chosen this topic to find out the effectiveness of six thinking hats technique on the problem solving ability of Law college students.

Keywords : *Six Thinking Hats Technique, Problem Solving Ability, Law Students, Legal Profession.*

INTRODUCTION

“The need of the hour is to build for the future and create access across this honorable profession.”

The Indian legal profession is one of the largest in the world and plays a vital role in the world's largest democracy. In a globalized world, the practice of law is increasingly becoming symbiotic with international changes and influences. Legal Education should be effective to produce fair, equitable and modern legal professionals with problem solving ability, creative thinking and critical thinking. Problem solving ability assumes greater significance as it is one of the important life skills. Systematic way of tackling problems always works. The Six Thinking Hats technique is an effective method to help one's to analyse a situation from different perspectives. It helps people to be more productive, focused and mindfully involved. As a result students will become increasingly, effective problem solvers.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Law students are the future of the legal profession. The present system of legal education does not afford the opportunity for the development of requisite practical skills and it is producing law graduates who lack good problem solving and analytical skills. In order to overcome this situation, innovative methods should be adopted in legal education. Hence the researcher has chosen this topic to find out the effectiveness of six thinking hats technique on the problem solving ability of Law college students.

NEED AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

Problem solving is an essential skill for the lawyers and the pressure on them is always to find new, innovative ways of dealing with issues. Six thinking hats technique is an effective method to help the learners analyse a situation from different perspectives. This effectiveness is represented in quicker and more effective planning, problem solving, decisions and even in day to day communications. The six coloured hats are used proactively rather than reactively. The present study has paved the way to explain the application of six hats technique in enhancing problem solving ability of law college students.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To analyse the main effect of Six thinking Hats Technique on the problem solving ability of Law college students
- To analyse whether there is any significant difference between the experimental group and control group before and after treatment.

HYPOTHESES OF THE STUDY

- There is no significant effect of Six thinking Hats Technique on the Problem solving ability of Law college students.
- There is no significant difference between the Pre test and Post test results of the control group and Experimental group with respect to their problem solving ability.

METHODOLOGY AND DESIGN OF THE STUDY

The diagrammatic representation of the design of the study is as follows

S.NO	TYPE	SOURCES
1	Nature of Research	Experimental method
2	Variables	
	Independent	Six Thinking Hats Technique
	Dependent	Problem Solving ability
3	Research Tool	Problem Solving Questionnaire was developed and standardized by the Investigator and validated by the Experts. Ravens Progressive Matrices (Standardised Tool)
4	Sampling Technique	Purposive Sampling
5	Population	Law college Students of Puducherry
6	Size of the Sample	60 Law College Students (30 Control Group + 30 Experimental Group).

EXPERIMENTAL RESEARCH DESIGN

In this experimental study, Pre-test, Post-test Control Group Design method was used. The Variable Problem solving ability was investigated using Six Thinking Hats technical method and Conventional method. The variable of testing occasions varied in two-ways i.e. Pre-test and Post-test.

PROCEDURE OF THE EXPERIMENT

The procedure of the Experiment comprises of Entry Behaviour Test, Experimental Treatment and the Terminal Behaviour Test.

Entry Behaviour Test

Before Experimental treatment commenced, the Law college students were administered with the tool of Problem solving constructed and standardized by the Investigator and validated by the Experts. Duration of the pre-test was one and half-hour's time. After the test the response sheets were collected for scoring and data analysed using appropriate statistics.

Experimental Treatment

The Law college students of Experimental group were given treatment for one month. They were taught about six thinking hats technique to solve the problems. For the control group problem solving is taught by using Conventional Model. After the treatment, two groups were subjected to post test.

Terminal Behaviour Test

After treatment, the post test was administered to the control group and experimental group students. The main purpose of the post test was to find out the effectiveness of Six thinking Hats Technique on the development of the Law college students' Problem solving ability.

ANALYSIS OF DATA

The Investigator used the following Statistical Techniques to analyse the data. They were

- ❖ Descriptive Analysis
 - Mean
 - Standard Deviation
- ❖ Differential Analysis
 - t-test
- ❖ Relational Analysis
 - Correlation

MAJOR FINDINGS

- It was found that there exists a significant effect of Six thinking Hats Technique on the development of problem solving ability among the Law college students of Puducherry. Experimental group Trainees were found to have higher level of problem solving ability than controlled group Trainees.

Variables	Tests	Number of Students	Mean	Mean Difference	Standard Deviation	Effect Size	Gain Ratio
Experimental Group taught through six thinking hats Technique	Post-test	30	59.97	36.81	8.863	5.14	71%
	Pre-Test	30	23.16		5.454		
Control Group taught through conventional method	Post-test	30	28.57	2.94	6.925	0.439	5.9%
	Pre-Test	30	25.63		6.439		

- It was found that there is a significant difference between Post test result of the Experimental group and the controlled group with respect to problem solving ability.

Objective	Group	Number of Students	Post-Test		Mean Difference	't' Value	0.05 Level of Significance
			Mean	SD			
Problem Solving Ability	Experimental Group	30	59.97	8.863	31.40	13.694	Significant
	Control Group	30	28.57	6.925			

CONCLUSION

Since Law is the foundation of every society or a nation, Legal Education of the people is a sine qua non. Legal Education does not only create law-abiding citizens, but also produces brilliant academicians, visionary judges, astounding lawyers, and awe-inspiring jurists. Since law is a means for social changes and economic progress, since these four classes of men acts as catalyst for the growth of the society, the creation of these four groups of men should be the aim of the Legal Education. Therefore, the theoretical preparation of law college students should coincide with more practical approach that helps them to transform their theoretical knowledge into everyday practice. The Six Thinking Hats technique has assisted the Law college students in creating a complete and concrete view of a particular topic.

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