

ROLE OF TEACHER AS AN INNOVATOR OF THE BEST PRACTICES IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Dr. D. L. Hebbar

Asst. Professor & Head
Department of Economics

S. D. M. Degree College, Honavar – 581 334.

Abstract: Quality Education is the solution for problems of higher education. We know that quality is not a destination, it is a continuous journey. Quality education is to learn the right things and learn them well. Today, improving the quality is the biggest challenge before the higher education system. Access to the global economy will depend more on the quality and productivity. Higher education requires special emphasis and has major role to play in the nation determining the quality of life and pace of development of the nation. Quality education is the education that best fits the present and future needs of the learners. It is the education that provides students with the tools to deal with and find solution to challenges in life. The role of the teacher as innovator of the best practices assumes greater significance in improving the quality of education.

Key words – quality, higher education, innovator, best practices, intelligence, action research, current scenario.

Introduction:

“A lamp can never light another lamp
unless it continues to burn its own flame.

A Teacher can never truly teach
unless he is still learning himself.”

- Rabindranath Tagore

The word education has its origin in the Latin word “educatum” composed of two terms ‘E’ and ‘Duco’. ‘E’ implies a progress from inward to outward, while ‘Duco’ means developing or progressing. In its most literal sense, education means becoming developed or progressing from inside to outside. Thus, education is the process of developing the inner abilities and powers of an individual.

The ancient system of Vedic Education in India through Gurukul system was replaced by British model based on Macaulay’s minutes on education in the year 1835. Though this system does not suit the socio-cultural ambit of Indians, it was formally enforced and practiced. Significant reforms have always been carried out to bring continuous change leading to development in Higher Education.

Objectives

- To analyze the present scenario of higher education in India.
- To know the different methods of innovations in Higher Education.
- To find out the best practices which can be adopted by the teachers in Higher Education.
- To suggest some measures that can be used as the innovations & best practices in Higher Education.

Methodology:

The paper is prepared on the basis of secondary data. The information related to the quality improvement mechanism in the higher education field is collected from the various books, journals and periodicals. Information is also collected by referring scholarly research articles and the leading websites. Information collected is presented in tabular and diagrammatic form.

Current Scenario of Higher Education in India

India is the third largest education system in the world after China and United States. Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) for higher education is increased to 25.2%. Higher education system has helped in developing pool of skilled manpower worldwide. There are prominent Indians occupying highest positions in the Fortune-500 companies of the world in the diverse fields.

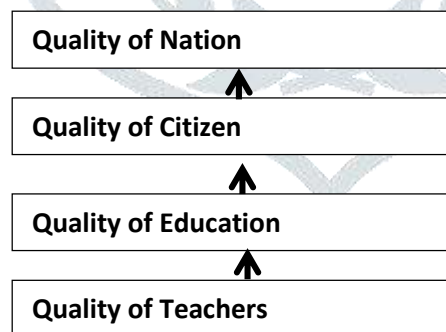
Central Universities	47
State Universities	384
State Private Universities	296
Deemed to be Universities	124
Colleges	39071

We have seen the best and the worst of higher education in India. The long march of educated unemployed knocks at doors that do not open. The frustrated youth who find everything uninspiring – the curriculum, the campus, the teaching fraternity, their own home and the society! As per available reports, two third of the Indian universities are providing sub-standard education while 90% of colleges in India are below average. Today most of the institutions have become factory of degrees only. Students / teachers are running after attaining or providing degrees and not towards gaining knowledge and wisdom. Hence, graduates are becoming unemployable. According to a report by Aspire Minds job skills credentialing Company nearly 80% of engineering graduates in India are not employable. Then what about the general degrees?

The Kothari Commission Report (1966) on education exclaimed that “the destiny of the nation is structured in class rooms”. But, unfortunately, the overall scenario of higher education in India does not match with the global quality standards. It does not match with the needs and expectation of the employment sector.

Quality Education:

Quality education is the solution for problems of higher education. We know that **quality is not a destination, it is a continuous journey**. Quality education is to learn the right things and learn them well. Today, improving the quality is the biggest challenge before the higher education system. Access to the global economy will depend more on the quality and productivity. Higher education requires special emphasis and has major role to play in determining the quality of life and pace of development of the nation. Quality education is the education that best fits the present and future needs of the learners. It is the education that provides students with the tools to deal with and find solutions to challenges in life. The role of the teachers assumes greater significance in improving the quality of education.



How can teachers contribute towards innovations & the best practices in Higher Education?

No system of education can rise above the level of quality of its teachers. The success of any education system depends on the quality of its teachers. Thus, the quality of higher education depends upon the quality of those who impart it. Teachers can adopt the following innovative methods for the improvement of the quality of higher education:

1. Dedication and Commitment:

Dedication and commitment of teachers plays an important role in improving the quality of education. Dedication and commitment of teachers increase their quality and in turn the quality of teaching learning process increases. Moreover, students may emulate their teachers.

2. Learner Centred Teaching:

A teacher should act as a motivational force and should be able to create a learning environment in which students are encouraged to think carefully, rationally and express their thoughts. It is the responsibility of teachers to create a context in which students desire to learn effectively.

3. Skill Development:

Skill development is important for the success of students in the job market. With the liberalization, privatization and globalization of economic activities, the need to develop skilled human resource of high caliber is imperative. Therefore, preparing students to achieve communication and other skills is very important. This requires that the teachers should be innovative, creative and entrepreneurial in their approach, to ensure skill development among students.

4. Imparting value based education:

The role of teachers is quite significant in the development of social values. It is the teaching community which moulds the future society. A teacher, once he accepts teaching as a profession cannot make compromises with life because he has to realize that he is playing with the future of the nation. The teacher is trusted by the students, parents and the society as a Guru and this trust must be repaid by honest service. Teachers have to be ever inspiring models. In fact they are lifelong students.

5. Use of Information Technology:

Efficient use of e-resources helps to produce uniquely educated, highly satisfied and employable graduates. Use of ICTs in teaching-learning process makes the lecture effective and improves the quality of teaching. Continuous updating of teaching methods and use of innovative teaching methods helps to improve the quality of teaching.

6. Use of Blended Learning:

Blended learning is an education programme that combines online digital media with traditional classroom methods. It is a mixture of learning methods that incorporate multiple teaching models, most frequently e-learning and traditional face to face learning. Blended learning is a student experience whereby the learner interacts with other students, with the teacher and with content through thoughtful integration of online and face to face environment. Blended learning can increase access and flexibility for learners, increase level of active learning and achieve better student experiences and outcomes. Teachers should use this method to improve the quality of education.

7. Action Research:

Teachers should involve in research activities. This will increase their knowledge and skills. Action research projects will enable to study the problems and the result can be analysed to take actions.

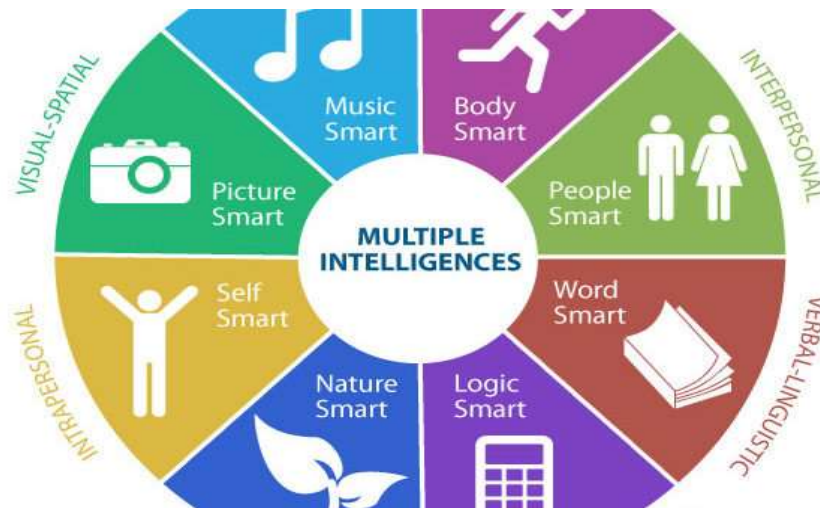
8. Multiple Intelligence Approach:

Teachers should use Multiple Intelligence Approach in their teaching, in order to influence the students. Psychologist Howard Gardner in his book "Frame of Mind: The theory of Multiple Intelligences" classified human intelligence into eight types. This theory may be used for teaching in the class room

Multiple Intelligences and Teaching Strategies:

Intelligence	Teaching Strategies
1. Linguistic	Lectures, discussions, word games, journal writing, etc.
2. Logical / Mathematical	Problem solving, brain storming, mental calculations, etc.

3. Spatial	Visual presentations, mind-mapping, metaphor, etc.
4. Body-Kinesthetic	Hands on learning, field trips, skit, drama, etc.
5. Musical	Rhythmic learning, musical composition, etc.
6. Interpersonal	Co-operative learning, peer tutoring, social gatherings, etc.
7. Intrapersonal	Individualize instructions, independent study, etc.
8. Naturalist	Nature study, ecological awareness, etc.,



The Best Practices which teacher can adopt in the Higher Education:

- Teaching with Sense of Humor
- Concept of Mind Mapping
- Team building exercise (TBX)
- Z to A Approach
- Each one teach one
- Counseling & Case Study Analysis
- Group Study
- Surprise Test
- Open Book Exams
- Learn a word a day
- Divide & Learning Method

Findings & Conclusion:

To sum up, teachers play a vital role in improving the quality in higher education by adopting innovation & best practices in the Higher Education. The future of the world is in our class rooms, in the form of curious students with varied expectations about the colleges and their teachers. We often hear students saying 'I have taken admission to this college trusting it to be the best'. 'This is my college which would be my life's launch pad; 'my college has the best teachers who will show me the right path for my life', etc.

These expectations indicate the importance of teachers and their significant role in positively impacting upon the lives of students, their parents, families and the society at large. It is therefore a continuous calling on us as teachers to explore the ways and means for fulfilling the students' expectations. **The statement given by Mahatma Gandhi on 'CONSUMER' is accepted as an eye-opening definition to the entire business world. If the same is reformulated to define a 'STUDENT' it is equally enlightening for teachers. It is adapted as follows:**

“A student is the most important person on our campus

He is not dependent on us; we are dependent on him.

He is not an interruption of our work: he is the purpose of it.

He is not an outsider to our academics: he is part of it.

We are not doing him a favour by teaching him.

He is doing us a favour by giving us an opportunity to do so.

Reference:

1. Basavaraj S. Nagoba, Sarita B. Mantri – “Role of Teachers in Quality Enhancement in Higher Education”.
2. Rupa M. Kubavat – “Blended Learning: A Transformative potential in teaching learning”
3. Shollapur M. R. – “Practice Periods: An Innovation for Maximising Students’ Learning”.
4. Priyanka Mayrya & Reena Agarwal – “Multiple Intelligences Approach: A Sine Qua Non for upgrading Indian Higher Education System”.

