



# Aims and Attitudes in Teaching Critical Thinking

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## **Abstract:**

Critical thinking skill is the most significant part in the life of human. Considering the importance of critical thinking skill in the life of students, Government of India has introduced new education policy where teaching critical thinking and decision making skills are recognized as the backbone of the student life as CT (Critical Thinking) skill is playing important part in personal, academic and professional life as well. Teaching critical thinking as a course to students can make significant change in the thinking ability of student and teacher.

**Key Words:** Critical Thinking (CT), Education Policy, Decision Making, Backbone

## **Introduction:**

In 21<sup>st</sup> century, everyone can observe newly emerged science and technology. Newly introduced technology is the result of questioning everything. As it is said that “curiosity is a mother of invention.” Same as the line, critical thinking is all about asking questions by observing our surroundings. If the place we live in was a world where critical view and critical thinking did not develop, neither new views could have developed nor did various perspectives emerge (Chaffee, 2000). According to Rudd (2007), critical thinking is a purposeful and logical way of thinking used in decision making, problem solving and learning basic concepts. Critical thinking was first mentioned in the teachings of Socrates (Fisher, 2011: 2).

## **Correlation of Critical Thinking Skill and Students:**

Students' critical thinking skills can be advanced if students can understand and use concepts with the meaning taught in schools and colleges. Rote learning can affect critical thinking skills where students just mug up the things and answer questions in examination. Though students can achieve good marks by this method but this cannot be sustainable. Students should be explored to case studies and real world problem so they will be able to solve or handle the situation at their own in the life. Keeping this concept in a mind, many educational institutions are offering courses like Critical Thinking, Problem Solving and Decision Making. P P Savani University is one of the universities, where students are getting opportunity to learn courses related to Communication Skills, Professional Communication, and Critical Thinking Skills.

Following is the outline of course content offered to the students of PPSU:

**Course Content:**

<b>Section I</b>			
<b>Module</b>	<b>Content</b>	<b>Hours</b>	<b>Weightage</b>
1.	<b>Introduction to Critical Thinking</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concept and meaning of Critical Thinking</li> <li>• Significance of Critical Thinking in personal, social and professional life</li> <li>• Thinking with arguments, evidences and language</li> </ul>	08	25 %
2.	<b>Applied Critical Thinking</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inductive and Deductive Thinking</li> <li>• Questioning for Generating Ideas</li> <li>• Socratic Questioning and its application</li> </ul>	07	25 %
<b>Section II</b>			
<b>Module</b>	<b>Content</b>	<b>Hours</b>	<b>Weightage</b>
1.	<b>Conceptual Thinking</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Second order thinking</li> <li>• Synthesizing</li> </ul>	03	10 %
2.	<b>Creative Thinking and Decision Making</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Problem Solving</li> <li>• Adapting Various Structures of Decision Making</li> </ul>	06	20 %
3.	<b>Moral Thinking</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Generating and structuring ideas</li> <li>• Designing and Evaluating the solutions</li> <li>• Case Study</li> </ul>	06	20 %

By offering and teaching courses like Critical thinking, Problem Solving and Decision Making, students will be able to achieve lasting success in personal, academic and professional life. After learning the above mentioned course, students will be able to distinguish right and wrong by intellectualizing what has been done from the past to the present. For instance, as there are many rituals that we are performing from many years, there are scientific reasons behind our spiritual beliefs that students will be able to identify that why are we following certain beliefs? This is because of critical thinking (CT) as we tend to question certain beliefs. Not only students but teachers also benefits from this kind of courses as teacher and student both try to explore new ideas and various perspectives to look other aspects of various concepts.

This is the skill that doesn't occur automatically, it can be developed by practice. Educational institutions are important pyramids to build this kind of permanent skills in students which will be useful to furnish students with the knowledge and skills that is useful for students to cope with difficulties.

**Conclusion:**

Teaching and learning courses like Critical Thinking. Problem Solving and Decision Making skills can make path for strong society. Teachers and learners both can able to identify reason and evidence behind certain issues or concepts. Second order thinking skill can be developed by practicing and solving different case studies. Critical Thinking is a skill that everyone should develop to live life smoothly and to achieve success in academic, personal and professional life.

**Reference:**

1. [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/350011067\\_Teaching\\_Critical\\_Thinking\\_Skills\\_Literature\\_Review](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/350011067_Teaching_Critical_Thinking_Skills_Literature_Review)
2. <https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/EJ1274331.pdf>

