

Innovative Teaching Skills: A Necessity in the Era of Globalization



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Abstract: *The present paper aims at analyzing the role of 'educational institutions' in the era of globalization. The boon of globalization, i.e., the rapid invention of modern scientific techniques as well as the bane, i.e., emotional detachment in the inter-personal relationships resulting in the lack of respect especially, in teacher-taught relationship that is creating a vacuum in the society are also discussed. The paper encompasses some of the innovative pedagogical skills from a teacher's perspective as well as that of a student's too. The aim of the enlisted methods is to make classroom teaching more effective and interesting. The paper is therefore, divided into two sections, the first comprising teacher's ideology regarding effective teaching and the second section incorporates the expectations of students from the teacher regarding the same, as teaching is a two-way process which remains incomplete until or unless the receiver or student is present.*

Keywords: *Globalization, Pedagogical Tools, Education, Teaching, Innovation.*

I. INTRODUCTION

'Research and Innovation' have a great role in teacher education. It is the pressing need of the present scenario that the obsolete and outdated methods and ideologies of teaching must not be implemented because they are not much valid as they were in bygone times. Innovation and research is the 'root' of teaching which is responsible for the existence of the tree of future generation or the youth. It is only innovative methods and the research which must be updated that make teaching more interesting, effective and useful for the students. It is because if the teachers will continue to follow the outdated style and technique of teaching, they are not imparting 'wide knowledge' to students. But they are narrowing the scope of knowledge and education which is the basic necessity. That's why, this 'root of innovation and research' lives on the nourishment of new ideas, new technologies, new facts, new methods, new skills to reach towards new conclusion.

The Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary defines 'research' as "a careful study of a subject, especially in order to discover new facts or information about it" (Hornby, 2010,[1]) and 'innovation' is defined as "the introduction of new things, ideas or ways of doing something"

(Hornby, 2010,[1]) and innovation is "a new idea, way of doing something, etc. that has been introduced or discovered" (Hornby, 2010,[1]). So, research and innovation are the tools of a teacher. These tools have become a minimal necessity on the part of the teachers to explore the knowledge of children. The aim of education is to impart knowledge which must prove fruitful in life. Education is "a process of teaching, training and learning, especially in schools or colleges, to improve knowledge and develop skills" (Hornby 2010,[1]). And if the things taught are obsolete, then what is the use of such old knowledge that will act as an obstacle in the path towards development and success. So, the teachers must include "newness" in their teaching style.

They must upgrade their teaching skills if they want to lead the youth towards success. Teaching is an art which has the ingredients of compassion, psychology and effective communication, coupled with detailed knowledge of the subject. It is a profession which requires expert knowledge and specialized skills, acquired and maintained through continuing study. In the era of globalization, the trends and characteristics of globalization perhaps call for a total re-invention of the teaching profession. Globalization has both positive as well as negative impacts. Education has been recognized as the basic means of promoting the skills of globalization. Globalization in education means "the role of the teachers and the way they should teach in this new high-tech global economy" (Misra and Bajpai, 2012,[2]). Old and traditional techniques are giving way to the new ones where students and teachers find themselves well-equipped with the new technology that is helpful for varied purposes. So, it is the need of the hour on the part of the teachers to refine themselves and modify their teaching methods as per the new surroundings and "re-arrange their skills, achievements and previous experiences to adapt themselves to new opportunities" (Misra and Bajpai, 2012,[2]). The rapid growth of the software development, means of electronic communication, high-tech gadgets fully loaded with new and modern technologies like internet facility, online dictionary facility, adobe readers and e-book readers in mobile phones are few achievements of Indian Industry in post-independence era.

In the era of globalization, "Educational Sector" is not just restricted to a "Service Sector" where the task is merely to provide educational services to the society but now "Educational Sector" has achieved the status of "Education Industry", a platform where the students are taught in such a way that they are being furnished and made familiar with the entire paraphernalia of modern gadgets and appliances to make them a skilled product and a citizen who is laced with numerous 'weapons of Knowledge'. The free-market philosophy has already entered the educational sphere in a big way.

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“Commercialization of education” has become the order of the day. Commercial institutions offering specialized education have sprung up everywhere. And that’s why, in this globalized world, many corporate as well as private universities, (both foreign and Indian) are swiftly encroaching upon our Government Institutions.

The teachers are taught various methods and styles of teaching in J. B. T or B. Ed. or any other similar course, where they learn the style of teaching, pedagogical tools, sensitivity towards students in classroom environment and the ethical responsibilities of the teachers towards the students, colleagues and to the management as a whole. But the harsh reality of the present scenario is that all such degrees have lost their value as today such degrees have an easy access by filling the pockets of “the DEGREE SELLERS”. That’s why, there is a pressing need that the teachers take their profession seriously, understand the psychological and mental level of the students and then must invent their own strategy to make their teaching effective.

From a teacher’s perspective, I think that the first duty of the teacher is to measure the mental level of the students and their grasping power by asking some questions either based on the previous standard or from the previous lecture delivered in the classroom. Then after diagnosing the level of all the students, the teacher must divide the students into two groups, one comprising the bright or intelligent students and the other one who are labeled by their friends, parents and teachers as “dull”, “NALAYAK”, “weak in studies”, etc. It must be noted that only the student must not be blamed for this kind of weakness but to some extent it exhibits the imperfection on the part of the teacher as well. So, to avoid this kind of situation, I think the teacher must deliver his lecture in a balanced way keeping in mind the two types of students present in the classroom. The teacher must therefore, come down to the level of such students whose grasping power is weak or very weak. So, he must deliver 60% of the lecture keeping in mind the students of the second category and 40% of the lecture must be aimed at the bright or intelligent students. This method of teaching will ultimately prove helpful for the students of both the categories. As the concept or the topic discussed in the lecture will become crystal clear for intelligent students and on the other hand it will be beneficial for the weak students also.

A teacher must devise new techniques and schemes to make his class interesting. We do live in the age of scientific inventions where new technologies are now being used for teaching on a regular basis. Like e-learning, internet facility, EDUSAT Program, the use of projectors, and other visual aids. But the reality is that most of the educational institutions do possess these facilities just to attract bees to the hive so that they can extract honey out of the bees for their own benefit. So, the “Education Mafia” must ignore all such self-centered and personal interests. They must keep in mind that they are the framers and the foundation stone of the future generation. So, the foundation must be strong enough to bear the burden of the coming bright generation.

Besides all these techniques, a teacher must exhibit his learning and expertise of his subject by explaining the topic with the help of new ideas. While teaching a ‘play’ to the students of English literature, the teacher must divide it in various themes as per the acts of the play, so that the students will be familiar with the act-wise story and can easily relate it with the thematic concerns of the play. Similarly, the characters must be arranged systematically as per their

occurrence or family-chart of the characters will also prove helpful (if possible) for an effective teaching of this genre.

“Multi-Disciplinary Approach” is another method of an effective teaching. We can use mathematical expressions to make the ideas clear. Like ‘Literary Criticism’ is a very difficult field for the students and to teach criticism to under-graduate classes is an engaging task on the part of the teacher. For instance, while teaching ‘The Concept of Organic Unity’ with reference to Longinus’s *On the Sublime*, the teacher can convey the idea with easy mathematical expressions like:

$$1s + 2s + 3s + 4s + 5s = \text{Sublimity}$$

$$1s + 4s + 2s \neq \text{Sublimity}$$

$$1s + 3s \neq \text{Sublimity}$$

(Where s = sources of sublimity; 1s = Power of forming great conceptions; 2s = Vehement and inspired passions; 3s = The use of figures; 4s = Noble diction; 5s = Dignified and elevated language)

And to explain the interdependence of ‘Sublimity’ and ‘Passion’, the following expression may be used:

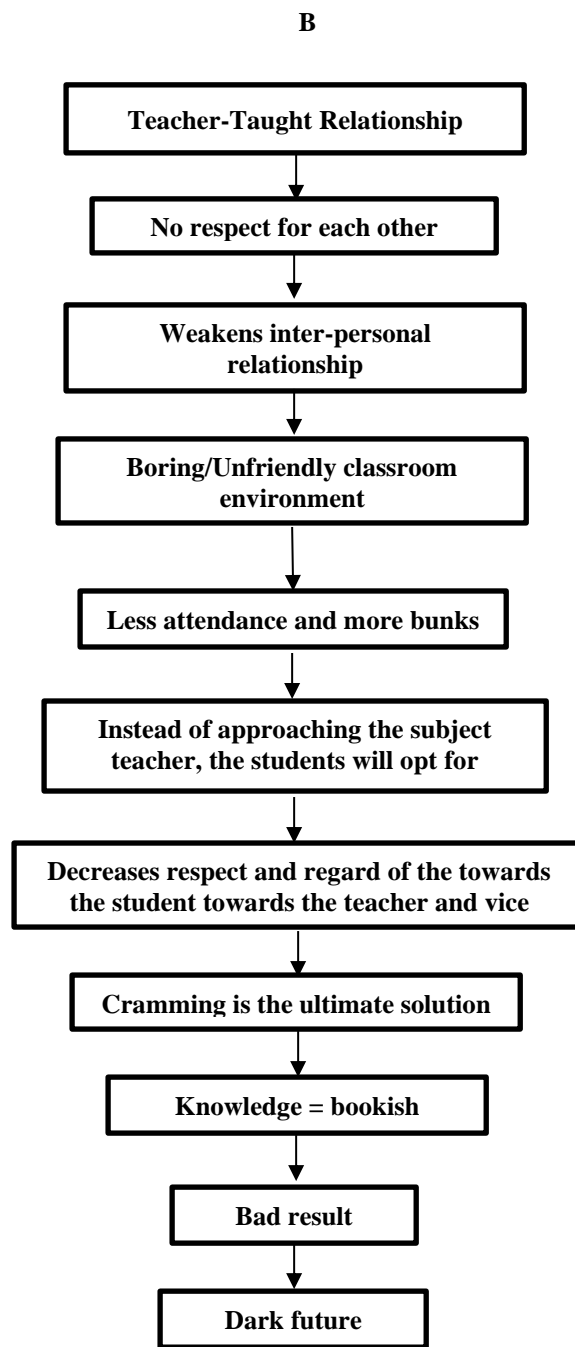
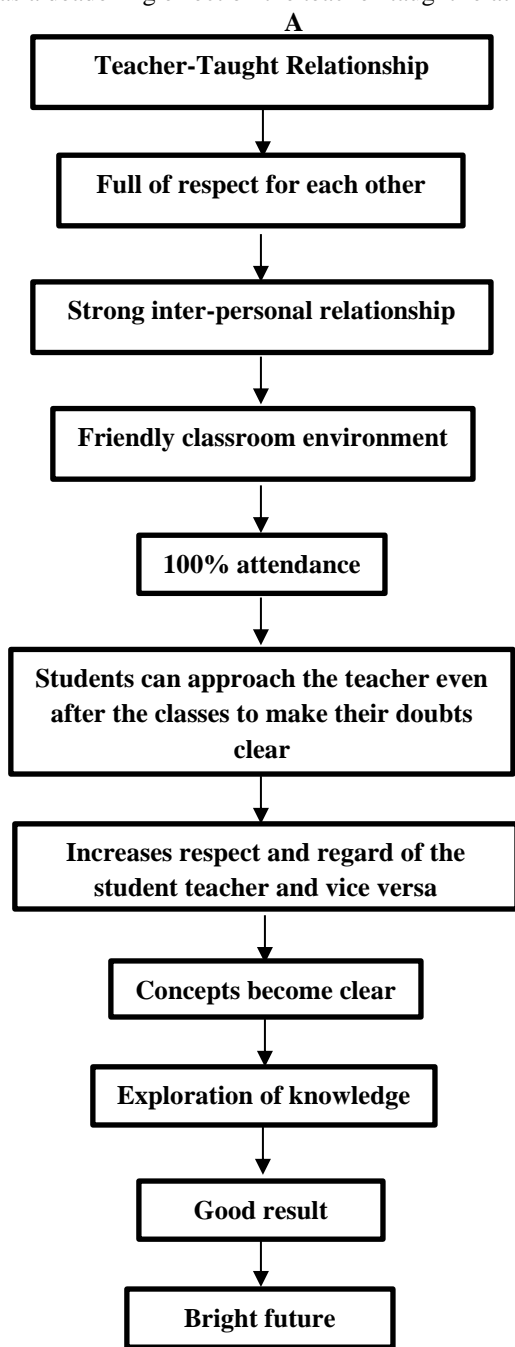
Sublimity ↔ Passion

Such mathematical expressions will therefore help the students to learn difficult concepts without any cramming and it will also help them to keep it in mind for a longer duration. Besides this technique, “Inter-Textual Approach” also has the potential to simplify the prescribed texts in the syllabus of students of English Literature. In a nutshell, this style involves the comparison of two or three texts so that the students can critically evaluate and examine the prescribed text. The teacher must come up to the expectations of the students. But before executing the lecture, the teacher must have sufficient knowledge of what is the need of the students. If the requirements of the students are just the opposite of what a teacher is teaching then the students start neglecting the class and the feeling of respect of students for the teachers will start decreasing. And we all know that teacher-taught relationship relies on ‘respect’ for each other. Firstly, “Teaching with a slight sense of humor” is an effective medium of teaching as per student’s demand or expectations. Being humorous is good for both, the teacher and the student. In an effective teaching-learning process, a teacher is required to enter into the psychological space of students which is possible only when the teacher is not so strict that the students will start shivering just as he enters the classroom. But he must be light-hearted in his behaviour. He should have the ability to sense the attitudes, interests, preferences, and prejudices of his students and see whether or not his message is going in the right direction. A teacher must have enough potential to teach any difficult, boring, or serious topic by making his lecture entertaining so that the students can learn the serious topics easily and with full interest or attention. In this way, a teacher can make the class more interesting by this method but he must not destroy the seriousness and decorum of the class. In other words, he must maintain the peace and solemnity of the classroom. Secondly, there should be a “harmonious relationship” based on “mutual understanding” between a student and a teacher. The teacher must have the capability to instantly sense what is appropriate and what is not. He should know how he must decide or change the direction of his discourse and his/her choice of the pedagogical tools.



Teaching involves a complex network of inter-personal relationship between a teacher and a student. In this method, the concern of the teacher is entirely on the receiver while the emphasis of the receiver is in connection with the teacher. This relationship demands full trust and respect of student towards the teacher and vice versa. The teacher must not differentiate between the students. He must follow the principle of equality avoiding all kinds of prejudices, personal enmity, biased behavior or even favoritism in a classroom environment to maintain a balance in his discourse. The students will come and share their problems without any hesitation only if the teacher is friendly towards the students. So, it must be a “symbiotic relationship” where the students and the teachers must reciprocate the feelings of respect. But unfortunately, the growing advancement due to globalization has a deadening effect on the teacher-taught relationship.

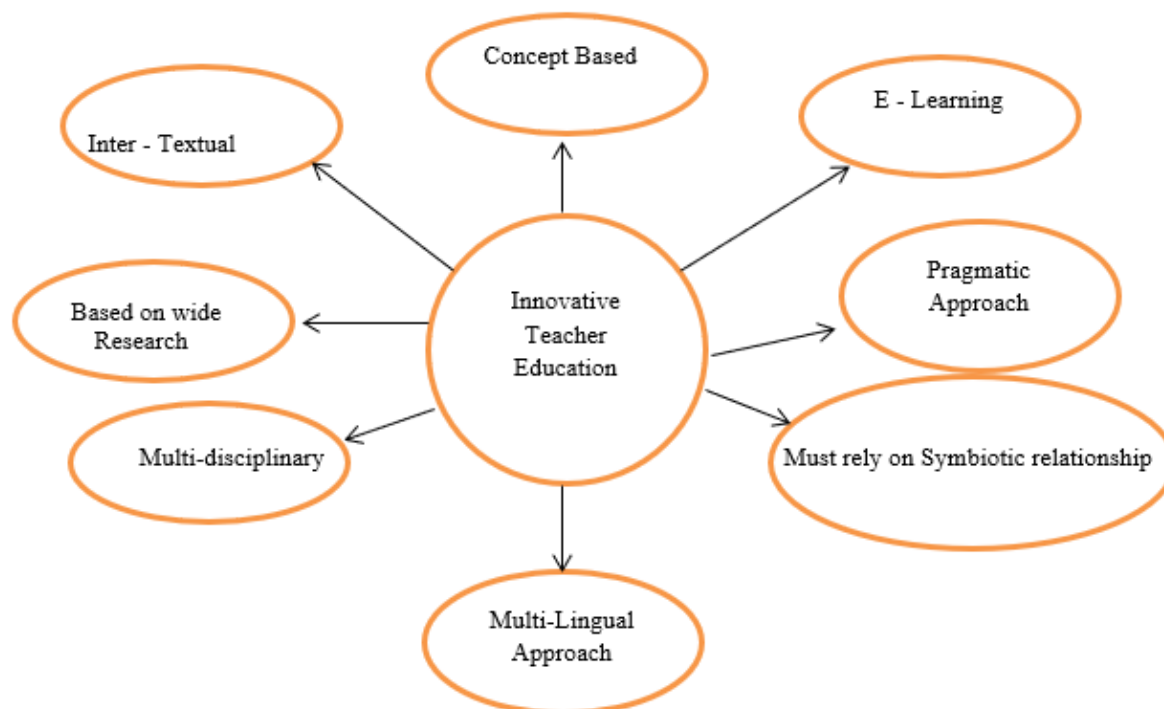
The following flow-chart points out the two forms of teacher-taught relationships based on one-to-one relationship between the teacher and the students. Therefore, in case of Table A, the teacher will try his best to invent ‘new techniques’ of teaching because the teacher is personally and emotionally attached with his students and wants to increase the knowledge of his students. But in case of Table B, there is no attachment between the two. So, the teacher’s only concern is to complete the syllabus as soon as possible irrespective of the fact that the students are getting it or not while the students are also not interested in such a situation. In this case, the teacher will not think about his style of teaching. And what to talk of ‘innovative technique’, the teacher will continue his previous style whether it being an obsolete method of teaching.



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Every coin has two facets. Table B portrays the present scenario. The growing indiscipline in the student community is heightened by the blessings of globalization. Internet facility being an asset of globalization is widening the gap between the teacher and the student. As almost all the notes regarding the prescribed syllabus are available to the students on different sites and they no longer depend on teachers for preparing their own notes that hampers the inter-personal relationship of students and teachers. Due to lack of respect, the students start finding faults in the teaching method of the teachers which is seldom upgraded. And the possession of mobile phones having internet facility in them is also spoiling the children as they don't concentrate in the class and prefer chatting on FACEBOOK while sitting in the classroom right in the front of the teacher. This is the negative aspect of science and technology in the field of education.

II. RESULT ANALYSIS OF INNOVATIVE TEACHER EDUCATION:



Thus, the above diagrammatic representation enlists the major principles to make the teaching process more effective as well as innovative. ‘Education through media’ is another technique which is entering rapidly in the field of teaching process. Online study via internet, projectors, smart classes have become the order of the day. For instance, “Language Labs” play an important role in improving English conversation of the students. It enhances the skills and proficiency of both the teacher and the student. Therefore, as per NCTE reports, ‘the innovative techniques’ are the prerequisite of teacher education as: With internet being so widely used, knowledge is just not restricted to textbooks, children have access to internet and information. In such times if teachers stick with a decade old way of teaching, then it's difficult for children to relate to them. Teachers have to look beyond textbooks and take help from audio and visual aids of teaching to make a subject interesting.

galvanize the effort to achieve the human development goal for the country.

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III. CONCLUSION

It is clear that technological advances have carried as improvement in the teaching and learning process. Education is a very powerful instrument for social change and transformation, and innovative teaching practice is the only way to enhance the quality of our education. The use of innovative methods in educational institutions has the potential not only to improve education, but also to develop creativity, empower people, strengthen governance and

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