

## Use of Teaching Innovative Methodology to Bridge Learning Deficit among Students for Quality Improvement in School Education

### Abstract

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In order to improve the quality of education in Government schools since our independence, various schemes & programmes have been initiated both at the state & central level. For instance: Mid-Day Meal, SSA, RMSA, BALA, etc. But Despite the high enrolment, attendance & retention of children in Government schools, quality of education has always been a questionable issue. No doubt, in Government schools, our Delhi Government is doing immense efforts to improve the teaching conditions and infrastructure.

For instance, to build proper reading & numeracy skills in children, Delhi Government has initiated “*Chunauti 2018*”. Although, Government is trying its best to bridge the learning gap of students at upper primary stage. But there is a dire need of bring changes at “Primary Level” first.

When we talk about differentials learning levels, we actually mean that different students have different learning abilities in terms of acquiring content, processing, constructing, or making sense of ideas. By considering varied learning needs of the students, a facilitator can create & use innovative teaching learning materials (TLM) to make all the students learn effectively.

And that’s why, I have created various innovative strategies & TLM for my current 5<sup>th</sup> grade & have been effectively using it. To mention a few: Group learning; Group activities; Class library; Peer learning ; Posters & wall displays; self made different educational games & flash cards; Theatre activities ( such as : role play, skit on social issues) ,using audio & visual aids; Scrap books, Map books, Art & craft; Activity based learning; Aerobics & yoga; different teaching methodology for fast learners, slow learners & average ones & many more.

In this paper, I have mentioned self created innovative TLMs for the students of 5<sup>th</sup> grade with varied learning level to bridge learning deficit among them which has brought qualitative improvement in my teaching skills.

**Key Words: Educational initiatives of Delhi Government, Differential levels of learning, self created TLM.**

## Introduction

In pursuance of the Constitutional directive, a number of measures have been taken up by the Department of Education for Universalisation of Elementary Education (UEE). Such as *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan*, Mid-day meal programme, *Shiksha Sahayog Yojana*; *Saakshar Bharat* etc. Special measures are included in these programmes for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Provision of access is the primary concern in UEE. Also, under “Right to Education Act, 2009”, policy of Non Detention was started to avoid wastage and stagnation as well to reduce drop out rates. But all these programmes failed to bring quality in education. Although improvement can be seen in the enrolment and access of children in schools but their achievement level is still low.

No doubt, reading is the foundational skill & no child can progress unless he /she able to read well with comprehension. The new scheme of Delhi Government “*Chunauti 2018*” in 2016 has been launched to bring quality in education by targeting basic reading and numeracy skills of those children who cannot read or solve basic mathematical operations.

## Differentials Learning Level

Every student is different from each other in terms of different minds & intellect level. Hence they learn, receive, act, remember & understand things in different ways. In every class, there are students with different learning levels, which mean that their capacity of grasping any concept, comprehending the ideas is varied from other students. Well, as an educator we can broadly differentiate the students on three aspects. These are: readiness to learn, learning needs & interest of the students.

Here, comes the major role of an educator. An educator should accommodate varied learning needs & preferences of each & every student in her/his pedagogy. Well, learning is the acquisition of knowledge, attitude & skill. On the other hand, teaching is all about to induce learning. Educators should engage their students in different learning activities & think of various creative & innovative strategies to make learning more effective & meaningful. Learning should never be restricted to text books & four walled classrooms. Students should be taught according to their learning levels & not by the prescribed syllabus. There are a number of ways by which an educator can make her/his students learn.

## Teaching Learning Materials (TLM)

- One of the major and outstanding development in the educational technology in recent years is the increased use of teaching learning materials/teaching aids in teaching learning process.
- By considering varied learning needs of the students, an educator can create & use innovative teaching learning materials (TLM) to make all the students learn effectively & in an interesting manner.
- A facilitator/educator use teaching learning materials (TLM) to teach the concept or lesson effectively. An educator/facilitator can buy/make (TLM) easily with waste material also.

- Any sort of object, device or machine which is used by a facilitator/educator to enliven or clarify a subject for effective communication & classroom interaction & the achievement of instructional objectives in the teaching learning process is known as teaching learning material.

According to Francis W.Noel - “Good instruction is the foundation of any educational programme.Teaching aids are a component of that foundation.”

### **Purpose & Importance of TLM:**

- Proper use of TLM helps the learners to grasp and retain the concepts effectively.
- With the help of different teaching aids, pupils can learn better with less chances of forgetfulness.
- Helps to cater individual differences
- Use of TLM makes the lessons/concepts interesting.
- TLM help the learners in retaining the concept for a longer period of time.
- Use of TLM assists an educator/facilitator to deliver his/her lesson successfully & easily.

### **Types of Teaching Learning Material:**

Teaching learning material can be audio, video & audio-visual.

### **Quality of a Good Teaching Learning Material:**

A good teaching learning material should be:

- Purposeful and Meaningful
- Cheap, improvised and simple
- Portable and handy
- legible
- clearly visible
- Interesting & motivating
- Properly organized & presented

### **Self Created Innovative Teaching Learning Materials:**

By considering varied learning levels & to make learning more effective as well as joyful for my students studying currently in 5<sup>th</sup> grade, I have created few teaching learning materials on my own &

have been using them since the very beginning of the session. In fact, I have given a special name to my class – “An Innovative Classroom Where Learning is Fun”. Here are the few examples:

### **Group Formation**

I have divided my class students into five groups to encourage collaborative learning. Each group has 5 -6 students. Various class activities are performed in these groups. Group formation encourages cooperation, team work, mutual support & develop interpersonal skills among different students. Students of every group wear a particular coloured ribbon to have its particular identity. For instance: red group, blue group, green group, orange group & pink group. In each group, there are slow learners, fast learners, & average students.

### **Group Leaders**

In every group, there are two group leaders – 1<sup>st</sup> group leader & 2<sup>nd</sup> group leader. These group leaders are given various responsibilities in which they supervise various activities of their group members which includes: cleanliness & hygiene, maintenance of notebooks, wearing neat & proper uniform, completion of home assignments & so on. Not only this, they assist their group members in academic work too.

### **Group Activities**

Various group activities are organized in my class from time to time such as: quiz, skit competition, fruit salad making, poem recitation competition, dumb charades & many more.

### **Peer Learning**

I always encourage peer learning in my class. Students learn much better with each other.

### **Class Library**

Reading different story books helps children to get familiar with complex nature of language & helps them in developing important language skills. However, different types of books should be available for children to read.

In my school, there is no provision of library for primary classes. So whatever reading material is available for my students are only their textbooks. And the language used in the textbooks especially in Hindi & English is not simple to read. So, in order to develop & sharpen reading & vocabulary skills in my students in both Hindi & English language, I have created one small library at the back side wall of my class.

I have tried to include a variety of books to enrich the reading experience of my students. This class library has all the reading material which caters to the need of different reading levels of my students i.e. for the fast readers as well as the slow readers. The following reading materials are available in this class library.

- Picture story books in English & Hindi languages such as- panchtantra, comic books, books on moral values, fairy tales, folktales, fables, poetry etc.
- Old magazines
- Newspapers clippings
- Dictionary ( Hindi & English)
- Informational books (to provide information on – animals, food, environment, sports, different places etc.)
- Books on General knowledge
- Activity books – in Maths, Eng & Hindi.

In this library, besides reading books, students are engaged in different creative activities. For instance –

- Creative writing ( where students are encouraged to create & write story on their own)
- Narrating the story loudly
- Presentation given by the students of what they have read including storytelling.
- Role play

Every single student participates in these activities & they learn while having fun.

## **Art & Craft**

Inclusion of creative activities in education such as: art & craft help children to develop attention skills & cognitive learning. With simple activities of art & craft, students can be encouraged to use their imagination & think out of the box.

So, in order to nurture such qualities in my students, I engage my students in different creative activities to let their imagination out & enhance creativity. Such as –

- Different types of paintings (thread painting, blow painting, spray painting, warli painting etc.)
  - vegetable printing
  - craft using waste material
  - leaf printing

- tissue paper printing
- card making
- paper diya
- rakhi making
- collage
- aluminum foil painting
- sketching
- Table & chair made from matchsticks & so on.

These creative activities help my students to develop various skills such as: self-regulation, self esteem, self expression & imagination. As my students perform these activities in groups, so they also develop social skills such as - the ability to work as a team, to help & appreciate the work of their peers etc.

### **Scrap Books**

To engage in activity based learning, my students have prepared one activity book/ scrap book to do different activities /project work related to different topics for all subjects. For instance:

Maths activity - making different angles, triangles, shapes with matchsticks & glaze paper etc.

Science activity – pasting different soluble & insoluble things, pasting the wrappers of different food items & to label their date of expiry & manufacture, different phases of moon showing with glaze paper etc.

English activity – pasting the pictures of different kinds of nouns, verbs, story writing etc.

### **Map Book**

One separate map book has been prepared by my students to keep the record of every map details of India & the world.

### **Children's Corner**

I have created one children's corner in my class where students display all creative work done by them such as: paintings, model, posters & so on.

### **Theatre Activities**

A theatre education / improvisation is very important for all round development of children. So, by considering this thought, various theatre activities are done in my class to build various life skills in

my students such as : self confidence, self esteem, empathy, sympathy, tolerance, concentration, better communication skills, social awareness, trust, aesthetic appreciation & so on. There are many students in my class who were very reserved & shy. But their involvement & participation in various theatre activities has transformed them into a confident being.

### **Cultural Activities & Stage Performance**

I always try to give a platform to my students where they can showcase their hidden talent through various stage performances such as: skit on various social issues, speech on various issues, debate, dance, fancy dress & other cultural activities. I write script for various skits on my own & then self choreographed them .so far, I have conducted various skits on different issues such as: gender sensitization, terrorism, save environment, cleanliness, save the girl child & many more. I always motivate & assign different roles to my students to perform on stage to remove stage fear & build self confidence.

### **Inclusion of ICT in Education: Power Point Presentation**

Power Point presentations (PPT) can be a highly effective tool to aid learning as these are interactive presentations which includes text, art, animation, & audio & video elements too. I have also made PPTs on various topics to teach effectively .to my students. For instance: ppt on water cycle, photosynthesis, grasslands, deserts, and human impact on earth, environment & pollution & many more.

### **Flash Cards**

I have also made flash cards which I generally use for slow learners as well as a learning drill for my students. For instance: flash cards on states & capitals, antonyms–synonyms, fraction, difficult words & so on.

### **Charts & Diagrams**

Charts & diagrams on various topics such as: seed germination, different phases of the moon, fractions etc. are also displayed in my class which are made by me with the help of my students.

### **Conclusion**

As educators, we should always try to make learning effective & meaningful for our students. We should try to incorporate fun & creative element in our teaching learning process. For this, we should use various teaching learning materials to make learning interesting, meaningful & purposeful for our students. Thus, I have made my own teaching learning materials & incorporated various innovative strategies to make learning more effective for my students with an added element of fun

to create joyful learning. By using such TLM, I have actually seen an improvement in my students with respect to their reading & learning ability, confidence, communication skills, attendance and interest in studies. My students have also performed well in their unit tests and mid term exams. Lastly, in my opinion, an educator can bring qualitative improvement in school education if he /she determines to do so.

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