

IDENTIFICATION OF SPECIAL SKILLS NEEDED BY THE PRIMARY TEACHERS IN TEACHING FIRST GENERATION LEARNERS

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Abstract: First generation learners are those who are the first in their entire generation to attend school to get formal education. Primary teachers deal with elementary level students who are just starting their formal education. Teaching elementary level students, always demands some different skills compared to teaching high school or college level students. If these elementary students happen to be first generation learner, the job of teaching become more challenging. Support system at home plays a vital role in influencing elementary students positively towards learning. In case of first generation learners, this support system is comparatively weak. This forms a scenario where teachers are needed to possess some special skills which will help first generation learners to cope up with their disadvantages. These skills are not necessarily related and limited to only teaching techniques. Various interpersonal skills may be found to be immensely important also. This article aims to identify these special skills and their role in moulding primary teachers to become further efficient in teaching first generation learners.

Index Terms - First generation learners, elementary students, primary teachers, teaching skills.

I. INTRODUCTION

Kids have their own world of reasoning. They are always curious but at the same time it is always tough to make them concentrated towards a particular subject or topic. To make it happen teachers need some special skills. Nurturing these skills in teachers will help to ensure proper learning for first generation learners.

II. SKILLS

2.1 Voice Modulation

Generally learning take place inside classroom. However, children are not used to being confined in a place for long time. If environment of learning become boring they will not focus to the learning. So, teacher has to use his voice modulation skill to make them listen. Teaching in a flat voice will not attract attention and although the content of the teaching is rich, it will miss the target. It holds true for not only teaching humanities group subjects but also for teaching mathematics or science. Children catches rhythm very fast and modulation in repetitive manner will help them to catch the rhythm and will make the lesson interesting.

2.2 Socio-economic Awareness

First generation learners are mostly from lower socio-economic strata of our society. The teacher may not belong to the same strata. And it creates an invisible boundary for the teacher. From learners end it is not so prominent as in primary level they are children. But if the teacher cannot break this mental barrier she/he cannot connect to the children properly. The teacher should know his class very well and she/he should have proper knowledge regarding the background of the student and their home and social environment. While representing any example from real life, the teacher has to be cautious. Sometimes, she/he needs to deviate from the text book to provide an example which are more familiar to her/his students so that, they can connect instantly.

2.3 Storytelling Skill

Story telling is not just a skill but an art itself. Not necessarily every time the lesson itself will have a story in it. However, a creative and able teacher will move to the core lesson with the help of a story. The start of a lesson is very vital, if students are getting attracted in the beginning, it is more likely to be a successful learning experience. However, it is very important to make students understood how it is related to their daily world. And here comes the importance of storytelling. A story will initiate from the example of the students' real life and will end in the core of the topic. Learners will not understand where the story ends and where the lesson starts and as a result they will end with a new learning.

2.4 Drawing Skill

Black board is a weapon for a teacher with good drawing skill. A class of forty-five minutes may be divided into three blocks of fifteen minutes each. It may start with a story and end with activity based learning. But in between that, if the transition from story to activity goes through drawing it creates a varied experience for the learner. It will ensure consistent concentration of the

students. Drawing does not necessarily refer to drawing of a scenery or animal. It also refers to drawing of shapes, figures etc. At the end of the class a blackboard holds the signage of summery of the learning and the next teacher will be also able to make smooth transition for the learners from the previous topic to a new topic.

2.5 Model Preparation Skill

It is another weapon for a teacher. However, it may not be feasible for all the topic and time constraint is also there. Still for selected topics, if the teacher uses some models and motivate students to prepare similar models, it will surely bring some extra energy among the students. While going through the experience of model preparation. Students will seek guidance from the teacher and this will give a scope to the teacher to go in depth of the topic.

2.6 Computer Skill

Now-a-days computer has opened a new horizon of learning. Use of audio visual technique has immense potential to draw concentration of the learners and to make the learning a joyous experience. If the teacher is skilled in usage of computer she/he will be able to get various interactive videos, graphic images in internet and presentation of these in the class will indulge learners in a very fast and joyful learning experience.

2.7 Quiz and Game Conduction Skill

Teacher needs to verify the level of understanding of the students and reinforce lessons if any gap found. Quiz and game help teachers to test her/his students learning level in a different manner. As it is more interesting than mere exams, students become more participative. Any quiz or game should end with recognition of the winners in the form of rewards. This will inforce competitive mentality among learners and each of the learners will try to progress. However, only rewarding the winner may affect students with relatively low intelligent quotient. A number of students may get selected as winner every time and others may get demotivated. So, the teacher has to recognize the progress also in comparison to last performance rather than mere selection of winners.

2.8 Child Psychology

Understanding of child psychology is a very important factor to become a successful teacher. When it comes to first generation learner, it is a mandate for the teachers to have knowledge of child psychology. Application of this knowledge will make the teacher friendlier to the students. Students will open up themselves easily and will create a bonding of healthy relationship with the teacher. This will give the teacher more control over the class and students will be more responsive. And this will ensure effective application of other skill sets possessed by the teacher.

2.9 Skill of Usage of Humour

Use of humour in right context is a very important skill to teach first generation learners. It breaks the monotony of study. It feels the environment with joy and attracts little minds to love the study. Then study becomes a happy experience for them like playing. Learning in form of playing is very effective as it forms a positive outlook towards learning among first generation learners.

2.10 Skill of Individual Talent Discovery

Each of the human being is gifted with some talent which is in born. A teacher with a skill of finding out this talent will be always successful to nurture young minds. It will help to get the students more success by channelizing their talent towards a specific direction. A student lagging in one aspect of learning may flourish in some other aspect. This will boost her/his confidence level and in turn she/he will be able to perform better in her/his weak subject.

2.11 Skill of Motivating Others

Motivational skill is especially important when it comes to teaching first generation learner. Due to their poor socio-economic condition first generation learners suffer from low confidence level. Due to lack of support in home, their difficulty level is also higher in learning. A teacher who is able to motivate their students will help these learners to overcome their hesitation and low confidence. They will realize their true potential and will not underestimate themselves. This will act as catalyst to ensure effective learning.

2.12 Skill of Setting High Standard

An important part of primary education is to establish a strong moral base among students. Often it comes through the examples taken from the life of great personalities ad legends who have not compromised with morality in difficult situations and achieved highest level of success in their life. Many of these great personalities have started their life from very poor socio-economic strata of our society. A teacher has to be skilled enough to sets these high standards among first generation learner with appropriate example. Sometimes teachers may have to go beyond the scope of the written syllabus to motivate their students through these examples.

2.13 Summarization Skill

Mind of the children is always moving here and there. It is very important for a teacher to possess skill of summarization at the end of the class. This will ensure proper seeding of the learning in the grey matter of the learners.

2.14 Recapitulation Skill

While starting any class, a teacher has to recapitulate the lesson of last class so that, learners can recall their previous learning and it became easier for them to learn some new topic. It also ensures that, proper progress happens in learning.

2.15 Evaluation Skill

At the end, it is the skill of proper evaluation which will ensure proper progress of learning. Evaluation will help the teacher to understand how much successful she/he has been in teaching. It will help her/him to restructure her/his teaching techniques. It will let the teacher know about where more emphasis has to be given so that the students become equally strong in each subject.

III. CONCLUSION:

All the techniques discussed here is needed by primary teachers irrespective of whether they are teaching first generation learner or regular learner. However, it becomes more inevitable when it comes to teach first generation learner. First thing to ensure proper learning of first generation learner is to ensure their concentration towards the topic. These techniques will help to draw attention of the learners and to retain their concentration. Engagement of the learner in the learning process ensure development of their linking towards the topic. This in turn catalyze fast learning and long-term retention of the learning. Up to a certain extent it helps the learner to mitigate the effect of weak support system at home and make them self-dependent. Gradually this builds up strong confidence level among first generation learner and once this confidence level is achieved these learners performs at par with other regular students of the class and even outperform them also. So, special training has to be imparted to teachers of first generation learners to make them skilled with these special skills.

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