A study on Emerging Trends in Learning and Teaching

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Abstract

“Learning is finding out what we already know. Doing is demonstrating that you know it. Teaching is reminding others that they know just as well as you. You are all learners, doers, and teachers.” ~ Richard Bach

Learning is the essence of development and has played a vital role in Human Civilization. It is the ability to learn and teach that has helped human beings to grow and adjust to the various changes in the environment and society. In the current era of technology, change takes place very fast. In order to adapt and be successful in this changing environment, it is necessary to have new trends in learning and teaching process. As technology advances various new methods of learning and teaching emerge.

Learning is defined as the process of acquiring new or modifying existing knowledge, behaviors, skills, values, or preferences and may involve synthesizing different types of information. Learning takes place not only in the classroom but every incident in the life of a human being is an opportunity to learn and grow. Teaching is defined as the process of imparting knowledge and skills. In today’s dynamic World, learning and teaching process has evolved to a great degree to suit the needs of the people.

In this paper, the authors try to throw light on the various emerging trends in the learning and teaching process. We also try to analyze the need for new methods and trends in the Teaching and Learning process.

Key Words

E-learning , M-learning, Autodidacticism, Instructional Scaffolding, pedagogy andragogy, Synergogy,

Introduction

“Learning without thought is labor lost. Thought without learning is intellectual death”. - Confucius

It is rightly said that learning is a continuous process and that a person is dead the moment he decides to stop learning. It would not be an exaggeration if said that education and the interest to learn and teach has helped mankind to civilization and develop from the stone to the age of Technology. Change is inevitable in any field and even in the field to education there have been many changes. In order to cope up with the changing trends and technology, it is necessary that new trends emerge in the Learning and Teaching process as well. In this paper we try to throw light on a few emerging trends and styles in the Learning and Teaching process.

Statement of Problem

Learning and teaching is a continuous and inter-dependent process and it is unavoidable. Effective learning and teaching assure proper development of the individual and society. As new technology and developments take place, new methods of learning and teaching have to emerge to ensure that the learning teaching process is effective. In this paper we throw light on the emerging trends in learning and teaching. We study the advantages and disadvantages of these emerging trends.

Objectives of the study

The following are the objectives of the study:
1. Emerging trends in Learning
2. Emerging Trends in Teaching
3. Advantages and disadvantages of the selected new methods

Modern Methods of Learning and Teaching

“In education it isn't how much you have committed to memory or even how much you know. It's being able to differentiate between what you do know and what you don't. It's knowing where to go to find out what you need to know and it's knowing how to use the information you get.” -- William Feather

An institution would survive and grow only if it is able to adapt to the needs and requirements of the emerging generation. In the current fast pace generation that depends a lot on technology, teaching cannot be restricted to classrooms or chalk and board. All are familiar with the classroom methods of teaching that includes: the jigsaw technique, the gallery walk method, discussion, concept sketches, using case studies, debates, just-in-time teaching and role playing method. As the generation changes and as a result of the change in technology and thinking the expectations and requirements of the Learning-teaching process also have changed. Today, all are looking for exposure and faster learning that is convenient and easily accessible. Today, learning teaching process is looked as a group work where, neither is the teacher is seen as an instructor nor the student a silent listener. Today the student and the teacher play an active role and teaching has gone to the next step of mentoring and supporting. Collaborative learning, Team Teaching and Challenge based learning, Inquiry learning and Instructional Scaffolding are methods that have helped to achieve this result. The laser and fiber-optic revolution has introduced us to many new methods of learning and teaching. The common technology assisted methods used in teaching and learning are:
Importance of Emerging trends in Learning and Teaching

"Education is not the filling of a pail but the lighting of a fire." — William Butler Yeats

Teaching and learning are the two sides of education. As time changes the emergence of new trends is inevitable in any field and the learning teaching process is no exception. With the advancement in technology and the change in economics and lifestyle the perception and expectations about learning and teaching has also changed. Today, teaching is the process of igniting the fire in the students to identify their true potential and reach great heights. Learning is the process of becoming aware of one’s abilities and moving ahead in the right direction under the guidance of the Teacher. In order to adapt to the changing requirements and to achieve good result, it is essential that new trends and methods emerge in the learning and teaching process.

Dimensions of Learning

Learning is a multi-dimensional process and for effective learning to take place, the right environment is necessary. The role of the Teacher includes creating the right atmosphere where learning can take place. It is rightly said by Chickering and Gamson, “Learning is not a spectator sport”. Learning involves active participation, interaction, construction and transformation.

- Interactive Dimension
- Constructive Dimension
- Transformative Dimension

Dimensions of Teaching

The mediocre teacher tells. The good teacher explains. The superior teacher demonstrates. The great teacher inspires - William Arthur Ward

Teaching is also a multi-dimensional process that involves many functions and many roles are played by the teacher. Albert Einstein rightly said, “I never teach my pupils; I only attempt to provide the conditions in which they can learn”. A teacher is a person who can inspire the students to learn and realize their potential. Teaching today involves many dimensions apart from the class room teaching. Teaching includes interaction, understanding, inspiring, guiding and mentoring.

- Interaction
- Understanding
- Inspiring
- Guiding
- Mentoring

E-Learning

E-learning is electronic based learning. As a result of the fiber-optic revolution, technology has reached every doorstep and education has become accessible for everyone. John Holt said, “The biggest enemy to learning is the talking teacher”. He meant that the role of a teacher was to inspire and create the atmosphere where learning can take place instead of just teaching. Today, technology has proved this in the literal sense. In E-learning, we have teachers who do not speak. With the help of E-books students have access to a great arena of information and can get details of almost all the topics under the sun online. With E-learning, we have a person sitting in one corners of the world, teaching a student in the other corner. To be par with technology and the emerging trends, there are many educational institutes that provide e-books and notes online. Today with the emergence of E-learning, teaching and learning can take place anywhere and anytime.

Advantages of E-Learning/M-Learning

- No time constraint
- Information is easily accessible
- Easy access to information
- More reference material available
- Open forum to express views
- Instead of carrying heavy books the same information can be carried in a pen-drive
- Easier to sort information, search and store the details
- E-learning has broken the barriers of time and place

Disadvantages of E-Learning/M-Learning

- No individual attention
- Teacher-student relationship does not exist
- Understanding and inspiring the student does not take place effectively
- Strain for eyes
- Technological problems can be a barrier
- Sometimes, learning without proper understanding

Autodidacticism

Autodidacticism is self-directed learning. It is learning by you. He becomes a self teacher. A lot can be learned by own experience. A lesson learnt in life teaches a great lesson. Autodidacticism is a, absorptive, contemplative procession. Many autodidacts spend a great time of theirs in reviewing the resources in the libraries and institutional websites. At any point of time in life one can become an autodidact. Some are informed
in a conventional manner but they may choose to inform themselves in other, often unrelated areas. Autodidacticism is complemented by learning in formal and informal spaces: from classrooms to other social settings. Many autodidacts seek instruction and guidance from experts, friends, teachers, parents, siblings, and community. Inquiry into autodidacticism has implications for learning theory, educational research, educational philosophy, and educational psychology.

**Instructional Scaffolding:**

This is a unique instructional technique where the strategy or task desired to be taught is modeled and gradually shifting the responsibility to the students.

The main purpose of it is to initially ignite the work of the students who are initially not keen in starting the work or task independently. It is a temporary phenomenon. It is there to aid the completion of a task and it is eventually removed.

This practice is done by defining a task, thinking loud, Provide clues, ideas, hints, guiding, giving partial solutions etc. The advanced learners can be paired with slow learners or developing ones. Students are engaged in social learning. Here students will help other students who are in small group and taking assistance from the instructors.

Teachers use apprenticeship model where the teachers models an activity, provides the learner with advice and examples, guides the student till they become independent in carrying over the given task/work.

**Assessment & Evaluation:**

- Teacher observation - includes anecdotal notes, class records, and classroom circulation
- Student self-assessment - students rate their own behavior and the behavior of their peers using a rubric
- Graphic Organizers - A graphic organizer is a specific type of scaffolding tool. It is a way to visually represent an idea—to use a drawing to organize one's thinking. Graphic organizers include cycles, webs (e.g., cluster, network, organization chart, family tree, chain of events), maps (e.g., spider, fishbone, concept), continua (e.g., timelines, degree scales), matrices (e.g., compare/contrast, storyboard), Venn diagrams, and charts

**Andrology:**

Andragogy consists of learning strategies focused on adults. It is often interpreted as the process of engaging adult learners with the structure of learning experience. It means adults teaching other adults. The teacher serves as a facilitator or catalyst for the learners' activities. In many countries there is a growing conception of ‘andragogy’ as there is a scholarly approach to the learning in adults. Andragogy is the science of understanding and supporting lifelong and lifelong education of adults. An advantage of andragogy is that learners' motivation is enhanced through greater responsibility for and involvement in learning. But andragogic methods are often situation dependent and cannot be applied to codify or standardize information for mass use.

In USA, ‘andragogy’ labels a specific theoretical and practical approach, based on a humanistic conception of self-directed and autonomous learners and teachers as facilitators of learning.

Andragogy was developed into a theory of adult education by the American educator Malcolm Knowles. Knowles asserted that andragogy should be distinguished from the more commonly used pedagogy Knowles' theory can be stated with six assumptions related to motivation of adult learning:

1. Need to Know: Knowing the reasons to learn something.
2. Foundation: Experience (including error) provides the basis for learning activities
3. Self Concept: Adults need to be responsible for their decisions on education; involve in planning and evaluation.
4. Readiness: Adults are most interested in learning subjects having immediate relevance to their work and/or personal lives.
5. Orientation: Adult learning is problem-centered rather than content-oriented.
6. Motivation: Adults respond better to internal versus external motivators.

**Pedagogy:**

Pedagogy is the holistic science of education. It may be implemented in practice as a personal and holistic approach of socialising and upbringing children and young people. Pedagogy is also occasionally referred to as the correct use of instructive strategies

Pedagogy is a standard classroom model: The teacher who is an expert in the subject, under study lectures, gives assignments, tests student achievement etc.

The teacher teaches and the learners passively absorb whatever they can. A key advantage of pedagogy is that it permits codified knowledge to be presented in an orderly manner. Its chief disadvantage, however, is that the students are often passive and unmotivated

**Synergogy:**

Synergogy is built based on the features of pedagogy and andragogy while avoiding the limitations associated with each. Involvement and commitment enable the learners to acquire knowledge. Synergogy refers to working together for shared teaching.

Synergogy is a systematic approach where the members of small teams learn from one another through structured interactions, thus creating an impulse of synergy.
Effect. Challenge and stimulation are created through social situations under which the need for learning can be satisfied. Knowledge or insights can be acquired by the educational materials provided by the instructor.

**Conclusion**

Quoting Winston Churchill, “To improve is to change; to be perfect is to change often.” As time changes, teaching and learning process also has to change and a proper understanding of the emerging trends in teaching and learning is essential for better outcome. E-Learning and M-Learning have made learning and teaching more sophisticated, compact and easily accessible however its impact and the result it can produce is still a topic for debate. Arthur C. Clarke said, “Before you become too entranced with gorgeous gadgets and mesmerizing video displays, let me remind you that information is not knowledge, knowledge is not wisdom, and wisdom is not foresight. Each grows out of the other, and we need them all”.

It is necessary to be aware and to have a proper understanding of the emerging trends in learning and teaching. We tried to analyze the selected trends and discuss their advantages and disadvantages. As in any other process, E-Learning/M-Learning has its advantages and disadvantages and the result depends on the human mind that uses it. E-Learning and M-Learning are emerging trends in learning and teaching and are widely used in different places however; it is doubtful if it can be used as an effective formal method for learning and teaching.

**Scope for further research**

The following areas are identified for further research:

a) A depth of research can be done on Quantitative analysis of technology based Learning
b) A depth of research can be done on Quantitative analysis of technology based Teaching
c) A sample study using the laboratory method can be done to have a practical understanding of the impact and the result of the various emerging learning teaching methods.
d) A study on using E-learning and M-Learning as formal methods of learning in educational institutes.

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