
QUALITY ASSURANCE IN L. I. S. TEACHING : EXPLORE THE WAYS TO EXCEL

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INTRODUCTION

Education in general aims at producing intelligent, responsible, well informed citizens. Most countries around the world spend a large amount of time and money to provide quality education for their citizens as education is the foundation for success and progress. During the "golden age" of Gupta dynasty, India was ranked as one of the world's foremost centers of Education. Unfortunately the British rule introduced Macaulay system of education, in India, by which we have lost our originality. Instead of concentrating on reputed learning, we began to concentrate on mere repetitive learning and insisted on mark oriented approach which has become a barrier for our creative and progressive thinking.

Since Independence the numbers of Library & Information Science (LIS) educational institutions have increased in India, but the quality of education has not been improved. The world has changed, our life styles have changed, but our educational patterns have not changed. The remarkable World Trade Centre had fallen down, yet our KG children are still singing "London bridge is falling down!" This incident had happened in London and why our children are made to sing this? Are there not any such famous historical structures demolished in India? Why are our children not sensitized about them? Thus we teach without associating ourselves with the situations and needs.

In good olden days, people used to come to libraries for books but now the tendency of people are changed they visit libraries for information. According to the changing situation the educational needs also must change and accommodate the trends. When the foundation is strong, the building stands up for centuries and when the foundation is weak, what is the use of painting the roof? Therefore, I feel, adding quality must begin from the foundation. Librarian's professional development must begin from the Under-graduate teaching.

OBJECTIVES

- To analyse the varied background of students
- To find whether the present system of education adopts any special approaches to cater to the needs of these students.
- To compare the qualities of ordinary and excellent teachers.
- To know whether the teaching community is well trained to deliver quality education.
- To justify the need of special training programmes on hospitality management, counselling, managerial skills etc.

THE VARIED BACKGROUND OF STUDENTS

Students join our institutions in order to grow intellectually and become socially aware of everything that is happening around them. Are we successful in this? If so, why does there exist such a vast difference in all walks of life, in India? Somewhere we have failed in sensitizing that everyone is responsible in building our nation.

Among students, some are ambitious, highly motivated and smartly activated whereas some are least motivated. Some are economically poor with a lot of mental worries and remain poor learners. Are we able to streamline them and adopt different methods of teaching? Throughout Indian schools and colleges are over crowded. Do we really able to pay individual attention along with the burden of completing the vast syllabus? Do we really have a reasonable student-teacher ratio to impart quality education?

Human learning is very complex. There is no complete agreement among scientists and educators on this. In Andhra Pradesh we follow three major systems. But students consider any one subject as their major with a goal to attain professionalism in that subject and attribute a step mother attitude towards the other two subjects.

In Singapore, at the end of primary school around the age 9, students take an examination that determines which stream they will enter to carry on their education. So teachers are able to make them skillful in their respective fields. Therefore, a single major system with needed knowledge in other subjects as ancillaries could be more effective.

METHODS OF TEACHING

There are three common methods of teaching,

Rote learning : In this method students memorize something “by heart” exactly as it appears in a textbook or in a teachers lecture. This method is well suited to taking in foreign language vocabulary or the dates of important events in history. Unfortunately this method is mostly being followed in all educational departments. Wrongly printed words also sometimes as such "by hearted”.

Guided problem solving method: This approach helps students solve problems that are not exactly the same which the teacher had solved on the blackboard.

Diagnostic teaching: In this, the teacher does not begin with a lecture instead the teacher gives a problem to be solved by them in whatever way they can. Students have to explain at the end. If that explanation is not reasonable, then teacher gives explanation and corrects their fault. This method encourages students towards reference work. This method is mostly used in foreign countries. Students really take self efforts and they begin to grow. Whereas even at PG level mostly notes dictation method is being followed.

TYPES OF EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

- Government run colleges
- Private colleges
- Corporate colleges

Ways of imparting education in these three institutions vary greatly. Hereby let me compare the quality education delivered in corporate and private institutions. Private institutions cover the entire syllabus in a hurried manner without having time to bother how far a student has understood the concepts. They spent a lot of time on practicals and teach them various experimental skills and promote research oriented thinking.

On the other hand the corporate colleges adopt exam oriented teaching in a systematic slow manner and they do not cover the entire syllabus. Instead they make the students to practice important questions repeatedly. They spent very little time on practicals and yet they manage that most of their students get full marks in practicals. Thus merit and economically well off students prefer to join such institutions.

The duty of a teacher is to make a student confident to face life that poses unknown examinations. The greatest joy to the teacher must be to produce students better than him. More than duty one must know to enjoy their profession. Our present examination system is such that if students become thorough of past five year question papers, they are sure of getting high marks and if they are thorough with model paper sent to the examiner who sets the question paper, they can be sure of passing.

So I feel mark oriented learning should be abolished and skill oriented learning should be encouraged. The paper setter must be given only the syllabus and the blue print of the question paper and not the model paper. Out question pattern must be in such a way, that students be allowed to open the book and answer without discussion. Those who have the habit of referring, will do the exam well! But for this, teachers have to work hard and teaching becomes really challenging!

COMPARISON OF THE QUALITIES :

The ordinary teacher motivates and encourages students to be smart. He feels average and below average students are nuisance to him. He criticizes poor learners and makes them to loose their confidence. He instructs students to work hard in order to find a good company to work for. He advices students to act safely and not to take risks. He teaches them how to write an impressive resume. He would be very strict, impatient and easily gets disappointed.

The excellent teacher on the other hand, motivates and activates students, encourages them and guides them how to hire smart persons to do work that they cannot do. He believes lack of knowledge is the root of all evils in life. He builds up the confidence of poor learners. He instructs students to study hard so as to find a good company to buy. He advises students to act safely and manage risks. He teaches them how to write projects and plan of action that could create jobs. He would be strict blended with kindness, patient and always be optimistic.

Thus when we compare ourselves, we may find that we have a few qualities of both teachers but we are expected and invited to be an excellent teacher. Persons trained by such ordinary teachers mostly remain ordinary in their profession. As teachers play a vital role in shaping the future citizens, the institution must impart the necessary training particularly in hospitality management, counseling, managerial skills etc. and help their teachers to become resourceful so that they can understand their students better.

WAYS TO EXCEL

To excel, first let us take a break and assess what is working and what is not working. The definition of insanity is doing the same thing and expecting a different result. We really work hard yet unable to get ahead. We may wear a new dress called autonomy yet we cling to old ideas old curriculum. Let us renovate and revitalize our educational system and discover some new ways that would help us to leap forward towards excellence.

There are many people who want to do but don't like to think and there are people who think but do not do. There are only a few who do both. Let us associate ourselves with such people. Let us choose the right institution and associate with it. Knowledgeable persons always add knowledge to others. Excellent persons will inspire others to excel. Let us not listen to persons who frighten us by telling why something won't work.

CONCLUSION

Thus let us borrow wisdom from our farmers who remove the weeds that grow along with crops so that their yield will be good. Same way if we are able to identify and rectify the drawbacks in the existing system, quality would be automatically added. Thus it is not in how many higher degrees we have, but how much knowledge we have and our suitable approaches towards reality, assures quality to higher education. Finally, life is worth living. Each one is born to win. We have enough fuel within us. If we are ready to burn our negative self-image, ego, disappointments, unhealthy attitudes, selfish motives that weaken our strengths, we are sure that we too can raise our levels to reach the state of excellence and sustain it.

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