

# **Student's Involvement in teaching Learning Process: Expectations and Reality.**

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## **Abstract-**

A lot of debate has taken place and is taking place on the methods of teaching in higher education. Scholars, Academicians and thinkers have pondered over the issue and they have arrived at some conclusion. Teaching Learning process, according to them, must be strengthened in institutions imparting higher education. Nowadays emphasis is also laid on use of ICT in teaching learning process. Seminars, workshops and short term courses have been and are organized by the institutions on use of ICT in Teaching Learning process. However, there are other innovative methods of teaching and learning. One of the methods is participatory learning method. This is a student centered method. The present paper entitled *Participatory Learning: A Step towards Quality Education* aims at discussing some participatory learning methods. The paper also presents the shortcomings in implementing this method in colleges and suggests some suggestions for smoothly running of this type of learning.

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Education system all around the world is changing fast as it has started accepting new methods of teaching and learning. Earlier the world was big and was slow in changing. Today the world has become a village and it is quick in acquiring new things. The process of globalization has changed everything and the challenges of life have no boundaries as such. A student is not a citizen of his homeland but he is a citizen of world. So it is a duty of education system as well as teachers to train and develop him according to the needs of the time and the world. He must fit himself in this world of globalization.

There have been many definitions of education. One of the definitions of education is, 'the knowledge and skill that you gain from being taught' (441). It has rightly been said that, 'education includes literacy' (02). And literacy is, 'a state of being able to read and write' (823). Nowadays it is not just a state of acquiring reading and writing skill. It is much more than that. A student must be taught some skills which may help him in facing the challenges of the world. One has to accept that the purpose of education is changed and it is correctly refereed by Justice J. S. Verma in his speech. Justice Verma quotes the quotation of Sir Asutosh Mukherjee. Mukherjee, while addressing in his convocation address, said:

To my mind the University is a great store house of learning, a great bureau of standards, a great workshop of knowledge, a great laboratory for the training as well of men of thought as of men of action (02).

In short, universities and colleges no longer remain just the institutions of giving information or explaining the literature or information. They are expected to be a laboratory for the training. They are the places to make students active and dynamic. One of the ways of making students active and dynamic is involving the students in the teaching learning process. Chalk and talk method is not sufficient to create interest about learning among students. Now it is a need of time to develop new teaching techniques than using the traditional lecture method. This shift, from traditional teaching method to innovative teaching methods, makes the teaching an interactive exercise. The slow and advanced learners can benefit from the change and they are motivated to self-learn of the topics discussed in the class.

The process participatory learning may enable students to develop various skills such as using appropriate language, presentation skill, and communication skill. Moreover, they may acquire stage daring and art of debating which are the lacunas of students, especially students from rural area and the students who are the first learners of their family.

The following activities may be undertaken to introduce participatory learning in colleges.

- ❖ Use of Power Point Presentation- This is the most useful activity in which students are told to make a power point presentation on the topic or the part of the topic or the important part of the topic. This activity is helpful for students because through this activity they better understand the topic. The composite skills like data collection, organization, presentation and interpretation of data are developed through this activity.
- ❖ Use of Wall Papers – Wall papers are generally displayed in colleges on social, political and historical issues. It is always helpful to publish wall papers on the topics discussed in the class. They, through this activity, can be well acquainted with the library of the college. They get an opportunity to go through recent books and newly arrived journals of the college library. They can publish the wall paper in the class room so they can have before their eyes the important points and things of the topics they have learned. The skills discussed above are also developed through this activity
- ❖ Use of ICT- The use of Information and communication technology is helpful for students in participatory learning. Before introducing a new poem or lesson the students can be directed to collect primary information about the author, lesson or poem and present before the class. It may help students to understand the lesson or topic better. Their first hand information may also create their interest in the topic being discussed in the class.
- ❖ Use of the Language Lab- A language lab has been established in many colleges. This lab can be used to help students to acquire communication skills. Students may be told to summarize the topic discussed in the class and present it in the language lab for slow learners. So they can have opportunity of learning twice.

Besides these activities, following activities may be undertaken for implementing participatory learning

- ❖ Group discussion

- ❖ Industrial visits for experiential learning
- ❖ Onsite learning and field visit
- ❖ Projects and surveys
- ❖ Collaboration with industries for training
- ❖ Visit to various offices for first hand information
- ❖ Study tours
- ❖ Role play
- ❖ Case studies

❖ Limitations of implementing the activities of participatory learning-

❖ The bulky classrooms- it is not possible to implement any participatory learning in the bulky classrooms of more than 120 students. All compulsory subject classes are overcrowded. In such class a chain of difficulties can occur to conduct any activity of participatory learning. Use of Language and computer laboratories is insufficient for the compulsory classes. A repetition of the same activity will consume a lot of time and that will affect on the completion of the syllabus.

❖ Computer illiteracy- Most of the students, in rural colleges, are wards of farmers. They are also the first learners of the family. It has also be noted that some students have to labor for their families. In remote and hilly area they have no facilities like internet and computer training. So they do not have knowledge of ICT or power point presentation. Such students may hesitate in participating in this teaching learning process. It may create inferiority complex in them.

Major suggestions- Though it seems that it is very difficult to run this system in colleges with a large number of students, it is need of our time to run the same. Here are some major suggestions.

- ❖ All the activities discussed above can be run for part III Students or P. G. students.
- ❖ Workshops and seminars on use of technology can be organized in colleges under lead college scheme.
- ❖ Provide more advanced ICT courses for the part three students.

- ❖ Provide short term courses on presentation skills, and soft skills for the students who need or want to develop as advanced students.
- ❖ Efforts should be done for more availability of LCDs, OHPs, Hardware and Software.
- ❖ A constructive atmosphere must be there to enable students to take part in such activities.

**WORK CITED:**

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